



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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December 29, 1971

**SBC Missionaries in Dacca  
Chose to Stay During War**

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP)--According to letters delivered here by evacuees from East Pakistan, the Southern Baptist missionaries in Dacca declined to be evacuated in order to be near the Bengali Christians during the recent siege of the city by Indian forces.

Missionary J. Howard Teel wrote that, although they were unable to be of much direct assistance to the Bengalis, their presence served as a symbolic witness.

Letters brought out by evacuees said that Teel and Dr. John D. Freeman, a physician regularly stationed here, were staying in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Troy C. Bennett.

Freeman was caught by the outbreak of warfare while visiting in Dacca and was unable to leave. He registered with the Red Cross as a standby physician.

The James E. McKinleys and Thomas E. Thurmans were staying together in a guest house adjoining the Bennett residence, located about a half mile from the Red Cross neutral zone around the Intercontinental Hotel.

Mrs. Teel, here with her children, received minutes of a missionary committee meeting held under a table at the Bennetts' home.

The letters confirmed that the missionary families were safe and well on the morning of the cease-fire between India and Pakistan.

The Bennetts' daughter, Becky, is a student at the International School here, and their son, Steve, is enrolled at Mars Hill College in North Carolina.

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**Young Baptist Caroler  
Killed, Others Injured**

12/29/71

BOYD, Tex. (BP)--A nine-year-old girl was killed and ten other children injured when an automobile careened off the highway into a crowd of about 20 young Christmas carolers from the Trinity Baptist Church here.

Carolyn Blevins, one of six children of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Blevins, who had come to Boyd from New Mexico last summer, died of her injuries in a Fort Worth hospital a few hours later. Two other children were hospitalized with broken legs.

Highway patrolmen filed a negligent homicide charge against the driver of the car, Jimmie Dale Mosley, 19, of nearby Rhome, Tex. Officers said that Mosley told them he pulled off the road to let another car pass and didn't see the carolers until too late.

The youngsters had planned to sing at homes in their West Texas town and return to the church for refreshments. Their relatives were preparing punch for them when they learned of the accident.

Trinity Pastor R. L. Swanner said the children and sponsors were walking single file along the shoulder of the road when the car struck them. He raced to the scene to find "children scattered all over the bar ditch and others running about in panic."

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Swanner checked each of the children still lying on the ground and found them alive.

He worked with the Blevins child to keep her breathing.

"I believe that in her subconscious she heard me telling her 'to breathe deeply,'" Swanner said, "because she seemed to respond."

Trinity Baptists planned to pay the funeral expenses for the dead child. A Carolyn Blevins fund to assist her family has been established at the Continental State Bank in Boyd.

Trinity Baptists are thankful that other children were spared, said Swanner. "It could have been much worse."

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Mission Board Commissions  
Musical Stressing Missions

12/29/71

ATLANTA (BP)--In search for new avenues of missionary education, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has commissioned a song writer and composer to create a musical with a home mission theme.

Kenneth Day of Atlanta, secretary of the department of missionary education, announced the commissioning of Ed Seabough of Atlanta and Bill Cates of Nashville to provide the religious musical.

"We are searching for new means of informing Christians and non-Christians of the needs of Americans and how they can become involved in meeting those needs," Day said.

The musical will be premiered during home mission weeks at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist Assemblies this year, with proposed publication of the music by Broadman Press by August 1.

Seabough and Cates have already collaborated on a musical for Broadman Press entitled Encounter. It will be released May 1.

Seabough, the song writer of the team, is best known for his song, Here Is My Life, written for Mission 70. He has composed scores of other songs, and is the author of two books of poetry and drama published by Broadman Press.

Seabough is an associate secretary in the department of missionary personnel for the SBC Home Mission Board.

Cates, a free lance composer from Nashville, was musical director for Up with People, a national musical touring group. He wrote the music for the song, "Do You Really Care?" in the Good News musical published by Broadman.

Both Cates and Seabough are the sons of retired Southern Baptist ministers: W. Floyd Cates of Bolivar, Tenn., and R. H. Seabough of St. Louis.

Day said the theme of the musical will be persons seeing the needs of the people of the United States and discovering how they can become involved in meeting those needs now and in the future.

There will be 13 to 16 tunes in the musical, and groups producing it will have the option of selecting selections for either a full hour-long production or a short presentation suitable for a shopping center or on the beach.

"We explore every possibility in the use of this creative means of promoting missions," Day said. "We may form touring groups, enlist choirs for special presentations, make television tapes for use in world mission conferences or in connection with special study of missions, and use these songs on mission programs at the Southern Baptist Convention. The possibilities are limitless, and we expect to explore them all.

We see this as part of a new breakthrough in communication, catching some of the excitement and interest of young people today in expressing their faith through all media," Day continued.

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Day also indicated they would explore the release of slides, tapes and filmstrips to accompany the production, providing the option of a multi-media presentation.

