

(BP)---FEATURES

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Telephone (615) 244-2355

W. C. Fields, Director

Jim Newton, Assistant Director

March 16, 1971

Two Georgia Beauty Queens
Serve In Church Youth Jobs

by Jack U. Harwell

ATLANTA (BP)--When Nancy Karol Carr and Mary Jo Hall were crowned Miss Georgia and Miss Atlanta respectively, they could just as easily have been introduced as youth directors for two Georgia Baptist churches.

Both of the beauty queens are, or have been, ministers of youth at Georgia Baptist churches. And each is still considering possible careers in church-related vocations.

Neither has the slightest difficulty in maintaining a glowing Christian witness in the helter-skelter glamor world of a modern beauty queen. It would be difficult to find two more beautiful or enthusiastic exponents of contagious Christian commitment.

Miss Georgia, Nancy Carr, served as youth director at Northside Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga., in the summer of 1969. She returned to the church job in the spring of 1970 but had to give it up to give full-time to her one-year reign as Miss Georgia.

Miss Atlanta, Mary Jo Hall, is currently serving as temporary youth director at First Baptist Church, College Park, Ga., where she is taking a partial student load at Georgia State University. She had to drop out of Florida State University to be closer to Atlanta.

Both girls, now 22, have been Christians since they were nine years old. And each had a spiritual experience of new commitment within the last two years that vitally affected their testimony as beauty queens.

Nancy said, "my Christian commitment that made my faith the most real to me came in working with kids at the Northside Baptist Church in Columbus. I learned that I should and could apply Christianity to every situation I faced, . . . and it changed my life."

"The security that has come through Christ has been the most exciting single fact of my short life," the 22-year-old honey blonde from Columbus added. "And it has grown much more real in my nine months tenure as Miss Georgia."

Mary Jo said that when she was a child, she went to church regularly, but drifted away in college "because of a boy and my sorority."

"But about two years ago," Miss Atlanta continued, "God dealt with me in a deeply personal way and I came back to Him. Now he completely engulfs me, and is with me in all situations. It's a great big love affair between my God and me."

Both young Georgians agreed that there had been no real challenges to compromise their Christian testimony while reigning as beauty queens.

"Even at the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, I learned to sincerely love the many fine girls who were in the pageant from across the nation," Nancy said.

She said "believe it or not, there was no sense of real competition there. All the girls helped each other, we shared many Christian experiences and I took part in several spontaneous prayer meetings."

Mary Jo agreed: "There are two types of beauty contests, one that glamorizes beauty and bodies, and one that emphasizes talent and personality and scholarships."

"I would never compete in the first type, and am deeply grateful to God that he gave me a singing voice and enough basic attractiveness to win the Miss Atlanta title in the second type contest."

She said she got one of her first deep tugs toward the ministry of music while at the Georgia Baptist Youth Music Camp.

Mary Jo has used her musical abilities in an average of at least two churches per week during her Miss Atlanta reign. She is still uncertain about her final career, but thinks it will be either as a minister of music or a music teacher.

Nancy now feels that she will be a high school English teacher, but has completely ruled out the ministry of youth in a church spot.

Nancy said that "being Miss Georgia has given me a tremendous platform for expressing my Christian faith. I speak about five times per week, and roughly half of these appearances are before church groups. I have never been restrained in any way from giving my testimony for Jesus."

"As I see it," Nancy continued, "the number one problem for our churches is to realize that not every young person, or old person either, will come to the church building. We have got to take the church to them."

If all Georgia Baptist young people had the contagious Christian joy of Miss Georgia and Miss Atlanta, the task would be completed rather soon--before you could say "beauty queens."

-30-

BP PHOTO to be mailed to Baptist state paper editors

Midwestern Seminary Trustees
Restructure Degree Program

3/ 16/71 Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary meeting here endorsed a completely restructured degree program, elected the seminary's first academic dean and approved six visiting professors for 1971-72.

Called the "Midwestern Plan," the new degree program involves a completely new curriculum for the master of divinity and master of religious education degrees.

Beginning in August, 1970, Midwestern seminary will discard its current semester system, offering instead 11 four-week terms.

During each term, two two-hour courses will be taught four days a week for four consecutive weeks. Each four-week period is to be a complete term.

In addition, a higher percentage of electives will be permitted under the new plan, and the total number of classroom hours to complete the master of divinity degree has been reduced by 12, from 96 to 84 hours.

