



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

September 8, 1971

Utah-Idaho Southern Baptists Launch Youth Mission Project

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, 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

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (BP)--Southern Baptists here, under the leadership of the executive secretary of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention and a former executive now leading Arkansas Baptists, have launched a pilot project whereby youth would spend one year in mission work at their own expense, or the expense of their parents.

The project is similar to a two-year missionary volunteer program sponsored by the Mormons (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints).

Among the first four volunteers for the project are the sons of the two Baptist executives who initiated the program and two young ladies from Arkansas who responded to an article outlining the plan.

The plan originated with Darwin E. Welsh, executive secretary of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention and was encouraged by Charles Ashcraft, former Utah-Idaho convention executive who in 1969 became executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

Benton Welsh, 19-year-old son of the Utah-Idaho Baptist leader and Sam Ashcraft, 18-year-old son of the Arkansas Baptist executive, were among the first four volunteers.

Two recent high school graduates from Little Rock, Ark., Miss Dianna Rhodes and Miss Sharon Lee Phillips, are the other two volunteers. Both are members of Gravel Ridge Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Ark., and both are 18 years old.

Welsh developed the idea in 1964 when he was pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Salt Lake City.

Noting that the Mormons have approximately 13,000 missionaries with a church membership of 3 million, Welsh asked, "Why can't Southern Baptists do this? We have the message of salvation to share and too few workers to get the job done."

Welsh asked members of his church how many would be willing to borrow money if needed to send their own children on a mission. About 90 per cent of the parents responded favorably to the idea, he said.

After becoming missions secretary for the Utah-Idaho convention in 1965 when Ashcraft was then executive secretary, Welsh presented the proposal to the state convention's Executive Board, which asked him to study the possibilities. Since then, he has presented the plan to state convention executive secretaries and state missions secretaries.

Ashcraft described briefly the plan in a weekly column in the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine closing the column with the statement, "If you are interested, write me."

After he received a reply from one young lady expressing interest, Ashcraft contacted Welsh and asked if there was a need for a youth worker among the Indians of the state.

Welsh approached his son, Benton and asked if he would "like to go on a mission." A few days later Benton, whose best friend had recently been appointed to go on a mission to Germany for the Mormon church, approached his father and said: "You know, I have been thinking about that very thing and I know just the guy who could go with me--Sam Ashcraft."

Welsh called Ashcraft, told him of his son's interest and said that the convention needed two girls to work with the Indians in Southern Utah. Ashcraft called later the same week to tell Welsh that his son, Sam and Miss Rhodes and Miss Phillips were ready to go.

Welsh then contacted W. C. Carpenter, director of missions for the Northwest Baptist

-more-

Convention with offices in Portland, Ore., and asked if there was the need for two young men to serve for a year at their own expense as missionaries. Carpenter later said he was so excited he could hardly keep from jumping up and down.

He then contacted Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Sandlin, missionaries to the Navajo Indians in Southern Utah, about the possibilities for the two girls. "This is an answer to prayer," Sandlin said.

Welsh, his staff, Ashcraft and representatives of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta met at the state convention office here the last of August to finalize the plans.

The group agreed that the pilot project would be for one year, that a four-day orientation and training session would be held for the four first volunteers September 7-10, that the four youth would be commissioned on September 11, and that they would be on their respective fields by September 15.

During the year, the Utah-Idaho convention will develop the pilot project in cooperation with Ashcraft, who said that he hoped the idea "will catch fire and it can be done across the nation."

Ashcraft also noted that Welsh and Utah-Idaho Southern Baptists were working closely with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and that there was nothing in the pilot project to overlap with what national mission boards of the SBC are doing.

Emery Smith, associate secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board's department of special ministries who attended the planning meeting here said that "this is a great thing, and as far as I am concerned, I am 100 per cent behind this."

Although Southern Baptists have for many years sponsored student summer missions programs on both foreign and home mission fields, and both mission boards have two-year mission projects (missionary journeymen and US-2 programs) for youth, all of the mission projects are financed by designated gifts or Cooperative Program (undesignated) offerings.

