

# (BP)

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

# ---FEATURES

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Near Air Tragedy Brought  
Baylor Coach Closer to God

By Bill Sorrell

WACO, Tex. (BP)--When Grant Teaff, new football coach at Baylor University here, speaks about his faith, he often begins by recalling a frightful night in Monroe, La., in 1963 when he had an opportunity to die four times.

"I was a Christian at 12, but I didn't start to understand God's plan and will for my life until 1963 when I was head football coach at McMurry College," says the 38-year old Baptist coach.

After a game in Monroe, Teaff and his 28 football players, plus three other coaches, boarded a DC-3 and prepared to take off. At the end of the Monroe runway stood telephone poles, lights and pine trees.

"The plane lifted enough to get up over the light poles, but the wings clipped the pine trees," Teaff recalled. "We came back in and circled for a landing. The left stops on the tail section elevators were locked. We were in the air with the elevators locked," he said.

Sailing at 158 miles per hour the plane nose dived into the runway, crumpling the left landing gear. The force lifted the plane off the runway.

"I thought we were going wing-tip over wing-tip but the pilots miraculously gained control of the plane," Teaff remembers.

"We circled again. The plane came in for another landing. Sparks started to fly, and we were tottering on one wheel on the runway. The pilot shot the power and we were in the air again.

"We were loaded with gasoline and our electrically system was damaged," he continued.

"The pilot decided to go to Shreveport to the Strategic Air Command base, and he radioed for the runway to be foamed down for a landing.

"With three opportunities to die going in for a crash landing loaded with gasoline to a place you've never been before, it give you an opportunity to think," Teaff said.

"I thought of my family, my life as a coach working with young men, my Christian life, and what God had done sending his son to die on the cross. I tabulated myself and I came up short."

Teaff said a player called out and asked him to pray. "I stood in the back of that plane in pitch darkness and prayed the most fervent prayer I've ever prayed in my life.

"Sometime during that prayer, I said, 'God, if it be your will that these young men and these coaches and this crew live, let it be. God, you have a plan and purpose for every life on this plane. If it be so, let every person survive this nightmare.'"

The plane started into Shreveport at a speed of 158 mph. Three feet over the runway, the pilot cut the engines and the plane dropped. The right wing sailed out into space, and the right engine caught fire," Teaff said.

Thinking the pilot's distress call was only a practice alert, the air base crew chief had not foamed the runway.

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"The crew chief said he had never seen a plane this hot and not explode," Teaff said, "That's a miracle."

"I went to church the next day," Teaff recalled. "The preacher said, 'I believe God spared these young men and coaches because He has a will, plan and purpose for each life.'

"I was completely overcome with emotion. What this man had said was registering. I jumped out of my seat and ran to the fieldhouse," Teaff related.

"I locked myself inside and cried uncontrollably when I realized what God had done. Then on my knees, I thanked God fervently for the delivery of these young men and coaches. I made up my mind then and there to impress on these men that God had spared us for a reason and a purpose."

At a team meeting the next day, the players suggested they form a club because of their unique fellowship and in 25 years get together and see what God had done in their lives.

They named their club "the Brotherhood of the Indian Belly Landing Experts" and had membership cards printed. The players asked Teaff to put a scripture on the card.

At the printers, Teaff opened a Bible to Romans 8:31. "What then, shall ye say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

"The next day, I picked up the cards and handed them to the team. 'Coach, wait a minute,' a player said. "They abbreviated the name of our club.'

"I said, 'Yes, I told them to do that.'

"But coach,' the player said, 'Do you know what we formed. We've formed the B.I.B.L.E. Club.'"

Ever since, Teaff said he felt he was following God's plan. How he came to Baylor as head coach is part of that story.

Teaff, then head coach at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Tex., was considered for the Baylor job, but it was offered instead to Rudy Feldman, head coach at the University of New Mexico.

Disappointed, Teaff went home that night, only to have his wife tell him he was still going to Baylor. "I told her she was crazy," he said.

But less than 24 hours after accepting the Baylor job, Feldman reneged, and they offered the job instead to Teaff.

"It's not any great earth-shaking fact that I'm here at Baylor," he said. "I'm just a football coach, and I think I'm a good one. But I'm also a football coach who loves the Lord, and I have no qualms about saying so."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bill Sorrell, a 1972 graduate of Baylor, is a staff writer for the West Tennessean, Jackson, Tenn. His story first appeared in the Baptist Standard.

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June 23, 1972

Annuity Board Adopts  
Investment Guidelines

DALLAS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Annuity Board has adopted a new set of investment objectives and guidelines for \$300 million in denominational retirement funds to strengthen its efforts to be "consistently Christian in social issues."

