

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 10, 1972

Woman Baptist Minister  
To Marry Former Priest

By Jim Newton

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--For the first time in history, an ordained Southern Baptist minister will marry a former Catholic priest.

The ceremony, scheduled May 28 at Kathwood Baptist Church here, was described by a local newspaper as "the ecumenical wedding of the year."

Miss Shirley Carter, a Baptist chaplain at the Harbison Correctional Institute for Women here, will marry W. Pringle Lee, a counselor-recruiter for the Columbia Technical Education Center.

The ceremony will be led by Eddie Rickenbaker, pastor of Kathwood Baptist Church which last August ordained Miss Carter to the gospel ministry. She is one of only three women known to have been ordained to the gospel ministry by a Southern Baptist church.

The couple has requested Msgr. William J. Croghan, pastor of St. Peter's Catholic Church here, to officiate jointly in the ceremony "if possible."

In an interview here, both Miss Carter and Lee as well as Rickenbaker, said they had not thought of the wedding in terms of its being "the ecumenical wedding of the year."

"I'm marrying them, not because she is a Baptist minister and he is a former priest, but because they are very much in love with each other," Rickenbaker said.

Throughout the interview here, the couple seemed to bubble over with love and excitement about the forthcoming wedding.

Reaction to their plans has been mixed, they said, but mostly has been "positive" and "enthusiastic."

But they do anticipate some "flack" from "people who don't see us as persons, but who look at issues instead." Lee said he had probably received more opposition than had his wife-to-be.

They are not worried about any criticism, however. They add that they have no problems whatever about any theological differences between them.

"We're asked questions like, 'Are you going to convert him?' and 'Are you going to become a Catholic,'" Miss Carter said. "But this is no issue for us. Religion is no hangup," they agreed.

They said they plan to worship together at Kathwood Baptist Church where she is a member, and at St. Peter's Catholic Church, where he was assistant pastor for many years.

Both plan to continue their own professional careers in the same fields.

It was their common professional background that brought the couple together. They met in September of 1970 when both were chaplains at the South Carolina State Mental Hospital.

Since then, she has become a chaplain at the Harbison Correctional Institute for Women at nearby Irmo, and at Goodman Correctional Institute for Aging and Handicapped Persons in Columbia.

Lee is now counselor-recruiter at the Columbia Technical Education Center, and a counselor for the Associated Service Agencies, primarily Family Services, of Columbia.

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Lee, 52, has been on leave of absence as a priest since April 1970, and is now waiting "laicization" or release from his vows of obedience and celibacy.

He plans to go ahead with the wedding even if he is not formally released from his vows before May 28 by the Vatican on request of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston. "This isn't a concern of mine," he said. "It's a Pharasaic legality."

Asked why he decided to leave the priesthood, Lee said he had lost confidence in the credibility of the church, especially over the issues of discipline, authority, celibacy, birth control and abortion.

He pointed out, however, he was not leaving the priesthood in order to marry. He had already decided to leave the priesthood before he even met Miss Carter.

Ironically, he said it was the discipline and authority of the Catholic church that first appealed to him, and led him to leave the Episcopal Church to become a Catholic in 1952. He was ordained as a priest in Columbia in 1962.

He became disillusioned with the priesthood in the late 1960's, when he was serving as an assistant pastor for several churches in South Carolina.

He decided definitely to leave the priesthood in 1969 when he was pastor of two churches 30 miles apart in Union and Gaffney, S.C.

He said he was especially distressed at that time because Catholic priests were treated as something less than a human being. "The loneliness in the priesthood is utterly devastating," he said.

Though he has left the priesthood, he said he has not left the ministry nor forsaken his religious experience and belief. "You just can't ditch 10 years of the priesthood. It permeates your thinking."

Though Lee chose counseling as a way out of the priesthood into a different form of ministry, counseling was the way into the ministry for Miss Carter.

A native of Missouri and a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Miss Carter entered the field of counseling because of an experience as a church secretary at her home church in Fulton, Mo.

A woman who was on the verge of suicide called the church wanting to talk to a minister. Miss Carter, the only one present at the time, took the call. That contact began a counseling relationship that lasted for 15 months, with the woman's suggesting that Miss Carter seriously consider becoming a professional counselor.

Miss Carter and Lee pointed out numerous similarities in their backgrounds and experiences.

Both come from a strict home discipline background. Both come from "authoritative-type churches," they said. They have similar theological beliefs. Both have a deep sensitivity to persons, heightened by Clinical Pastoral Education training. They have similar jobs, and concerns for people and society.

They agreed their differences are minimal, and said they were convinced they face a happy marriage together. Both would like to have children.

Lee said that "the realness I've experienced with Shirley has been beautiful. God, who is love, is effectively and profoundly present in our relationship, not as in some theological proposition, but in a real way," he said.

Smiling widely, Miss Carter nodded her head and squeezed her future husband's hand.

They said their families were "pleased" with the marriage, and would be present for the wedding May 28.

Another special guest at the wedding will be the woman who encouraged Miss Carter to enter the counseling field several years ago after 15 months of informal counseling in Fulton, Mo. Had it not been for her encouragement, Miss Carter said she would never have entered the chaplaincy and thus would never have met Lee.

