



March 29, 1976

76-57

**Basketball's Jerry Lucas  
Remembers God's Word**

By Mike Chute

NASHVILLE(BP)--For more than a decade Jerry Lucas delighted fans and astounded foes shooting his patented, arching jump shot over basketball defenses.

Now he shoots at them the word of God, that is--teaching a memory system he has devised for the Bible to help Christians minister more effectively.

As a basketball player, Lucas' career was illustrious. In the realm of memory his feats have been termed phenomenal. He has written two books on memory and once memorized 500 columns of the Manhattan telephone directory. As a professional basketball player he not only memorized his own team's playbook but also the plays of opposing teams to help his defensive play.

Two years ago the former New York Knickerbocker devoted his career to God's work which led to writing a memory book for the Bible, "Remember The Word." He was in the Nashville Baptist Book Store recently to promote his book.

Lucas' basketball career reads like a fairytale--a child's dreams of stardom. As a prep star he was named All-State and All-America player for three years. Twice he led his high school team to the Ohio state championship.

A star at Ohio State University (OSU), he again played on a championship team, winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association national championship. He was a three-time All-America selection at OSU and was named College Player of the Year twice. He earned "Sports Illustrated" magazine's Sportsman of the Year award and was presented a Greek amphora for excellence in mind and body.

Lucas was a gold medal winner in the 1960 Olympic Games as a member of the United States basketball team, which some sports writers acclaimed as the greatest U.S. team ever to compete in the world-wide games.

An All-Pro player seven years, he was voted to the National Basketball Association All-Star team seven times and played on a world championship team.

In addition to athletics, the college Phi Beta Kappa appeared on literally hundreds of national television and radio programs--from the "Mike Douglas Show" to the "Today" program--demonstrating his memory techniques.

He added to his fame as co-author of "The Memory Book." As if he couldn't fail, the book spent 50 weeks on the New York Times Bestseller List, second only to a book on Watergate.

It's an understatement to say that Lucas was at a high point in his life. He was idolized, loved and admired by millions of sports fans across the country. By the time he was 30 he had already gained the ultimate goals of many people--fame, wealth and material possessions.

"People told me how lucky I was and how they would like to be in my position," he stated. "Little did they know how I felt about my own life. In spite of the things I had amassed, I was still empty and unfulfilled. There was a void in me that simply would not be filled no matter what I tried."

Lucas suddenly aborted his life of luxury two years ago after meeting Sharalee Beard, a pretty blonde in her mid-twenties who was a member of the Johnny Mann Singers. Sharalee, whose parents are both ordained ministers, is deeply religious herself, Lucas said. She urged him to read the Bible because she saw the need in his life.

"This led to religious discussions which I made very difficult for her," Lucas recalled, "I insisted on proof for every fact she brought up. Of course she couldn't provide documented answers."

Lucas questioned every part of Christianity but decided to accept Sharalee's challenge.

He had never read the Bible before and was "awestruck with the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. I began praying not really knowing how. Within a few weeks I received Christ as my personal Savior. My life changed. The void was filled by our Lord.

Lucas realized why events happened the way they did in his life. He saw that God had been preparing him to teach Christian people to retain their memory for God's purpose.

Retired from pro basketball and married to Sharalee, Lucas formed a non-profit organization in Los Angeles called Memory Ministries, Inc.

He wrote "Remember the Word," a Bible memorization system for the Gospels. He says the book is non-sectarian and non-theological, dealing only with scripture memorization, not interpretation. It is usable with any scripture translation. In the future, Lucas plans to develop memory systems for the Epistles, Psalms and Proverbs.

At 36 years old, Lucas has embarked on a different journey, a more meaningful one. In addition to writing, he travels about the country leading memory seminars for Christians so they might remember God's word and establish a worthwhile ministry in their own lives.

Jerry Lucas is still a star, only now he's performing for God.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

# # #

American Mosaic of Ethnic  
Brings Change to Baptists

Baptist Press  
3/29/76

By Charlotte Powell

ATLANTA(BP)--It's 8 a.m. The "American mosaic" begins to stir across the United States.

Margaret Lasley of Louisville sips her coffee while she plans a black history course for an afternoon teen-club meeting in the Baptist Fellowship Center.

Alexa Popovici drives through Chicago's streets enroute to greeting a Romanian family arriving in the U.S. by jetliner.