Expenses for the Utah-Idaho project volunteers will be paid by the parents, or by the youth themselves, Welsh pointed out.

Ashcraft and Welsh, and the parents of the two Little Rock girls, are personally paying the expenses of the four youth. Miss Rhodes is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don E. Rhodes Sr., and Miss Phillips is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Phillips.

Ashcraft pointed out that the expense would be less than sending a son or daughter to college, would allow the youth a good opportunity to give expressions to his Christian faith and would provide both time and experience for youth to think through their vocational calling and plans.

Welsh added that the SBC "never will have the money for all that needs to be done, and maybe this is the answer." He observed that "we know there will be problems but what program doesn't have problems."

Meanwhile, the first four volunteers said they were anxious to get started.

"I am not a great Bible scholar," said young Welsh, "but I know what I believe and I feel that I will be able to relate to others what I believe and also give them some basis for wanting to believe as I do.

"I would especially like to work with the forgotten and underprivileged people," the 19-year-old Welsh said. "I believe that if I can convey a sincere love for these people just by sharing friendship, talking over personal problems or just playing games with their children, that they will want to know why I am doing this. Then my opportunity to talk about Christ will have arrived, because Christ is the reason that I am going to Portland," he said.

Bible Concordance Published
In Nigeria's Trade Language

RICHMOND (BP)--The first complete Bible concordance in Hausa, the native language of some six million people and a commercial language for many others in West Africa, is expected to be out this fall. Its author is a Southern Baptist missionary.

Titled *Taimako Ga Neman Ayoyin Littafi Mai Tsarki Watau Konkordans* (helps for seeking verses in the Holy Book, or concordance), the 288-page publication was compiled and written by Miss Bonnie Mae Moore, a Georgian who has been a missionary to Nigeria since 1948.

The main part of Miss Moore's book is the 1,898-word concordance, containing nearly 24,000 scripture references and covering the entire Bible.

Also, there are study helps, including Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ and New Testament references to his miracles, parables and second coming.

Miss Moore worked for roughly three years on the concordance and study helps, pursuing the project during two furloughs in the United States and for about two years in Nigeria. She is also the author of a small book on the duties of officers and teachers in Sunday School, published in English, Hausa and Yoruba and a literacy primer in Hausa.

The Hausa concordance was conceived initially to aid students in the Baptist Pastors' School in Kaduna, Nigeria. Now it also will be used by pastors and church leaders of non-Baptist mission groups in West Africa.

At the outset, Miss Moore discussed the project with representatives of other missions and with national church leaders. Through her many contacts, she found that the work would be widely appreciated.

The publisher, Billing & Sons Ltd., London, plans a first printing of 4,000 copies.

Hausa, the Lingua Franca and "trade language" for northern Nigeria and some other areas of West Africa, is spoken not only by the Hausa people but also by many other tribes who use it as a second language.

One year, more than 20 Hausa-speaking tribes were represented among the 100-plus students in the Baptist Pastors' School in Kaduna. The Baptist men's department offers four-year courses in both Hausa and English; the women's department offers a four-year course in Hausa.

Because Hausa is written as it is pronounced, and vice versa, it is probably not as hard to learn as some other Nigerian languages, Miss Moore said.

Miss Moore added that a straight translation from English into Hausa is often impractical because illustrations of things familiar to people in an English-speaking country might be unknown in an African culture.

Miss Moore taught evangelism and Christian doctrine in the Baptist Pastors' School in Kaduna for 10 years. In addition, she has done literacy work with adults, taped programs for radio broadcast and helped produce literature. She was stationed in Abeokuta during her first three years in Nigeria.

Before returning to College Park, Ga., for her current furlough, she worked for a year at the headquarters of the Baptist mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) and Nigerian Baptist Convention in Ibadan.

She hopes to do literature and literacy work when she returns to Nigeria next July.

Annuity Board Trustees Act
On Fire and Casualty Study

DALLAS (BP)--The administrative policy committee of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board unanimously rejected proposals which would have allowed the agency to enter the field of fire and casualty insurance and to establish arrangements for an outside agency to administer the insurance programs.

