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produced by Baptist Press

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February 6, 1975

75-21

Former Contractor 'Builds'
For Christ in South Korea

By Jim Newton
For Baptist Press

Twenty years ago, a Baptist layman from Baton Rouge, La., who was inspired by his pastor to get involved in missions went on a six-week mission tour of the Orient.

O. K. Bozeman, who then was state president for the Louisiana Baptist Brotherhood, sold his construction business and went back to Korea as a Southern Baptist missionary.

Today, as much as any other person, Bozeman has helped to "build," physically, Baptist missions in South Korea.

For 12 years, "Boze" as he is affectionately called by almost everyone in Korea, was the mission "builder" and business manager for the Korea Baptist Mission, the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Korea.

As the mission builder, he supervised the construction of the Baptist hospital in Pusan, the seminary in Taejon, almost all of the missionaries' homes in Korea, and many of the 500 Korea Baptist churches.

This year, he will finish his last building project for the Korean mission--construction of a new mission headquarters building on Yoido Island in the middle of the Han River that flows through the capital city of Seoul.

Now he is in a new role, serving since last July as executive director of the Church Development Board, which he describes as a small-scale version of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Bozeman is no longer a layman, having been ordained because he felt ordination would help in his increasingly important role as evangelist and minister.

Nine years ago, he asked for a replacement as business manager and builder.

"We had so few missionaries here that I felt God had called me full time into evangelism and preaching," he remembered.

Last year, seven new couples were assigned to Korea, giving new strength to the mission force. Bozeman was relieved of responsibilities as business manager and named executive director of the Church Development Board last July.

He goes at the task like the charging halfback he was at North Carolina State University.

He seems to know everyone he sees in Korea and has more "contacts" with key people in the government than perhaps any other missionary in Korea, according to a fellow missionary.

"He can get things done that other people can't," the missionary said. "He's got a heart of gold, and his optimism is infectious.

"Sometimes he is brusque and brash, and everything is either black or white to Boze. There is no grey in-between," the missionary confessed, "but we love him just the same."

Bozeman confessed that when he first came to Korea on the mission trip in 1955, the experience shattered some stereotyped opinions he had.

He then harbored a prejudice against the Japanese, whom he had fought during World War II as a radar crewman on a PB4-Y Navy bomber stationed in the Philippines and the South Pacific.

But his first trip to the Orient as a layman in 1955 changed that.

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"The Lord spoke to me on that trip, and I saw the tremendous need for good businessmen on the mission field," he said.

"I came back and spoke constantly at the Louisiana Brotherhood meetings about the need for qualified Businessmen as missionaries. And then one day the Lord said to me, 'How about you?'"

"I didn't want to go, and so I just gave more money to missions," Bozeman recalled. "Finally Marie (his wife) and I felt God was really calling us as missionaries to Korea."

He sold his interest in the family construction business, reportedly for about 25 cents on the dollar. This was at a time when business was booming and the seven construction companies in the family conglomerate landed big contracts for building prefabricated houses in the Gulf Coast area and in South America.

Bozeman put his construction skills to work as the builder for the Korea Mission, serving as the contractor, construction engineer, foreman, and coordinator with architects on building design.

Since then, he has supervised the construction of almost every mission building project, plus several other denominations' mission construction.

He still serves as a building consultant, but he no longer supervises any construction work.

"I won't do anything a Korean can do because anything he can do, he can do better," Bozeman said.

More and more of his time is devoted to evangelistic efforts. He has served on the coordinating committee and as "prime mover" on two recent independent crusades in Korea--the E.J. Daniels crusade in Chung Ju last September and the World Evangelism Foundation crusade in Seoul in 1973.

He also coordinated the witnessing efforts of a group of 19 Baptist laymen and their wives who spent a week in Korea in November preaching in local churches and doing visitation evangelism.

His love for God, the Bible, and the Korean people seeps through and permeates everything Bozeman does.

In his new role with its emphasis on church development and evangelism, Bozeman is continuing his former role as mission "builder" in a different direction.

Now, instead of seeking to physically "build" Baptist missions in Korea, he is building Korea missions and churches from an evangelistic and spiritual viewpoint.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

Adapted from the February, 1975, issue of World Mission Journal.

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**BAPTIST PRESS**

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February 6, 1975

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**Cothen Succeeds Sullivan As
Sunday School Board President**

NASHVILLE (BP)--James L. Sullivan, 65, chief executive of the world's largest religious publishing agency for 21 years, stepped into retirement here, handing the reigns of the Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday School Board to Grady Coulter Cothen.

Emphasizing that "the Sunday School Board stands on the Scripture," Cothen, 55, was installed as the board's sixth president in the presence of some 1,000 board employees and guests.

