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---FEATURES

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**Missionary Gives Personal
Account of Ambush Killing**

By Mrs. Merrill D. Moore Jr.
Southern Baptist Missionary to Gaza

GAZA (BP)--At the church on the Baptist hospital compound here, after the late Sunday afternoon service, missionary nurse Mavis Pate got into the front seat of the Volkswagen bus which missionary Ed Nicholas was to drive. Mavis had business in Tel Aviv on Monday, and was to bring a mission car back.

On the third seat in the back of the bus sat the three Nicholas girls, Carol, 17, Mary Ann, 15, and Joy, 12. They were going back to the MK (missionary kid) dorm in the suburb of Tel Aviv where they attend the American school.

The girls sat on the seat in the back because tanks for nitrous oxide for the hospital which Ed was to refill on Monday took up the center section of the bus. As it developed, if they had not had the center seat out of the bus and the girls had been sitting there, they would probably have been killed.

It was about 5:45 and already dark when they left the church. The drive to the Israeli border takes 10 to 15 minutes, but they never reached the border.

When they were scarcely out of town, the bus suddenly was hit with heavy automatic weapon fire from the left side of the road. It was reported by the military later that more than 50 shots were fired at the vehicle.

Ed was hit, but he drove on to a citrus packing plant about 250 yards from the site of the shooting. Carol went to telephone for help.

Mavis was critically wounded. After being taken to an army field hospital in the town, both she and Ed were taken by Israeli military helicopter to Beersheba to a well-staffed and equipped government hospital.

Dr. Roy McGlamery and Dr. Merrill Moore, missionary doctors at the Baptist hospital in Gaza, went immediately to the hospital in Beersheba, accompanied by a soldier.

Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan came from Tel Aviv to offer assistance. Dr. Moore observed the surgery on Ed Nicholas. Fortunately, his injuries were not serious and he will soon be all right.

Mavis lived for about three hours after the attack and died while the doctors were working with her.

The people of Gaza were shocked and saddened by the news. The Israeli TV news in Arabic had a five-minute editorial about it in addition to an interview with missionary doctor Jean Dickman. Dr. Dickman was able to use the interview as a witness for Christ, as she stated in Arabic the belief and assurance we have as followers of Christ, even in such a tragic event as this.

Early Monday morning the Gaza Mission met to make the necessary plans and arrangements. Mavis' family had expressed the desire that Mavis be buried in Gaza, with a memorial service to be held in her home church in Ringgold, Ia.

We received the fullest cooperation from the government in obtaining the necessary permits. No one had previously been buried in the hospital compound, but the permit was granted with no problem.

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The funeral was held Tuesday morning, Jan. 18, in the church on the hospital compound. The church was overflowing with people--local residents, United Nations relief workers, military personnel, embassy representatives, fellow missionaries from the Israel mission and newsmen.

Doctors McGlamery and Moore had a part, the pastor of the Gaza Baptist Church, Hanna Ibrahim Hanna, brought the message, and Robert L. Lindsey of the Israel Baptist Mission also spoke.

Martha Murphey of the Israel mission sang two songs of Christian triumph, "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" and "Lead On, O King Eternal." Many floral arrangements surrounded the white-satin covered casket.

Following the service the body was buried in a quiet garden area in a corner of the compound.

All of this was in marked contrast to the prevailing local tradition and practice of an extreme show of grief at the death of a loved one.

Mavis was a thoroughly efficient person, willing to accept responsibility and accomplish whatever she was asked to do in a superb way. She was a dedicated Christian with a consistent witness and concern for those around her.

She began a training course for operating room technicians and did her best in every way for her students. She prepared her instruction of them meticulously; this is her field, and she has written a text on the subject. She was interested in her students as persons, and desired above all that they come to know her Christ as their Savior.

One of the student nurses wrote a poetic tribute to Miss Pate. It included these words: "She went, but just her body. For she still lives in our spirits. She planted the seeds of hard work, honesty, and faithfulness in us and these seeds will become the trees of love and peace."

Mavis taught a class of MKs in the small English-language Sunday School, and though she had only one or two pupils most Sundays, she prepared as if she had a roomful. She was a real person, no pretense or sham, and all who knew her loved her.

To my nine-year-old daughter Melissa and the other children, Mavis was one of the best Sunday School teachers and friends-of-children in the world.

I told Melissa that "Aunt Mavis" had died and what had happened. And I tried as best I could to tell her that this was a result of hearts filled with hatred, hearts which had never known the light and love of Jesus.

And this is just why we are in Gaza and why Mavis was here. We are here to share the wonderful news that Jesus has died and risen again, and that his love can overcome even the blackest hatred, the deepest despair, the darkest night in the hearts of men. Our prayer is that we will be more faithful to this our task because of this tragic event.

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Buckner Counselor Named
To Home Missions Position

1/25/72

ATLANTA (BP)--James L. Barber, director of Buckner Baptist Benevolences Marriage and Family Counseling Center in Dallas, has been named assistant secretary in the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's department of Christian social ministries.

The Headrick, Okla., native, will specialize in the department's youth and family services. He will assume the position Feb. 1. Paul Adkins is secretary of the department.

