

(BP)

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

--- FEATURES

produced by Baptist Press

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

May 23, 1975

75-81

Missions Is A Garden
For 20 Bengali Widows

By Mrs. James E. Young
Southern Baptist Missionary to Bangladesh

FENI, Bangladesh (BP)--Once again, Southern Baptist missionary Jean (Mrs. Carl F.) Ryther is perched on a slanting rickshaw with a basket of seedlings between her feet.

Mrs. Ryther is off to a project begun by her agriculturist husband. The place is the former "bathtub" of the queen and princesses of King Bijoy Singh, monarch 400 years ago.

Presently three destitute families and twenty widows and their children live in one-room houses around the man-made lake. Today, these ladies have readied several holes where the seedlings will be planted. Yesterday they planted eggplant, broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage. Today's planting will include tomatoes, cowpeas and cucumbers.

"Bring some more duck droppings for these tomato plants," Mrs. Pyther says in Bengali. She is a gardener from way back and wants this job done right.

By helping the ladies she hopes to enlighten them on better gardening. This new knowledge will bring better food to these needy people.

For years the pond and surrounding land was not used. Now there are many occupants of the pond, including Tilapia Nilotica, a type of perch that produce rapidly, growing to a one-pound size in six months, and ducks.

The people, fish and ducks are important to each other in a vital chain. The duck droppings in the water fertilize the green plankton plant. The fish eat the plankton. The fish droppings are eaten by snails, that enrich the ducks' diet. The people eat the garden vegetables, the fish and the ducks.

The fish can also be sold in the local villages, adding protein to the people's diet. The duck droppings at night are kept to fertilize the garden surrounding the pond. The garden grows vegetables for the people and cereal for the ducks.

Mrs. Ryther, with dirt under her fingernails and a little more sunburned, is home from her gardening. What she and the widowed ladies did this day will make little difference to Bangladesh's 80 million people. The ladies at the pond, however, were impressed.

In the name of Christ an educated foreign woman worked alongside them in their dirt.

-30-

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers on May 20, 1975.

#

Mission Provides More
Than Sermon and Sleep

By Tim Nicholas

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--It takes a man 15 or 20 years to make it to the Baptist Rescue Mission here.

That's how long director Ed Lilly says it takes a man with an alcohol problem to become a complete "down and outer."

The mission serves as a rehabilitation center and provides overnight facilities, dinner, a shower, and breakfast for men who might otherwise sleep on the street. Cost is only \$1.60 a night, up a dime from last year.

-more-

Alternatives for the men, says Lilly, would be flop houses for as little as 50 cents per night, or a cheap hotel, or the YMCA for \$5, none of which provides meals.

The Roman Catholics have Ozanam Inn, open five nights a week and any man can stay there free up to seven nights a year.

The Baptist Mission, operated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB), had no limit.

Lilly says "Less than 15 percent stay here free though day labor pools can't accomodate everyone." Many men frequent the plasma banks. "I know of men who give whole blood every ten days," says Lilly, "they shouldn't but every six weeks."

Lilly says the average man who drifts through the mission has had his first drink at average age of 8 or 9. By age 18 he's drinking pretty heavily.

"By the time he gets to us at age 40, he's had a stint of military service, he's in the throes of divorce, and is moving from one job to another. He drinks and drinks."

Though most of the lodgers are overnighters, averaging 191 nightly during the winter months, about 30 remain in rehabilitation for a minimum 12 week period.

To get in the program a man first has to say he has a problem with alcohol. He is interviewed, pulling together his drinking and medical history.

"Then we assign him to a group and his own individual counselor who give tests, psychological, personality, vocational interest, depression scale, all of which go with him if he is referred to another agency. We have good rapport with 16 or 18 agencies, freely referring back and forth."

Besides Lilly, who holds a doctor of education degree, the professional staff includes Charles Holmes and Dan Finley, associates; two New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary interns; two in-service trainees from the Veteran's hospital at Fort Lyons, Colo., which has a drug counseling program; and two nighttime supervisors from the Baptist seminary.

Each staff man works in counseling, including the nighttime supervisors.

Each man in rehabilitation sees his counselor twice a week and attends a minimum of two group therapy sessions per week.