Board President Darold Morgan, who released the guidelines, said the agency must seek Christian consistency on social issues as well as endeavor to be "financially astute."

The Annuity Board handles retirement plans and life, health, and disability insurance for 36,000 Southern Baptist pastors and church and denominational workers.

The guidelines, approved as drafted by Frank L. Durham, the board's director of investments, state: "The overall general objective of the Annuity Board is to get the highest practical return on investment in order that beneficiaries may obtain the highest possible benefits each year."

"The basic investment objective is equated to the Board's concept of Christian stewardship with efforts being made continually to keep its investment policy related to the overall purposes of the Southern Baptist Convention and program assignments of the Annuity Board," the guidelines add.

"We intend to be consistently Christian in the social issues of the day, issues with regard to the policies and activities of corporations whose stocks and bonds the Annuity Board buys for investment," Morgan said.

The Annuity Board has a long-standing policy of not investing funds in the liquor, tobacco, and motion pictures industries. Board interpretation has broadened this to also bar investment in hotels and motels, since most serve alcohol, and in movie theaters.

Another area closed to investments has come into focus in recent times. The agency's guidelines apply to "those companies known to be non-cooperative with fair-employment practices, improvement of pollution problems, and generally recognized social, health and other national issues."

The board, Morgan indicates, would consider a corporation's military and defense contracts, activities in foreign countries and concern with natural resources before investing.

"Our Baptist constituency is not content to be told we are doing wisely," the board president said. "They also want to know if we are investing money unwisely or in a manner that might aggravate problems of ecology, or with firms which practice racial discrimination in personnel policies."

Another concern must also be balanced with these, he noted. "The board must invest in a way that enables it to provide the best possible care for the retired and all others it serves."

"This is our major concern," Morgan continues. "The amount of financial provision for them is important since many have difficulty because of the constantly rising cost of living."

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The Annuity Board's nearly \$300 million investments, as of March 31, 1972, were divided in this way--\$28,142,668 in Bonds; \$92,145,681 in mortgage and other loans; \$60,535,125 in real estate, and \$116,487,311 in equities of which by far the most are stocks in about 150 corporations.

In addition, the board has about 350 property mortgage and leaseback contracts. Morgan said the board stresses that all taxes must be paid on properties held by the agency.

"The investment field is a highly complicated one. It involves mergers, acquisitions and diversification," Morgan continued.

"Regardless of how careful we are, we cannot please everyone," he said. "We have been overwhelmed at the near unanimity of positive response and support toward our investment policy."

He illustrated this with an experience several years ago.

"The board had stocks in Sunshine Biscuits. Sunshine Biscuits was acquired by a tobacco company, so the board sold its stock. Yet it realized thousands of Baptists make their living raising and selling tobacco, and an even greater number smoke it," he said.

The Annuity Board generally avoids chemical and war effort industries, and companies it feels are controversial, according to Morgan.

"But for our nation to be defenseless in a tension-filled world would be reckless and immoral," he added.

Making an evaluation when buying stocks is very difficult, the president of the board went on.

"There are few corporations anywhere which do not sell something to government. Even a bank savings account can be questioned if you went to extremes since some banks loan money to liquor businesses, for example," Morgan said.

He said the Annuity Board receives no special offerings from churches. Its only SBC Cooperative Program allocation, \$175,000 a year, goes entirely to relief of needy aged ministers and widows.

Retirement funds are entirely contributions for plans held by individual pastors and church and denominational employees. These come from the individual, church and denomination.

By SBC policy, the Annuity Board is prohibited from loaning to and investing in churches and mission projects.

Morgan said security takes preference over rate of return on investments.

The board's investment officers and the trustee committee for investments and finance employ some of the nation's best known firms as investment counsel, Morgan added.

Constant review of the portfolio comes from these sources, complying with board guidelines.

To further inform Southern Baptists about its investments, the Annuity Board made available in its annual report to the SBC in Philadelphia a list of the companies in which it holds stocks.

#### CORRECTION

On Baptist Press story mailed 6-19-72 headlined, "Baptist College Completes \$3 Million City Bond Pact," please delete graph 3 of the story beginning, "The dorms will revert to the college..." Edit the 5th graph of the story to read: "The city formed the Dallas Higher Education Authority which, in turn, set up a Higher Education Facilities Corporation to issue \$3 million in tax-free municipal bonds." (Adding the underlined phrase.) College officials said it is probable that the dorms will revert back to the school, but too complicated to try to explain.

Houston Baptists Elect  
Brumley As Coordinator

HOUSTON (BP)--Union Baptist Association, covering most of greater Houston, has named C. Wilson Brumley of Atlanta as its metropolitan missions coordinator.

Brumley, staff member of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for the past eight years, will assume the position here Aug. 1.

