

June 27, 1974

Ice Cream Parlors & Flying  
Don't Mix, Says SBC's Weber

74-5

By Bonita Sparrow  
For Baptist Press

Jaroy Weber, the new president of the Southern Baptist Convention, likes flying and apparently has nothing against ice cream parlors. But he hopes to never come as close to ice cream and flying (or crashing) at the same time as when he and Ray P. Rust, now acting president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, were en route to Alexandria, La.

Rust and Weber's friendship dates back to the days Weber was the pastor of First Baptist Church in West Monroe, La. Rust was the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Bastrop, La., and both were on the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention whose Alexandria headquarters were 100 miles away.

Weber flew his own plane in those day--a 170 green and white Cessna, single-engine four-seater plane.

There was a board meeting on a beautiful day. Weber and Rust decided to fly to Alexandria to attend it.

"We knew there was an air strip close to the Baptist Building in Alexandria," Rust called, "and we knew that about one-third of the strip had been taken off for a drainage canal.

"But Jaroy landed the plane with that in mind and only used up about half the abbreviated runway left. He's a very good pilot and I didn't mind flying with him."

After the meeting the two men boarded the plane to return to their wives. Weber taxied to the take-off point, revved up the engine and snatched his foot off the brake as he pulled back the stick and aimed for the air.

Rust picked up the story. "We hit a hidden hole in the grassy strip which caused the plane to bounce crazily to one side. The landing gear hit a runway marker, shattering the windshield and headed us directly toward a Howard Johnson's ice cream parlor at the edge of the runway. I could see us going out of this world in 27 delicious flavors.

"Jaroy swerved us away from the ice cream parlor, but there was a telephone pole to deal with next. We seemed to be riding up the guide wires right into it, but he managed to miss that too.

"We were sideways in the air, about 25 feet high with one wing cutting a crazy circle in the ground."

Weber picked up the story. "I finally managed to get the plane down safely and stopped even if it was facing the opposite direction. I think the whole thing happened in a matter of a few seconds."

Said Rust, "When we finally stopped, still alive, Jaroy turned to me with an incredulous look on his face and said in a voice filled with awe, 'Isn't it amazing how many times a man can rededicate his life to the Lord in such a short period of time?'"

Weber will be flying commercially as he visits churches over the SBC in connection with his new duties.



# BAPTIST PRESS

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### Goldsmith Heads Coalition Against Private School Aid

74-5

WASHINGTON (BP)--The National Coalition for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) has appointed an executive director and opened an office in the building of the National Education Association here.

Ms. Joanne T. Goldsmith, a Maryland public education leader and university lecturer, is the new executive director of PEARL, according to John T. Walker, Suffragan Bishop of Washington Cathedral and president of the coalition.

The coalition, formed in 1973 by 29 religious, educational and civil liberties groups, is organized to support public education and religious liberty by opposing government aid to non-public schools.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is a charter member of the coalition and its executive director, James E. Wood Jr., is a member of the executive committee.

Executive Director Goldsmith will perform three major functions for PEARL: (1) collect and disseminate information on proposals for supplying federal, state or local aid to nonpublic schools; (2) collect and disseminate information concerning the adoption of such proposals and their administration; and (3) facilitate and assist in coordinating activities in opposition to such government action.

Ms. Goldsmith has been active in public education, political and community affairs in the state of Maryland. While vice president of the Prince George's County School Board, Ms. Goldsmith played a major role in the successful coalition aimed at desegregating the county's school system.

In addition, Ms. Goldsmith has served as legislative chairman of Prince George's County Parent-Teacher's Association (PTA) and has been active in the National Conference of Christians and Jews. At present she is a lecturer in public school management at Catholic University here.

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### Church Music Pioneer Commemorated at Ridgecrest

6/27/74

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The late B. B. McKinney, who pioneered the emergence of Southern Baptist church music, was honored here in a special service during the Church Music Leadership Conference.

Mrs. McKinney, widow of the first music editor at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, came to Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center from her home in Nashville, Tenn., for the tribute to McKinney's life and work.

Six state Baptist music secretaries and three retired state music secretaries were on the stage of Spilman Auditorium to honor McKinney, along with W. Hines Sims, who succeeded him as secretary of the church music department at the Sunday School Board following McKinney's tragic automobile accident en route to Nashville from Ridgecrest Conference Center in 1952.

William J. Reynolds, secretary of the church music department since Sims' retirement in 1970, spoke in tribute to McKinney as a man to whom "we owe a debt of obligation and gratitude" for his contribution to Southern Baptist church music.

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McKinney, one of Southern Baptists' foremost hymn writers, led the first music week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in 1949. He went to the Sunday School Board in 1935 as music editor. He worked in that job until 1941 when the church music department was established and he was named the first secretary of the department.

From one music editor in 1935 the church music department has grown to its present staff of 32.

Under McKinney's leadership the "Broadman Hymnal" was published "giving Southern Baptists a common hymnal that helped unify our singing," according to Reynolds.

"Every time we stand to sing the songs of B. B. McKinney" Reynolds said, "it is a continuing tribute to him."

Three of McKinney's songs, arranged by Buryl Red, were presented by the conference choir. They were "Glorious Is Thy Name," "Satisfied With Jesus" and "Holy Spirit, Breathe On Me."

Mrs. McKinney received a leather bound copy of "The Songs of B. B. McKinney," a collection of 137 songs with biographical information and pictures, and a copy of "Wherever He Leads," a record album of McKinney's songs sung by the Centurymen.

James W. Clark, director of the Sunday School Board's Broadman division, made the special presentation to Mrs. McKinney, with an inscription on the inside cover of the book from James L. Sullivan, president of the Sunday School Board, reading: "To Mrs. McKinney, whose husband made my life infinitely richer and happier by his life and thoughts."

