



# -- FEATURES

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75-31

## David Jester

Founded School to Help  
Disadvantaged Nigerians

By David W. Forman  
For Baptist Press

The dean of a Kentucky Baptist College and former Southern Baptist Missionary was honored recently on national Nigerian television for his work in founding a School of Basic Studies (SBS) for disadvantaged students at an African university.

David Jester, now academic vice president of Campbellsville (Ky.) Baptist College, was flown to Nigeria and recognized in nationally televised commencement exercises for the first class of students who entered Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), at Zaria, through the SBS.

Ahmadu Bello, with more than 24,000 students, is the largest university in Africa south of the Sahara.

During the commencement, ABU Vice Chancellor (university president) I.S. Audu recalled the work Jester had done in Nigeria and thanked him publicly for the role played in beginning the SBS.

Jester's part in founding the school came as a result of 10 years service in Nigeria as a Southern Baptist missionary and president of Niger Baptist College, a teacher education school in the northwestern state of Minna. The school in Minna has since been nationalized.

In 1968, the university asked to "borrow" Jester to set up a state university college. Nigerian officials felt a need, he said, for the SBS because of a widening gap between the northern and southern states. Many young people were being denied educational opportunities because they lacked the basic qualifications for entry into higher education.

A higher school certificate or passing advanced level examinations is required of students desiring to enter Nigerian universities. But observers say there are many parts of the northern states where it is not possible for students to obtain training necessary to meet these requirements.

Jester was eventually hired by the University and began a year's work of raising money needed to build the first buildings and to secure the faculty.

The first group of students were admitted to the program in 1970 and Jester became the SBS dean.

Highly motivated young people from disadvantaged areas who could pass an entrance exam but normally would not be considered for admission were sought and accepted on a quota system.

The first class of 51 students did an intensive 1 1/2 years of study. And those who passed the final exam were allowed to go into the regular university degree program.

Forty-four of the 51 successfully completed the liberal arts program and were able to gain entrance into a university.

Ninety per cent of the 44 were graduated with first or second class honors (similar to summa and magna cum laude) in the recent commencement attended by Jester.

"It was a tremendous experience to go back to Nigeria to be with our first students to rejoice with them in their success," noted the former missionary whose parents were also missionaries to Nigeria.

"The fact that none of them 'bombed out' of the university during the strenuous three-year degree program, indicates the tremendous desire they had for a university education and gives an idea of what graduation meant to all of them."

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As a result of their work with ABU and as missionaries, the Jesters realized "many new footholds for sharing Jesus Christ in Nigeria."

On returning to ABU, Jester visited Calvary Baptist Church, a church he and his wife helped to begin next to the campus.

The former, struggling congregation now has grown so that they can no longer be seated in the converted house that serves as their sanctuary. The children have to meet separately in a courtyard for Sunday School and worship services.

Now a Southern Baptist missionary, Connie Bowers, is stationed in Zaria and preaching for the church. Missionary Bettye McQueen is working with students at ABU and other schools in Zaria.

Family illness forced the Jesters to leave Nigeria shortly after the SBS got on its feet. But ABU continued the SBS program as projected.

Now more than 2,000 students are enrolled the SBS, and the faculty has grown to 50. More than 800 students were accepted into the program for this academic year.

Another school similar to the one at ABU is being built in Kwara State, Jester said, at an estimated cost of 12 million naira ( \$18 million U. S. ), and others are planned.

Of the first SBS graduating class, Jester said, "The most outstanding part is that one of the teacher education students, whom they didn't even want to admit to the school, much less the science program, scored the highest mark ever made at ABU. He made it in mathematics." (BP)

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David W. Forman is director of alumni and public relations for Campbellsville (Ky.) College.

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Lebanese Church Dynamited;  
None Injured in Blast

Baptist Press  
2/26/75

BAALBECK, Lebanon (BP)--A Baptist church here was damaged but no one was injured when a dynamite charge planted on the church window sill exploded about 2:30 a.m. on a Sunday.

Windows were broken in the rented apartment used by the Baptist Church of Baalbeck and in three surrounding homes.

Southern Baptist missionary Emmett A. Barnes, stationed here, and the church's pastor, Fouad Shorrosh, both expressed the opinion the incident was not against the church.

"This incident does not express the attitude of the community toward us," Barnes stated. "The people of Baalbeck have been open both to us as people and to our message. I don't think this was an act against the church or that it had any political motivation."

Barnes added that family feuds are common here and the attack might have been against the landlord. The church rents a ground floor apartment and the owner lives upstairs in the same building.

Church services were canceled the morning of the blast because the auditorium was cluttered with glass and debris. Police guarded the site until a full investigation could be made.

On Monday morning, according to Southern Baptist missionary Mrs. J. Wayne Fuller, the pastor walked through the town and received many assurances from the people that there was no enmity in the community toward the church.

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SBC VP Charles King's  
Condition Improves

LEXINGTON, Ky (BP)--Charles King, 79, second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was out of intensive care and reported in satisfactory condition, a spokesman for St. Joseph Hospital said here.

