

# (BP)---FEATURES

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Ouachita Baptist University  
Hires Millionaire Fund Raiser

by William D. Downs Jr.

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--Jack Buras, 23-year-old part-time student at Ouachita Baptist University here, and his family recently inherited \$82.7 million but he appears unexcited about the whole thing.

What he really wants to do, he said, is to work part-time raising funds for and promoting Ouachita's school of music, and to continue his work as minister of music at a Missionary Baptist church in Prattsville, Ark.

"I wanted to be something besides a millionaire," explained Buras, who has been one only since last August when a southern Louisiana oil fortune was finally untangled from a legal snarl with the Orleans Levy Board.

So Buras went to Daniel R. Grant, president of the (Southern) Baptist school, and Ben M. Elrod, Ouachita's vice president for development and asked what he could do to help Ouachita.

"President Grant and I suggested that his unusual story would afford many opportunities to present Ouachita's case if he could see his way clear to work with us," Elrod said.

He'll be working only part-time in the development program, and will continue his work as minister of music at Harmony Baptist Church in Prattsville, where he directs seven choirs, gives 23 voice lessons a week and has found more happiness than anywhere else he's ever been, he said.

He delayed a final decision on taking the Ouachita post until after the church in Prattsville voted to let him hold down both jobs.

A 1968 graduate of the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock, Buras decided to attend Ouachita, he said, because of its "incomparable music program," and because "it's the only college I'm acquainted with where there's 'sure enough' a Christian climate maintained,"

"A student here," he continued, "has an opportunity to associate with other Christian people--not in a cornball way--but in a liberal arts atmosphere where both intellectuality and Christianity are offered."

Obviously sold on the college, Buras does not rule out the possibility that some of the money he raises may be his own, but he makes it clear that he's mainly concerned with convincing other people to invest in Ouachita's capital funds campaign which gets underway officially next January.

"I feel I've been given a tremendous opportunity to witness," said Buras. "Having inherited all this money gives me a chance to get before people who wouldn't have listened to me before."

The sudden financial windfall is the result of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on a complicated case involving oil lands in Louisiana owned by the Buras family. Jack's father is heir to the fortune, but he is physically incapable of handling the details, and Jack was given power of attorney and administrator.

How does it feel to be suddenly richer by \$8 million, which is his personal share of the inheritance?

"Eerie," said Buras, "and a little disappointing," Shaking his head in disbelief, he added, "You know, suddenly becoming very rich like I have isn't at all the way you've always dreamed it would be."

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And that's the reason he is at Ouachita, he said, rather than sunning himself on a yacht in the Bahamas or living in luxury in a Roman villa.

"Consequently, lots of people are trying to figure out if I'm a religious nut or a straight guy," he chuckled. "But the truth is I just want to be me. I want to have as close a normal life as possible for my wife Barbara and our 2 1/2 year-old daughter, Melody."

There have been and will be some changes, however.

He plans to tithe 10 per cent of his fortune to the church, just as he has done in the past with his salary. The church, with an average attendance of 200 in Sunday School, is affiliated with the American Baptist Association, a fellowship of independent missionary Baptist churches. He also plans to buy a new church bus for the choirs he directs.

Several banks have issued him virtually unlimited lines of credit, and Buras has enlisted an investment council headed by multi-millionaire W. R. "Whitt" Stevens, chairman of the board for the Arkansas-Louisiana Gas Co., to steer him along profitable pathways.

The changes haven't been all good, however.

He and his family were forced to move out of their farm home into Prattsville because complete strangers were frequently descending on him asking for or demanding money. He's also had to get an unlisted telephone number for the same reason.

His new wealth has kept the U.S. Post Office in Prattsville busy too. Buras said he stopped keeping track of the mail when it reached 10,000 pieces.

"The funny thing is," he recalled, "that most of the letters asking for money contained stamped, self-addressed envelopes." Most of the letters go unreplied.

He has received letters urging him to invest in "a Christian race track" where people can bet on horses but not have to suffer "that sinful secular atmosphere," a request for \$30 million to restore the first territorial capital in Australia, and a plea for \$1 million to build a motorcycle shop in downtown New York City.

Before they stopped counting, the requests for funds had reached a total of \$100 million.

"When you get past the funny part," he pointed out, "the danger is that I'll get hardened toward real causes. I've got to watch myself against getting indifferent to the needs of my fellow men."

