

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 18, 1972

**Stetson Ecology Class
Puts Study into Action**

DeLand, Fla. (BP)--Students of Henlee Barnette's human ecology class at Stetson University here were not content simply to study about ecology--they put theory into action with a number of community improvement projects during the winter term.

"They have really eaten it up," observed Barnette, professor of Christian ethics at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, who taught at Stetson while studying the ecology problem in Florida on sabbatical leave.

The students' projects ranged from an evaluation of the local sewerage system to a pollution study of the nearby St. Johns River.

Three students planted 400 slash pines between DeLand and DeLeon Springs, and another group cleaned up two truck loads of trash collected on a corner lot here.

Barnette, a former Stetson professor who has been on the Southern Seminary faculty for 20 years, said he was convinced that ecological problems demand both a mass approach, and a combination of personal initiative, political action and education.

On sabbatical leave since September to complete a book on the subject, *The Ecological Crisis and the Church*, Barnette said he has doubts that society will have the discipline to solve the ecological crisis.

"You've got to have a total plan, an overview," he said. "Otherwise what have you got?--a crazy-quilt patchwork! Every man sits under his own tree and does what he thinks is right.

Barnette said he feels a proposal by Florida Governor Reubin Askew to create a department of environmental affairs in Florida is a step in the right direction towards obtaining an overview with experts to guide community planning.

As it now stands in Florida, zoning laws are in the hands of the city fathers, who can do whatever they want, Barnette observed.

The whole nation is suffering from "consumerholics" and from a "bulldozer mentality," Barnette charged.

"We're addicted to consumption," he explained. "We've just got to go out and buy something. We've been operating on a cowboy economy--go in and consume and destroy and move out."

Citing the increasing land development of the Florida Everglades area, Barnette added that the "bulldozer mentality" of "big developers" could well destroy "every natural wilderness that we have." Americans need to tame technology, said Barnette, and use it as an instrument of improvement in the quality of life.

Barnette, who has moved his family to DeLand for several months each year, said he was skeptical about Florida's future. "I think there might be some hope for us after one or two major catastrophes," he said.

"For heaven's sake, let's have some kind of Florida of the future instead of bulldozing down our natural resources and building concrete and asphalt," Barnette declared. "Let's get an ecological balance before it's everlastingly too late.

"I'm not very optimistic, but I'd rather die trying," he concluded. "The reason, I guess, is there might be hope."

Russian Baptists Elect
Bichkov New Secretary

MOSCOW (BP)--Alexsei Bichkov, a pastor of the Moscow Baptist Church, has been elected general secretary of the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists.

Bichkov will succeed the late Alexander Karev who died last November. His election was reported in London by the Baptist Times, and in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, by European Baptist Press Service.

According to the news reports, two new vice presidents of the Council were elected. They are Michael Zhidkov, also a pastor of the Moscow Baptist Church, and Andrew Klimenko, area superintendent of Baptist work in Kuibyshev, about 900 miles southeast of Moscow.

Elected deputy general secretary and treasurer of the council was Arthur Mitzkevitch, who previously held the title associate general secretary. Mitzkevitch will also be chairman of the council's biblical study courses.

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BWA President Issues Call
To Prayer for World Peace

2/18/72

WASHINGTON (BP)--The president of the Baptist World Alliance with offices here, V. Carney Hargroves, has issued a statement calling on the world's 31 million Baptists to pray for world peace.

The statement was issued on the day President Richard M. Nixon left the United States for a series of summit meetings with heads of state in the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Hargroves said he believes the summit meetings "can open an era of reconciliation between men and between nations.

The text of the "call to prayer" statement to Baptists of the world reads as follows:

"The Baptist World Alliance urges Baptists and all people everywhere to be in prayer for world peace.

The conference in Peking between the leaders of the United States and the People's Republic of China and the subsequent conference with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics can open an era of reconciliation between men and between nations. Let us pray especially throughout the time of their meetings that God will direct the thoughts and decisions of these leaders.

Let us seek diligently in our own lives and in our prayers to be reconciled to all men, even as God through Christ is reconciling the world unto himself."

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Arkansas Woman Gives \$50,000
To College Instead of Surgery

2/18/72

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark. (BP)--Southern Baptist College here has received nearly \$50,000 in stocks from the estate of a woman who told the president she would rather go blind than to spend the money, which she wanted to donate to the school, on expensive eye surgery.

The gift was made by Miss Brickelle Davis of El Paso, Ark. In her will, she left 507 shares of Schering-Plough stock valued at \$45,630 to the school.

H. E. Williams, president of Southern Baptist College, said her gift was made in the most sacrificial spirit he had witnessed in his 31 years as president of the school.

Williams recalled a letter from Miss Davis about six years ago telling him that her doctors had informed her that she must have eye surgery or face the possibility of blindness.

She wrote in the letter: "I have made up my mind not to have the operation since it is likely to be quite expensive. I think I had just rather go blind so that I can leave more money to the college and other good Christian causes I have remembered in my will."

The late Miss Davis had been a supporter of the college since its founding in 1941, Williams said. She made a modest gift to the school each year, he added.

The stock has been placed in the endowment fund of the college and is considered a part of the current state-wide Ouachita-Southern Advancement Campaign, a fund-raising effort for Southern and Ouachita Baptist University.

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