



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

August 18, 1975

75-126

Angola Missionaries Safe; Planning Relief Efforts

WINDHOEK, South West Africa (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries who evacuated war-torn Angola arrived safely here August 12 and will take a few days of leave before continuing the journey to Johannesburg, South Africa, where temporary mission headquarters will be established. They expect to arrive in Johannesburg August 19 or 20.

As the missionaries left Angola, fighting had broken out throughout the country.

Marion G. Fray, field representative for Southern Africa, is locating temporary housing for the four couples and three two-year-term missionary journeymen in Johannesburg. Two of the journeymen will join the Angola missionaries as soon as travel arrangements are complete.

Harrison H. Pike, missionary, will go to Nairobi, Kenya, as soon as possible to investigate the possibility of an airplane to continue relief efforts.

After settling the women and children in Johannesburg, missionaries Pike, Curtis L. Dixon and Albert C. Sutton Jr. plan to return to Luanda, Angola, for relief work. The James V. Hollands will remain in Johannesburg to complete language study.

Evacuated summer missionary Bo Jackson, a student at Southwest Texas State University, arrived safely in the states on August 15.

The journey through Angola to the border took missionaries two days with numerous military checkpoints stopping them along the way. They gave out gospels of John to the soldiers as they traveled.

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Baptist Pastor and Family
Held Hostage by Red Army

Baptist Press
8/18/75

By Charlotte Decker

PETALING JAYA, Malaysia (BP)--A National Baptist pastor and his family were among the 50 hostages held in the US consulate in Kuala Lumpur by Japanese Red Army guerillas the first week in August.

Mr. and Mrs. Loh Yan Kwong and two of their sons, Loh Chong Shin and Loh Chung Chi, were among 53 hostages seized when five Red Army members stormed the 14-story office building, spraying gunfire around the ninth floor, the site of the U.S. passport office and the Swedish embassy.

Threatening to blow up the building, the terrorists demanded the release of seven Red Army comrades jailed in Japan.

When the 80-hour siege erupted, the Lohs were at the U.S. embassy completing arrangements for U.S. student visas for the sons who plan to study in the states.

Chung Chi was on another floor arranging for special documents when the terrorists locked his family and the rest of the hostages in one of the rooms. He returned, saw the gunmen and thought a robbery was in progress. He began to run, but stopped when he was fired upon.

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The gunman, the same sharpshooter who later picked off a policeman nine stories below, apparently did not intend to hit Chung Chi, only to stop him.

Mrs. Loh and Chung Chi were released just before noon, 55 hours after capture, on Wednesday, August 6.

Loh, Chong Shin and 13 other hostages, including U.S. Consul Robert Stebbins, were taken to the airport to wait a further 25 hours for four Japanese and Malaysian officials who went as substitute hostages on the flight to Libya, the only country which would accept the terrorists.

Throughout Malaysia and Singapore, Baptists, who were alerted by phone, prayed for the Loh family and the critical situation.

Hostages report the terrorists were considerate. At night when the temperature dropped, hostages say, the gunmen took off their own jackets and gave them to the women and spread carpets and draperies for them to sleep on.

At one point a child, who began to cry, was soothed by a terrorist who told the child he had nothing to fear.

When Loh identified himself as a pastor to the guerillas, one asked if he was a Baptist. "Yes, I am a Baptist," Loh answered.

"The Baptists had a big meeting in Tokyo a few years ago," stated the gunman.

Loh, realizing the meeting was the Baptist World Alliance which met in Tokyo in 1970, replied, "Yes, I know. I was there." The gunman smiled and turned away.

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Students Distribute 51,000
Bibles to Internationals

Baptist Press
8/18/75

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--Baptist students on more than 300 campuses distributed Bibles to nearly one-fourth of the international students enrolled in U. S. colleges and universities, a Southern Baptist National Student Ministries spokesman said here.

Benton Williams told 2,500 students attending the Glorieta Student Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center that internationals received more than 51,000 Bibles in their own language during the first year of a distribution campaign in cooperation with the American Bible Society.

Some 227,000 internationals attend college in the U. S., said Williams, a consultant in international student work for National Student Ministries of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Charging students to continue work for greater success this fall, Williams noted that the number of internationals on American campuses is expected to increase 20 percent this fall. He said that is indicated by the number of students coming from Venezuela alone, which is sending about 10,000 students to the U. S.

The American Bible Society (ABS), working in conjunction with National Student Ministries, will publish a special New Testament edition for distribution to black students this fall, says Williams. At this time, Bibles are available in 53 languages from the ABS. However, Williams points out that the supply of Bibles in the Vietnamese language is sold out. Another printing is required before they will be available to Vietnamese students.

The Bible distribution works through students in college Baptist Student Unions (BSU) requesting an order form from NSM. They send the order form and money for the Bibles to ABS. ABS imports the Bible from the various Bible societies overseas and sends them to the students for distribution.