Jimmy Anderson leaves his home in Shawnee, Okla., bound for the Indian assembly grounds of the Muskogee-Seminole-Wichita (Indian) Baptist Association, where he and others will spend the day doing repairs and cleanup.

Further south, Jovita Galan prepares for the Mexican-American children already arriving at Central Baptist Church's kindergarten in San Antonio, Tex.

Ramona McKenzie takes her blind husband, David, in a car over muddy roads on a Navaho Indian Reservation in New Mexico, to visit a church member.

Peter Chen drops his three daughters off at school enroute to a coordinating missions committee meeting in San Francisco's chinatown.

Similar scenes and events are repeated over and over, daily in Alaska, Hawaii, and other states where Southern Baptists have ethnic missions.

All are part of the American mosaic. They are members of one or another of the 125 ethnic groups in the U.S. who communicate in more than 100 languages and dialects and comprise according to recent estimates, more than half the U.S. population.

"Traditionally," says Oscar Romo, a Mexican-American who heads the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's language missions department, "it has been assumed that the ethnic groups have become part of 'America's melting pot.' Actually, only a very small percentage have been totally assimilated."

And this, for Southern Baptists, gives added significance to these people called Galan, Anderson McKenzie, Chen, Popovici and Lasley. They represent the diversity and tensile strength that has transformed the 12.7-million member denomination from its regional and largely Anglo characteristics of the 1940s to "the most multi-cultural religious group in the U.S. today," says Romo.

The six represent an investment by Southern Baptists to cross racial, cultural and language barriers. Each is a Southern Baptist-supported missionary of the denomination's Home Mission Board.

They further personify a concept in missions that has caused Southern Baptists to move 10-15 years ahead of other denominations in its mission efforts," according to church growth specialist Peter Wagner of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

The concept--indigenous mission--reflects Southern Baptists willingness to trust ethnic peoples to create their own patterns of Christian expression, rather than be force-fed transmogrified Anglo methods.

The early missionaries went to Americanize and to evangelize at the same time," explains David Benham of the HMB's language missions department.

"They treated people paternalistically," says Benham, himself a Kiowa Indian, "rather than as equals."

As a consequence, missions fared poorly and few permanent, stable congregations grew, explains Benham, because the people saw Christianity as a "white man's religion."

Where ethnics did have opportunity to discover their own cultural identity in Christianity, churchwork succeeded. Benham cites the Creek Indians, one of the "five civilized tribes" in Oklahoma, as an example.

The five tribes were Christianized long before the government moved them out of their eastern U.S. homes. In the devastating 1830s' march to Oklahoma, called the "trail of tears" because so many died, the Creek people transported their own churches, complete with pastors and congregations.

In their new homes, the Creeks formed their own associations, further developed their own forms of worshiping and conducting communion and baptism, and even began sending missionaries to other tribes.

The Creeks are among the most Christianized Indian tribes, believes Jimmy Anderson, a Creek who works with his own people as an associational missionary, "because no one went in and tried to change them to an Anglo way of thinking."

If such missions successes are to be repeated, Anderson adds, it will be because missionaries of whatever background or racial group--"respect the people for who they are. They present the gospel, and, if changes are to be made let them come under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, instead of trying to match First Baptist Church in Memphis, Atlanta, or elsewhere."

But allowing ethnic people "the freedom and opportunity to follow God in their own way," says Benham, has not always been a part of Southern Baptist mission strategy.

The method of ministry has shifted from doing "for" to doing "among" and the role of missionaries has changed from "doing personally" to "helping others to do."

The change has not come easily, but it has come.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a three-part series on Ethnics and the U.S. Bicentennial, prepared for Baptist Press by Charlotte Powell, research assistant in the department of inter-faith witness, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

NEXT: How Southern Baptists' changed awareness of the U.S. helped change their approaches to ministry and mission among ethnic peoples.

**(BP)****BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 29, 1976

76-57

SBC Church Music Conference  
Features Variety of Music

NORFOLK (BP)--An original musical drama and the premiere of an anthem will be among an array of musical presentations featured at the annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference (SBCMC) at First Baptist Church here, June 13-14.

The meeting is one of several meetings preceding the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 15-17, at Norfolk's Scope Convention Center.

