

January 16, 1974

Scuba Diving Missionaries
Catch Thief Instead of Fish

By Bonita Sparrow
for Baptist Press

Baptist missionaries L.G. McKinney and Hugh Smith have quite a "fish story" to tell.

The two went scuba diving in Hong Kong's Clearwater Bay recently and caught a thief.

McKinney said he was coming from a music conference in the Republic of the Philippines and stopped over in Hong Kong on business, enroute to a furlough in the United States.

The Southern Baptist missionary said he and Smith, an American Baptist missionary from Rhode Island, "are longtime scuba diving buddies. We were returning home, bemoaning our bad luck" at not catching anything, "when we saw the thief being chased by his former hostage.

"The man giving chase was very bloody from a serious cut on the hand. We helped catch the thief, took the wounded man to the hospital and found the police there investigating an accident," McKinney said.

Because of the missionaries' fast action, "the wounded man, who had been forced to sign a check, was able to call his bank and tell them not to honor the check," said McKinney.

The thief's accomplice was trying to cash the check at the very moment the call was made to stop payment, the missionary added.

McKinney returned to Fort Worth, Tex., where he is on furlough from Kowloon, Hong Kong. In a few days, he received a letter from Smith, with a "good citizen" award citation and a share of \$1,000 (Hong Kong currency) reward money from the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce.

The reward money amounted to \$97 in American currency, McKinney said.

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Missionaries Become
Shade Tree Mechanics

1/16/74

By Mary Ann Ward
for Baptist Press

At an altitude of 8,000 feet in the mountain jungles of the Philippines, the jeep of Southern Baptist missionaries J. Gordon Harris III, Calvin L. Fox and Jack S. Branan conked out.

The training they had received in missionary orientation at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga., from auto mechanic Bill Cleveland of La Grange, Ga., paid off. They were able to fix the jeep and continued their journey.

For the past four years, Cleveland, an active layman, has been teaching the sometimes unmechanical missionaries a practical course in auto mechanics, after he finishes a busy day at his own auto garage in La Grange.

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The course, designed to help missionaries become familiar with cars and their operation, includes a minimum of 20 hours instruction. Only one-fourth of the course takes place in the classroom.

The missionaries spend most of the time in Cleveland's garage on Saturday mornings, where they actually work on cars, American and foreign.

The course begins with an introduction to the care and routine maintenance of a car. The missionaries are then taught how to do emergency repairs, how to improvise when stranded on the road and check the source of trouble when the car breaks down.

"When help is more than six hours away by jeep, any knowledge the missionary has about the car may save his or her life," Harris said.

Consequently, women missionaries have been seen with their heads buried under a car's hood in Cleveland's course.

Whenever a missionary drives over a rough and isolated road, Harris said, he or she drives with new confidence because a layman like Bill Cleveland was willing and able to provide the training.

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BP PHOTO mailed to state Baptist paper editors.

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Euting Resigns Board Post
For Virginia Pastorate

1/16/74

NASHVILLE (BP)--George L. Euting has resigned as coordinated promotion planning coordinator at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board to become pastor of New Bridge Baptist Church in Richmond, Va.

During five years as coordinated promotion planning coordinator, Euting worked with program committees of all Southern Baptist Convention agencies and relayed the yearly emphasis to the state executive secretaries.

Euting expressed regret at leaving the board. "Working at the board has been a pleasant and rewarding experience, but I feel God is leading me in this direction or I wouldn't be going," Euting said. "It was a very difficult decision and took intensive prayer."

The native Virginian is a graduate of the University of Richmond and earned the Th.M. degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Prior to coming to the board, he was vice-president of Bluefield (W. Va.) College. He formerly served as program director for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn., and as Brotherhood secretary for the Baptist General Association (convention) of Virginia.

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550 European Youths to Attend
'74 World Conference in U.S.A.

1/16/74

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--Large delegations from other continents are already assured for the 8th Baptist Youth World Conference, meeting in Portland, July 31-August 4, 1974.

Karl-Heinz Walter, chairman of the youth committee of the Baptist World Alliance and presiding officer for the conference, said that 550 young people from Europe are already committed with advance payments for attendance at the world meeting.

Betty Smith, conference coordinator, said registrations are arriving from a wide cross section of North and South America, as well as from overseas. A total attendance of about 8,000 is expected.

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Walter said that arrangements are being made for two charter planes, one from North Europe and one from South Europe, to accommodate the European youth.

Other delegations have been assured from Hong Kong, Australia and Brazil, according to conference planners.

It will be the first time the youth conference has met in the United States.

The overseas delegations are expected to tour wide areas of North America enroute to and from the meeting. They will visit in churches and also in American homes, according to Theo Patnaik, BWA youth secretary.

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Maintenance Engineer
Retires With a Bang

1/16/74

DALLAS (BP)--The retiring chief maintenance engineer of First Baptist Church here went out with a bang during what was intended to be a simple awards ceremony honoring his 47 years of work at the church.

Minutes after 70-year-old Clarence Harris received a plaque and a check, an explosion rocked the building, and a fireball shot out of the smokestack on top of the structure.

Most people in the congregation thought the explosion was on the roof but Harris knew better, pinpointing the boiler room.

Sure enough, one of the 50-year-old cast iron boilers in the Southern Baptist Convention's largest church had exploded when a church worker attempted to light a pilot inside it.

Dallas firemen rushed to the 16,000-member church but took no action since there was no fire damage, according to the Dallas Times-Herald.

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