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According to Williams, students are responsible for collecting money for the Bibles through donations and by "just plain working for it through car washes, magazine sales and other odd jobs."

In some instances, students have been aided by area Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Unions, Brotherhoods and churches. This is especially true where the campus has a small BSU.

The thrust for the upcoming school year is to enlist the services of every BSU director in the U. S. to provide Bibles for their international students, Williams says.

He cites the University of Houston (Tex.) as having the largest number of internationals of any college in the U. S. This fall, the 2,541 internationals on that campus will receive Bibles in their own languages.

"The Bible distribution is a rewarding experience," says Williams. "I have seen international students cry upon receiving their Bibles. Many didn't know the Bible had been printed in their language."

Williams points out that in a recent survey of 113 heads of state in foreign countries, percent received part or all of their schooling in American colleges and universities.

"The foreign mission field can be found right here in America," he concluded.

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Bicentennial Feature

Baptist Press

Army Never Like This;

8/18/75

Colonel Turned Evangelist

CULPEPPER COUNTY, Va., March, 1765 (BP)--Samuel Harriss, a Baptist preacher who formerly served as a colonel in the militia, has reason to wonder if military life is not less hazardous than the ministry, observers note.

During recent visits to this county, where opposition to the established church is angrily persecuted, Harriss twice has been the object of mob violence and was arrested once.

Invited to preach in the home of a Baptist in Culpepper County recently, Harriss reportedly conducted his first meeting here without interference. He announced a second meeting for the following day and was met by a mob carrying sticks, whips and clubs. The evangelist moved his meetings to another county to avoid violence, it is said.

Another time when Harriss attempted to preach in Culpepper, a gang announced that the Baptist could not hold a meeting. When one of the preacher's friends objected to the interruption, witnesses said, a free-for-all broke out.

Fearing the preacher might suffer serious injury in the melee, friends spirited Harriss to a house and posted a guard at the door. Those who opposed the meeting followed, however, battered down the door, and might have harmed Harriss if his followers had not come to his aid. The gang succeeded in turning the meeting into a brawl, reports said.

Harriss has been opposed by both the lawless and the law. Culpepper authorities had the preacher arrested at another time for "disturbing the peace," charging him with being "a vagabond, a heretic, a schismatic, and a mover of sedition everywhere." At his trial he was ordered not to preach again in the county within 12 months under penalty of a prison sentence.

Harriss is one of the most prominent men of Pittsylvania County, Va., having served as church warden, colonel of the militia, captain of Fort Mayo, sheriff, justice of the peace, and in other influential positions. He was baptized in 1758 by Daniel Marshall, a pioneer itinerant Baptist evangelist in the South.

The former colonel has given himself without reservation to the Baptist cause, friends say. In addition to preaching with great boldness, they say, he has turned his comfortable home into a meetinghouse for Baptists and has generously shared his wealth with less prosperous neighbors and others in need.

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Prepared for Baptist Press by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, Nashville.

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Boy's Vision Just
Keeps Rollin' Along

By Craig Bird

BEEVILLE, Tex. (BP)--Loyd Earl Jackson must feel a lot like the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel who saw "a wheel in the middle of a wheel."

Young Jackson, 18, has definitely seen the wheel--and more wheels, not to mention pedals, frames, chains, spokes, banana seats, fenders, and lately a lot of smiling faces.

Jackson, a younger brother of a South Texas Children's Home (STCH) housemother here, visited STCH and noticed that only three of the 10 boys in his sister's cottage had bicycles.

He asked around and found that several cottages at STCH had the same problem. The lad dreamed of seeing every youth on the STCH campus equipped with his own pedal power. He began immediately to make the dream reality.

The recent graduate of Deer Park (Tex.) High School visited several Baptist churches in the Pasadena-Deer Park area, enlisting them to run notices in the church papers about his need for junk bicycles.

Then at his own expense, Jackson, who is active at Memorial Baptist Church in Pasadena, put want ads in the two local papers and bought some necessary parts. While his classmates were going to the beach or sleeping late over Easter vacation, the youth spent his spare time resurrecting the remains of parts that jammed the Jackson garage. He worked long hours, and any friends that wandered by were handed a wrench and a chance to help.

By Easter, 18 bicycles were being pumped around the STCH campus by 18 happy youths. By the end of summer, Jackson will have put wheels and pedals under at least 15 more youngsters as he continues to fulfill his own dream.

"I just saw how sad the kids who didn't have bikes looked when everyone else was going on bike hikes and I thought I could do something to help," Jackson said. "I just did what I could."

The Old Testament tells that Ezekiel looked at some dry bones, and God raised up a living army. An old spiritual is even sung about it.

Admittedly, bicycles aren't the stuff spirituals are made of, but they can make youngsters happy.

That's enough for young Jackson.

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

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Craig Bird is director of communications for The South Texas Children's Home, Beeville, Tex.