



July 15, 1975

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Outdoors Expert 'Pr aches
Doctrin ' of Conservation

By James Lee Young

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--Baptist layman George Purvis, a hunting and fishing expert, believes the gospel of Jesus Christ has direct application for his livelihood and two favorite pastimes.

Purvis, a deacon, Sunday School teacher and choir member at Immanuel Baptist Church here, is chief of information and education for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. He likes to hunt, fish, draw and paint and has a more than passing interest in archery and bow hunting.

One of his favorite pastimes is telling young people about the wise use of natural resources. He speaks to about 100 groups of young people and/or adults a year.

As a man on the side of hunting and fishing and as a staff member of the Fish and Game Commission, Purvis told Baptist Press, "We get a lot of flack from some environmentalists."

The "flack" comes, he says, because many environmentalists do not understand the necessity of harvesting game, trees and other such products of nature "to insure a natural balance and reproduction on a satisfactory level."

In fact, Purvis considers himself something of an environmentalist and believes the vast majority of American hunters want to preserve the environment.

Appropriately, he is a member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, which deals extensively with social and moral issues of life.

When he talks to groups, Purvis stresses one word--"stewardship."

"In stewardship, the first steward is self. We may be doing the very best in conservation of natural resources, but if we throw our own life away, we have wasted the primary resource God has given us.

"God expects us to get right with him first, then we will be able to use the rest of our resources better," Purvis said.

A heavy schedule cuts deeply into what Purvis likes to do best--hunt, fish and stay close to nature. But he believes his time is well spent in helping others to enjoy and preserve the natural resources of Arkansas.

A Fish and Game Commission staff member for 24 years, he has two weekly television shows and weekly radio programs on 44 stations. His television shows include one 15-minute program on Saturday nights called "Arkansas Outdoors," now in its 15th year and a 30-minute show on Thursday nights, in its 9th year on educational television, called "Arkansas Game and Fish Highlights."

In previous years, he wrote a column for the weekly Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine but quit that "because my schedule was too heavy."

Purvis' thinking reflects his Christian upbringing and reasoning.

"For example, say the limit on quail is eight. Certainly no Christian would try to kill 10 then go to church on Sunday and say he or she is honest. It's the same in any line of work."

"I stress honesty," Purvis adds. "Baptists need to be honest like anyone else.

"Too often, we have the feeling, especially in the South, that we have the God-given right to hunt and fish. And some times we look on wildlife as belonging just to this generation. We don't stop to realize the need to conserve for future generations."

Rather, Purvis says, "The uses of these resources is a privilege. Americans are wasteful."

"Hunters get a lot of flack because they kill and harvest--and, at the same time, find pleasure," says Purvis. "But the average man with a gun doesn't take advantage of game. In fact, it's the exceptional hunter who usually get a deer. Some 200,000 deer hunters in Arkansas last year killed 34,000 deer. So most hunters didn't get a deer," he says.

"Wild life needs a supply of food, cover and specialized nesting areas to raise their young, he continues, and a proper kill/harvest helps maintain a balance. If anyone of these is eliminated, wild life could be eliminated, in that area."

Not much possibility exists of exterminating small game, he adds, but "there is a real possibility of reducing the numbers of small game, so there would be no big harvest."

Agricultural practices continue to need regulation, he said. But without a harvest of animals "many products and goods would be eliminated."

Purvis noted an anti-hunting sentiment is growing, but not so much in the South. "Here we are still closer to the land. For example, people realize they like sausage and they have to kill to eat--or someone does."

"There should be no waste of natural resources, but some environmentalists make mistakes in saying don't cut trees, just let them grow."

In defense of hunters and fishermen, Purvis insists, "They are actually among the leading environmentalists in the United States. They donate large sums of money annually and work regularly to insure the conservation of natural resources rather than the wasting of them."

"There are some who spoil it for the rest of us, but you have these in any area of life," Purvis said, noting there is an element in our society which has the attitude that laws were made for other people.

"These wild life outlaws annually take a staggering toll on our and fish and wild life resources. But without law enforcement the numbers would no doubt multiply and the problem increase tremendously."

Among his many duties, Purvis issues information on the commission's game and fish divisions. Game species drawing the major attention of game management practices are deer, turkey, ducks, quail, squirrels and rabbits.

Since Arkansas draws a large number of migratory birds, such as dove, duck, geese and other varieties of water fowl the game division emphasizes management and development in suitable areas to attract game species popular with hunters, Purvis says.

"Modern game management practices consist largely of habitat improvement through timber management, development of food plots, construction and maintenance of man-made structures for flood control, and trapping and transplanting deer and turkey," he says.

The game division also practices timber management, which consists of removing trees to improve game habitat and ultimately to increase game population. The timber is not harvested as a revenue-producing measure, Purvis notes.

