



BAPTIST PRESS

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April 16, 1973

Jury Finds Baptist "Not Guilty" On Disorderly Conduct Charge

CROWLEY, Tex. (BP)--The charge was "disorderly conduct" against a Baptist layman who went visiting at a trailer camp here, but the verdict was "not guilty."

When the jury announced its verdict, there was a loud, unison response from the crowd at Crowley City Hall. "Amen", shouted the audience.

Willie G. Rutledge, volunteer youth director and choir leader at Rendon Baptist Church, had been arrested and charged with "disorderly conduct" after a Feb. 27 incident over a visitation program at a mobile home park at Crowley, located about 20 miles south of Fort Worth.

During testimony at the trial at Crowley Municipal Court, Rutledge told of the events leading to his arrest, explaining it all started when he had taken a church bus with several members of the church to the mobile home park to visit for the church and share their faith.

The manager of the trailer park and his wife objected to their presence, saying the group could not solicit door-to-door at the park and ordering them to leave. When they did not, they called police.

Crowley police Del Duckworth told the court that when he first spoke to Rutledge, the independent Baptist church leader agreed to leave and got on the bus with other members of the Rendon church.

Then, the policeman testified, the bus stopped and Rutledge told the officer he was willing to leave the trailer park and get a permit to "solicit," but that no one could stop him from "witnessing for the Lord." Rutledge reportedly told the officer, "the only way you can stop me from witnessing is to lock me up."

Rutledge told the court that the policeman then handcuffed him, put him on the back seat of the patrol car, and took him to Crowley city jail where he stayed for an hour before being released.

"It irritates me when I can't witness for the Lord," Rutledge testified. "...I asked officer Duckworth if he was saved, and that's when he got real mad."

Rutledge, a ministerial student at Bible Baptist College in nearby Arlington, Tex., was cleared of the charges by the four-man, two-woman jury.

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Home Mission Board Names
Eight New Missionaries

4/16/73

ATLANTA (BP)--The board of directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointed eight new missionaries and missionary associates, and promoted five missionary associates to full missionary status during their April meeting here.

The new appointees join a mission force of more than 2,200 serving throughout all 50 states, Panama, and Puerto Rico. Most of the new appointments were made in cooperation with the state conventions where the workers were assigned.

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Missionaries John and Marilyn Dent serve in Santee Baptist Association, in South Carolina, where he is superintendent of missions. A native of Columbia, S.C., Dent graduated from Clemson University, Clemson, S.C., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She graduated from Louisiana College in Pineville, La., and is a native of Bastrop, La.

Also appointed superintendent of missions, Bill Murray and his wife Elvenor, career missionaries, serve in Scioto Valley and Muskingum Valley Baptist Associations in Ohio. He graduated from Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. Also a graduate of Baylor, she is a native of Georgetown, Tex., and he is a native of Squire, W. Va.

Helen Shoemaker, a Southwestern Seminary graduate, was appointed missionary to serve as director of Indian youth ministries in Albuquerque, N.M. A native of Ardmore, Okla., she also is a graduate of Dallas Baptist College.

Former missionary associates serving in Coronado Baptist Center, Coronado, Calif., James and Beverly Roamer were promoted to missionary status, serving as pastor-director of the center.

An Ithaca, N.Y., native, he holds two degrees--one in civil engineering and the other in law--from George Washington University, Washington, D.C., and bachelor of divinity from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. Mrs. Roamer, originally from Dayton, Ohio, is a graduate of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Natives of Hungary, John and Martha Hunter were appointed as missionary associates to serve among fellow Hungarians in San Francisco, Calif. Hunter studied architecture at the University of Budapest and later earned a diploma in theology from Golden Gate Seminary.

Missionary associates C.M. and Martha Lawrence serve in Anchorage, Alaska, where he is state director of Christian social ministries. A Stone City, Ark., native, he is a graduate of Tulsa University, Tulsa, Okla., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. His wife is a native of Wheatley, Ark.

A student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., Maurice Graham works in weekday ministries in that city as a student intern. The Shelbyville, Tenn. native graduated from Belmont College in Nashville.

Christian social ministries intern Ethel Mae Haddock, serves in Tarrant Baptist Association, Fort Worth, while she is a student at Southwestern Seminary. A graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, she is a native of Ogden, Utah.

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Radio-TV Commission Plans
Centurymen Music Program

4/16/73

FORT WORTH (BP)--"Nightsong," a 15-minute radio music program featuring music by The Centurymen, will be produced by the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission here in an effort to reach the "night people" of the nation.

The all-music program will spotlight religious music performed by The Centurymen, the 100-voice choir composed of ministers of music of Southern Baptist churches across the country. Director of the Centurymen is Buryl Red, who heads B-R productions and Generic Music in New York City.

"Nightsong" will be produced by J. Malcolm Edwards, music manager of the Radio-TV Commission.

"The show will be primarily a music show with very little voice bridging between songs," said Paul M. Stevens, president of the Radio-TV Commission.

"We selected this type of format because music is a universal language," he said. "We feel that it will appeal to a broad spectrum of people."

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"Nightsong" is designed for broadcast three nights a week. "It will be produced only in stereo and marketed through FM stereo stations with the request that it be aired after 11 p.m. and before the 6 a.m. sign on," Stevens said.

He said the show will use a female announcer and will feature a variety of music, from Bach to gospel hymns arranged by Red.

"Nightsong" will be directed at people--such as truck drivers, factory workers on night shifts, security guards and others--who work at night and sleep during the day.

"This program will be an evangelistic outreach in a different form," said Stevens. "Each show will end with a very direct invitation to write to the Radio-TV Commission. We'll have the announcer say something like, 'If you would like to know more about the love of Jesus, please write us at this address and we'll talk about it'."

Members of The Centurymen come from 26 states in the Southern Baptist Convention. They are selected after auditions in Ridgecrest, Glorieta and Nashville.

"There is a great diversity in The Centurymen," said Stevens. "The age span ranges from 20 to 52, there are many different backgrounds and outlooks and tastes in music range from gospel to classical. But the men making the music blend together as one great voice.."

He said the show, which has a projected air date of June 15, is expected to be premiered on 20 stations across the country.

"We hope to have that figure expanded to 50 stations by October," he said.

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CORRECTION

Please change story headlined "Record Smashing Crusade Draws Latin Americans," mailed 4/12/73.

Graph I should be changed to two graphs reading:

HARLINGEN, Tex. (BP)--Southern Baptist Evangelist Richard Hogue has completed an evangelistic Spireno crusade here which is believed to have set a Southern Baptist Convention record for converts in a one-week crusade sponsored by a single church.

The eight-night crusade, sponsored in the Harlingen City Auditorium by First Baptist Church of nearby Rio Hondo, Tex., resulted in 1,769 professions of faith and 1,979 total decisions.

At least 85 per cent... (continue with story as sent)

Thanks.

--Baptist Press

CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 4/13/73, headlined "Hannibal-LaGrange College Given Separate School Status," please change the last sentence of graph 15 by ending the sentence with a period after "approved \$53,150 in expenditures." Delete the remainder of the sentence, "even though there was no documentation on how the funds were spent."

--Baptist Press