

June 17, 1970

**Baptist Pastor In Jewish
Area Takes Food "Kosher"**

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--The only Southern Baptist pastor on predominately Jewish Miami Beach has gone Kosher, but he still maintains the "orthodox" Baptist faith.

Lewis Maples, minister at Miami Beach's First Baptist Church, professes a hearty appetite for Jewish food.

In a way, he's been converted to Kosher cooking. "It's a pleasant change from the food I'm used to," he said.

His "conversion," however, is not a theological one.

He never tries to convert Jews "in the sense of an aggressive program," but neither does he hesitate to share his faith on the golf course or in the many delicatessens of the island city.

During his three years as pastor of the Baptist church in predominately Jewish surroundings, there have been six Jews who have been converted to Christianity at First Baptist.

The majority of the decisions have stemmed from casual acquaintances with Maples in situations like golfing.

As a former professional baseball player, Maples has a spirited interest in sports and plays golf often.

"Usually I get several Jewish partners in a foursome," he said. "Sometimes a partner will want to know about my religion, and we'll spend the entire game discussing Christianity."

Not only his sports background, but an experience long ago has helped Maples relate well with Jews. Thirty years ago, he began a friendship with a Jewish shoe store owner in Kansas City. They exchanged ideas about their faith often.

That experience "helped me make friends quickly when I came here three years ago," Maples said.

Previously, he had been pastor of the 1,500-member Brookside Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla.

Here, his congregation is small. "We drop to about 100 persons during the winter, Maples said. In the summer, most of his preaching is to out-of-towners. Sometimes, the visitors outnumber the members in worship services.

In an effort to maintain dialogue, friendship and rapport with the Jewish population of Miami Beach, Maples participates in a regular quarterly dialogue between Baptist preachers, Jewish rabbis and laymen of both faiths.

"It's national program initiated ten years ago," he explained. Most often, the group talks about social concerns rather than religious dogma. "I've learned a lot at them (the dialogue sessions)," Maples said.

Recently, he participated in a meeting of the National Conference of Christians and Jews of Miami Beach. Maples discussed "the minority experience."

Though he may be among the minority here, Maples doesn't let that bother him. Nor does it seem to hamper him in his relationships with Jews and the entire community.

"Generally, the acceptance has been very favorable," he observed. "I've been treated with respect.



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

June 17, 1970

Atlanta Baptists Assign Minister To Hippies

ATLANTA (BP)--Four Baptist groups with offices here recently appointed a minister to Atlanta's hip community.

Don Rhymes, missionary in New York City for three years, will direct a new youth center, "The Aurora" (New Dawn), to be located in the heart of the hippie district here.

Rhymes is sponsored jointly by Atlanta's First Baptist Church, the Atlanta Baptist Association, the Georgia Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The center, brain child of First Baptist Church and First Presbyterian Church, will have facilities for recreation, a refreshment center, rooms suitable for classes or practicing music instruments and a craft shop.

It will also be a liaison between the hip community and agencies which handle counseling, job placement, family reconciliation, etc.

Baptist efforts to relate to this community follows closely on the heels of recent moves by Atlanta Mayor Sam Massell to close the alienation gap between hippies and "straights," and to curb law violations in the community.

The mayor said he hopes also to reduce the influx of potential residents and destroy the myth that Atlanta is becoming a hippie mecca. Recent figures estimate the number of summer visitors to the district at over 10,000 before summer's end.

Rhymes and his wife, Goldie, will be the only staff members initially, but future plans call for the addition of one or two assistants from the hip community. The center will also feature a training program for laymen who want to participate in this kind of work.

Tom Allerton, education director and administrator at First Baptist Church, said that the youth in the area have mixed emotions about the new center.

"The members of the community who are redemptive are excited about the center. Some couldn't care less; others are hoping we will fail," he said.

"The ones who have gone along with us from the beginning are glad we can get started and have our denomination behind us," Allerton said.

The Rhymes' were recommended by the Home Mission Board's Christian social ministries department, after First Baptist presented the youth center idea.

Rhymes, a Louisianan, attended Louisiana Polytechnic Institute and is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. He has been pastor of churches in Texas and Kansas.

In New York, Rhymes was director of weekday ministries for Highland Avenue Baptist Church for three years before taking on the work in the 10th Street area of Atlanta.

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CORRECTION

On BP story mailed 6/15/70, headlined "Pastor Named Editorial Consultant for SBC Church Training Department," please change graph 3 to read "department personnel" rather than "departments" as sent. Corrected version should read: "He will also work with other department personnel in planning curriculum and periodical content." Thanks.

--Baptist Press

Swedish Baptist Papers Urge
BWA Action Against Repression

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (BP)--Two Scandinavian Baptist weekly newspapers have called for the Baptist World Alliance's 12th Congress in Tokyo to speak out against repressions suffered by Christians in Communist countries.

The appeals came in Veckoposten, journal of the Baptist Union of Sweden published here, and in Banneret, the journal of the Baptist Union of Norway, published in Oslo, Norway.