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BP PHOTOS mailed to state Baptist papers.

Youth Picket Theater;  
X-Rated Films Stopped

12/29/71

MARION, Ill. (BP)--Picketing by young people from Second Baptist Church here has prompted the local Orpheum Theater to promise it will show no more X-rated films.

Youth in the church felt the technique was so effective that they would carry the fight to surrounding communities in the county, according to the pastor, Wallace Curlee.

It all started when a young member of the church, Allen Clemons, asked the pastor what could be done about a four-night showing of two X-rated color films.

"We started by praying," the pastor recalled. "Then we contacted other youth, and they wanted to help. We talked to the chief of police. He advised us he didn't think it would do any good, but as long as we didn't cause any trouble, go ahead."

Curlee said that only a few patrons went into the X-rated movie on the night the youth picketed the theater, and some left after seeing the pickets.

Curlee said that the theater owner, Eddie Stewart in Sullivan, Ind., called him on the phone, saying that "if you take off the pickets, I'll not show any more X-rated films. But if you don't, I'll flood the place with them."

Curlee said he rejected Stewart's suggestion, saying "the area is already flooded with that kind (of movie)."

Then Stewart pledged that he would not show any more X-rated movies at the Orpheum if the church youth would stop the picketing. "I don't like to show that kind of stuff myself," Stewart said. He added that "if the people of Marion would support good movies, we would not have to show the X-rated kind."

After front-page news coverage and coverage by several local and regional television and radio stations, Curlee said the youth of the church decided to picket two Williamson County drive-in theaters which were showing X-rated films.

One drive-in manager said he hated to show "the kinds of movies they send me," and observed that with pressure from local patrons, he would not have to.

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Court Denies Temporary Order  
To Stop Baptist Hospital Release

12/29/71

HOUSTON (BP)--A district court here has refused to grant a temporary injunction sought by a Baptist layman here to stop the Baptist General Convention of Texas from releasing control of the Memorial Baptist Hospital System here.

Just after losing his plea for a temporary restraining order, J. B. Bumgardner, a member of Baptist Temple Church and a cement company operator, said he may seek to permanently enjoin the convention from severing ties with the hospital complex.

The suit was filed about a month after the state convention meeting here in October had voted to divest itself of responsibility and control of the hospital system to allow it to continue as a non-sectarian, Christian institution. The hospital system includes four hospitals and related facilities. Under the new charter, at least 25 per cent of the trustees will be Baptists.

Bumgardner, who spoke during the convention against the release of the hospital, charged in his petition that the vote, 907-352, authorizing the transfer of the hospital, was taken in a

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manner that deprived the convention delegates "of an opportunity to express their opinion or to protect their interests."

His lawyer sought to show that many of the messengers were out to lunch when the vote was taken, since they had voted earlier 1,466 to 724 not to permit federal aid for the Baptist hospitals.

Bumgardner's petition also claimed the convention failed to set out precisely the time and place the question of the transfer of the hospital system would be considered and that the board of trustees used a financial statement in their presentation that was misleading and failed to meet acceptable accounting practices.

Several Baptist leaders testified during two days of hearings on the petition. They included W. Wilson Turner, the hospital president; T. A. Patterson, executive secretary of the convention; Jimmy Allen, San Antonio, immediate past president of the convention; James Basden, secretary of the BGCT Human Welfare Commission; and Vernon Garrett, chairman of the hospital's trustees.

Bumgardner's lawyer questioned the hospital president for several hours in an effort to show that the actual value of the hospital properties was greater than the approximately \$20 million shown on the books, and that it could have been sold.

In the petition filed on behalf "of all Baptists in Texas," Bumgardner said he was seeking to protect the assets acquired through tithes and offerings by himself and others.

Defense Attorney B. J. Bradshaw, a member of the hospital's board of trustees, said Bumgardner's charge that separation of the hospital would deprive the Baptists of donations was erroneous. He introduced an exhibit that showed the convention in 1970 provided about \$156,000 of the hospital's total operating expenses of \$21 million.

Bradshaw contended that Bumgardner had no legal right to file suit, because he had spoken against separation at the convention and had an opportunity to vote.

The petition claimed that convention leadership limited debate on the question to 15 minutes, granting 13 of the minutes to speakers favoring the proposal.

Former convention President Jimmy Allen said on the witness stand that he had promised time for another speaker against the proposal, but the messengers voted not to extend the time for debate. He said the actual debate was only about eight minutes since Hermond Westmoreland of Houston had been previously chosen to speak to the report on the hospital and should not be considered as participating in the debate.

Bumgardner also sought to show that Baptists had not been well-informed of the separation proposal.

In response, BGCT Executive Secretary T. A. Patterson of Dallas, one of the witnesses, exhibited several copies of the Baptist Standard, official convention newspaper, which carried articles on the proposal prior to the annual meeting. He also introduced advance news releases that had been sent by the convention to all newspapers in Texas.



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