Barber has headed the Buckner Benevolences Marriage and Family Counseling Center in Dallas for the past nine years. During that time he also established a college and seminary related clinical training program in connection with the center.

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An ordained minister, he was pastor of churches in California and Arizona before coming to Texas in 1959, where he worked in the Southwestern and Forrest Park Counseling Centers in Fort Worth before going to the Buckner center.

A graduate of Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz., Barber earned a masters and doctorate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, and a second doctorate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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NASA Names Baptist Deacon
To Skylab Mission in 1973

1/25/72

HOUSTON (BP)--Astronaut William R. Pogue, a Baptist deacon, was one of nine U.S. space-men named for Skylab missions in 1973.

Skylab is an experimental space station the size of a three-bedroom house which will orbit the earth at 270 miles altitude. Three crews of three men each will spend up to eight weeks in the laboratory.

Pogue, a deacon at Nassau Bay Baptist Church in Houston, is described by pastor William R. Rittenhouse as one of his "most active" laymen. He is an Air Force pilot and will be on the first "all-rookie" Skylab crew. The two previous crews will be headed by Apollo astronauts.

Pogue will be in a crew commanded by Gerald P. Carr which will blast off for the Skylab on Oct. 28, 1973. Scientist-astronaut Edward G. Gibson is the other member.

Earlier in the year, crews headed by Charles (Pete) Conrad Jr. and Alan L. Bean will make two trips to the Skylab. Conrad's crew leaves Cape Kennedy May 1, 1973, while Bean's crew has a call for July 30.

The third Skylab mission, in which Pogue will participate, will be designed to study the earth and the sun with remote sensing devices and telescopes. The crew will spend up to 56 days orbiting the earth.

Pogue is the second member of Nassau Bay Baptist Church here to participate in the space program as an astronaut.

Fellow Nassau Bay member James B. Irwin, the first Baptist to fly in space, is presently on a good-will tour of Europe, including visits behind the Iron Curtain. Rittenhouse said Irwin had taken with him Bibles in Hungarian and Polish as gifts.

Just before the announcement was made that Pogue would participate in the third Skylab mission, Irwin and fellow members of the Nassau Bay church entered into a prayer covenant for the flight of Apollo 16, which was originally scheduled for March but has been postponed until April.

Irwin, who urged other Baptist churches to join them in the prayer covenant, told the church: "I ask for your prayers for the men and the mission of Apollo 16."

The covenant "for the men and mission of Apollo 16--John Young, Ken Mattingly, Charles Duke," says in part, "We are grateful for keen minds dedicated to the exploration of God's creation. . . ."

It continues, "We are challenged to fill our place and calling with the same dedication they fill theirs."

It closes with Psalm 121:8--"The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even for evermore."

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Survey Shows Special Offerings Support SBC Cooperative Program

ATLANTA (BP)--A survey of more than 6,000 Baptist churches has disclosed that contrary to popular opinion, special mission offerings among Southern Baptists do not erode the Cooperative Program, but support it.

This finding came from a survey of more than 6,000 churches, including a depth study of two associations in Kentucky, according to Orrin D. Morris, secretary of the department of planning services for the SBC Home Mission Board which conducted the survey.

"Until a more extensive research project is designed, promoters of the special mission offerings and promoters of the Cooperative Program should not be viewed as competitive but as supporters of one another," Morris said.

The special offerings included in the study are the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, and associational and state mission offerings.

The Cooperative Program is the unified mission giving system supporting all state and worldwide Southern Baptist mission causes.

Most giving through the Cooperative Program and the association is on a percentage of the budget basis, and giving to the other offerings is on a one-time basis, Morris said.

He added that the Kentucky associations of Long Run (Louisville) and Pulaski (one urban, the other rural) were selected because Kentucky is a border state and thus was not affected by variables as other states during the period 1960 through 1970.

The significant findings of the study showed that when a church contributes a large amount through the Cooperative Program, the church will contribute more to all other causes. This also holds true for individual members of the church.

In churches where the per capita income is higher than average, the Cooperative Program per capita giving is high and so are each of the special offerings, the survey disclosed.

"At no point," Morris said, "were significant adverse relationships isolated from the data showing that special offerings hurt other giving."

There was indication that the Home Mission Board benefited least when per capita church income rose, while Cooperative Program, Foreign Mission Board, and other mission offerings benefited most.

On the other hand, when this income decreased, the Home Mission Board and the association were least affected, the study disclosed.

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William Neal Named
Seminary News Director

1/25/72

LOUISVILLE (BP)--William T. Neal has been named news director for Southern Baptist Seminary and managing editor of The Tie, the seminary's alumni magazine.

He succeeds Louis A. Moore, who finishes his master of divinity degree requirements in January and has been named religion editor for the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle.

A native of Columbus, Ga., Neal is a graduate of Columbus College. He served as state president of the Georgia Baptist Student Union and as a summer missionary to Worcester, Mass.

While in college, Neal served as youth director for three churches in Columbus, most recently for two years at First Baptist Church. He is now a first year student at Southern in the School of Theology.

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