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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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August 27, 1971

Baptist Hospital Performs First Heart Valve Jobs in Paraguay

ASUNCION, Paraguay (BP)--A medical team at the Baptist Hospital in Asuncion has performed the first heart valve replacements in Paraguay.

Three such operations were performed at the hospital by mid-August, reported Dr. Donald E. McDowell, chief of surgical service at the small mission hospital.

Until recently the hospital did not have a heart-lung machine or other equipment necessary for post-operative care of the patient. The monitor, respirator, defibrillator and other equipment used in these cases also are used for other patients and are not an expense solely for the cardiac cases, Dr. McDowell said.

The cardiac surgery costs the patient about the same as any other major surgery performed at the hospital, he added.

The heart valves required for the operation have been donated by Edwards Laboratories, a U.S. medical supply company. The firm recently contributed 10 valves which cost about \$300 each in the U.S.

"Our work in this field has been possible because of this generous gift, since our patients would never be able to purchase these valves," said Dr. McDowell.

He pointed out that the hospital's preparation for this type of surgery has been gradual. "Through the years we have improved our X-Ray department, anesthesia department, blood bank, laboratory and nursing services so that we are now prepared to care for these patients," he said.

He was first assistant on all the first open-heart operations done at the Presbyterian University of Pennsylvania Medical Center in 1958. He returned there as a member of the cardiac surgery staff while on furlough in 1968 and '69. He also is a diplomate and fellow of the American Board of Surgery and a fellow of the Board of Thoracic Surgery and the American College of Surgeons, and is certified to practice medicine in Paraguay.

"This training gave me a good basis for beginning such surgery in our mission hospital," he said. He performed his first closed-heart cardiac operations during thoracic surgery residency in 1953-54, and he began doing closed-heart operations when he arrived in Paraguay as a missionary surgeon in 1955.

The long involved training is also reflected in the experience of the seven other members of the surgical team. The team includes a surgeon who studied for six years in the United States, an anethetist, a heart-lung machine operator, three nurses, and a cardiologist.

All three nurses are graduates of the hospital's nursing school, and two were graduated from the Chilean Baptist Theological Seminary in Santiago.

Dr. McDowell said that another surgeon with access to a heart-lung machine has performed open-heart surgery in Paraguay before the Baptist hospital's recent cases. But the heart valve replacements in Paraguay were done by the Baptist hospital team.

Dr. McDowell, a native of Maryland, was born in Zion and reared in Calvert, Md.

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BP PHOTOS to be mailed to State Baptist Paper Editors

Seminary Convocation Speaker
Calls For Tolerance in SBC

8/27/71

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A call to openness and a tolerance for diversity in Baptist life was sounded here in formal convocation exercises marking the opening of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's fall term.

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The call came from Walter Shurden, professor of religion at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

Shurden deplored the spectacle of Baptists "trying to kill each other with a Bible" because they do not agree with each other's point of view.

In a plea for openness, Shurden warned against the danger of thinking that we have all the answers and against a simplistic faith which dwells on only a segment of truth, shutting itself off from further understanding.

"One of the problems in being... a religious leader," Shurden said, "is in thinking that we have found God, or that we know where to find him and therefore we do not look for him in other places.

"We don't always find God here, or in our slogans and in our cliches," he continued. "Sometimes he comes at us from a different direction."

In a plea for tolerance for diversity in Baptist life, Shurden lamented that when a person begins to think he has arrived with all the answers, "we inevitably begin to make our experiences normative for everyone else, wanting everyone else to think and act just like us."

He observed that one of the great problems facing the nation, as well as Baptists, is that a host of people want uniformity rather than unity. "We haven't come to the point of being able to tolerate diversity," he said.

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Home Missionary Named WMU
Editor of Spanish Materials

8 /27/71

ATLANTA (BP)--Miss Doris Diaz of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here has been named editor of Spanish publications for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union with offices in Birmingham, Ala.