The service closed with the 2,500 member congregation and 250 voice choir singing "Have Faith In God," which is Mrs. McKinney's favorite song--written by B. B. McKinney.

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BP Photo will be mailed to state editors.

Educators Urge Equal  
Female Rights in SBC Schools

6/27/74

PINEVILLE, La. (BP)--Members of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools meeting here, resolved "to encourage the legitimate aspirations of women for full professional recognition" in Baptist educational institutions and "work to develop greater sensitivity to both overt and covert discrimination against women in our governing boards, administrative staffs and teaching and research faculties."

The action came as one of seven resolutions at the closing session at Louisiana College of the three day meeting of the association, which is made up of representatives of 71 Southern Baptist schools, colleges, universities and seminaries.

The resolution further noted: "That we reassure our alumnae and the educated women of our fellowship that their talents are needed in educational leadership, and that we value the degrees we confer on women equally with those conferred on men.

"We seek these objectives not in a resentful and minimal compliance with law," the resolution concluded, "but in a positive Christian commitment to right."

Another resolution resolved "that we join with Southern Baptists in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program and express our praise for the work of the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and pledge our support in promoting the Cooperative Program, which we consider to be the life-line of our institutions."

The association also saluted the SBC's Sunday School Board "for giving exposure to our Southern Baptist colleges and schools in their numerous publications and for their continued and growing assistance in recruiting our choice young people as students in their own Southern Baptist institutions."

The resolutions committee was chaired by James Staples, president of California Baptist College, Riverside, Calif., and comprised also of Robert Naylor, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, and J.M. Boswell, president of Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky.

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Baptist Missionaries Aid  
Dalat Plane Crash Victims

By David E. Howard

DALAT, Vietnam (BP)--A tragic plane crash that killed more than 20 people and injured scores of others left Southern Baptist missionaries here with only/viable choice--to respond.  
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Their resulting ministry to six of the seriously injured has opened new avenues for communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"It was one of those crisp, clear times when the air is so clean it is sweet to taste and all the colors of the vegetable gardens in the valley were brilliantly alive," reported Rosalie Beck, a Southern Baptist missionary journeyman.

A seven-year-old girl and her mother were going to the market. A 16-year-old high school student was jogging with a physical education teacher, and the bridge leading to the marketplace was humming with activity as shoppers scurried about.

In a split second, tragedy hit scores of homes, claiming more than 20 lives and causing many serious injuries as a giant F-5 fighter bomber crashed at the marketplace, smashing into 12 homes before resting at the bottom of a shallow lake.

Miss Beck recalled, "The back part of the plane made kindling of two trees, scorched others, and plunged through the Saturday shopping crowd, dismembering people and knocking them into the water."

It wasn't long before Southern Baptist missionaries H. Earl Bengs Jr., Kenneth L. Goad, James H. Lassiter and volunteer layman Jack Miller, along with their families, began to map plans and bring together people and machines to use in helping the injured.

Fortunately, the Baptist Mission of Vietnam (organization of missionaries) had acquired a van to renovate for use as a mobile mass evangelism unit, but the van was temporarily used for a different ministry.

The hospitals in the Dalat area were not prepared to cope with an emergency of this proportion. Bengs, the evangelism co-ordinator for the Dalat mission station, was asked for help by a teacher of one of the injured boys. Bengs asked Dr. Eugene Griffith, head of Project Concern, a non-profit hospital about 25 miles from Dalat, for assistance.

Griffith was returning to Vietnam from the states, cutting short his first vacation in five years because his assistant had become ill and could not maintain the project.

Having just completed special burn treatment training at the Galveston (Tex.) Burn Center, Griffith brought back to Vietnam a new drug specifically made for treatment of burn infections. A new whirlpool bath for treating burns had been installed and was ready for use.

Griffith arrived at his hospital unaware of the plane crash or the need for his services and facilities. Already one boy had died from burns and another, named Top, was gradually getting worse. His face and hands had become infected and third degree burns on his back were not healing.

Six days after the accident Top was taken to Project Concern. His stretcher was loaded into the back of the empty van and his intravenous feeding device was held by a friend during the 25-mile trip.

Following one day's treatment, Top was walking back and forth between the whirlpool and communicating with the staff. In ten days, he was home with no scarring on his face or hands and a minimal amount on his back.

The next day, one week after they were burned, Mrs. Xuan; her daughter Loan; Hieu, the 16-year-old jogger, and his physical education teacher were taken in the van down the mountain to Project Concern.

Today, they were leading normal lives after being treated and cared for.

Miss Beck said, "Out of this pain and horror the missionaries have grown closer to the people and have become aware of new avenues of service. Whole groups of people previously closed to the gospel are now open, listening and responding. The love of God has been shown to many more people than could ever be reached by preaching in a church building."

She concluded, "God has used the crash of an F-5 fighter plane to reveal himself more completely to His children and to enable them to have a greater outreach in His name among the Vietnamese people."

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Editors Note: Dave Howard, a journalism student at the University of Richmond, is a part-time staff writer at the Foreign Mission Board's press office in Richmond.

#### CORRECTIONS

In BP story mailed 6/24/74, headlined "Baptist Education Called Key to Church Growth," please change 'group inspecting' to 'fruit inspecting' in line 1 of graph 7.

In BP story mailed 6/26/74, headlined "SBC Educators Urge 'Remarriage of Missions and Education,'" please change "old, new plan" to "bold new plans" in line 2 of graph 14. IN THE SAME STORY, please change at to and in line 2 of graph 19, making that read: ways Baptist Educators and the Sunday School Board can work etc. Thanks.

--Baptist Press