Before he became a millionaire, Buras' \$100-a-week salary at the church gave him a simpler, but no less happy life. With four recordings to his choirs' credit and a manual for lay music directors in the making, "I don't guess there is a happier or busier person anywhere," Buras recalled.

Life hasn't always been that good, he added. For many years he "searched desperately" through five different occupations before finally finding himself, he said.

By the time he was 17 he had dropped out of high school because he was making \$125 a week as a professional guitarist in his own dance band, and "big-shotting it" around the country in a Jaguar.

"I figure at the time that anybody who could be doing all that as young as I was didn't need to mess around with school," Buras said.

"So far as religion was concerned at the time," he recalled, "I made all the big days like Christmas and Easter. But everytime I went into church I sort of envied the men I saw...for being Christians. Pretty soon after that I was saved and joined the church."

After marrying, he continued to play with his band at night and worked as a furniture salesman during the day. "But I didn't like the nine o'clock world," he said. "I wanted to do something full time in the service of the Lord."

He quit his job at the furniture store, broke up his band, enrolled in the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock, finished high school through correspondence courses, audited classes at Little Rock University, and worked nights as a janitor in a Little Rock bank.

Now he is doing additional study at Ouachita, continuing his work at the church in Prattsville, and working part-time as a fund raiser for Ouachita.

With \$8 million to his name, one full-time and one part-time job, and every "big deal" business opportunity in the state pursuing him, what lies ahead for Jack Buras?

"I don't know," he replied quite frankly. "I can't rule out the leadership of the Holy Spirit, but I feel I'm definitely in the groove I want to be."

Will success, and money, change Jack Buras? His pastor, Jackie Holt, doesn't think so.

"No one around here feels the money will change Jack," Holt said, "Jack will continue to be Jack, I'm sure."

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Bill Dyal To Direct New  
Inter-American Institute

3/17/71

WASHINGTON (BP)--William M. Dyal Jr., a former staff member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, took the oath of office here as the first executive director of the newly-established Inter-American Social Development Institute.

Dyal, 42, was sworn in at ceremonies in the historic Indian Treaty Room in the Executive Office Building, next door to the White House. He began his duties with the new institute March 15.

A graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Dyal served for seven years with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in several Latin American countries. For two years he was director of orientation and training for all overseas personnel for the board.

Since 1967 Dyal has been an executive with the Peace Corps. For two years he directed the Peace Corps program in Colombia, with a staff of 40 Americans and Colombians, and a peak volunteer force of 800. In September 1969 he was named Peace Corps regional director for North Africa, near East and South Asia, with responsibility for the work of 1,500 volunteers in ten countries.

The Inter-American Social Development Institute which Dyal now heads was created by Congress as a part of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1969 to work with private, regional and international organizations to support Latin American social and civic development.

The seven board members, called for in the legislation, were appointed by President Nixon with the advice and consent of the Senate, in October 1970. Dyal's appointment did not come from the President, but by the board of directors. He was officially named executive director in February of this year at the board meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The institute will place primary emphasis on research and experimentation in education, agriculture, health, housing and various social needs of Latin Americans. Congress authorized \$50 million of foreign aid funds for the institute.

Institute Board Chairman Augustin Hart Jr., executive vice president of Quaker Oats Co., Chicago, officiated at the swearing-in ceremony. Hart described the institute as a "new bridge between North and South."

"It is a new ideally innovative channel for those Latin American and Caribbean institutions and peoples seeking to perfect new models of change as the basis for economic and cultural problems," Hart stated.

Following the oath of office, Dyal said that the opportunity to commit his life and work to such an organization "brings excitement and challenge."

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"Today is for me the culmination of a long and true love affair with Latin America and the Caribbena," Dyal said. He added that it is the intent of the institute to be "careful listeners, responsive and involved partners, empathetic with the problems and solutions inherent in true social and economic development."

The appointment of Dyal as executive director was described as "a natural" for such an organization by Chairman Hart. "He is a man whose energies have been devoted to social change, and who is an enthusiastic and empathetic friend of Latin America."

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BP PHOTO to be mailed to Baptist state paper from Washington BP Bureau  
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Former SBC President Robbed  
At Gunpoint During Meeting

3/17/71

by Bob O'Brien

DALLAS (BP)--Former Southern Baptist Convention President Brooks Hayes who was robbed at gunpoint here by two young black men returned to his hotel room afterwards to pray for his assailants.

