



## 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 26, 1970

### Second Texas Burlesque House Closes, Owners Now Christians

**SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (BP)**--For the second time in less than three months, a San Antonio burlesque house has closed its doors following the conversion of the owners.

Tommy and Mitzi Thomas, owners of the Intimate Lounge on the city's north side, decided to close their establishment after a late-night conversation with a Southern Baptist pastor. Mitzi had been a featured dancer at the club.

Thomas said he planned to return to the business he had before becoming a night club operator four years ago--selling Bibles.

The closing of the Intimate Lounge follows the April 4 closing of The Green Gate Lounge, owned and operated by Guy and Evelyn Linton for more than 17 years.

The Lintons became Christians during a revival conducted by Southern Baptist Evangelist Bob Harrington of New Orleans, known popularly as "the chaplain of Bourbon Street."

Thomas, a close friend of the Lintons, felt he should close his own lounge after the Lintons publicly announced that The Green Gate was "closed forever."

But it was not until 12:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning nearly three months later that Thomas and his wife made a Christian commitment at the Linton's home after a long discussion with Jack Taylor, the Linton's pastor at Castle Hills Baptist Church here.

Thomas went down to the lounge and closed it at 2:00 a.m. Later on Sunday, he made a public decision at the Castle Hills Baptist Church during worship services.

Thomas had been introduced into show business by the Lintons, and met his wife while she was dancing at the Green Gate Club.

"I knew I was doing wrong," Thomas said of his four years as a night club operator. "I was unhappy, and I knew that when I followed the Lord, I had to close the club."

He said he sold Bibles before going into the night club business, and tentatively plans to return to that field.

Meanwhile, persons seeking admission to the Intimate Lounge will find the entrance blocked by a sign that reads:

"Intimate Lounge Closed: Condemned by God."

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New Orleans Seminary Committee  
Narrows President Choice to 12

6/26/70

**BATON ROUGE, La. (BP)**--The committee named to select a new president for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has narrowed the list of possible presidents to less than a dozen, and may have a recommendation to the board in August, the committee's chairman here said.

J. Norris Palmer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, said that the board of trustees' presidential nominating committee which he chairs has compiled information on 68 men who have been recommended for the post.

Palmer did not, however, disclose the names of any of the persons being considered.

The committee has had five meetings, and has invited committees selected by the faculty and by the student body to appear before their group. Palmer said the committee had also encouraged full participation by the seminary's alumni, and that hundreds of letters had been received.

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The chairman indicated another committee meeting has been scheduled in July, and it appears probable that the full board of trustees, which must elect the president could receive a recommendation by August. No date, however, has been picked for a called meeting of the board.

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Indonesia Baptist Hospital  
Physician Dies--Heart Attack.

6/26/70

RICHMOND (BP)--The only Southern Baptist missionary physician assigned to the Baptist hospital in Bukittinggi, Sumatra Indonesia, died June 24 in Honolulu.

Dr. Frank B. Owen, 48, suffered a heart attack as he boarded the plane that was to return him to Indonesia following furlough in the United States.

Funeral services were to be held at 3:00 p.m. on June 29 at First Baptist Church, Bangs, Tex., with burial there.

Dr. Owen had operated an outpatient clinic in Bukittinggi and also had been instrumental in negotiations for the building of a controversial hospital there.

According to R. Keith Parks, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board secretary for Southeast Asia, a "small minority of declining leadership among the extreme Muslim faction in West Sumatra" has opposed the hospital. Much publicity has been given in local papers there as well as two books which were "hurriedly published from a very biased and unfavorable point of view," Parks said.

He added later that when two-thirds of the 60,000 residents of Bukittinggi are using the facilities, there must be some support for its operation.

A short time ago Dr. Owen had written that the most meaningful experience in his recent career had been "to see how the Lord has overcome many difficulties during a delay of more than six years in the plans to build a mission hospital in West Sumatra."

Dr. Owen would have seen the dream of his hospital become a reality after his return to Indonesia. He was to participate in its building, selection of staff, setting up equipment and getting the hospital into operation "as a witness of the love of Christ participating in direct church evangelism."

In addition to his duties as a physician, Dr. Owen was pastor of a congregation in Bukittinggi.

Prior to his work in Bukittinggi, he was a staff doctor at the Baptist hospital in Kediri, Java, Indonesia, and also pastor of a church there.

He compiled a manual for Indonesian Baptist pastors and helped another missionary set up long range plans for associational Baptist work in the Kediri area.

Appointed by the SEC Foreign Mission Board in 1954, he studied the Indonesian language in Bandung, Java, before joining the Kediri hospital staff.

Dr. Owen, born in Childress, Tex., grew up in Bangs, Tex. He was graduated from Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., with the master of theology degree, and from Baylor University Medical College, Houston, with the doctor of medicine degree.

Prior to missionary appointment he was an intern at St. Paul Hospital, Dallas, resident at Harris Hospital and City-County Hospital (no longer in operation), both in Fort Worth, and pastor, associate pastor and choir director for churches in Texas and Oklahoma.

Dr. Owen is survived by his wife, the former Virginia Humberson of Huntsville, Tex., their five children, his mother, Mrs. Maude B. Owen and a sister, Miss Margaret Owen, both of Bangs.

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Alabama Baptists Make Four  
Convention Staff Changes

6/26/70

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Alabama Baptist State Convention has approved two staff changes and the retirement of two others, all effective July 1.

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The assistant to the executive secretary and director of the Church Ministries Division for the board, Claude T. Ammerman, will retire to become director of promotion for the Alabama Baptist Children's Home in Troy, Ala.

Another retirement effective July 1 is that of Waymon C. Reese, church building consultant for the convention, who will live in Talladega. Earlier, he had resigned as manager of Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly, Talladega, after 14 years.

In another staff change, William A. Nutt, church administration consultant for the board, was named director of the convention's associational missions department.

The resignation of Glenn A. Smith, consultant in the state Baptist church training department, was accepted by the board. Smith will assume a similar position in the church training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

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304 Make Decisions  
During Mission Week

6/26/70

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Decision-making was up but registered attendance was down compared to last year during the Southern Baptist Foreign Missions Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, June 18-24.

Total registration was 2,573, down 138. A total of 304 persons make public commitments to Christ and church-related vocations, 18 more than were made during last year's conference.

Twenty-two persons made professions of faith in Christ, 75 reaffirmed such professions made earlier in their lives and 207 decided to pursue church-related vocations, 145 of them specifying either home or foreign missions.

Over half of those who made decisions, 188, did so following the Sunday morning sermon by Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the board. Another 45 responded on Sunday evening. On Tuesday evening, after the appointment service for 16 new missionaries, 71 others made decisions.

Among those making initial professions of faith in Christ was a young Muslim woman from Guyana. She and her husband, who was already a Christian, were married recently by a Southern Baptist missionary in Guyana.

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The Commission on the History of the Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1964 to study the history of the Convention and to prepare a comprehensive history of the Convention for the 150th anniversary in 1970. The Commission is composed of representatives from all the Southern Baptist churches in the United States and is headed by Dr. James H. Starnes, Jr., of the University of North Carolina. The Commission has held several public hearings and has received many suggestions from church members and the general public. It is expected that the Commission will complete its report in 1970.



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460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 NINTH AVE. N.  
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37205

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