King was previously reported in critical condition at St. Joseph following a stroke. The former vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is the first black person to serve as a national officer of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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'Pioneer' Churches Get  
Home Mission Loans

Baptist Press  
2/26/75

By Toby Druin  
For Baptist Press

In the past 20 years the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) has made 4,692 loans totaling \$81,335,225 for new church buildings, church sites and renovation projects in 49 of the 50 states--most of them in so-called "pioneer" areas-- and in the Panama Canal Zone and Puerto Rico.

And, another 250 for some \$12 million probably will be made in 1975 to push the total well past the \$93 million mark. More than 100 loans for \$9 million already are in process, according to Robert H. Kilgore, director of HMB's Division of Church Loans.

A report prepared by Kilgore for the HMB's church loans committee, shows the church loans portfolio--the summary of all loans, stocks, securities, bonds and other articles in possession of the board--has almost doubled in the 10 years from 1965-74. The total had topped \$43 million at year's end.

The portfolio gained \$1.4 million during 1974, a year that saw some 250 loans granted for \$12 million. The Division of Church Loans during the year handled almost 1,300 requests for loans or inquiries about how to secure financing.

The loans division operated under a "slowdown" on processing new loan applications during the last 60 days of the year to await economic developments. The slowdown is continuing.

Kilgore noted in his report to the loans committee that of the churches currently in the loan accounts only 7.4 percent are delinquent, and those who are in arrears owe only one percent of the division's loan funds.

The delinquency rate has steadily declined over the last five years and Kilgore has noted no change in the record in spite of the national economic conditions.

"This represents the moral character and good stewardship of our churches," he said. ""We also are giving close scrutiny to all applications and immediately begin trying to work with a church if it encounters difficulty."

Most of the 4,692 loans made during the 20-year period--the era of Southern Baptist expansion into a national convention--have been to "pioneer" churches in the West, Midwest and Northeast. Those states received 3,455 loans for almost \$68 million during the period. Only Minnesota, which now has relatively few churches, has yet to receive a HMB loan.

California has gotten almost one-third of the loans made in pioneer states with 1,040 for \$21,652,037. Kilgore noted that more loans have been granted to churches in the state than there are churches in the Southern Baptist General Convention of California. Many churches, he explained, have gotten more than one loan.

Ohio also has been a big beneficiary of Southern Baptists' willingness to underwrite infant congregations' efforts to get started. A total of 480 loans for \$9,338,392 were made in that state from 1954-74.

Five states have received more than 200 loans. Georgia, one of the old-line Southern Baptist-affiliated conventions, has received 249 loans for \$2,248,101; Michigan has received 239 for \$4,390,505; Washington 231 for \$4,411,300; Indiana 210 for \$3,698,965; and Arizona 204 for \$4,436,486.

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The complete list is as follows:

Alabama 122 for \$1,175,676; Alaska 65 for \$1,343,651; Arizona 204 for \$4,436,486; Arkansas 30 for \$332,939;

California 1,040 for \$21,652,037; Canal Zone 3 for \$74,000; Colorado 79 for \$1,561,947; Connecticut 11 for \$255,550; Delaware 6 for \$79,000; Florida 182 for \$2,198,082;

Georgia 249 for \$2,248,101; Hawaii 5 for \$124,000; Idaho 35 for \$718,576; Illinois 76 for \$1,117,107; Indiana 210 for \$3,698,965; Iowa 8 for \$226,800;

Kansas 86 for \$1,509,635; Kentucky 45 for \$757,400; Louisiana 40 for \$326,192; Maine 6 for \$93,206; Maryland 69 for \$1,365,829; Massachusetts 7 for \$194,625; Michigan 239 for \$4,390,505;

Mississippi 35 for \$426,272; Missouri 33 for \$374,960; Montana 48 for \$888,175; Nebraska 52 for \$867,466; Nevada 68 for \$1,445,723;

New Hampshire 3 for \$73,250; New Jersey 43 for \$1,213,142; New Mexico 43 for \$559,990; New York 74 for \$1,600,311; North Carolina 75 for \$1,089,962;

North Dakota 20 for \$364,696; Ohio 480 for \$9,338,392; Oklahoma 129 for \$807,700; Oregon 105 for \$1,552,969; Pennsylvania 56 for \$1,197,931; Puerto Rico 4 for \$133,500;

Rhode Island 3 for \$145,577; South Carolina 27 for \$309,950; South Dakota 20 for \$358,395; Tennessee 64 for \$578,600; Texas 114 for \$1,326,150;

Utah 59 for \$967,318; Vermont 3 for \$65,677; Virginia 23 for \$160,150; Washington 231 for \$4,411,300; West Virginia 34 for \$615,828; Wisconsin 1 for \$70,000; and Wyoming 28 for \$461,406. (BP)

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#### CORRECTION

In the BP story of 2/25/75 headlined, "Tornado Destroys Church's Building in Little Rock," it is Crystal Hill (instead of Crystal Hills) Church, graphs 1,5,6,10 and 12.

Thanks--Baptist Press

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