

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
SBC Executive Committee  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 244-2365  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor  
James Lee Young, Feature Editor**BUREAUS**

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996  
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234  
Telephone (615) 254-3461  
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151  
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 24, 1974

Ramon Moreno is a Murderer  
And a Child of God

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP)--Ramon Moreno is a murderer.

He admits it. To himself. To his pastor. To Dallas police. To God.

It wasn't always so.

He became a murderer last August, when he stabbed pretty Linda Campbell to death in her South Dallas apartment.

He admitted it to no one except himself, until Palm Sunday.

Like many killers, Moreno doesn't look like a murderer. He's short and stocky. His raven-black hair is longish, coming down over his ears and touching his collar.

He's dark skinned, like an Indian.

Moreno has a pleasant disposition. He's quiet and well mannered.

But on that warm April night in Dallas, Ramon Moreno bore a terrible secret in his heart

Moreno came to Polk Street Baptist Church with some friends. The man was a drinking buddy. They'd even smoked marijuana together in the past.

The difference was that Bud and Sue Hardin were Christians. New converts.

"They had been converted recently. They were on fire for God. They brought Ramon to the services that night," said Fred Moseley, pastor of the church.

"They'd been after Ramon to come to church with them. They'd witnessed to him. Another time he was supposed to have come, he got high on dope and just wandered off somewhere," said Moseley.

"When the sermon was over, I gave the invitation," said Moseley. "I told the people how God loves them. . . how Jesus died for their sins. . . how he would forgive all the sins a person had committed."

Moseley asked people to raise their hands if they needed Jesus.

"When I said God would forgive all the sins a person had committed, this triggered Ramon and he put his hand up. But he didn't come forward. I haven't walked back into the congregation in years, but that night I walked back to him, put my arm around his shoulder and told him Jesus loved him.

"We stepped out and I took him to the front of the church. I took the scriptures and showed him about God's love, forgiveness and power and how salvation is a gift.

"He accepted Jesus then, and when he did, God really broke his heart. He showed guilt and sorrow for his sins, though he did not talk to me specifically that night," Moseley added.

Ramon's conversion really took. On the morning following his salvation experience, his boss, Roger Sutton, picked him up to go to work.

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"Roger noticed a change in Ramon's attitude," said Moseley. "Ramon told Roger he had been saved the night before. Roger thought about it all day and then he called his mother, Mrs. Calvin Cearly, a member of our church.

"He told her about Ramon. Roger then called his divorced wife, Linda, and told her he was lost. She admitted she was too, and they got together at Mrs. Cearly's home.

"They called me at 11:30 p.m. that Monday night, and both of them accepted Christ, kneeling on the floor of Mrs. Cearly's home.

"They want to get married again, now that both of them are saved. I'm supposed to perform the ceremony in the very near future," Moseley said with a smile.

During the week, Ramon told Roger his terrible secret. Roger advised him to talk to Moseley.

"I didn't see him until after the services Easter Sunday morning. He told me he had been tempted to commit suicide. God had really zeroed in on him.

"Ramon was very meek and humble. He seemed to be relieved to go ahead and tell about it," Moseley said.

The crime was committed, Ramon said, while he was burglarizing the apartment. The 24-year-old woman awoke while he was in the apartment, and he stabbed her in the chest, abdomen and right leg.

The burglary, police said, netted \$3.

Moseley called a district judge--Don Metcalfe, a member of First Baptist Church. Metcalfe referred the pastor to an attorney.

Accompanied by the lawyer, a church member, Moseley and a police captain, Moreno went to Dallas police headquarters that Sunday afternoon to confess what he had done.

As he talked to detectives, Moreno clutched a new Bible--a gift from the pastor--in his lap and cried.

Moreno is now in Dallas County Jail, awaiting action by the Grand Jury on his case. He is being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

"I visited him yesterday," said Moseley. "He said he had read his Bible all day and had been praying. We have given him some books to encourage him," Moseley said.

Ramon Moreno is a murderer.

But now he's also a child of God.

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First "Joggers Jubilee"  
Scheduled in Dallas

4/24/74

DALLAS (BP)--The first Southern Baptist "Joggers Jubilee" is scheduled for June 11, 6:30-7:30 a.m., at the Aerobics Center here just prior to the opening session of the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting.

Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper, a Southern Baptist who founded the U.S. Air Force Aerobics program of physical fitness, will welcome the SBC group at the center and take his daily turns on the track with them. Dr. Cooper, now a civilian, operates the center.

An award certificate will be presented to each person who finishes one, two or three miles.

No parking is available at the Aerobics Center, but buses will begin picking up joggers, who should be dressed in jogging attire, at 5:40 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Ramada

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Inn Convention Center, Adolphus/Baker, Statler-Hilton and Sheraton Hotels.

Other buses will leave the Holiday Inn Central at 6 a.m. and pick up joggers at the Ramada Central, Hilton Inn and at a Park-n-Ride site just off Central Expressway, on the Park Cities Baptist Church parking lot. The church will provide free parking for those who catch the bus there.

"The Joggers Jubilee is being held to glorify God in our bodies--the temple of the Holy Spirit--in celebration of the abundant life in Christ," says Ray Conner, secretary of the church recreation department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The department is jointly sponsoring the event with the special services division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"Baptist adults of all ages may take part for 50 cents round trip bus fare," adds Conner. "However, pre-registration is a must." Interested persons should send their name and address to E. Eugene Greer, 202 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201.

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Thirty International Students  
Accept Christ at Conference

4/24/74

PALESTINE, Tex. (BP)--Thirty international students became Christians here at a Baptist-sponsored international student conference, the largest evangelical conference for internationals in the world.

The conference drew 615 students from 50 different colleges and universities across Texas. Virtually all the students were non-Christians. Most were Hindu or Moslem or claimed no faith at all.

The students were handed "indication cards" at the final session of the conference. Forty-nine indicated they wanted to talk to someone about Jesus Christ, 55 wanted further study in the Christian faith, 97 professed interest in getting in contact with a church with an international program and 30 indicated they wanted to give their lives to Jesus Christ.

Charles Baker of the student division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, which sponsored the meeting, said each of the decisions made will be followed up by Baptist Student Unions on the college campuses and by local Baptist churches.

William M. Pinson Jr., professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, was preacher for the two-day meeting. Other speakers included Gustav Petrusz of Tanimbar, Indonesia, currently professor of philosophy at Tarrant County Junior College in Fort Worth, and Len Sehested of Fort Worth, former missionary to India.

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Midwestern Installs  
Ferguson, Sets Budget

4/24/74

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here installed Milton Ferguson as the school's second president, approved a record operating budget of \$866,544 and elected a new slate of officers.

Those present for the presidential installation service included trustees, faculty and administration, members of the student body, representatives of Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions, delegates of colleges and universities across the nation and numerous people from the seminary community.

Ferguson, who holds bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, was elected to the seminary post Nov. 3, 1972. He assumed office, Feb. 1, 1973, following 17 years on the faculty of Southwestern Seminary.

He follows Millard J. Berquist, who served as president for 15 years. Berquist, now Midwestern's president emeritus, participated in the installation program.

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The trustees also officially expressed appreciation to the administration, faculty and staff for their positive response during the current budget year in which there was no cost of living adjustment in salaries during a time of record inflation. The board also approved a basic increase in salaries and wages for all seminary employees for the budget year beginning Aug. 1, 1974.

In other action, the board approved and initiated a retirement benefit program for faculty and administrative staff which will eventually make possible the investment of 15 per cent of the employees' salary and retirement benefits. The program calls for the investment of 10 per cent by the seminary and five per cent by the employees.

Ferguson said the retirement program represents a significant step in the total program of the seminary, and that the trustees expressed appreciation and confidence in the seminary faculty and staff as they enthusiastically endorsed the benefits program.

The record operating budget of \$866,544 provides basic adjustments in salaries and wages for all employees as well as the establishment of a contingency reserve and a debt retirement program.

New officers elected were: president, Dan Rainbolt, pastor of Susquehanna Baptist Church, Independence, Mo.; first vice-president, Henry Stokes, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Buies Cree, N.C.; second vice-president, James Tharp, president of the S & W Shoes, Inc., Springfield, Mo.; secretary, Fred Moffatt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, Ky.; and treasurer, Robert Keatley, president, Ameribanc, Inc., St. Joseph, Mo.

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#### CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 4/23/73, entitled "BWA Granted 'Consultative Status' by United Nations," change U. S. to U. N. in three different references in graphs two and four. In graph four, delete the word the near the end of second line, making that read: although three, rather than although the three.