R. Alton Reed, president and chief executive officer of the Annuity Board, said the trustees "felt strongly" that approval of the proposals would have created a change in philosophy and a departure from the authorized programs of the denominational agency.

The Annuity Board administers for Southern Baptist churches and agencies programs of protection against retirement, disability and death of ministers and staff employees.

Reed said the philosophical concept of the board, has from its beginning, been a ministry to and for people.

"Our philosophy is to serve those who serve the Lord in salaried positions in churches and agencies by providing authorized programs of protection. This has been the heart of our ministry since 1918. We must never lose sight of this purpose," he said.

The trustees' rejection of the proposals was a strong endorsement to the recommendations made by a special trustee sub-committee. The committee, composed of three trustees and an insurance attorney, included: Ned P. King, chairman of the administrative policy committee, Donald E. Bowles, chairman of the Annuity Board trustees and W. A. Criswell, pastor of Dallas' First Baptist Church and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Vernon Coe was the insurance attorney, also of Dallas.

Reed said the committee has been studying, since last May, the proposals submitted for consideration by the Annuity Board's Development Division which seeks ways to provide better programs and services to churches and agencies.

Reed said in recent months the division has had numerous requests from agencies and others concerning property and casualty insurance, several of them asking if the board could provide such coverage.

-30-

Sammy Tippit, Chicago Jesus
Movement Leader, Arrested

9/8/71

CHICAGO (BP)--Sammy Tippit, 24-year-old Baptist evangelist among the street people of Chicago, was arrested here on charges of disorderly conduct after witnessing and passing out tracts in Chicago's Rush Street nightclub district.

Tippit claimed that his witnessing had hurt some of the business at the bars and go-go clubs and that owners called the police. "I'm afraid the crime syndicate controls some of these clubs and in turn have influence with the police," he said.

The day after his release on \$25 bond, Tippit made a seven-foot cross and began a prayer-fasting vigil at Chicago's Civic Center Plaza at 32 W. Randolph.

He said he would be on a liquid diet only and would pray and fast in the downtown area until his hearing is scheduled Sept. 29 at the 18th District Police Headquarters just across from Moody Bible Institute.

"We must pray for freedom to witness on the streets of Chicago," Tippit said in an interview with the Illinois Baptist. "Let's pray that the Jesus Movement will break out all over the city."

A native of Baton Rouge, La., Tippit and six young friends made headlines last summer when they began pushing a wheelbarrow loaded with "psychadelic Bibles" from Monroe, La., to Washington, D.C. Enroute, the group called for spiritual revival and urged support for another Baptist evangelist, Arthur Blessitt, and his march carrying a cross from Los Angeles to Washington.

-more-

He began his ministry called "God's Love in Action, Inc.," among street people in Chicago almost exactly one year before he was arrested. Tippit has spoken at numerous Southern Baptist churches in Illinois and at statewide Baptist evangelism conferences.

Tippit said police harrassment began on Aug. 31 when two of his volunteer helpers, Paul Mungrides and Dan Moxon, were told by a nightclub owner that they could not pass out tracts and witness outside the club. Later that night, police warned them to "move on."

The next night both Mungrides and Moxon were arrested after a complaint by a night club owner. Three nights later, Tippit and another volunteer helper were also arrested.

Tippit said that a club bouncer pulled a knife and threatened him, saying, "I'm going to slit your throat." When a detective came up, Tippit filed a complaint about the knife. The detective told him he had five minutes to get out or be arrested, Tippit said. They stayed, and were arrested. The incident occurred in front of "My Place," a Rush Street nightclub, Tippit said.

Although he said he believes the crime syndicate controls the night spots in the Old Town area of Chicago and influences police and the courts to give them protection, Tippit added that he did not mean that all police in Chicago "are controlled by the syndicate; but I'm afraid some are."

Police issued Tippit a permit to set up his cross and maintain his prayer-fast vigil in the Civic Plaza, but told him he could not lie down and sleep in the area.

During the first day of the vigil, Sammy said he and his volunteer helpers led 10 persons to Christ. One of the new converts gave Tippit a gold pass to the Playboy Club, which has its national headquarters here. "I won't need this any more," he said. "I've found something better."