

May 17, 1974

Groups' Efforts Result  
In 29 Church Buildings

by John W. Green  
For Baptist Press

A promise and a letter resulted in a unique organization of volunteers who have built 29 Baptist churches in at least 11 states.

"Builders for Christ" (BFC), a Louisiana-based operation, is made up of Baptist volunteers--men, women and young people--who give their spare time to travel 1,000 miles or more building church structures and conducting Vacation Bible Schools, among other endeavors.

The group was brought together partially because of a letter from James Wilson, a Christian school teacher who left Texas to become a "tentmaker missionary" in Colorado.

Wilson began, "May I share with you a dream that we here in Yampa (Colo.) have? As soon as it thaws next spring, we plan to go to the mountainsides and cut timber, haul the logs, and there in our village raise a log church building for the glory of God..."

George Carkeet, pastor of the Greenwood (La.) Baptist Church and the letter's recipient, looked at the words as an "epistle from God."

Carkeet had previously told Wilson, "If I can be of help, just let me know." The Louisiana pastor's mind turned to house-raisings and the seed was planted that became "Builders for Christ."

Carkeet had heard of the old time custom of neighbors helping to build a home for one in need. He decided to go to Yampa, take some of his church members along and raise the church building the next spring.

Seven men, (a school principal, meter reader, mail clerk, Air Force sergeant, preacher, insurance appraiser and two older boys) and eighteen women and children agreed to go. The church building was erected and churches in northwest Louisiana gave furnishings, baptistry and bulletin boards.

The women and children conducted Vacation Bible School (VBS) and took a religious census. The VBS enrolled 52 persons, five of whom had never heard of Jesus Christ.

Since BFC's beginnings, 29 church buildings have been constructed, all 1,000 miles or more from Greenwood. Each participant paid his own way, spent his own vacation time, and received no pay for the week or two weeks that he was away. There was no workmen's compensation, no liability insurance.

From small beginnings BFC progressed to a least nine completed units in the past year. Previously, the missions builders constructed churches in Washington (2), Colorado (9), Utah (2) and one each in New Mexico, Arizona, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Loans from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board helped the churches secure sites and lay foundations. Then BFC came.

The BFC work day runs from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The women lead VBS in the morning and at times actually work on the building.

Sometimes a week is all that is necessary to complete a building to the point it can be used for worship.

You could visit St. George, Utah; Webster, S.C.; Montezuma Creek, Utah; Medical Lake, Washington; Pagosa Springs, Colo.; or other places and see wher BFC has b en.

It may be that BFC's greatest achievement is the imprint it leaves on communities. When BFC was in Washington, a Seattle Post-Intelligencer reporter wrote: "Talk about being neighborly and lending a helping hand in real Christian fellowship! There is no finer nor more unusual example than the 18 adults working on Emmanuel Southern Baptist Church. They've traveled 2,900 miles by automobiles for that purpose--at their own expense on their own vacation time."

BFC projects touch others too. When the group built their first spruce log building in 1969, Jim Watkins of Wolf Creek Industries in Colorado, gave the logs. The firm has donated logs for nine buildings in all. When the Baptist church in Hughesville, Md., was planned, logs were brought all the way from Colorado without cost by the Navajo Trucking Company.

The future looks promising for BFC. For the first time, tools are being stockpiled, and a missionary recruitment service has been born. A "tools for building" service is offered to missionary groups, and the BFC has become a clearing house for donated materials.

To qualify for BFC ministries, a church or mission must be without a place of its own to worship and must be able to get the foundation completed prior to BFC's arrival.

"The first day is very important. We must be ready to roll when we arrive, said Carkeet.

"It never gets old, he continued, "even in repetition there is a thrill."

He told of a man who said after working a few days with BFC, "Preacher, you'll never know what it means to work out here and never hear a curse word."

Another example came from a project in Seattle, Washington, to which a Louisiana congregation sent a volunteer crew. The low-bid contractor, himself a Christian, had submitted a bid of \$54,000 for just a shell (unfinished, but weatherproof) and expressed regret he couldn't afford to bid less.

On Saturday morning, after five full days of work, the pastor of the Seattle congregation went to the contractor's lumber yard to pick up some materials. The apologetic contractor said to the pastor, "Preacher, I've been no help much thus far, but I want to do something. I will lend you my crane to put up the beams. It is impossible to put them up without a crane."

"I sure wish you had told me last Wednesday," the preacher answered, "We put 'em up Thursday." (BP)



**BAPTIST PRESS**

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May 17, 1974

**Court Rules Against  
Bob Jones University**

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--The United States Supreme Court ruled against Bob Jones University in Greenville, S. C., and in favor of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in a case that involves the tax-exempt status of the school.