Millard J. Berquist, president of the seminary, said one of the major advantages of the new plan is the possibility of "a more thorough mastery of the subject" because of "concentrated study" of fewer courses in a shorter more intense study period.

He said the seminary would be able to utilize, on the four-week basis, "some of the finest specialists in the agencies, institutions, and churches of the Kansas City area and of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Berquist added that the short terms would also permit seminary graduates and former students to pursue "continuing theological education" at any one or more four-week periods during a given year for full credit.

Other benefits of the new plan, Berquist said, include permitting students who have never had the opportunity for formal theological training to study and ultimately graduate at their own chosen pace and time schedule, and allowing a student with an unexpected emergency to drop out losing only a minimum of time and credit.

-more-

Under the new plan, it will be possible for some individuals who apply themselves without interruption to complete the new master of divinity program within 22 months, or less than two calendar years, Berquist said.

In other board action, the trustees elected Roy L. Honeycutt Jr., a member of the faculty since 1959 and head of the department of Old Testament interpretation since 1962, as the institution's academic dean.

Berquist, president of the school since its inception in 1957, announced to the board his plans to retire effective July 31, 1972.

The board approved the appointment of a half-dozen visiting professors to teach under the "Midwestern Plan" during the 1971-72 school year. They are:

Othal Feather, retired professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, to teach religious education courses for the entire year;

Glenn Morris, president of the Baptist seminary in Bangkok, Thailand, to teach comparative religions for the entire year;

Dale Cowling, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark., professor for the January term (Jan. 4-28), teaching courses entitled "The Basic Ministry of the Church: Being the Church Today," and "Personal Inner Disciples" on the life of the ministries;

Robert G. Fulbright, supervisor of the preschool and children's section of the Sunday School department of the SBC Sunday School Board, teaching in the January term a course on "The Christian Education of Children;"

John Hendrix, editor of Contemporary Issues, a youth publication of the SBC Sunday School Board's church training department, teaching in the February term (Feb. 1-25) on "The Christian Education of Youth;"

Wesley Forbis, chairman of the department of music, William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., teaching a basic church music course in the May term (May 2-26).

Elected as president of the board of trustees was S. W. Eubanks of Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark. Other officers include Frank Myers of Warrensburg, Mo., first vice president; Sam Friend, Bothell, Wash., second vice president; Merl Grogan, Westminster, Colo., secretary; and Carlos Bradley, Kansas City, treasurer.

Seven trustees were appointed to serve as a nominating committee to seek a successor to Berquist as president. The committee is comprised of Francis E. Wright, Jackson, Tenn.; Carlos Bradley, Kansas City; Robert Linder, Manhattan, Kan.; Arthur Mallory, Jefferson City, Mo.; Fred Moffatt, Shelbyville, Ky.; Frank Myers, Warrensburg, Mo.; and Dan Rainbolt, Blackwell, Okla.

-30-

Southern Baptists Lead
In Bible Society Support

3/16/71

NEW YORK (BP)--For the seventh straight year, Southern Baptists led in total gifts to the support of the American Bible Society here with contributions of \$233,185.

From all 70 denominations supporting the Bible Society, a total of \$1.4 million in contributions was received. United Methodists ranked second, with \$207,584.

Southern Baptist support of the Bible Society increased only slightly, according to a report prepared here by the Bible Society and released to Baptist Press. The 1970 SBC gifts of \$233,185 exceeded the 1969 total of \$232,765 by \$420.

J. Edward Cunningham of Louisville, the Bible Society's program and promotion secretary assigned to relations with the SBC said that the Bible Society was urging Baptist churches to send their contributions through their state conventions, rather than direct to the Bible Society.

Cunningham has been assigned the responsibility of developing programming materials to meet the specific needs of Southern Baptists for the American Bible Society.

-30-



BAPTIST PRESS

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE. NO.
NASHVILLE TN 37203

RECEIVED
MAR 17 1971
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SRC

Cutlines

GEORGIA BAPTIST BEAUTY QUEENS: Both Miss Georgia, Nancy Carr (left) and Miss Atlanta, Mary Jo Hall (right) have served Georgia Baptist churches as youth directors, and both are considering a church-related vocation. Neither says she has any difficulty maintaining a strong Christian witness in the helter-skelter world of glamour. (BP) Photo by Luke Peeples