



--- FEATURES

produced by Baptist Press

SBC Executive Committee
480 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

January 29, 1975

75-15

Baptist Evangelistic Blitz Successful Effort In Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP) -- Take over 600 miles of a new road through Brazil's interior. Add thousands of unevangelized settlers. Turn loose 100 Brazilian Baptists and you have Operation Transtotal, a direct evangelism project.

Operation Transtotal has resulted in more than 940 decisions for Christ while opening new areas for evangelism and preaching.

The recent 12-day witnessing effort along the Trans-Amazon Highway, saw 102 people visit more than 3,500 homes, take a religious census and proclaim the gospel. Each day, 16 teams of five to seven persons held at least one preaching service and sometimes as many as three or four a day. These were held in public school buildings, homes of the settlers or ecumenical temples built by the government.

As a result of the evangelistic blitz, two missions were organized and 25 more are projected, according to Miss Roberta Hampton, Southern Baptist Missionary. She also said churches are scheduled to be organized in Ruropolis President Medici and in Agropolis Brasil Novo.

Brazilian home missionaries will be transferred to these places to work. In addition, three ladies have been assigned to work between Mariba and Itaituba, instructing new Christians and witnessing to others.

The Trans-Amazon Highway, a major road currently under construction, will run east-west across Brazil's Amazon region and is part of a government effort to move people into Brazil's interior.

According to Miss Hampton, several interesting discoveries were made during the house-to-house visitation program. One team found a man who had formed a congregation of 32 people, 18 of them ready to be baptized. Another layman had eight people awaiting baptism by the Baptist evangelists.

One group found an ex-gunman, now a Christian, who traded his gun for a "sword"--the Bible.

More than half of Operation Transtotal was done by students or recent graduates of 13 Brazilian Baptist theological institutions.

There were 15 Brazilian home missionaries aided by seven Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil.

"Operation Transtotal has made Brazilian Baptists aware that they are late-comers to the Trans-Amazon Highway, as several other religious groups are already established along the route," said Miss Hampton. "But we are encouraged and excited about the work we have done and still have to do."

Operation Transtotal will be transformed into Project Transtotal on a continuing basis. Seminary students will be used for the work. Miss Hampton reports that already many Brazilian students have contacted their Home Mission Board concerning participation.

Planning for Operation Transtotal began in June, 1974.

-30-

(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state papers.

###

DARGAN-CARRICK LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
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, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461
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

January 29, 1975

75-15

'A Gun at Your Throat
Leaves Little Time to Think'

By Robert O'Brien

BALTIMORE (BP)--Kenneth Mullins thought of his wife and four children and "just wondered where they would find my body."

A gun, pressed to his throat, forced him to look out of the passenger's side in the front seat of a car which picked its way through the dark streets of Baltimore's ghetto.

Just minutes before, the 52-year-old Baptist minister from Nashville, Tenn., had parked his rental car outside a Ramada Inn in Baltimore, about 9:45 p.m., Jan. 27. He had come from a meeting at Shelbourne Baptist Church, where he had traveled, on assignment from the Nashville-based Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission, to help launch a fund raising campaign for the church.

Two young black men, in their early 20's, converged from both sides. One stuck a gun in his stomach and said, "Get back in the car or I'll kill you."

"My only thought at that moment," declares Mullins, assistant director of church capital funding for the Stewardship Commission, "was: 'Can I be as lucky as Mike Speer?'"

In late 1971, Speer, the Stewardship Commission's associate executive director, was shot in the head during a robbery by two men on the streets of Los Angeles. Miraculously, the bullet, which entered behind Speer's left ear, exited through his mouth, with no permanent damage.

Now, a little more than three years later, Mullins, a Stewardship Commission staffer for about three-and-a-half years, was certain he was ready for the same fate.

In the car, the two Baltimore thugs took his wallet, containing \$100, and removed his glasses. They returned the wallet and credit cards.

"What kind of watch is that?" one demanded.

"It's a Timex," Mullins replied.

"Well keep the thing, then," the man snapped.

"I said to them, 'I regret that you fellows feel like this is the only way that you have to exist,'" recalls Mullins, a pastor in Texas and his native Oklahoma before joining the Stewardship Commission.

"You shut up," he was told. "We don't want any talking."

"One of them did say, 'We don't have much of a chance. We've got to make our own chance this way,'" Mullins recalls.

Continually repeating profanities and threats to kill him, as one drove and the other sat in the back seat holding the gun in Mullins throat, the two men angrily demanded more money and the title to the car.

Mullins, at first in vain, explained that he had no more money, because he charged most of his expenses, and that the car was a rental car.

-more-

Going through papers in his briefcase, the men discovered the car rental agreement and his files on work with Southern Baptist churches in fund raising.

"What do you do?" he was asked. "I'm a Baptist minister, and I work with churches," Mullins responded.

At any moment, he felt, they would shoot him and dump his body, but a surprising thing happened.

"When I said I was a minister, the one in the back--thankfully the one with the gun--calmed down and even handed me back my coin purse."

The driver continued abusive threats but his companion said, "Man, just hush. This fellow isn't going to try to do anything. He told you he was a Baptist preacher."

For the first time Mullins began to have some hope. After about 30 minutes of driving--it seemed much longer to Mullins--the driver pulled the car over. They got out, instructing him to turn the car around and leave without looking back. He didn't stay to argue.

Back at the Ramada Inn, about 10 miles away, he reported the incident to Baltimore police and then decided to remain to finish his work with Shelbourne Baptist Church.

"I'm just glad all they got was \$100," he said, managing a laugh as he summed up his reactions.

How did he come to grips with the idea of death?

"At that particular time, with a gun at your throat, there's not much time to think, and it's certainly no time for heroics. There's not much you can do except leave it in the hands of the Lord."

-30-

Colson to Join Seminary
Extension Department

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)--Howard Colson, editorial secretary for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, will join the denomination's Seminary Extension Department here as assistant to the director, May 1.

Colson, who has directed the board's overall editorial function since 1969, will retire at the end of April after 26 years of service.

Previously, Colson, who holds master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, was pastor of churches in Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri for 17 years and served for a time as a professor at the University of Missouri.

With the Seminary Extension Department, operated by the six Southern Baptist seminaries, Colson, will assist its director, Raymond M. Rigdon, in planning, developing, editing, revising and evaluating courses offered by correspondence and through extension centers throughout the United States.

He will also assist in further developing and supervising the Seminary Extension Department's credit transfer to degree programs of colleges and universities and diploma programs of seminaries. Many colleges and universities accept Seminary Extension credits on their degree programs. Five of the six Southern Baptist seminaries accept credits on their diploma programs.

The Seminary Extension Department currently offers 50 courses in its basic and college-level series and additional study in its personal-career development series. Its Home Study Institute is fully accredited by the National Home Study Council and the total Seminary Extension program has full membership in the National University Extension Association.

-30-



BAPTIST PRESS

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

JAN 30 1975

LYNN WAY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE. NO.
NASHVILLE TN 37203