The court held that the IRS, prior to the assessment and collection of taxes, cannot be enjoined by a court from lifting the tax-exempt status and from withdrawing advance assurance to donors that their contributions to Bob Jones University will be counted as charitable contributions.

Although this ruling by the nation's highest court is a setback for Bob Jones University in its battle with the IRS, it is not the final answer in its fight to remain tax-exempt. The road ahead depends on future actions both of the IRS and of the university.

An independent fundamentalist religious school, Bob Jones University has a policy of no admission to black students. This, the school claims, is due to religious convictions that God intends for the races to be segregated and that the scriptures forbid interracial marriage.

In 1970 the IRS announced a new policy that would no longer allow private schools that practiced racial discrimination to be tax-exempt and that contributions to such schools would no longer be tax-deductible. The IRS further requested proof of a nondiscriminatory admissions policy from all such schools. It warned that tax-exempt ruling letters would be reviewed in light of the information provided.

Bob Jones University informed the IRS that it did not admit Negroes and that it had no intention of altering this policy. Whereupon the IRS commissioner instructed the district director to begin procedures to revoke the school's tax exemption and to disallow gifts as charitable contributions.

The United States district court for the district of South Carolina stopped the IRS from proceeding with its action against Bob Jones University. However, the court of appeals for the fourth circuit reversed the lower court. This ruling was then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld the court of appeals.

Several courses of action remain open. Among them are:

1. Bob Jones University could change its admissions policy and so inform the IRS.
2. The IRS can proceed to lift the tax-exempt status of Bob Jones University and deny tax-deduction status to gifts to the school.
3. IRS could then bill the university for taxes due and the school could either pay the taxes or file suit to challenge the assessment.
4. The case could be taken through the courts for a final determination. The question before the courts could then be, can IRS refuse tax exemption and charitable contribution status to a private school on the basis of racial discrimination in its admissions policy if that policy is based on religious conviction.

Texas Familiar Turf  
To Southern Baptists

DALLAS (BP)--Dallas and Texas as a whole will be no strange turf when Southern Baptists from all over the nation begin arriving here June 9 for the 117th annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and its related meetings.

The main convention sessions are set, June 11-13, at the Dallas Convention Center. Auxiliary meetings will get underway June 9.

Dallas, which houses the offices of the largest statewide convention in the SBC (the Baptist General Convention of Texas), produced the second largest number of SBC registrants ever--16,053 in 1965. That mark was broken in New Orleans in 1969, when 16,678 "messengers" registered.

SBC leaders predict that the 1974 registration in Dallas will set a new record of around 17,000. Some 20,000 Baptists are expected to attend sessions of the main convention and its auxiliary meetings.

It was 100 years ago, 1874, when the Southern Baptist Convention first met in Texas. That year in Jefferson 222 messengers registered. Not including this year, the convention has returned to Texas 11 times since then--two times to Dallas (1894 and 1965). (The first annual SBC meeting ever came in Augusta, Ga., in 1845, with 293 messengers registered.)

Messengers have elected six Texans as president of what is now the nation's largest non-Catholic evangelical denomination, with 12.3 million members and 34,665 churches.

First came J. B. Gambrell of Dallas, former editor of the Baptist Standard and former chief executive of Texas Baptists, who served four terms, 1917-20. He was followed by the famous pulpiteer, George W. Truett, 1927-29, then pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, now the largest church in the denomination. First Baptist Church's current pastor, W. A. Criswell, was convention president, 1969-70.

In between Truett and Criswell, Southern Baptists elected L. R. Scarborough of Fort Worth, former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1939-40; Pat M. Neff of Waco, a former Texas governor and former president of Baylor University, 1944 and 1946 (no meeting was held in 1945); and K. Owen White, then a Houston pastor, 1964.

Through the years, statewide efforts of Texas Baptists, with two million members and 4,400 churches and missions, have made an important impact on church and community life in Texas.

State offices of the Texas convention are located at 703 N. Ervay in Dallas. Staff members travel some one million miles a year assisting churches and in the evangelistic missions, healing, educational and social ministries of Texas Baptists. The Texas convention operates 11 schools and colleges, eight hospitals and a network of facilities for child care and the aging, among other ministries. James Landes is current executive secretary of Texas Baptists.

Since that first experience in 1874 in Jefferson, Tex., the SBC and attendance at its annual meetings have grown steadily.

The second visit to Texas came in 1883 in Waco, when 612 persons registered. Succeeding Texas visits came in Fort Worth in 1890, with 801 registrants; Dallas, 1894, with 772; Houston, 1915, with 1,408; Houston, 1926, with 4,268; Fort Worth, 1934, with 4,435; San Antonio, 1942, with 4,774; Houston, 1953, with 12,976; Houston, 1958, with 11,966; Dallas, 1965, with 16,053; and Houston, 1968, with 15,701.