The commission's fishery division manages the state water to provide fishermen with the most fish possible and to keep the fish population at the highest possible level.

Like the game division program, the fishery program is completely financed by fishermen and "not one penny of tax money or general revenue is spent on lake and stream fishery management," Purvis stresses.

Purvis feels his views on preservation of the environment, hunting and fishing make good sense and are "in keeping with the stewardship, necessary for any Christian, as well as any other concerned citizen, hunter, fisherman or otherwise."

Preaching the wise use of resources and emphasizing wise conservation of self, is Purvis's ministry. He lives what he preaches.



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Missouri Baptists Pick
Bob Terry as Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Bob S. Terry, associate editor of the Kentucky state Baptist newspaper, Western Recorder, has been elected editor of the Word and Way, state newspaper of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Terry, 32, who joined the Western Recorder staff in 1968, will also serve as director of the Missouri convention's communications division.

As editor, his primary role, he will be responsible to the communications committee of the convention's executive board for the Word and Way's entire operation, according to committee chairman, John E. Hughes. He will be responsible to Missouri's executive director, Rheuben South, for operation of the communications division, apart from the Word and Way, Hughes said.

He succeeds W. Ross Edwards, who retired in July after eight years as Word and Way editor. Miss Elene Stone, a staff member for 27 years, will continue to serve as interim editor until Terry arrives in mid-August.

Before joining the Word and Way, Terry, a native of Decatur, Ala., served as news director for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, while completing a master of divinity degree. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in history and communications from Mississippi College, Clinton, and is currently enrolled in Southern Seminary's doctor of ministries program.

Student church staff positions have included the pastorate of Salem Baptist Church, Owen County, Ky., pastor internship at Jefferson Street Baptist Chapel, Louisville, and positions as minister of music and minister of youth education at churches in Mississippi and Michigan.

As news director at Southern Seminary, he served as managing editor of the school's alumni publication, The Tie, and at the Western Recorder, he has served as acting editor during illnesses of C. R. Daley, the editor.

As the Western Recorder's associate editor, he had responsibility for the paper's news and feature content, advertising, circulation promotion and layout and production.

Active in community, associational and state convention affairs in Kentucky, Terry is listed in the 1971 edition of Outstanding Young Men of America and was awarded a Kentucky Colonel certificate in 1972 by then Gov. Wendell Ford.

Among other activities, he has served on the Louisville-area board of mental health-mental retardation, worked with the state's Volunteers in Correction program for inmates of a state reformatory for men, and served on the executive board of the local Baptist association.

While at Mississippi College, where he graduated with distinction, Terry, at one time or another, served as sports editor of the student newspaper, news writer for the college's public relations office, newsman and music show host for the college radio station and student intern on a Jackson, Miss., television station.

Terry also served as a student summer missionary for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, president of the Mississippi College Student Senate, vice president of the student body, chairman of the Baptist Student Union's summer missionary selection committee and as an award-winning member of the debate team.

He is married to the former Miss Eleanor Ruth Foster of Vicksburg, Miss., and has two children.

High Elected Associate
Editor of Maryland Paper

LUTHERVILLE, Md. (BP)--Larry E. High, news director for The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, has been elected associate editor of The Maryland Baptist here, effective September 1.

High, a 25-year-old Baltimore native, will become the first to hold associate editor status in the Maryland state Baptist paper's 125-year history, according to Editor R. G. Puckett.

Before joining the seminary staff as its first fulltime news director last year, High was an intern with the Western Recorder, state Baptist paper for Kentucky, for 18 months while attending seminary.

He also served as publications editor for the Long Run Baptist Association and communications director for Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville.

As news director, High served as managing editor of The Tie, the seminary's alumni publication.

He holds a bachelor of science degree in journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park, and the master of religious education degree from Southern Seminary.

On August 16, High will marry Miss Jan Everett, a Southern Seminary graduate and current director of Girls Auxiliary and Mission Friends for the Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. She is a native Texan.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to state Baptist papers.

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Bible Truth Eternal
Declares SBC Leader

By Julian Pentecost

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STOCKHOLM (BP)--The Bible is "the norm of God's judgment" a Southern Baptist Convention leader told members of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) study commissions here.

Grady C. Cothen, president of the SBC's Sunday School Board, Nashville, speaking on "Bringing the Bible to Life," declared, "Unregenerate man, in his understanding of truth, rejects Scripture. Nevertheless, it is the norm of God's judgment. Its truth is eternal and universal; its action in life is limited to man's freedom of choice."

A former seminary and college president, Cothen emphasized that "ours is a crisis of people. Nothing is coming from higher education to make people good. Man needs what God can do. The truth of Holy Scripture, interpreted and applied by the Holy Spirit, will be used by God to bring men to the likeness of Jesus Christ."

