



December 10, 1975

75-193

Sheri's Last Date Was
Probably 3,000 Years Ago

By Nancy Carter

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Poor Sheri hasn't had a date in years.

Upperclassmen at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here try to get dates for her with the single, first-year men, who complain their social life could use a lift. But one look at Sheri and they all refuse.

"Sheri," short for Sheryet-Mehyet, is a 5 ft, 2 in, tall Egyptian mummy whose home is the third floor of the seminary's library. And she's not as attractive as she once was. She's not sleeping beauty.

"She looked much better when she was alive," said Joseph A. Callaway, professor of biblical archaeology. As the daughter of a wealthy priest, she probably used cosmetics, especially paint around the eyes, and quite possibly wore an elaborate hairdo which was common then. In ancient Egypt, women were so conscious of their appearance they would sleep with their necks supported by 3-inch stands to keep their hair from becoming disheveled, Callaway said.

Now, the cosmetics are gone and Sheri has lost all her hair. To make things worse, the embalming solution made of natron (a salt-like substance), rosines and asphalt turned her already dark skin to a charcoal black. Dehydration, which followed the embalming process, made her skin much more wrinkled than it actually was when she died at 40-50 years old.

Sheri has been the source of other practical jokes besides suggesting her as a date. In 1901 an article in the Seminary Magazine entitled "Lu-Lu-Psam-Peh: The Seminary Mummy," pretended to translate the hieroglyphics on Sheri's burial case.

The tongue-in-cheek translation told her life story, portraying her as a mischievous youth who fed red peppers to the sacred crocodile of the Temple, and who tricked her father into allowing her to marry his chauffeur.

The article "prophesied" that Sheri would be brought to a new land "and they shall place thee on high in the great House of Books and thou shalt become a spectacle unto the multitude."

That "prophesy" was correct! Each year 5,000-8,000 school children visit the museum, especially to see Sheri, among tourists from around the world who have seen her (Sheri was bought in Cairo, Egypt, in 1896 for Mrs. J. Lawrence Smith, who gave her to the seminary.)

In 1963 Callaway and students removed some of her face wrappings. Previously, she had been completely covered.

"When I was unwrapping her I was thinking how surprised she would be to know she was in a part of the world she had never known about, that people by the thousands come to look at her face," Callaway said.

Younger children often write to the seminary expressing their reaction to the mummy.

"One little boy wrote, 'She didn't look like much, but who would after 3,000 years!'"

(BP)**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 Richard M. Styles, Acting 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

December 10, 1975

75-193

**265 Foreign Mission
Appointments Set Record**

RICHMOND (BP)--The appointment of 18 missionaries in December pushed the 1975 total to an all-time, one-year record of 265 missionary appointments by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The previous record year, 1969, recorded 261 appointments. This year's total includes 134 career missionaries, 29 missionary associates, 80 missionary journeymen (a two year program for young college graduates), 20 reappointments and two special project nurses.

"To my knowledge, this is the largest number of missionaries sent out in one year by any evangelical Christian group," said Louis R. Cobbs, secretary for the board's department of missionary personnel. "This (the sending of missionaries) is one of the best expressions of New Testament Christianity found among Southern Baptists today."

Executive Secretary Baker J. Cauthen, in his report to the board, expressed support and appreciation for the missionaries remaining in Beirut, Lebanon.

"The missionaries in Beirut have been through many weeks of danger and stress," he said. "They have been assured repeatedly of the board's readiness to back their decision concerning coming away or staying. Each person is there by his own sense of direction. Their presence is of great significance, and we praise God that they have been spared any injury."

Latest reports from Missionary James K. Ragland in Beirut indicate the western part of the city, where he lives, is noisy "like World War II." He said though the situation is critical the missionaries who remain in Beirut have avoided injury.

In other action during its December meeting, the board approved a plan for a subscription drive for The Commission magazine, named an interim secretary for missionary education, appropriated \$70,000 for world relief and heard a report from a board-appointed coordinating committee assigned to compile the work of 13 strategy study groups into one document.

The "Subscription Promotion Growth Plan," suggested by a professional consulting firm for the board's educational and promotional journal, The Commission, projects that the total paid subscriptions should reach 75,000 by Dec. 31, 1977. Complimentary copies would push total circulation to more than 100,000. The magazine currently has about 29,000 paid subscribers.

G. Norman Price, associate secretary for publications in the board's department of missionary education, was named interim secretary for the department. He will temporarily replace Eugene L. Hill who retires Dec. 31. The interim post is expected to last four to six months until a replacement is named.

Of December's relief appropriations, \$30,000 goes to Kenya, including \$10,000 for drought relief and \$20,000 for well-digging projects. A total of \$40,000 received from the Ahmanson Foundation was appropriated for relief in Bangladesh due to the special interest of the donor in the needs of that country.