"Plus they're involved in dormitory facilities operated much like a hotel, working in the laundry, food services, maintenance.

The men receive an allowance of \$3.50 to \$15 per month, according to their ability, getting three well-planned meals per day, bed, a locker, laundry services.

"If they were required to pay for these services, the minimum would be \$87 per week," Lilly notes.

There are success stories and failures, Lilly says.

"We have one paraprofessional in our staff with a year as food services supervisor who came in through the rehabilitation program.

"He was a native of West Virginia with a college education and was a World War II veteran. He'd been in New Orleans about 10 years and had literally hit the skids.

"He was working on third floor maintenance when I came here to work. The month after I came he went on a six month drunk and returned here. We detoxified him and he disappeared again.

"Sixteen months ago he came back, really haggard, but said he was really interested in getting off the juice."

"He'd managed restaurants in the past and has saved the mission over \$4,000 buying foodstuffs in the year he's been back." He continues to be involved in a group activity--- called the 'over-the-hill' gang--for guys with a more than three month relationship here.

"But we have more failures than successes," says Lilly.

"Fred came here 17 months ago," said Lilly, "He was in his mid-30s, twice divorced, had two children, two years of college. He'd been in the \$25,000-30,000 per year bracket in sales. While in the service he developed a real craze for beer. He told me, 'I never thought I could become an alcoholic just drinking beer.' 'I need some help,' he said and stayed with us two and a half months. He left one day,--he said to go to work--and tried to come in drunk the next night. We don't let the obviously inebriated stay.

"He drifted back through twice more.

"He told me 'I'm still not ready for it.' That was the last we've heard from him."

In 1971, during the first twelve months of the rehabilitation program, 180 men were involved, and only about 8 percent actually completed it. The second year 12 percent finished, the third--21 percent.

"Now we're looking at 50 percent and this is due simply to refining the program and methodology," says Lilly.

"We try to do for the man what he needs to have done. This is what we're here for-- help him quit alcohol, find the Lord, and get a stomach full of food. Our basic tenet is that we'll deal with the problem most urgently needed to be met.

"Though personal witnessing takes place in the individual counseling session, we've broken somewhat with tradition in the typical rescue mission," says Lilly, "We don't have services every night. Right now there are about 24 worship services a month.

"It's at the individual speaker's discretion whether attendance at the service is voluntary or mandatory," says Lilly.

"But 35-40 percent attend even on a voluntary basis. We don't have as many decisions as were once recorded as a result of our current setup last year we had 175 decisions.

"Some of the decisions cause us to doubt," he said, "however, we feel the Holy Spirit is involved in a lot of our work.

Lilly admits the mission can't handle every need. Many are referred to mental health clinics. Medical assistance at the mission "is our crying need," says Lilly. "At Charity Hospital a person may wait six to eight hours for aid," he notes.

"Until 1973 we had some interns from the Tulane School of Medicine running a clinic upstairs here--we even have two examining tables--but the funds were rescinded. Now the clinic isn't used at all for lack of volunteer medical people."

Another problem not currently being dealt with is the woman with a drinking problem.

"We had the Good Samaritan Center for woman alcoholics operated by the HMB," Lilly says, "but it was closed five years ago,"



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

May 23, 1975

75-81

Hold Hearings on TV's Sex-Violence, FCC Urged

By James Lee Young

NASHVILLE (BP)--A battery of civic and religious leaders, speaking at a public hearing here, urged the Federal Communications Commission to begin immediate public hearings related to alleged increase in sex and violence on television.

The public service hearing, held in the Metropolitan City Council Chambers here, was sponsored by two former members of the now-defunct Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, Winfrey C. Link of Nashville, a United Methodist minister, and Morton A. Hill, New York, of the Catholic Society of Jesus.

Harry N. Hollis Jr., director of special moral concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, one of two Southern Baptists participating, stressed that he nor any other Southern Baptist speaker could speak for the denomination. But, he said, he thought it "a shame that hearings have to be held to urge the FCC to do what they should have done long ago . . .

"Television networks have not met their responsibility to act like guests in the homes of the American people. But these are realities with which we must deal," he said.

Hollis said he came to the hearing as "friend to television" but noted, "there are many of us deeply pained . . . by the continuing exploitation of sex and violence on television."

