

'Graffiti' Apt Name
For N.Y. Ministry

By Tim Nicholas

NEW YORK (BP)--Southern Baptists are doing a bit of writing on a wall on the City's Lower East Side.

The Metropolitan New York Baptist Association has a ministry on East 7th Street in a storefront building with no windows, no front yard and no driveway. Next door is a motorcycle gang's headquarters.

The ministry is known locally as Graffiti. The name came about because graffiti is painted boldly on the outside wall in an attempt at evangelical Christian witness and social ministry in a mostly Spanish-speaking, Catholic community.

The neighborhood is a swirling whirlpool of humanity; each noise trying to overpower others; people enduring extremes of temperature, noise, odors; the feeling of being crowded in. Outsiders hurry through. This summer an extended garbage strike made the smells almost unbearable and the sidewalks almost impassable.

The landscape is concrete. Someone teaching an art class in the ministry building this summer tried to explain perspective.

"Have you seen the horizon?"

"No," said the nine year old.

"Have you been to the beach?" "No."

"Have you seen the sun come up?" "No."

Puppet shows student missionaries held there this summer were regularly interrupted by teenagers snatching their younger siblings away, saying in Spanish, "Mommy said for you not to come here."

One woman's comment on the opening of the ministry was, "It's nice, but things will never last in this neighborhood."

Yet the community seems to generally accept the ministry. There's a fan club of adults who help with supervision, and appear to see the need for children to listen to the Bible stories.

Eight or nine adults are currently attending Wednesday night sing-spirations in the building, led by John Halbrook, pastor of Metro Baptist Chapel. The adults meet downstairs, while children meet upstairs with Mary Lewis, a black City University student.

The store front and apartment above it are being bought as a "sweat equity," a concept that allows buyers to make small down payments on property with the promise that the buyer will bring the building up to city standards.

The downpayment for the building came from a 92-year-old Mississippi woman's gift of silver service. That, plus a loan from a Baptist deacon's education and missions loan fund, and the 13-days volunteer work of 18 Samford University, Birmingham, students last winter, gave the ministry a look of permanence.

The ministry's beginning came when the block association contacted Ray Gilliland, minister to the city's area colleges, about setting up tutoring classes in reading.

That didn't work out, but Bruce Schoonmaker, a Southern Baptist attending Union Seminary in New York, began a summer program of puppet shows and Bible club activities in the vest pocket parks that dot the area. The parks are dirt lots, some with playground equipment, awaiting future commercial construction.

Schoonmaker continued into the winter on weekends and through the summer 1975 with six student summer missionaries, four of whom had been with the Samford work team.

The team told its Bible messages with the help of puppets. These were the California Productions' muppets of Sesame Street fame, a gift from the Samford work team.

The summer missionaries spent their first few weeks compiling dialogues for special Bible teaching puppet shows to be performed for inner city children. The dialogues were based on the assumption that few of the children knew anything about Jesus or the Bible. Props were whatever was at hand. For example, a broken umbrella with a green paper glued around it was a tree.

"The kids at Graffiti recognized what it was supposed to be and went along," recalls Julie Edwards of Samford, "but when we put on the show for a group of suburban kids, they said 'What a fake, that's just an old umbrella.' I'd take our kids for imagination any day."

One little girl moved out of the neighborhood in mid-summer because someone kept setting fires in her apartment building. The girl revisited Graffiti with her mother one afternoon. "Do you like where you live now," the students asked. "No," she replied, "There's no puppets."

The same little girl, when told about Jesus talking with the teachers in the temple, replied, "Everybody knows teachers don't go to church."

The students said there were changes in the children, though sometimes barely discernible. "Like seeing kids throwing building blocks at each other, singing, 'God is so Good,'" said Gail Hastings of Samford. "They're more behaved and have less of a tendency to fight than most suburban kids I know," she added.

"These kids need attention and will do whatever is necessary to get it," said Gary Floyd of Samford. "They're not the cause of any of their problems."

Changes were evident in the student summer missionaries, too. Debi Samuel, student at Towson State College in Baltimore, Md., had registered in college as a history major, but, "After my summer here, it seems the Lord is leading me into early childhood education."

Floyd was shaken by the idea that no one was on hand to continue the ministry after summer ended. Schoonmaker was graduated and returned to his home in Washington state. Only John Halbrook was left to give the ministry what little attention his schedule could provide.

"We'll trade the puppet show book for one Puerto Rican who'll live and work here," Floyd offered.

"I feel the pinch," said Halbrook, "because I'm virtually the only minister here. These people will take hold of the love anyone is willing to give them. Someone needs to be there to give that love."