The Swedish Veckoposten urged the Alliance to "speak out in these concrete problems of religious liberty," citing "the discrimination which Protestants and other Christians undergo" in Communist countries.

Erik Ruden, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Sweden, wrote that "one of the most important tasks of the BWA during the 65 years of its life has been to guard liberty and other human rights."

Ruden had just assessed, country by country, religious conditions in Eastern Europe, and had in the previous issue, dealt with religious conditions in Russia.

The Norwegian publication, Banneret, also printed a news review of religious discrimination in Russia.

Commenting editorially on the report, Banneret said: "This is a deplorable condition. Human rights should be recognized. The (Communist) government should be more willing to abide by international obligations."

"...As fellow believers, we should make our voice heard from our annual conference (of Norwegian Baptists) and from the Baptist World Alliance this summer."

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Home Board Approves
Three New Missionaries

6/17/70

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here recently approved the appointment of three missionaries, including a couple to work with the Indians of Alaska.

Appointed to Alaska were Mr. and Mrs. James Back, both who have previously worked with the Indians of Arizona.

Also appointed by the board was Mrs. Judith E. Freeman of Louisville to do social ministries in Louisville's West End.

Back is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State College, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, where he and his wife, Virginia, studied together.

Mrs. Freeman recently received a masters degree in social work from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where her husband is a student. She also is a graduate of West Hampton College of the University of Richmond (VA.)

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Hawaii Baptists To Greet BWA
Travelers With Special Aloha

6/17/70

HONOLULU (BP)--Hawaii Baptist plan to greet travelers to the 12th Baptist World Congress in Tokyo, July 12-18, with a special "aloha" at a booth set up at Honolulu's International Airport during the month of July.

The booth will provide information on Baptist work in Hawaii, offer sight-seeing assistance, and welcome Baptists from around the world to Hawaii.

A special tour will also be made available to travelling Baptists, including stops at four major Baptist churches, the Hawaii Baptist Academy; the Kodak hula show, the University of Hawaii, the Iolani Palace, the Punchbowl, the statue of King Kamehameh, and the Ala Moana shopping center.

Edmond Walker, executive secretary of the Hawaii Baptist Convention, said that persons travelling through Hawaii enroute to the Baptist World Alliance meeting should write in advance to his office if they are interested in taking the tour. (Address: 1225 Nehoa St., Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822).

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NBC-TV To Telecast Report
On Baptist World Congress

FORT WORTH (BP)--A 30-minute report on the 12th Baptist World Congress in Tokyo, slated July 12-18, will be telecast nationwide by the National Broadcasting Co., on Sunday, July 19, by satellite from overseas.

It will be the first religious program ever carried "live" by satellite from overseas, according to Paul M. Stevens, director of the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission.

The program will be a production of the SBC Radio and Television Commission in cooperation with NBC-TV.

Stevens said that the program will feature conversations with personalities attending the congress, which meets in Tokyo's Budokan throughout the week preceding the telecast.

In addition to the "live" conversation relayed by satellite, the program will present filmed scenes of Tokyo, including highlights of the congress photographed while the meeting is in progress.

Network officials, in deciding to relay the program by satellite, explained that they felt the unprecedented coverage was warranted because of the world-wide significance of the meeting, Stevens said.

About 8,000 Baptists from about 80 countries throughout the world are expected to attend the congress.

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Waco Pastor Named Head
Of New Orleans Alumni

6/17/70

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Peter McLeod, pastor of First Baptist Church in Waco, Tex., has been elected president of the Alumni Association of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Other officers for the seminary's alumni are: vice-president, Joe Courson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Myers, Fla.; secretary, W. Norris Wilkerson, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church, Smyrna, Ga.; and treasurer, Jim Glaze, statistical secretary of the Alabama Baptist Convention, Montgomery, Ala.

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Tornado Hits Baptist Home
For Aged, No Injuries

6/17/70

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--A tornado struck the Golden Age Home complex in northwestern Oklahoma City, ripping off a portion of the roof of Lackey Manor Nursing Home owned and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

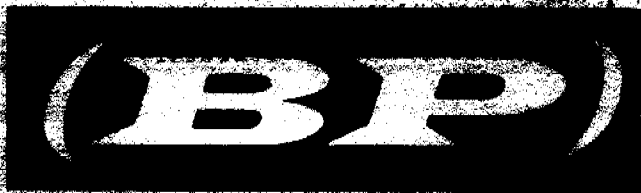
No one was injured.

Wind and water damage, however, was extensive. Estimates by inspectors ranged up to \$50,000.

About 85 residents of the home and 20 employees returned temporarily to their Oklahoma City area homes, pending repair to the facilities.

Miss Lucille Scaramucci, manor office manager, reported that the home's nurses and attendants moved the residents to a central hallway area when the storm hit the building.

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460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

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DAVIS C. WOOLLEY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203