"As parents," the father of two said, "we are tired of being embarrassed when we sit down to watch television with our children only to be bombarded with unhealthy presentations of sex, sadistic depictions of violence, tasteless dirty jokes and incessant profanity."

The networks are wrong, Hollis continued, in saying there is no definitive evidence that violence on television causes people to act violently.

"I can assure you that these same network officials do not say this to advertisers. They don't tell advertisers that television will not motivate people to buy products." Of course, Hollis noted, "television motivates behavior for good or ill."

He called on the FCC to "hold hearings to determine how this exploitation of sex and violence can be eliminated. These hearings should be held immediately."

"I believe, furthermore," Hollis added, "that the majority of the American people want something to be done about this problem"--the abuse of sex and excessive violence on television. I am convinced by conversations with school teachers, church leaders, politicians and factory workers they feel strong reforms are needed now.

"We are not appealing for television to reflect a Baptist morality, or even a personal morality," rather for the "FCC to demonstrate that they are acting in the public interest," Hollis continued.

"Like too many other institutions today the FCC is not listening to the very people it is supposed to be serving," too often sending out form letters proclaiming it is doing its duty when "in reality it is succumbing to political pressures," he said.

Sometimes, Hollis said, the FCC does not "bother to answer complaints and inquiries."

He cited a letter he wrote dated March 11, 1975 to FCC Chairman Richard Wiley, urging hearings and expressing the Christian Life Commission's concern about the exploitation of violence on television. Two months later, "we have not even gotten a response," Hollis said.

If an agency of a 12.5-million-member denomination can not elicit a response from the FCC, "What hope is there for the average American citizen?" Hollis asked.

Hollis applauded efforts by television to have "quality family programs," but questioned whether the new family viewing hour to be instituted this fall was "an attempt to turn our attention from other hours on TV. Why has the FCC not told us what the networks are going to do clean up the other viewing times."

Hollis cited also a time zone problem in regulating the family viewing times and so-called adult programs.

"What it means is that so-called adult programming will come on at 8:00 p.m. in Nashville (central time zone), but at 9:00 p. m. in New York . . . If such an obvious flaw gets by the networks, then what kind of hidden flaws will be found later on in the family viewing hour . . . Does this mean that children in the central time zone go to bed an hour earlier than their eastern counterparts?"

Hollis said the result of public hearings by the FCC, if held, will be "that the television networks will finally get the message that the FCC is going to take its duties of hearing and acting on complaints more seriously.

"The result need not be more government. What we want is not censorship," but, instead, "more responsible self-regulation by the television industry."

Hollis said two possible steps that can be taken toward solution of the sex-violence problem on television is getting the message across to the advertisers what the American people want and the possible boycotting of advertisers' products. Another is working with local network affiliates, Hollis said, citing evidence of what he called responsible program decision making.

Kermit Bowling, director of physical facilities for the Tennessee State Department of Education and a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, said the FCC "has received substantial evidence that parents, the Congress, and others are deeply concerned.

"In 1972, the Commission (FCC) received over 2,000 complaints about violent or sexually-oriented programs. In 1974, that volume had increased to nearly 25,000," said Bowling, father of four children.

"Further, the Commission has received petitions to deny broadcast license renewals and petitions for rulemaking expressing the desire that the Commission take action with respect to televised violence, particularly as it affects children."

Link and Hill issued the Hill-Link report of the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, which was mentioned by the U. S. Supreme Court in its obscenity decision of 1973.

The hearing in Nashville was the second in a series the two are conducting around the country. Transcripts of the hearings will be forwarded to the FCC, a spokesman for the two noted, "so that it will be fully aware of the feelings of the people on the matter " of excesses of sex-violence on television.

"We are taking this way to see that the matter is aired, since the FCC is not doing it," a joint statement from the two clergymen said.

Severe Tests Said Ahead For Religion, Govt., Education

WASHINGTON (BP)--"The bicentennial will develop facts in our history to hearten us, but severe tests are ahead for institutions of religion, government and education," Brooks Hays, former U. S. congressman and former two-term Southern Baptist Convention president, said at a luncheon here.

"A vast program of acquainting all people with the meaning of Christian democracy must be undertaken," Hays said at the luncheon meeting announcing a lectureship in his honor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C. "It must produce a sense of our dependence upon each other and a willingness to sacrifice for the common good.