Cothen's remarks came during meetings of the BWA's five study commissions, involving some 250 members, which serve as study and research forums. The commissions, which convened during the BWA's 13th Baptist World Congress here, July 8-13, meet annually.

They prepare study papers and distribute them to commission members. There is informal discussion and dialogue on the papers, with no attempt to adopt a "Baptist World Alliance position."

In addition to commission sessions, the BWA featured each commission during one of the plenary sessions of the Baptist World Congress, through an "Information Interview" directed by W. O. Thomason, executive vice president of the Sunday School Board.

The Commission on Baptist Doctrine for the quinquennium, 1970-75, has been led by George R. Beasley-Murray and William E. Hull, both of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary faculty. Hull, who recently left the seminary for a pastorate in Louisiana, and Beasley-Murray summarized the commission's activities for the five year period.

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"Religious Authority" has been the commission's general study theme for the last five years. Studies in 1971 were introductory in nature as pertinent issues and areas were clarified for detailed consideration, 1972-1975.

The commission, in 1972, concentrated on the theme, "The Authority of Scripture." Papers were presented dealing with historical controversies of Biblical authority, authority of the Old Testament, and authority of the New Testament. Emphasis was given to the fact "Christ is the ultimate authority for the Christian" and the Old and New Testaments, properly viewed, are "a witness" to Jesus Christ.

"The Authority of Tradition" was the area of study in 1973. Attention was given to the importance of Baptists understanding Christian tradition in general as well as the tradition of their own denomination in particular. Stress was placed on the importance of Baptists always evaluating their tradition under the Holy Spirit's leadership.

In 1974, the commission studied "The Authority of the Holy Spirit." They recorded their judgment that much of the charismatic movement was "a revolt against 'status quoism' in our churches."

The Commission on Baptist Doctrine concluded its five-year program of work with a paper on "Authority and the Church," presented by commission member G. N. Vose of Australia.

The Commission on Christian Teaching and Training for 1970-1975 has considered a wide range of subjects, all related in a practical manner to local church life and the "World Mission of Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ."

Commission members have offered personal assistance in Christian education to Baptists in Jamaica, Argentina and Hong Kong. They also sponsored a pre-congress conference on Christian teaching and training in Stockholm and financed it apart from resources of the Alliance. Through a questionnaire prepared by the commission, information was gathered on teaching and training activities of Baptists around the world.

The Evangelism and Missions commission has for the past five years directed its attention to "church growth." In 1971, five study papers were presented on as many different aspects of evangelism and missions. In more recent years it has studied the Biblical basis for church growth, gathered data on church growth from various continents, and summarized its findings in a booklet entitled, "Guidelines in Church Growth."

The Commission on Religious Liberty and Human Rights interprets its scope of concern to be religious liberty, human rights, public morality and peace. Study papers in each of these areas have been presented since 1970.

This commission endorsed the plan of the Alliance to enter into consultative relationship with the United Nations, which has since been effected.

The Commission on Cooperative Christianity came into being in 1968. From its inception through 1973, the commission considered the historical, theological and practical aspects of its area. It has now completed a historical series on "Baptist Attitudes Toward and Relations with Other Christians." Emphasis has been given to ecumenical and interconfessional dialogue in additional studies.

Judson Press, in 1974, published a number of the commission's study papers in a book entitled, "Baptist Relations With Other Christians."

This commission encouraged the Alliance to initiate a missionary personnel exchange among international mission boards of Baptist conventions.

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A Personal View

10,000 Baptists Gather

In Stockholm for BWA

By Jack U. Harwell

Baptist Press

7/15/75

STOCKHOLM (BP)--The roll call of nations, always an emotional highlight of meetings of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), is usually a barometer of international sentiment at that point in time.

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The 1975 BWA meeting in Stockholm was no exception.

More than 10,000 Baptists gave hearty but restrained applause as a delegate from each of 81 countries came to the microphone to speak the congress theme in his or her own language. The theme was 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

However, when the messenger from Israel repeated the Bible verse in Hebrew, delegates burst into a long, emotional outburst of applause that continued for several moments. This apparently expressed their unanimous identification with the continuing struggle of the tiny Middle East nation to survive.

And it might have been because many BWA delegates had been through Israel on their way to Stockholm and had encountered some difficulties because of the terrorism and reprisals that took place just a few days before the six-day BWA congress convened, July 8.

Next to Israel, the delegate receiving the warmest response during the roll call of nations was the man from the United States of America. Maybe this was because about half the BWA delegates were from the USA, most of these Southern Baptists.

Other delegates receiving unusually warm ovations were those from Russia, Sweden and Jordan. The delegate from Chile received understanding chuckles when he shouted "Hallelujah" at the end of his recitation of the congress Scripture.

