



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

# ---FEATURES

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Agony, Faith of Job  
Dramatized in Mosaics

By Jim Newton  
For Baptist Press

A moan of agony, gurgling forth with hushed intensity, arose from ten mosaic figures on the stage.

The voice of three women intoned the message: ". . . and they are dead, dead, dead."

A tall, commanding figure in the center of the stage slowly, dramatically removed his mantle, then spoke:

"Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

A few moments later, that tower of strength was writhing in the agony of boils that covered his body from head to foot.

His wife shouted dramatically: "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die. Curse God, and die!"

The scene was one of many dramatic tableaux from "The Book of Job," a highly acclaimed classic drama created by Irene and Orlin Corey, active Southern Baptists, and performed by their Everyman Players on tour throughout the country during the month of January.

To many who saw the play in 16 cities, the drama made the poetic message of "The Book of Job" come alive, communicating with intensity the awesome questions of mankind which have troubled every man in times of trouble.

Corey put it well in the introduction to the play, as he addressed the audiences before the players came on stage:

"From suffering and anguish, Job cries out our questions, indeed the questions of every man:

"Who and where is God?

"What is man? Why is he here? Where is he going?

"If a man die, shall he live again?

"If God is good, why is there evil on earth?

"It is our purpose," Corey told his audiences, "that the poem of Job will be yours. The Word of God, through the Book of Job, will live anew in our lives tonight. Be not dismayed at the mystery in this planet. Watch, then and pray. Listen. Wonder. And if you will, worship."

Then, after the sound of the shophar (ram's horn used in Jewish worship), the ten mosaic-clad figures slowly marched on stage.

The players, five men and five women, were clad in black garments covered with multi-colored silk patches which glistened in the low-key lighting, creating a stained-glass effect.

Their faces were painted in a style matching their garments, with strong black lines surrounding eyes, mouth, and nose. Splotches of color tastefully added to the mosaic effect on the faces. Black hoods with colored silk squares covered all but the faces.

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Inspiration for the costumes, designed and created by Mrs. Corey, came from the mosaics of the early Byzantine churches. The actors, devoid of identity except for the towering height of Job, played their roles in moving mosaic tableaux.

Corey, in an interview after the performance in Nashville, said that the costumes, coupled with the use of King James language direct from the Bible, and the sounds of the drama, create a ritual dimension that suggests reverence, holiness, and a kind of awesomeness that adds impact to the significance of the questions raised by Job.

The general response to the play, which had its 1,100th performance at the First Baptist Church of Tulsa on the current national tour, has ranged from astonishment and shock at Job's anger to amazement at his undying faith, Corey said.

This year marks the fourth national tour of "The Book of Job." Significantly, six of the 16 performances were scheduled at Southern Baptist churches; three at Southern Baptist theological seminaries, and one at a Baptist college. Most of the performances came at the time when Southern Baptists across the nation were studying Job during a nationwide January Bible Study emphasis. Corey said it was the first national tour which has focused on church performances.

When Job was first created as a drama in 1956, the Coreys designed it for presentation specifically in churches of the English Baptist Union, in response to an invitation to tour English Baptist churches. But in America, Corey noted that Baptist churches have been slow to sponsor a drama by a professional company, even one using King James language direct from the Bible.

"The Book of Job" has been acclaimed by drama critics around the world, and hailed as a creative classical approach. It has been performed at two world's fairs, Brussels in 1958 and New York in 1964; has played two seasons off-Broadway in New York; and has been presented in tours of 33 states in the U.S., plus Canada, England, Wales, Belgium, Holland, Italy, South Africa, and Chile (where it was televised nationally).

It also has been televised nationally by Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS-TV) in 1968, and was a factor in earning the 1968 Religious Drama Award of the National Catholic Theatre Conference for Mr. and Mrs. Corey in 1968.

For 14 summers, it has been performed for 10 weeks, six nights weekly, at the Cathedral of the Hills in Pine Mountain State Park, Pineville, Ky., a natural outdoor amphitheater.

The Coreys, both graduates of Baylor University, where they studied drama with Paul Baker, taught at Georgetown College, a Baptist school in Georgetown, Ky., at the time they conceived of "Job." Later they taught at Centenary College, Shreveport, La., until four years ago, when they incorporated the Everyman Players and began to devote full time to their dramatic productions.