He also expressed gratitude for the continued growth of the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified budget plan which provides funds for all Southern Baptist Convention causes, with about half the budget going to foreign missions.

"We are greatly encouraged as we look toward the future, feeling that Southern Baptists are deeply committed to the worldwide ministry of the Gospel of Christ and will continue to undergird it through prayer, dedication of life, and resources," said Cauthen.

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Cargill Named to Radio-TV  
Commission Financial Post

5/10/72

FORT WORTH (BP)--Robert L. Cargill, director of development at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee since 1967, has been named director of financial resources for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here.

He will assume the new duties here effective June 26, according to Paul M. Stevens, executive director of the Radio-TV Commission.

"We are delighted to have such a competent, well-trained associate," Stevens said. "Mr. Cargill will be an integral part of our attempts to rise above the financial limitations which face us and proceed into the bright future that stretches ahead of us in Christian broadcasting," he added.

Cargill's first responsibility in the new post will be to direct a \$2 million national campaign to build and equip a new television production studio. The commission recently received a \$500,000 gift from an anonymous donor for the new studio.

During his last five years at Oklahoma Baptist University, Cargill has directed 13 capital giving campaigns and supervised other directors he helped train in five campaigns.

He has served as the fund-raising consultant for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's three-year campaign for Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist College. In the Arkansas campaign, \$3.9 million of the \$4 million goal has been raised in the first year.

In addition, Cargill has directed the Shawnee Hope House Campaign for funds to construct a juvenile detention center, and is a consultant in a campaign directed by the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission to raise funds for the Bass Memorial Baptist Hospital, Enid, Okla.

Oklahoma Baptist University has built three major facilities for which Cargill has directed fund campaigns: the \$1.4 million University Center, the \$600,000 Mabee Fine Arts Center, and the \$110,000 Business-Communications Center.

During his five years at the Baptist school, annual gifts from churches nearly doubled to \$781,000 a year; endowment nearly tripled to \$9.6 million, and annual gifts from individuals increased from \$108,569 to \$886,815.

Before going to Oklahoma Baptist University, Cargill was pastor of First Baptist Church, Blackburn, Okla.; Midway Southern Baptist Church, Wichita, Kan.; and First Baptist Church, Hollis, Okla.

He is a former member of the Executive Board for the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists, and is currently a member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

A native of Cushing, Okla., Cargill is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He is the author of two books, Understanding the Book of Hebrews and All the Parables of Jesus. A pilot, he owns his own airplane, and considers flying and golf his major hobbies.

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Missionaries to Stay in Vietnam;  
Mission Board Adds 10 Missionaries

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board meeting here appointed six new missionaries, reappointed four former missionaries, and heard administrative reports including one on the status of missionaries serving in Vietnam.

A few of the Southern Baptist missionaries in Vietnam have moved "from more exposed places," but most are remaining in their regular locations, Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board told the board members.

The latest word from the missionaries there is, "We are cautious but unafraid," Cauthen told the board.

Referring to President Nixon's May 8 announcement of new military tactics in Vietnam, Cauthen said that the missionaries there are "going along with their work with much prayer and commitment to the Lord's leadership."

Appointed as missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Clinton M. Ashley of Dallas for evangelistic work in Brazil; Dr. and Mrs. Donald G. Duvall of New Orleans--both are medical doctors--for Indonesia; and Dr. and Mrs. W. David Harms--he is a medical doctor--for Honduras.

Two couples who were formerly missionaries were reappointed. Mr. and Mrs. Tucker N. Callaway of Albany, Calif., will go to Liberia, and Mr. and Mrs. Coleman D. Clarke of Riverdale, N.Y., to Japan. Both couples were missionaries in Hawaii and Japan for more than 20 years before resigning.

In his report to the board, Charles W. Bryan, secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean, outlined a plan of integration for the work of missionaries and national Baptists in Mexico.

The plan, embodying a concept of one overall program of Baptist work in Mexico, was approved during the 63rd annual session of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico held in Matamoros the first week of May.

Steps were taken to implement the plan of integration on a gradual basis, reported Bryan, who attended the annual session. He presented the 10-point outline of the plan to the board.

Some of the points included are as follows:

--The Mexico Mission (organization of missionaries) welcomes opportunities to participate in surveys to determine needs and goals and to project plans for Baptist work in Mexico.

--The mission will feel free to request economic assistance and missionary personnel to enable national Baptist work in Mexico to take advantage of opportunities in this decade.

--Financial help and personnel provided by the Foreign Mission Board for Baptist work in Mexico are not intended to discourage local initiative and responsibility but rather to stimulate growth in Christian stewardship.

--The board has a stewardship responsibility to seek the direction of the Holy Spirit in determining the use of funds contributed by churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, and to inform the churches about the missionary work being carried out in order to inspire and assure greater prayer support and financial support.

"It is of major importance that we understand that in the very heart of the missionary enterprise rests the spirit of cooperation," said the outline.

As part of his report to the board, Cauthen expressed appreciation for a record year of giving through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. A week earlier, it had been announced that the 1971 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering contributions had reached \$17,833,810, an increase of \$1.6 million over last year's gifts.

Cauthen expressed appreciation to "the Woman's Missionary Union and all others who have shared in this remarkable offering . . . for their labor of love which made it a possibility."