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March 12, 1973

SBC Missionary Slain In Taiwan Residence

TAINAN, Taiwan (BP) -- Miss Gladys Hopewell, Southern Baptist missionary to Taiwan for 19 years, was found slain in her apartment here shortly before 9:00 p. m. on Sunday, March 11. She apparently died of strangulation.

Miss Hopewell, 57, of Hopkins County, Ky., had been dead about three hours when the murder was discovered by her maid and a university student entering her locked and darkened apartment.

According to C. Robert Beard, Southern Baptist missionary associate in Tainan, the main electric switch on the apartment had been pulled.

Beard reported that the police were working on the case, but that details of the murder were not yet clear. The police were reported to be seeking the maid's missing husband.

Initial information, Beard added, indicates no evidence of forcible entry into the apartment or of robbery.

Funeral and burial arrangements were incomplete pending some decisions by Miss Hopewell's family. As soon as those details are made known, the body will be released to the U.S. Embassy in Taiwan.

Miss Hopewell's survivors include her mother, Mrs. Bernice Hopewell and a brother, Joseph C. Hopewell, both of Talladega, Ala.

Miss Hopewell is the fourth Southern Baptist missionary to die by violence in 20 months. Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Potter were beaten and stabbed to death in their Dominican Republic home in July 1971. In January 1972, Miss Mavis Pate was shot and killed in an ambush by Arab guerillas in the Gaza Strip.

The pioneer of Baptist student work in Tainan, Miss Hopewell had directed a student center located in the midst of the national Cheng-Kung University campus since 1954. She taught English conversation at the university as well as at the center.

Many non-Christians enroll in the center's classes for the opportunity to improve their English. Its program includes Sunday worship and special evangelistic programs. Miss Hopewell had been at the center on the afternoon of her death.

Her mission responsibilities included the publication of a Baptist student magazine and serving as adviser for a local church's V oman's Missionary Union.

Taiwan was Miss Hopewell's third mission field. Following appointment by the Foreign Mission Board in 1946, she did evangelistic work in Tsingtao and Shanghai, China. In 1950, after living under the Communist regime for more than a year, she left China and came to the states.

The following year she went to Bangkok, Thailand, where she directed religious education at Grace Baptist Church until she transferred to Taiwan in 1954.

Miss Hopewell was graduated from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., with the bachelor of arts degree and from Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now part of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), Louisville, Ky., with the mastor of religious education

Prior to missionary appointment, she was education director for First Baptist Church,

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Baptist Press

Talladega, Ala., and South Avondale Baptist Church, Birmingham.

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BP PHOTO mailed to Baptist state papers.

Spanish Baptist Church's Radio Program Cancelled

3/12/73

ALCOY, Spain (BP)--A 15-minute radio program sponsored by the Baptist church of Alcoy, Spain, has been ordered off the air, according to a report in European Baptist Press Service.

Last September, it had been suggested to Spanish stations that they no longer accept programming by Protestants, and in November the network contracts for some other evangelical groups were not renewed, the news service reported.

The 15-minute variety format program produced by the Alcoy church was last broadcast on Feb. 18. Since April of 1972, the church had offered the program over Radio Alcoy for the area's Sunday listening audience.

No formal notice of the cancellation was given either the Alcoy church nor the station, according to European Baptist Press Service. The local station manager was summoned in mid-February to the capital, where apparently he was informed that the Baptists' broadcast must cease.

In Albacete, Spain, however, Baptists on the same date carried their 100th local broadcast.

The Albacete church sponsors three religious programs weekly. On Sundays, the church broadcasts its morning worship service; on Monday, a variety format is used; and on Friday, a drama is presented.

Since the cancellation of the Alcoy program, Albacete Baptists are reportedly the only evangelicals still heard on Spanish radio, European Baptist Press reported.

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Former Drug Users Hold A "Bestseller" Wedding

3/12/73

EATONTOWN, N. J. (BP)--After an engagement of almost four years strung out because of involvement in the drug scene, Frank Schrorr and Kathy Wadlow were married here, but it took a Southern Baptist sponsored coffee house to bring it about.

The couple had become engaged in their hometown of Pittsburg, Penn., in 1969, but they drifted apart after becoming heavily involved in the drug scene.

While stationed at Fort Monmouth, N. J., in the Army, Frank began attending the "Best-seller" coffeehouse, sponsored by Monmouth Baptist Church in Eatontown.

"There, he became a Christian, and a few months later he got together with Kathy and led her to the Lord," said the church's pastor, Marvin Haire. They also forsook the use of drugs, with the help of their new-found faith and encouragement at the coffeehouse.

When they finalized plans to be married, the couple wanted to hold the ceremony in the coffeehouse. Haire performed the ceremony during an intermission between performances of the band, The Master Guitar's.

Afterwards, The Master Guitar's continued their performance, while the audience ate wedding cake in addition to drinking the regular fare of the house--coffee and soft drinks.

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CORRECTION

On BP story dated 3-9-73, headlined, "Sioux Catch Christian Missions in Crossfire," please change name in next to last graph to read: Irwin Dawson (not Lawson as sent). Thanks.