



**--- FEATURES**  
produced by Baptist Press

January 6, 1976

76-03

Miss America Wants  
Two New Titles

By Mary Ann Ward

SAN ANTONIO (BP)--Miss America of 1975 wants two new titles.

Her Miss America year just behind her, Shirley Cothran, a Baptist, now plans to pursue a Ph.D. degree in psychology, she said in an interview here. The \$21,000 scholarship from Miss America will finance her doctoral studies at North Texas State University in Denton, Tex., her home town.

Displaying her engagement ring, Miss Cothran also said she would assume the title of wife by marrying the man--Richard Barrett--"who has waited for me for four years."

Miss Cothran, looking back on her reign as Miss America, views the Miss America competition not as a beauty contest but as a scholarship competition. She entered it, she says, to win a scholarship.

With an undergraduate degree in elementary education and a master's in guidance and counseling, she is interested in the psychological problems children face with disintegrating American family life, she said.

This concern stems from the Christian faith she verbalized many times during her Miss America year. She said she's pleased non-Christians seemed to respect her Christian stance.

"I didn't feel persecuted because of what I stood for." She gave her home church, First Baptist in Denton, credit for teaching her many basic Christian principles.

"Spiritually, I became even more convicted as a Christian," she said. "I consider it a real high point in my Christian growth."

She did not let being Miss America change any basic beliefs. In fact, she openly told people she opposes premarital sex relationships.

Maintaining a devotional life usually took place on the run. She considered time on planes available for herself. Her traveling companion, Irene Bryant, mother of a former Miss America, was "one of the most beautiful Christian women I've ever met," she said. "We'd pray together on planes."

Traveling as Miss America was her first time away from home for an extended period. She flew for the first time on the trip to Atlantic City for the Miss America pageant.

"Also for the first time," she explained, "it was Shirley Cothran going out on her own and depending on herself. Mother and Daddy were no longer there."

God was who she really depended on, she says.

She had never been east of Texas before the Miss America pageant. Since September 1974, when she received the crown, she's traveled more than 350,000 miles.

"Every single day, I was either on the road or at an appearance," she said. She had little time for herself. In fact, she went home only about every month and a half, and then for only 24 hours. That 24 hours included traveling to and away from Denton.

But Miss Cothran says she grew from the experience. And she doesn't mind being referred to as a former Miss America. "After all, it was definitely a very important part of my life."

While she admits being Miss America changed her, she says she is still rather shy and introverted. "I still don't like to come on real strong."

She wasn't and still isn't afraid to be herself, she said. In fact, at times she even traveled without any make-up on.

Now that she has time for herself, she enjoys needlepoint and sewing, she said. One outfit she wore in San Antonio is a "pantsuit I made myself."

Now that she's out of the main limelight, she says she learned "some very good lessons. I would definitely do it again."



# BAPTIST PRESS

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## Cooperative Program Surges Into New Year 13.14% Ahead

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget surged into the new year, running 13.14 percent--or more than \$1.2 million--ahead of receipts at the same point in 1975.

Through the first three months of the 1975-76 fiscal year, 34,734 Southern Baptist churches, contributing through 33 state or regional conventions across 50 states, have given over \$10.6 million through the Cooperative Program.

Total giving, including designated contributions, runs the amount to more than \$11.8 million through the first three months. That's 12.97 percent ahead of the same point last year.

The contributions give Southern Baptist Convention agencies a running start toward a \$42,080,000 goal for basic operating and capital needs in the 1975-76 fiscal year. Including an \$8,920,000 "challenge" goal over and above the basic operating and capital needs budgets, the entire 1975-76 goal is \$51 million.

"We rejoice in the continued increase in gifts for missions, education and benevolence through the Cooperative Program," said Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

"As Baptists we can start the Bicentennial year in a meaningful way as we pray, witness and give to the end that the spiritual values in our history can become viable for Christian outreach," Routh said.

The strong running start was shored up by giving in December, 1975, of nearly \$3.5 million through the Cooperative Program, which outstripped December, 1974, by \$438,090 or 14.47 percent. Total giving in December, 1975, was in excess of \$3.8 million, including \$338,469 in designated contributions.

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Annie Armstrong Offering  
Sets Record In 1975

Baptist Press  
1/6/76

ATLANTA (BP)--The 1975 Southern Baptist Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions had a record year with a total of \$8,491,653, but it fell short of the \$8.5 million goal by less than one tenth of one percent.

"We're delighted with this response--another record year," said Arthur B. Rutledge, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board executive director-treasurer. "This response has enabled the Home Mission Board to meet its field commitments this year and to look toward beginning new work."

The 1975 offering included an increase of \$361,511, more than one third of a million dollars, over the 1974 offering.

The goal for 1976 is \$9.5 million.

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Quizarama Tells Who's  
Who and What's What

By Dan Martin

SAN ANTONIO (BP)--Quickly now:

--What was Goliath's nationality?

--Name David's closest boyhood friend.

--Who was Mary and Martha's older brother

--Name two times doves figure prominently in the Bible.

--Who is the president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)?

--Name two Southern Baptist seminaries . . . the executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board . . . four boards of the SBC . . .

The Baptist version of Hollywood Squares debuted here at FREEDOM 76, a national meeting for young adults, sponsored by Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

Quizmaster Grady Nutt, a Baptist entertainer, and his wife, Eleanor, posed Bible and SBC questions to panels of students, young adults and young military personnel throughout the conference during morning sessions.

The answers often were serious, but occasionally brought guffaws from the large audience.

For instance: Nutt asked a panelist which prophet was the first streaker (he went naked in the streets of Jerusalem to warn of the impending judgment).

"King Nebuchadnezzar," answered the contestant.

"King Nebuchadnezzar was a prophet?", Nutt asked, and then confided the correct answer to the audience: "It really was Jeremiah."

Another time Nutt asked which of the sons of Adam was murdered.

"The one that was Abel," said the panelist.

Oh yes. . . the answers.

Goliath was a Philistine; Jonathan was David's closest boyhood friend; Lazarus was the brother of Mary and Martha.

Doves figure prominently in the story of Noah and when Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan.

Jaroy Weber of Lubbock is president of the SBC; seminaries are Southwestern, Southern, New Orleans, Southeastern, Midwestern, and Golden Gate.

Baker James Cauthen is executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board and the four boards of the SBC are the Home Mission, Foreign Mission, Sunday School, and Annuity.

But, you knew that. Really.

Didn't you?