"The patriot and the believer can dwell in the same heart," Hays declared, "but only if the patriot heeds the voice of conscience and the believer acknowledges that the patriot may have a message for the believer. Both must be aware of the dangers of a civil religion."

W. Randall Lolley, Southeastern Seminary president, told a group of Washington-area ministers at the luncheon that the Brooks Hays Lectureship "will continue a healthy dialogue concerning the interface of church and state, augmenting, rather than eroding our cherished principle of separation, while underscoring the continuing necessity for appropriate connection of church and state."

He expressed the hope that the lectureship, which will have the theme, "Religion in the Life of the Nation," will launch its first series of lectures in 1976, the bicentennial year.

A committee, headed by Charles A. Trentham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Washington, will seek to raise \$50,000 to underwrite the lectureship.

Hays, who served 16 years as congressman from Arkansas, has also served as director of the Tennessee Valley Authority under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and assistant to the president under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

-30-

Golden Gate President Sets Retirement; Staffer Named

Baptist Press
5/23/75

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Harold K. Graves, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here since 1952, will retire July 31, 1977, according to seminary trustee chairman, H. J. Flanders.

In another development, the seminary named Christopher C. Evans as public relations associate. Evans, a native Texan, will direct the seminary's news operation, succeeding Larry C. Baker, who has become pastor of First Baptist Church, Lodi, Calif.

Trustees appointed a presidential search committee, chaired by Jack Pollard, pastor of South Side Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Ark., to find Graves' successor and also named committees to advise the search committee and recommend appropriate retirement arrangements for Graves.

Graves, a native of Tennessee, is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill., and earned master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He has held pastorates in Kentucky, Indiana, and Oklahoma and is former president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Evans joined the staff of the Fort Worth Press after earning a degree in journalism from Baylor University, Waco, Tex. After about a year, he entered Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he will receive a master of divinity degree in July. He was religion editor of The Baylor Lariat while in Baylor and has worked as intern with the Western Recorder, state Baptist paper for Kentucky.

-30-

Baptist Faults Ford's Legal
Board Appointees

WASHINGTON (BP)--The chief legal officer for the American Baptist Churches in the USA criticized President Ford's appointees to the proposed Legal Services Corporation Board in testimony before a Senate committee here.

The proposed board is designed to provide free legal services to the poor who otherwise would be unlikely to obtain legal counsel. It will not begin to operate until Congress has approved at least six of the president's appointees.

Earl W. Trent, House counsel for the 1.5-million-member Baptist body with headquarters in Valley Forge, Pa., told the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare that the president's appointees should represent not only the legal profession, but the poor as well. Trent was also critical that Ford has failed to appoint a single woman to the 11-member board.

The American Baptist attorney, who began his own career in Philadelphia as a legal service lawyer, supported the creation of the new board. His denomination, Trent asserted, has "long realized that common legal problems afflicting the poor can only be dealt with in our society through a system organized for the deliverance of legal service in an efficient, experienced and dedicated manner."

He noted further that legal service attorneys fight an uphill battle in seeking "to overcome the notion that there is disgrace in being poor and that the poor should be deprived of the same legal remedies available to those of greater means."

Members of the new board, Trent concluded, must be "sensitive to the problems of poor people." Moreover, because of the fact that 60 to 70 percent of those seeking legal service aid are women, Trent urged the Senate committee to "make clear to the president that no excuse will be sufficient to justify the absence of women from this board."

-30-

Baptists Join Others In
Discussing Bicentennial

Baptist Press
5/23/75

WASHINGTON (BP)--Several Baptist leaders joined other representatives of the nation's religious community for a two-day meeting here designed to discuss the upcoming bicentennial observance from a religious perspective.

The consultation was co-sponsored by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA) and Project FORWARD '76, an inter-faith group formed last year to provide research and technical help to groups interested in giving a religious dimension to the bicentennial celebration.

Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), was one of 17 co-conveners of the Washington gathering. Routh, who is also a sponsor of Project FORWARD '76, presided at one of the sessions.

Besides hearing speeches from John W. Warner, the administrator of ARBA, and several religious leaders, participants spent more than five hours in 10 different seminar groups which discussed various aspects of the religious dimension of the bicentennial observance.