The close of "the Sullivan years," an era of prosperity and growth for the large Southern Baptist Convention agency, began a year ago when the board's trustees voted unanimously to name Cothen, then president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, as Sullivan's successor.

W. O. Thomason, head of the agency's Book Store division, was named as executive vice president to succeed J. M. Crowe, who retired on the same day as Sullivan.

Sullivan's retirement program, held in the board's 1,000-seat Van Ness Auditorium, included a flood of honors. Among them were an honorary membership in the Nashville Fire Department, a colonelcy on Tennessee Governor Ray Blanton's staff, and nomination to the sports hall of fame at Mississippi College in Clinton, Sullivan's alma mater.

At Cothen's installation the next day, Sullivan symbolized the change of administration by presenting Cothen a medallion bearing the Sunday School Board emblem.

Cothen, in responding, said, "the Sunday School Board is involved with God in what God is doing in the world. Our purpose is his purpose, his will is our will to the degree that we can discover it and have strength to implement it.

"The Sunday School Board stands on the Scripture," he said. "We have nowhere else to stand, but may I suggest to you that we do not see it our duty to debate about it (the Scriptures) nor to fight about it. We see it our duty to expound it, to expose it, to exegete it, to teach it, to preach it, to proclaim it.

"I find no reasons to change in my mind or in my heart that which my parents taught me when yet I was a child: the Holy Bible is the inspired word of God."

At the Sullivan retirement program, Nashville Mayor Beverly Briley, made the SBC leader an honorary fireman, with a red hat, saying, "He has spent the last 21 years fighting denominational brush fires."

One surprise Sullivan received was the football used when Mississippi College defeated Mississippi State in 1931. Sullivan, a native of Silver Creek, Miss., was team captain for that game.

He was the first "preacher boy" to be captain of a varsity athletic team at the Mississippi Baptist school.

Among dignitaries at the retirement program, which included a multimedia presentation tracing Sullivan's life from his birth in 1910 to today, were his pastor and former SBC president, H. Franklin Paschall; Mrs. Albert Kawamoto, of Hawaii; Robert Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance; and J. Edward Cunningham, an American Bible Society executive.

Mrs. Kawamoto flew from Honolulu to represent Hawaiian Southern Baptists by presenting a handmade lei made from several hundred small orchids. Cothen also received a lei at an installation luncheon.

Paschall presented Sullivan a plaque from the deacons of his home church, First Baptist Church, Nashville, and cited him as "a great Christian leader in the world . . . (who) has not been too big for the local church."

Denny, representing some 33.5 million Baptists, cited Sullivan for his contributions to "the promotion of fellowship, service and cooperation of Baptists around the world."

Cunningham, a Southern Baptist, presented Sullivan a facsimile edition of the historic Robert Aitken Bible and paid tribute to Sullivan and the board for support of the ABS, which includes an annual Sunday School Board contribution to help finance Scripture translation, publication and distribution. The Aitken Bible, published in 1782, was the first Bible published in America and the only printing of a Bible ever authorized by the U. S. Congress.

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(BP) Photo to be mailed to Baptist state editors.

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NABF Names Plumbing Exec.
As Its First Layman Veep

Baptist Press

TORONTO (BP)--Floyd Harris, owner of an Annandale, Va., plumbing company, has become the first layman or non-professional minister to be elected to one of the top two positions of the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF).

Harris, a Southern Baptist, was named vice chairman of the NABF, one of four regional fellowships affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), during a recent meeting of the North American organization here. Current treasurer of the BWA men's department and a member of the BWA executive and finance committees, Harris is a charter member of Ravensworth Baptist Church in Annandale.

The new NABF chairman is Robert C. Campbell of Valley Forge, Pa., general secretary of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. He succeeds S. S. Hodges, executive secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

In other action, the NABF's general committee named a subcommittee to study changes that may become necessary in the NABF organization and looked at proposals for structural changes in the BWA, to be considered at the Baptist World Congress in Stockholm, July 8-13, 1975.

James E. Wood, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, told of plans for a four-day Baptist convocation in Washington, Jan. 12-15, 1976, in observance of the United States' bicentennial celebration. A series of regional conferences is also foreseen, Wood noted.

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Rub A Dub Dub
Baptize In A Tub

Baptist Press

MOMBASA, Kenya (BP)--How does a missionary baptize new converts without a baptistry? He uses the river, of course!

If there is no river, he uses a stream or maybe an ocean. If they're unavailable, he uses a natural spring or he might even dig a hole and fill it with well water. And if there is no natural spring and no well water in the middle of a drought--he uses a bathtub.

A bathtub? Why not?

Southern Baptist Missionary Louie T. Scales drives 40 miles to the Indian Ocean, fills two barrels with salt water, drives back, fills the bathtub and baptizes the new converts.

Complicated, but it gets the job done.

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