The final report of the coordinating committee concerning "bold new plans" for foreign missions for the next 25 years, will be discussed in detail during the board's January meeting. Pending approval by the board, the report will then be presented to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee and finally to the full convention during annual session in June in Norfolk, Va.

-more-

Medical receptorships, an arrangement in which the board provides short-term overseas opportunities for qualified medical students, were awarded to Miss J. Carol Daniels and Paul J. Boone, students at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Tex.; and Miss Marcia L. Bender, University of Louisville (Ky.).

Appointed as career missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. (Bob) Barker from Missouri and Texas, assigned to Venezuela; Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Day, Louisiana and Alabama, to Surinam; Mr. and Mrs. Orville Boyd Jenkins, Oklahoma and Arkansas, to East Africa; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. (Bob) Williamson, Alabama, to Rhodesia.

Appointed as missionary associates were Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Bechtold from Michigan and Texas, assigned to Liberia; Mr. and Mrs. David G. Bradford, Texas and Illinois, to Korea; and Mr. and Mrs. Durward H. Davis, Florida and Michigan, to Germany.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Ladd, Oklahoma, to the Philippines; and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel G. (Sam) Shepard, Brazil and Nigeria, to Portugal.

-30-

Baptist Property Damaged;
Beirut Missionaries Unhurt

Baptist Press
12/10/75

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries remaining in this violence-torn city are still uninjured, though a Baptist church and a missionaries' apartment have been damaged in two separate bombings.

The A & P Store across the street from the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Trimble was bombed, and damage was done to the front of their apartment, according to James K. Ragland, missionary in Beirut. The Trimbles were in the back of the house at the time and were not hurt. They had recently returned to Lebanon from a brief evacuation to Jordan.

The Baptist church in Tripoli, North of Beirut, was bombed on a recent Friday evening. Doors and windows were damaged. No one was injured.

The Baptist seminary is still open, and no Baptist-owned mission property has been seriously damaged. The Baptist school opened for a few days, then closed again.

Ragland reported the western part of the city, where the Baptist school is located and where he lives, is noisy, "like World War II" and "things are quite critical." Ragland urged prayer for the missionaries in Beirut.

Missionaries remaining in Beirut are the Finlay Grahams, the David Kings, William O. Hern, the Trimbles and Ragland, plus two volunteers, Miss Isabelle McLelland and Mrs. Ann Pfaender.

-30-

Coalition Pushes Study
of Religion in Schools

Baptist Press
12/10/75

PHILADELPHIA (BP)--Religion must be given full recognition in the academic curriculum of the public schools to preserve the integrity of public education, declared James E. Wood Jr. following the fifth annual meeting of the National Council on Religion and Public Education (NCRPE) here.

Wood, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D. C., and the newly-elected secretary of NCRPE, pointed out that, although the Supreme Court ruled out religious exercises under the authority of school boards, it ruled in the study of religion in the curriculum of the public schools.

"The court has recognized that the public school is a place for learning, not for worship," Wood said. On this point, the Supreme Court positively stated, he continued, "One's education is not complete without a study of comparative religion and this history of religion and its relationship to the advancement of civilization."

-more-

The court was specific, Wood stated, by saying that "the Bible is worthy of study for its literary and historic qualities . . . nothing that we have said here indicates that such a study of the Bible or of history, when presented as part of the secular program of education, may not be effected consistent with the First Amendment."

The National Council on Religion and Public Education maintains offices on the campus of Ball State University, Muncie, Ind. Daryl Adrian is the executive director.

NCRPE is a coalition of 36 religious and educational organizations, with the purpose of promoting the study of religion in the public school curriculum. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is a charter member.

The annual meeting of NCRPE was held in conjunction with the Religious Education Association's international convention in Philadelphia. The REA has been a strong supporter of NCRPE from its beginning.

Other officers of NCRPE elected at Philadelphia are: J. Blaine Fister of the National Council of Churches, chairman; Donald Wimmer of Seton Hall University, vice chairman; and Boardman W. Kathan of the Religious Education Association, treasurer.

Other members of the executive committee are: James Kirkpatrick of the American Association of School Administrators, Nicholas Piediscalzi of Wright State University in Ohio, and Gerals Renner of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

-30-

Drummond Honored By
Evangelism Group

Baptist Press
12/10/75

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Lewis A. Drummond, Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has been elected vice-president of the Academy of Professors of Evangelism at the group's recent meeting at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.

The evangelism group represents virtually every major denomination in the United States and includes representatives of a number of seminaries and divinity schools, a Southern Seminary spokesman said.

A native of Dixon, Ill., Drummond came to Southern Seminary in 1973 from the faculty of Spurgeon's College, London, England.

-30-