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Seminary Plans Building,
 Renovation of Housing

LOUISVILLE (BP)--On the heels of a record-breaking enrollment year, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here has announced plans for a \$3 million construction program to upgrade married student housing facilities.

Plans call for a new \$1.5 million apartment complex on campus and a major renovation of Seminary Village, a 237-unit residential development located near the campus and owned by the seminary.

The apartment complex, scheduled to be completed by January 1, 1977, is expected to contain from 70 to 80 two-bedroom apartments. About \$400,000 of the expected costs will be paid from funds from the Cooperative Program unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Renovation of Seminary Village is expected to cost "well in excess of a million dollars," according to Badgett Dillard, vice president for business affairs. The SBC Executive Committee voted in September to allow the seminary to borrow up to \$1.6 million for the project.

Seminary Village, originally built in 1937, was purchased by the seminary in 1953 at a cost of \$1.7 million. Details of the modernization program are being studied professionally, says Dillard, "in light of current building codes, student family needs, and resources available."

A 22.7 percent enrollment increase, bringing the total to 1791 students, made building plans necessary. Of that number, 1,639 are degree or diploma students and almost 1,200 are married. Southern Seminary, one of six seminaries operated by the SBC, presently owns some 900 housing units, including 450 apartments for married students.

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Ray Nominated For Top
 N. C. Executive Post

Baptist Press
 10/16/75

ASHEBORO, N. C. (BP)--Cecil A. Ray of Dallas, Tex., has been nominated to become general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

The convention's general board, which nominated the 52-year-old director of the stewardship division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will present him for election at the North Carolina convention's annual meeting in Asheville, Nov. 11. Nominations from the floor are expected.

If elected, Ray would succeed W. Perry Crouch, who will retire, Dec. 31, after 12 years as general secretary-treasurer and 40 years in the ministry, mostly in North Carolina.

A native of Fort Worth, Tex., Ray has served in the Texas Baptist stewardship division since 1961. He was named director in 1967. Previously, he was superintendent for the San Antonio Baptist Association, 1956-61, and was pastor of the Arnett-Benson Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., 1946-56.

He is a graduate of Howard Payne College (now University), Brownwood, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, where he earned a master of theology degree. Howard Payne awarded him an honorary doctor of divinity degree.

Ray is married and has two children, Susan, 27, and Lanny, 24.

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

High Court Rejects Cases
On Free Speech, Abortion

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Supreme Court finished a second full week of work in its new term by announcing here that it will not hear arguments in cases dealing with free speech, abortion and women's rights.

One of the free speech cases had to do with the constitutionality of a 1950 Virginia law prohibiting "vulgar, profane, abusive and indecent" language over the telephone. Both a U. S. district court and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals had held previously that the law was overbroad and therefore unconstitutional. The Supreme Court's refusal to hear the case lets those judgments stand.

The court's action brings to an end a four-year struggle by Mary Walker of Roanoke, Va., who was tried and convicted under the law in 1971. She was fined \$25 and given a suspended 30-day jail sentence.

In a similar case, the high court let stand a lower court's ruling that a District of Columbia ban on sexual solicitation does not infringe upon free speech rights. Two D. C. men were convicted of making a "lewd, obscene and indecent" sexual proposal to a plainclothes policeman.

Although the trial court dismissed the charges, the court of appeals for the District of Columbia reversed the earlier verdict, holding that such solicitation for sodomy, indecent exposure, and indecent sexual acts with children are categories not protected by the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech.

The high court also declined to schedule for argument an abortion case brought by an Alexandria, Va., attorney claiming to have uncovered scientific data which refuted the premises used by the court in reaching its controversial 1973 decisions legalizing most abortions.

In his petition, the attorney claimed that the abortion issue "is one of the greatest constitutional issues in the history of constitutional government" and that widespread abortion "challenges its very survival." He also accused the Supreme Court of committing "one of the most astounding judicial errors in the history of the world."

The attorney argued in his written brief that last year, after a six-month study, he arrived at the conclusion that the court had based its 1973 decisions on "false evidence" and that the justices were now duty-bound to reconsider the premises on which those decisions were reached.

The high court's action to deny the petition upheld lower decisions by a state court in Richmond and the Virginia Supreme Court.

The court also declined to hear a case brought by a Houston, Tex., company seeking to have reversed a decision by the secretary of labor that it violated the equal pay provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Houston Endowment, Inc., a firm which owns and manages several office buildings, was found guilty of paying female custodial employees 10 cents an hour less than it did male employees performing essentially the same jobs.