Other delegates waved hands, shouted or pointed preaching fingers for emphasis as they shared their brief moment at the microphone before the overflow crowd in Stockholm's Massan Congress Hall. It was one of the largest meetings ever held in Sweden.

The essence of what it means to attend a Baptist World Congress was personified in a young couple from Denmark.

Mr. and Mrs. Aage Sprotte of Ringsted, Denmark, sat eagerly through every Stockholm session with their six-month-old daughter, Rikke, in a crib on the floor at their feet. Rikke was probably the youngest delegate.

Mr. Sprotte, a student in Denmark studying for a career in social work, is also the youth leader in Nyrup Baptist Church in Ringsted. Mrs. Sprotte is a teacher. She spent a year in Ohio in 1967-68 as an exchange student.

The Sprottes have been Baptists for 14 years. They scrimped and saved for months to go to the BWA meeting in Stockholm. They called it an emotional and spiritual highlight of their young lives.

For many visitors to Stockholm, an emotional highlight came in getting to daily sessions on the Stockholm train-bus-boat-subway system. Many delegates had to stay miles away. A daily treat was the sharing of "combat" stories about how you got to the Massan that day.

Swedish Baptists did a marvelous job of arranging special trains, personalized maps, signs in every subway station and every other conceivable thing to help delegates get to meetings on time. But they couldn't control the draw bridges and ship locks which tied up traffic often. It was an interesting week for all involved.

Our own group got a good taste of subway life after the opening night's session. We had packed a subway to absolute capacity, we thought.

Then three burly Russian Baptists stepped up to the door, spread-eagled their arms, gave a mighty heave with their chests and there was space for six more passengers. The biggest Russian grinned from ear to ear and said, "That's the way we pack a subway car in Moscow."

Such experiences didn't seem to fray the nerves of Baptists in Stockholm. Fellowship was truly the motto and the motif and everybody seemed to roll with the punches.

Many tourists had harrowing tales to tell about difficulties in Israel, Jordan and Eastern Europe countries en route to Stockholm.

But, apparently none were that serious and every Baptist was allowed to eventually come and go--though one Baptist tour guide from Louisiana had to literally outrun a train in East Berlin to get out with the group he was supposed to be leading. All the while his wife screamed hysterically from inside the train that they couldn't leave without him.

Americans never got used to the long days and short nights of Scandinavia. If you waited until it got completely dark to go to sleep, you were out of luck and out of sleep.

You could take midnight photos in northern Norway, just 600 miles from the Arctic Circle, without a flashbulb. At 12:15, the sun started rising and by one a.m. it was as bright as noontime in downtown Atlanta.

Swedish Baptists capitalized on these long daylight hours to plan many late-night activities for their Baptist visitors. Young people staged musical programs, discussion groups and refreshments and other features.

Several late-night evangelistic rallies were held in some of the many beautiful parks around Stockholm. One night, more than 3,000 BWA delegates went into private homes of Swedish Baptists to see how a typical Swedish family lives.

Music was an integral part of BWA proceedings and seemed--along with smiles--to truly be the universal language. The program highlight in Stockholm was the premier performance of "Reconciliation," a musical drama commissioned by the BWA to dramatize and culminate the five-year World Mission of Reconciliation which the BWA has sponsored.

Ed Seabough of Atlanta wrote lyrics for "Reconciliation" and Buryl Red of New York composed music. The Samford University Choir from Birmingham was featured in the premier performance.

Many other musical groups were featured during the week, always with a warm response.

Many were puzzled by the fact that His Royal Highness, Prince Bertil of Sweden, sat on the front row and not on the platform at the opening BWA session.

It was later explained that it is bad protocol to turn one's back on royalty. If the prince had sat on the platform, all the speakers and roll call speakers would have been forced to turn around to face him. So he sat with the audience to "relieve the program personnel of any anxieties."

This was typical of the hospitality of Swedish people. It helped to make the 13th Baptist World Congress a rich fellowship opportunity.

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Two Guatemalan Baptists
Top Ping Pong Champions

Baptist Press
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GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (BP)--Baptists seem to have a monopoly in Guatemala--in ping pong champions.

The top two table tennis players in this Central American country are members of Bethany Baptist church here.

Otoniel Reyes, 19, won the National Table Tennis Championship in Guatemala's Sports Palace. In the finals he defeated fellow church member, Sergio Diaz, 21, for the title.

Both Reyes and Diaz belonged to the Royal Ambassadors missions program for boys and now sing in the youth choir of their church. They plan to enter college in January where they will study business administration. Reyes became a Christian when he was 13 and Diaz when he was 10.

The champions began playing ping pong only three years ago and have competed in international competition in Panama and Mexico.

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