The SBC is next scheduled in Texas in 1979 in Houston.

SBC Nursery Care Information  
Needs Re-emphasizing

DALLAS (BP)--The chairman of the nursery committee for the Southern Baptist Convention which meets here, June 11-13, said that the large number of inquiries he has received indicate information on child care facilities hasn't gotten around the country.

Dean Willis, comptroller for Buckner Baptist Benevolences, Dallas, reminded messengers that the First Baptist Church, Dallas, will provide pre-school child care during the annual meeting.

The nursery service will be limited to children of persons attending the sessions from outside Dallas County.

The facilities will be open 30 minutes prior to each SBC session and will close 30 minutes after each session is concluded.

Willis said a nominal fee will be charged per child, with extra charges for those children picked up late and for food, should the child not have a sack lunch.

He said there should be some identification on each child and his or her belongings. Entrances to the child care facility will be on Patterson Street. Nursery care will be on the church's second floor, with the beginners on the fourth floor, he said.

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16 Missionaries, Associates  
Names by Home Mission Board

5/17/74

ATLANTA (BP)--Six missionaries and 10 missionary associates were appointed here by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) for work in language missions, Christian social ministries and church extension.

The missionaries appointed were Horacio and Maria Cardenas of San Antonio, Tex.; David and Norma Garza of Houston, Tex., and Charles and Bobbie Young of Newton, Ala.

Cardenas is now associate pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church, San Antonio, and has been a missionary associate since 1969. He will become pastor of a Spanish-language church.

Garza has been a missionary associate since 1964 and has been pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Houston, since 1971.

Young, who formerly served the HMB as a pastoral missionary in West Virginia, has been pastor of Newton Baptist Church, Newton, Ala., since 1970. He will return to West Virginia as a pastoral missionary.

Missionary associates appointed included Thomas and Helen Belote of San Rafael, Calif., appointed by the Christian social ministries department as directors of weekday ministries; Jo Ann Fisher of Colorado Springs, appointed by Christian social ministries department to direct weekday ministries; Fernando and Silvia Garcia of Bryan, Tex., appointed by the language missions department for work with Spanish language groups; Gonzalo and Encarnacion Graupera of Temple, Tex., appointed by the language missions department for Spanish pastoral work in Florida; Larry Miguez of New Orleans, appointed by the Christian social ministries department as a student intern; and Lucio and Eunice Moreno of Hitchcock, Tex., appointed by the language missions department for Spanish pastoral work.

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HMB Names Director  
Of Young Adult Evangelism

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board named a director of evangelism for young adults, accepted a resignation and approved two staff changes in action here.

Joe Ford, associate in the evangelism department of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma since 1972, and a former pastor and youth director, was named director of evangelism for young adults.

A native of Fort Worth, Tex., he is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, has a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and is currently enrolled in the seminary's doctor of ministries program. He will work on a part-time basis until completing his degree requirements in August, 1975.

Ford was a youth director in Longview, Tex., and Shreveport, La., from 1967-69, engaged in youth evangelism in 1969-70 and was pastor of Lane Baptist Church, Lane, Okla., before joining the evangelism department staff in Oklahoma.

The board accepted the resignation of Bryce Sandlin, associate director of the department of missionary personnel since 1971. Sandlin will join the religion faculty at Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., this fall. He is a graduate of Howard Payne and Southwestern Seminary.

Larry D. Goddard, production supervisor for the board's audiovisual department since 1973, was elected director of audiovisual production services, a new position replacing the director of photographic operations services previously held by Knolan Benfield.

The change was prompted by Benfield's request that he be reassigned for field photography. His assignment includes supervision of the HMB's darkroom.

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Five Baptist Productions  
Set for Tokyo Television

5/17/74

FORT WORTH (BP)--Five Baptist-produced dramas and documentaries will be aired in Tokyo, one of the three largest cities in the world, in June.

The 30-minute films, part of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission's "The Answer" and "The Human Dimension" series, will be shown each Sunday morning during the month.

"There are 12 television channels to serve Tokyo's more than 12 million people as well as a cable system that covers the city and goes to the Japanese industrial centers of Osaka and Kobi," said J. O. Terry, Far Eastern radio and television representative for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"The Radio-TV Commission films will be shown on cable. They will be beamed into the city's major hotels, apartment buildings and embassies. They'll go to the English-speaking community--and to any Japanese trying to improve his English," he said.

Terry, about to return to his duties from furlough in Fort Worth, received a letter from Missionary Roy T. Edgemon, pastor of Tokyo Baptist Church, telling him that the station had allotted time for the shows and asking for Radio and Television Commission films to use.

"This invitation was the result of nearly two years of negotiations conducted by Mr. Edgemon and members of the English Multi-Media Ministry in Tokyo," Terry told the Radio-TV Commission.

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