The company argued that the jobs were "substantially different for a substantial portion of time," but both a U. S. district court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed. The courts found that the firm's distinction between "heavy custodial work," done mostly by males, and "light housekeeping work," performed mostly by females, was artificial and that both the men and the women had essentially the same duties.

Board Names Search
Committee; New Staff

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist Home Mission Board officers named a seven-member committee of five pastors and two laypersons from five states to nominate a successor to executive director Arthur B. Rutledge who retires Dec. 31, 1976.

In other action, the directors increased the interest rate on Home Mission Board loans, and named two staff members, including the first woman to head a Home Mission Board division.

They also approved an upward adjustment in the 1976 budget to \$22,989,833, approved two staff structure adjustments and appointed 30 missionaries and missionary associates.

The committee, announced at the directors' fall meeting here, includes Gene Garrison, chairman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City; M. Dale Allen, pastor, Parkway Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. I. W. Bowen III, Forsyth, Ga.; Alfred Bruce Coyle, pastor, Highland Heights Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.; John F. Miles, layman, Thomaston, Ga.; James M. Windham, pastor, First Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Md.; and Lloyd Elder, who recently left a pastorate in Fort Worth to become assistant to the executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The seven-member panel--all members of the board's directors--was named by officers of the board in keeping with the agency's bylaws. President Russell H. Dilday said the committee has been asked to work toward bringing a nominee before the board in July, 1976, so the executive director-elect could have a period of orientation before Rutledge's retirement.

Garrison, the committee chairman, said Southern Baptists interested in communicating with the committee should do so in writing. His address is 1201 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73103.

The Oklahoma City pastor said that the concensus of a preliminary meeting of the committee was, "We all feel this position in the next 25 years is the most strategic in our convention. We ask your prayers. We are going to be hard at work giving it our intense, careful and best effort."

Rutledge announced that the 1975 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions receipts had reached \$8,207,782 through October 14 and were running 5.69 percent ahead of the 1974 pace. The total offering in 1974 was \$8,130,000. Goal for 1975 is 8.5 million.

The interest rate on Home Mission Board loans was increased from 9 to 9.5 percent "in light of current economic conditions." The change will be effective with November business, said loans committee chairman John Miles.

New staff members elected were Hattie P. Johnson and J. C. Bradley.

Mrs. Johnson, director of payroll and employee benefits services since 1971, was named director of the division of business services. She has been acting director of the division since the resignation of Dan McQueen earlier this year and will be the first woman to head a Home Mission Board division.

A native of Roanoke, Ala., Mrs. Johnson is a graduate of Central Business School in Atlanta and attended Dekalb College.

She was associated with the Baptist Woman's Missionary Union of Georgia from 1961-69 and later joined the Home Mission Board staff as secretary to the assistant executive director.

Bradley was elected director of the department of associational administration service in the division of associational missions, effective Nov. 15. He succeeds F. Russell Bennett, who resigned to become director of field education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bradley has been associate director for extension center education for the Seminary Extension Department of the six SBC seminaries in Nashville since 1972. He previously served as supervisor for the adult section of the Sunday School Board's Church Training Department and, from 1968-70, was assistant professor of religious education at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He also served as minister of education for churches in Albany and Macon, Ga.

A native of Beebe, Ark., Bradley is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and has master of religious education and doctor of education degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The staff structure adjustments involved discontinuing the department of survey and special studies and shifting staff persons assigned to that department to the missions and evangelism sections, and separating the management and financial responsibilities of the division of business services. Management responsibilities would be assigned to the director of the division and the financial duties assigned to the new position of comptroller.

In his annual report to the board, Executive Director Rutledge noted that through the year the board has appointed 299 persons to missionary service and the missionary force as of Sept. 30 totaled 2,082, a gain of seven over the total at the same date in 1974.

Rutledge said the emphasis over the last two years had been on holding the missionary force at present levels while bringing their salaries closer to the national median income.

With that accomplished, he said, the missionary force could be expected to show a net gain of 50 to 75 a year over the next few years.

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Seminary Trustees Announce
Presidential Search Committee

Baptist Press
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MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here have commended "the many years of outstanding service" of the seminary's president, Harold K. Graves, who will retire in June, 1977, and announced that a search committee is seeking his successor.

Graves, a native of Tennessee, has been Golden Gate Seminary's president since 1952. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill., and earned master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has held pastorates in Kentucky, Indiana and Oklahoma and is former president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

The presidential search committee requests those wishing to recommend a candidate for the presidency contact committee chairman, J. P. Pollard, 36 Mockingbird Lane, Fort Smith, Ark.

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