He takes over mission leadership for the second largest concentration of Baptists in the nation. There are 220 Southern Baptist churches with 197,000 members in the Union Baptist Association, second in size only to the Dallas Baptist Association.

With an annual budget of \$325,000, the association's biggest efforts financially are in student work and Christian social ministries. The staff includes three student work directors and two mission center directors.

In addition, a staff member assists in church services, and another coordinates Christian social ministries, work with National Baptists, and language missions.

Brumley said that the major task the association will undertake will be long range planning (up to 10 years) and the breaking down of this into annual segments.

Brumley came to the SBC Home Mission Board in 1964 as associate to the secretary of the department of rural-urban missions, and in 1966 became the secretary of that department.

During a massive re-organization of the agency in 1971, he was promoted to regional coordinator of states from Texas to North Dakota.

A native of Louisiana, he earlier served as pastor and associational missionary in Texas for 17 years.

He graduated from Baylor University in Waco, Tex., and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. University of Corpus Christi gave him an honorary doctor of divinity degree in 1964.

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Baptist Radio-TV Executive  
Cited by Religious Heritage

6/23/72

WASHINGTON (BP)--Paul M. Stevens, director of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, was honored here by Religious Heritage of America for his "outstanding achievements" in the field of broadcasting.

At a special "Faith and Freedom Awards Breakfast" held at the Shoreham Hotel, Stevens was one of eight national communicators receiving awards from the Washington-based organization.

"His creative and innovative use of the scriptures for contemporary religious drama has made him into one of the leading influences in religious broadcasting in America," Religious Heritage spokesmen said of Stevens.

In the special inscription to Stevens, he was praised for building the Radio-TV Commission "into the forefront of religious broadcasting in America."

In accepting the award, Stevens paid tribute to the Southern Baptist Convention for "paying the bill" and accepting its responsibility to share the Christian faith with the world. He also praised the broadcasting industry and businessmen who give free time for religious programs to be aired on radio and television.

Stevens said that in the first religious broadcast years ago, "The windows of the world were thrown open... and suddenly Protestants, Catholics and Jews began listening to each

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other...beginning an era of understanding between major faiths." Radio and television are providing resources for this understanding between people of all religions, Stevens declared.

When Stevens joined the Radio and Television Commission in 1953, there was only one radio program sponsored by that agency. In less than 20 years under his leadership the commission now produces 31 radio and six television programs aired in more than 3,080 broadcasts. The commission estimates that more than 100 million persons hear these programs each week.

Last year five of the commission's network television productions received top awards in national competitions. *Ecce Homo*, an hour-long film made in the British Museum in London, received a gold medal at the San Francisco Film Festival, first place in the public service category at the International Film and Television Festival in New York, and the Gabriel Award for excellence by the Catholic Broadcasters Association.

Another Baptist honored by Religious Heritage of America was Edward E. Plowman, an assistant editor of *Christianity Today*. Plowman, a former pastor in San Francisco, was cited for his "comprehensive coverage and interpretation" of the Jesus Movement among young people.

Baptist layman Jerome Hines, a Metropolitan Opera star, was honored as "churchman of the year" at another meeting sponsored by Religious Heritage of America. Hines was cited especially for his creation and performances in "I Am The Way," an opera on the life, teachings and purpose of Christ, "and for his dynamic Christian witness in the performing arts."

Stevens was recommended for the award by James F. Eaves, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M., and a member of the organization's board.

At the Faith and Freedom Awards breakfast, attended by about 250 persons from across the nation, Eaves was called on to "pinch hit" for syndicated columnist Jack Anderson who was scheduled to be the keynote speaker. Eaves called for a "tough minded hope" which he described as the answer for the mammoth social problems faced in America today.

Religious Heritage of America is a national interfaith religious and educational organization "dedicated to preserving America's Judeo-Christian heritage and working to instill its principles and ethics into all areas of American life.

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Mexican Baptists Name  
Texas Layman President

6/23/72

FORT WORTH (BP)--A San Antonio businessman has become the first layman president in the history of Texas' Mexican Baptist Departmental Convention and the third in 62 years of organized Mexican Baptist efforts in Texas.

Omar Pachecano, 37, was elected at the Mexican Baptist Departmental Convention annual meeting here to succeed Epifanio Salazar, a pastor from Corpus Christi.

The Mexican Baptist Departmental Convention serves 500 Latin American churches in Texas, with more than 32,000 members.

In 1961, the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas, which was organized in 1910, voted to affiliate with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and change its name to the current one.

Two laymen served as president of the original convention in the early 1900's.

Pachecano, also the first lay chairman of the board of trustees of San Antonio's Mexican Baptist Bible Institute, is a deacon and immediate past president of Mexican Baptist Men of Texas.

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