The incident occurred shortly after Hays had arrived here to speak to the Nationwide Baptist Conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

He told a seminar on "Christianity and Politics" during the conference that the two men accosted him at about 10 p.m., on Tuesday, March 16, about two blocks from his hotel.

"One of them stuck a pistol in my stomach, ...and said, 'I want your money,'" related the 72-year-old former U. S. Representative from Arkansas.

Hays said he quickly replied, "Yes sir'."

The men fled with \$175 in cash, Hays' wrist watch, and a wallet containing his credit cards and a postage-stamp size Bible on microfilm which he carries with him.

"I hope no one will view this as a racial incident," said Hays, who now is a resident of Winston-Salem, N.C., and chairman of the state's Good Neighbor Council, a race relations organization.

"It was a human incident with no racial implications," added Hays, who served in Congress for 16 years before his defeat in 1958 after his support of racial integration in the Little Rock public school dispute.

Hays went on to serve as an assistant secretary of state under Dean Rusk, as special assistant to President John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, and as professor of political science at Rutgers University.

Currently, Hays is consultant and one of the founders of the Ecumenical Institute at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C. He was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1958 and 1959.

During his presentation to the seminar at the Nationwide Bible Conference, Hays recalled his experience the previous night when he was robbed on the Dallas street.

"I meditated about those young men after I got back to my hotel room," he reflected.

"The loss to the Hays family was a minor one," he said. "The tragedy for those lads is infinitely greater because they can't win in the long run.

"Their problem is not unrelated to ours," he told the conference participants. "Politics must have a moral and spiritual base. We've failed to apply our Christian faith to society."

(MORE)

Pausing with furrowed brow, Hays continued: "In thinking about those young men, I wondered first where their families had failed, then where society had failed, and most importantly, where the Christian community had failed."

Calling for Christians to be more active in political efforts to meet the needs of society, Hays said that the religious community by itself, without access to political instruments, cannot hope to pull people out of their physical despair. He added he believed that a political career can be "a holy vocation," and that politics is not "dirty."

Hays said the church cannot fail to relate itself to what is going on in the world, and cannot "let the Christian concepts of love and justice be lost."

Christians should not be afraid of welfare programs sponsored by government, and certainly should not be bitter about government efforts to help the 10 per cent of the population suffering from hunger and the 20 per cent whose income is below poverty level, he observed.

Reflecting again on the needs of the two young men who robbed him, Hays said:

"Back in my hotel room, I offered a prayer for them, and I realized with vivid clarity that this is a prayer I would have to help answer myself."

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#### Baptist World Alliance Group Issues Call to Reconciliation

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptist leaders from six nations, gathered here for a meeting of the administrative committee of the Baptist World Alliance, issued a "call to commitment" looking toward a "World Mission of Reconciliation" program in 1973-75.

The statement proclaimed that "as chasms of misunderstanding, fear and hate cleave our world into hostile factions, we boldly proclaim our faith that Jesus Christ is the one hope of reconciliation."

The "call to commitment" urged Baptists of the world "to unite our resources in a World Mission of Reconciliation through Jesus Christ."

V. Carney Hargroves of Philadelphia, president of the Baptist World Alliance, said that the call to commitment is the initial step in a five-year program looking toward "reconciliation of man with God and man with man through evangelism and the application of biblical principles to personal conduct and social relationships."

The "World Mission of Reconciliation" was authorized by the Baptist World Congress at Tokyo in July, 1970. A special international steering committee headed by Joseph B. Underwood, evangelism consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, met here prior to the BWA administrative committee to map plans for the effort.

It will be the first concerted world-wide evangelistic effort ever attempted by Baptists and possibly by any other religious group. The alliance is comprised of 89 member conventions and unions with 27 million members.

Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the alliance, said that further planning for the mission will be approved at a meeting of the BWA Executive Committee at Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada, Aug. 2-6. Regional or continental coordinators will be named at that time.

General guidelines will be shared with all member groups, he said, but each group will be encouraged to participate in the program in its own way and to adapt the general emphasis to the needs of its own area.

Plans drafted by the steering committee call for an emphasis on "planning and sharing" in 1971-72, and on "spiritual renewal and training" in 1972-73. The years 1973-75 are marked as "action for reconciliation" and 1976 is to be a year for "activating the reconciled."

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