"Job" is one of many such dramas they have produced, though it is probably the best known and most widely acclaimed. They also have produced sacred dramas entitled "Romans by Saint Paul," and "The Pilgrim's Progress." Next year, they plan a national tour for "Pilgrim's."

"The Pilgrim's Progress" was premiered in connection with the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Shreveport, where Mr. and Mrs. Corey are active members.

On the current national tour of "Job," many of the performances have attracted turn-away crowds. Corey quoted officials at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, as saying an estimated crowd of 2,500 packed the seminary chapel to see "Job," and another 2,500 came but were turned away.

The current tour also scheduled the drama at Southwestern and New Orleans Baptist seminaries, at Louisiana Baptist College; and the First Baptist churches of Tulsa, Okla.; Waco, Tex.; Shreveport, La.; Texarkana, Tex.; Decatur, Ga.; and Huntsville, Ala. The tour also included performances at civic auditoriums, schools and churches in El Dorado, Ark.; Nashville, Knoxville, Memphis, Tenn.; Oklahoma City; and Denmark, S.C.

Corey, when asked where he felt the response to Job has been greatest, vividly recalled the performance at Temple Bnai Abraham in Newark, N.J., as the most memorable. "Over half the audience had lost family members in Hitler's ovens," he recalled.

"It was personal--Job's agonizing search for meaning in the face of adversity," he said. "For Job is the Jew; indeed, he is every man."

**Baptist Deacon Inaugurated  
As Mississippi Governor**

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The inauguration of William Lowe Waller as the 56th governor of the state of Mississippi started with a prayer meeting at the First Baptist Church here.

Waller, who has been acclaimed by some observers as ushering in a new day in state government here, is a deacon at First Baptist Church where his wife is also a Sunday School teacher.

Larry Rohrman, pastor of the church, told the inaugural day prayer service crowd that the new governor's religious beliefs "are not feigned or artificial. They are genuine." He said it was the wish of the governor and his wife to begin the day with prayer.

"The problems of our day demand our being here," Rohrman said. "Good government doesn't just happen. It is the product of good men who dare to engage in the pursuit of adequate solutions to the problems of mankind. Good men are not produced by environment. Good men produce good environment. We are here today to pray for changed men."

To the governor, his pastor said: "Only your integrity will enable you to stand erect as you have done in the past, as you resist pressures to compromise your convictions. The people have given you a trust. Guard it with your life. After your task is completed and you pass the mantle of leadership on to another, do so with clean hands. Care not what men may say. It is God who is your strength and your guide, your life and your Lord."

The prayer of dedication for the new governor was led by W. Douglas Hudgins, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and former pastor of the church where Waller is a deacon and member.

Hudgins, in the prayer, asked that God would "deliver him from the pressures of selfish or sectional scheming and keep him dedicated always to the doing of what he believes is right under God . . . May the spirit of Christ, our Lord, characterize his leadership in every sphere of endeavor."

Forty-five minutes after the special prayer service at the church, Waller was inaugurated. During the formal ceremonies, Rohrman led the invocation, and Lewis W. Nobles, president of Mississippi College, a Baptist school in Clinton, Miss., led the benediction.

The governor took the oath of office with his hand placed upon a Bible which had belonged to his wife's grandfather.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Waller have been active in the church since their marriage. They first met in the church in what was then called the BYPU (Baptist Young People's Union). She has been a Sunday School teacher, and he a deacon and officer in the Sunday School.

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**W. C. Woody Named TimeRite  
Manager; Chanslor Resigns**

1/20/72

FORT WORTH (BP)--W. C. Woody, former sales manager of WFAA Radio in Dallas, has been named vice president and manager of the Dallas office of TimeRite, Inc., a subsidiary corporation of the Southern Baptist Radio Television Commission with offices here.

TimeRite is an advertising division of the commission, with other offices in Fresno, Calif., and Wilmington, N.C.

Woody, who joined TimeRite in 1970 as an account executive, will manage the Dallas office and succeed in that capacity Don Chanslor, who resigned as president of TimeRite to set up his own company. Charles Roden of the Radio-TV Commission staff, will be the interim president of TimeRite. Roden is the commission's administrative assistant.

Woody's appointment as vice president of TimeRite was announced by Paul M. Stevens, executive director of the Radio-TV Commission.

Woody had worked with WFAA radio for 17 years, and previously was vice president in charge of radio and television for Grant Advertising's Dallas office.

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