Miss Diaz will be assigned as a SBC Home missionary to edit WMU publications and will work on the staff of the Woman's Missionary Union. Budget support will come from the SBC Home Mission Board.

"The move indicates an interest of the Woman's Missionary Union in the development of ethnic congregations," said Oscar Romo, secretary of the board's department of language missions. It will also mean a greater correlation in the publication of WMU materials, he said.

There are about 1,000 Spanish-speaking Baptist congregations in the nation, the largest language group besides English, Romo said. The appointment of Miss Diaz will bring an emphasis from the WMU in providing help to these congregations, Romo added.

Her work will provide a publication in the language that Spanish-speaking people can read and will help create an awareness among Southern Baptist women of language groups, Romo said.

Alma Hunt, executive secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union, said that the WMU looked forward to her being a part of the staff. Being in Birmingham will enable her not only to know of WMU plans first hand, but also to share in developing plans, Miss Hunt said.

"We believe the Spanish materials will be strengthened by the move as will the role of WMU in ethnic groups," added Miss Hunt.

Miss Diaz came to the Home Mission Board here in 1968 from Dallas where she was associate editor of "El Bautista Mexicano," a Spanish publication of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Earlier she was secretary of language missions for the WMU of Texas.

A native of Guatemala, she attended government schools in Guatemala City and Central American Bible Institute. She taught in kindergarten and high school before coming to Los

Angeles, where she attended a Bible institute. She also studied at Dallas Baptist College.

She has done extensive work in the translation and adaption of denominational materials into Spanish, including the editing and translation of "El Pastor Bautista," a publication of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

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Crusade Results in 612 Decisions,
Scores of Drug Users Said Reached

8/27/71

FORT WALTON BEACH (BP)--An evangelistic crusade sponsored by the Choctaw Baptist Association here resulted in 612 professions of faith and the largest attendance at any religious gathering in the history of the area.

Led by Evangelist Freddie Gage of Houston, who says he is a former hoodlum and drug user, numerous drug users were among those making professions of faith.

On the night the crusade opened, law enforcement officials made the "biggest narcotics haul" ever conducted in northwest Florida, with 17 persons arrested on charges of possession or sale of narcotics.

At the sheriff's invitation, Gage visited the county jail at about midnight after the drug raids and the evangelistic service to preach to about 20 young people who had been arrested. During the jail services, five of the young men responded.

Counselors for the crusade said they dealt with about 60 youth who made decisions and who said they were on marijuana or some form of drugs. One youth turned in his drugs and paraphernalia to one of the ministers who counseled with him.

Attendance at the services was up to 5,000 on Friday night. Those attending included leading business and professional people of the area, as well as bare-footed youth with long hair and hippie garb.

Following Friday night service, the First Baptist Church of Fort Walton Beach held a midnight baptismal service for those who had been converted during the week. Many of the youth gave personal testimonies of their experiences before being baptized.

James Monroe, general chairman for the crusade and pastor of the church, said that the pastors and leaders of the area churches felt that the drug epidemic in the area was so serious that an all-out effort had to be made to save the lives of the young people who were involved.

Gage, a former drug user himself, is founder and director of Pulpit in the Shadows in Houston, a ministry dedicated to reaching victims of drug abuse.

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Dear Mr. [Name obscured]

I am writing to you regarding the [topic obscured]

I am writing to you regarding the [topic obscured]

I am writing to you regarding the [topic obscured]

I am writing to you regarding the [topic obscured]

I am writing to you regarding the [topic obscured]

I am writing to you regarding the [topic obscured]



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8/27/71

ASTRONAUT JAMES B. IRWIN (right), the first Baptist to walk on the moon, presents an enlarged and framed "prayer covenant" to Pastor William Rittenhouse of Nassau Bay Baptist Church, Houston. In a worship service at the church following his return from the moon, Irwin expressed thanks to the members for their prayers, and told them he felt the presence of God more closely while on the moon than at any time in his life. (BP) Photo by Larry Jerden