Thanks  
Baptist Press

April 24, 1974

Photographer's Art Used  
To Tell 'Gospel Story'

By Steve Wall

ATLANTA (BP)--Photographer Don Rutledge, of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, believes that photography is a valid means of expressing the gospel of Jesus Christ. And, in his mild-mannered way, the prize-winning photographer fights for his art to have a meaningful role in communicating the gospel.

A photographer for the Black Star photo agency 19 years, Rutledge has been with the board here since 1966. He has been credited by some with bringing a new awareness of photography to Southern Baptists, in so doing, he has also been credited with bringing Baptist ministries and world needs into sharper focus.

While the creative art of photography is Rutledges' talent and method, his photography zooms in on people--not as a group, but as individuals.

This is reflective of his emphasis on the individual ideal of letting his art be an instrument of service to Christ and to other people. His concepts have not been easy to get across.

He remembers when, in college, a missionary asked him what he wanted to do with his life.

"I wasn't sure," he remembered, "but I told her I would like to be in some kind of mission photography."

She let me know real fast she thought the idea was ridiculous. God wanted preachers as missionaries or as evangelistic pastors, but he definitely did not want someone in photography.

"But one day I started questioning some things, and I said God is all-powerful, so if He wants me to do something else, why am I so miserable every time I try to get away from photography?"

"...I didn't feel that I would be doing my best for him in something I would be miserable in, and on that basis decided that a person could be called into the field of photo-journalism or any other field."

With a college degree in psychology, a seminary education, and years of study of the works of other great photographers, Rutledge has developed his own philosophy of photography, as well as his own unique style.

"Each photographer should feel the world for himself," he said. "He must express it in his way. He must develop his own style, not copy the style of some other photographer."

"My style is to observe others where they are and visually report this to the world."

Rutledge prefers to work with available light, "because it is natural; it is what people see day after day."

Rutledge feels that good photography captures the mood and expression of people in such a natural way that the person who sees the photograph feels that he is almost present.

Too many photographers, he said, take pictures that make the viewer feel, unconsciously perhaps, that the photographer was standing between the viewer and the people in the event.

The photographer's sense of timing--knowing exactly the right moment to release the shutter, is all-important, he said.

"Everyone has heights of expression, and it is up to the photographer to record them," he explained.

"If a person turns the page, the photographer has wasted his time."

Few people turn a page before viewing a Don Rutledge photograph. Their warmth, their down-to-earth approach to people, make them captivating. And the message, whether of missions or mission needs, makes its impression on the viewer.

Rutledge believes photography is valid for expressing the gospel.

He points out that a single picture can move people without their really understanding why.

"A person may not even remember a picture, but its impact will still move him when making decisions that affect people and their lives," he explained. "That is what makes photography so important to Christianity.

"Seemingly, Christianity has been weakest in the area of communication," Rutledge continued, "although there are and have been large numbers of individuals who have carried the gospel in traditional forms."

He pointed out that while commercial advertising agencies use the psychology of photography to promote products, Christianity has the really valid message to communicate to mankind.

He believes also that one of the basic elements to the making of a good photographer is that the person be a lover of persons and that he be educated in psychology in order to understand individuals.

"I don't think you get inside a person to photograph him unless you are deeply involved with him," he explains.

To watch Rutledge on a shooting assignment proves his point. He takes his time and merges into the group he is shooting, blending and melting with the background until soon everyone present forgets he is shooting pictures. It is then that the natural, unposed, creative photographs are exposed.

Photography is more to Rutledge than the kind of equipment he uses.

"Most people are interested in what kind of camera you have and how many lenses you use and how in the world you get 11 x 14 blow ups from 35mm film," he said.

"As far as I'm concerned, those are things to learn, like learning to use a typewriter or play a piano. Then you go on to the message you are trying to communicate."

Many people don't understand this aspect of photography, Rutledge contended, because they are not used to thinking of a photographer as one who interprets events or situations in the way a writer does, for instance.

"The photographer at his best is the individual who is able to take all the chaos in the world and pull out segments and interpret through those segments the environment around him," Rutledge explained.

"That is hard to do, but that is the excitement and challenge of photography."



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**460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219**

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LYNN MAY -HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 9TH AVE. NO.  
NASHVILLE TN 37203