One of the seminar conveners was James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here, whose group discussed the problems of civil religion. Wood also served on the planning committee for the consultation.

Other Baptist participants included C. Welton Gaddy, director of Christian citizenship development for the SBC Christian Life Commission; A. Ronald Tonks, assistant executive secretary of the SBC Historical Commission; Bobbie Sorrill, supervisor of the general administration department of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union;

-more-

Also, Carl W. Tiller, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA); Robert T. Handy, professor of church history and dean of graduate studies at Union Theological Seminary, New York; Deborah Partridge Wolfe, professor of education at Queens College, New York City; and George W. Hill, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.

R. H. Edwin Espy, also a Baptist, serves as chairman of Project FORWARD '76. Espy is a former general secretary of the National Council of Churches (NCC).

-30-

Vietnam Refugee
To Address WMU

Baptist Press
5/23/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--A Vietnamese Baptist Woman's leader who escaped the Communist takeover will address Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) annual meeting here.

Mrs. Le This Ngoc Lang, now resettled in Orlando, Fla., will speak at the closing of WMU session, Monday morning, June 9, in Miami Beach Convention Center, South Hall.

Her husband, Trinh Ngoc Thanh, who headed Baptist publishing in Saigon, will also speak. Lewis Myers, a Southern Baptist missionary who was on furlough from South Vietnam when the Communists took over that country, will translate.

Mrs. R. L. Mathis, president of WMU, met the Vietnamese family when she toured Vietnam in 1973 to encourage the formation of women's organizations in Baptist churches.

Mrs. Le was elected president of the WMU in Grace Baptist Church, Saigon, following Mrs. Mathis' visit. Mrs. Le is also a vice-president of the Asian Baptist Woman's Union and, in that capacity, she will address women's meetings at the Baptist World Congress in Stockholm this summer.

Also, in the Monday morning WMU session, a new national president and recording secretary will be elected. Tenure is up for Mrs. Mathis and for Mrs. Roy E. Snider of Camden, Ark., who is recording secretary.

The two have served successive one-year terms since 1969. Mrs. Mathis had previously served a series of terms as president, 1956-1963.

Their successors will be nominated by committee comprised of 26 presidents of state WMU organizations.

Other features Monday morning will include dual address by Dr. and Mrs. August Lovegren, medical missionaries in Jordan. Carolyn Weatherford, WMU executive secretary, will deliver her first annual meeting address since taking office last October.

Dorine Hawkins, missionary specializing in women's work in Brazil, will speak Monday afternoon. The remainder of the afternoon session will be diverted to audio visual and live presentation of Christian social ministries of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. James F. Graves, pastor of First Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, Fla., will be concluding speaker for the session.

A combination of historical drama in modern-day Baptist policies will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program on Monday evening. The WMU meeting will begin Sunday evening with the session shared jointly with the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, A service commissioning new foreign missionaries and an address by Reubin Askew, governor of Florida, will highlight the program.

-30-

Missionaries Leave Laos;
Evacuate to Bangkok

Baptist Press
5/23/75

RICHMOND (BP)--Due to political unrest and anti-American sentiment, all Southern Baptist missionaries to Laos remaining there have been evacuated to Bangkok, Thailand, according to a May 23 overseas cable.

-more-

The message, sent to Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board headquarters here, came from R. Keith Parks, the board's secretary for Southeast Asia, who was in Bangkok.

The cable indicated that return of the missionaries to Laos was doubtful. Earlier in May, all Baptist missionaries and their children were moved to Bangkok, except three men who stayed in Vientiane.

News reports indicated that the U. S. Embassy in Vientiane was planning for the evacuation of hundreds of Americans from Laos in the near future. Some Americans had been under house arrest by student demonstrators.

The first Southern Baptist missionaries arrived in Laos in 1971. Four missionary couples and one two-year-term missionary journeyman were assigned there.

The J. Murphy Terry Family is already in the United States on furlough and the Jerald W. Perrill family was scheduled to arrive in May. The families of Jack W. Kinnison Jr. and Douglas G. Ringer, along with journeyman, Andrea Bass, are temporarily assigned to Bangkok awaiting further developments.