SBCMC President Paul Bobbitt of Jacksonville, Fla., who directs church music for the Florida Baptist Convention, said the two day conference will get underway Sunday night, June 13, at 7:30 p.m. with music by The Centurymen, 100 Southern Baptist ministers of music from across the nation, under the direction of Buryl Red of New York City. Also featured will be Carmela Scott, soloist, Virginia Beach, Va.

The Monday morning session will include an inspirational concert by Clint Nichols, professor of church music at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Jarvis Rose Nichols, both of New Orleans; an instrumental ensemble by Emmanuel Baptist Church, Manassas, Va.; a panel on "Foreign Music Missions," led by T. W. Hunt, professor of church music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.; a performance of Randall Thompson's "Ode to the Virginian Voyage" by the adult choir of First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va.; and an address on "The Church Musician as Minister" by Richard E. Myers, pastor of University Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Va.

On Monday afternoon, the Nichols will perform again and the Virginia Baptist Male Chorale will sing a group of selections under the direction of Allen R. Brown of Richmond, state music secretary for Virginia Baptists.

A series of special interest conferences will be offered two times on Monday afternoon, giving two choices from six offerings--"Puppetry and the Music Ministry," led by Joe and Gloria Morrell, Bradenton, Fla.; "Youth Mission Tours," led by Joel T. Land, department of special mission ministries, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.; "Early American Music," led by Robert A. Young, professor of music, Baylor University, Waco, Tex.; and "Sacred Harp Singing," led by Hugh McGraw, president, Sacred Harp Publishing Company, Bremen, Ga.

The concluding session Monday night will feature an original musical drama, using multi-media, recalling highlights of Southern Baptist Church music since the landing of the Pilgrims and their use of the Bay Psalm Book. The program will be under the direction of Thad Roberts, minister of music at South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., with script prepared by Sarah Walton Miller of Houston.

Several individuals and groups will participate in the Monday evening presentation, including Ms. Scott; McGraw and the Sacred Harp Singers, Bremen, Ga.; the choir of the First Baptist Church of Berkley, Norfolk; the adult choir, First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va.; a Tidewater Area Baptist Choir; and Hugh McElrath of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Other program personnel include William J. Reynolds of Nashville, secretary of the church music department of the Baptist Sunday School Board; Sharron Lyon of Nashville, also of the Sunday School Board's church music department staff; Al Washburn, minister of music, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, and adjunct professor of music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; and three SBCMC vice presidents, Evelyn Phillips, professor of church music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.; A. Joseph King, minister of music, University Baptist Church, Fort Worth; and Sam Prestidge, secretary of church music for Texas Baptists, Dallas.

Bobbitt said those attending the conference "will have the opportunity to view a vast array of new music materials and equipment displayed by the music industry and educational institutions."



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### Southern Baptist Church Music Conference

First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va.

June 13-14, 1976

Sunday Evening, June 13, 7:30-9:15 p.m.

### A Service of Congregational and Choral Singing

Congregational Singing--William J. Reynolds, Nashville, Tenn.

The Centurymen--Buryl Red, New York City, director

Soloist--Carmella Scott, Virginia Beach, Va.

Organist--Sharron Lyon, Nashville, Tenn.

Pianist--Al Washburn, Louisville, Ky.

### Reception for SBCMC Members

hosted by

Virginia Baptist Church Music Department

Allen R. Brown, Secretary

### Monday Morning, June 14

- 8:50 Instrumental Ensemble, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Manassas, Va., Robert Simpson, director
- 9:00 Call to Order--Evelyn Phillips, Fort Worth, Tex.
- 9:05 Musical Inspiration--Clint and Jarvis Rose Nichols, New Orleans, La.
- 9:20 Introduction of New Vice Presidents and Executive Council--Paul Bobbitt, director, church music department, Fla. Bapt. Conv., Jacksonville and president, Southern Baptist Church Music Conference
- 9:30 Awarding of Honorary Memberships
- 9:40 Panel: "Foreign Music Missions"--T. W. Hunt, Fort Worth, Tex.
- 10:25 Exhibit Break
- 10:50 Presiding--A. Joseph King, Fort Worth, Tex.  
Ode to the Virginian Voyage, Thompson--adult choir, First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va., Gary Horton, director
- 11:15 Address: "The Church Musician As Minister"--Richard E. Myers, Charlottesville, Va.
- 11:45 Benediction

### Monday Afternoon, June 14

- 1:15 Call to Order--Sam Prestidge, Dallas, Tex.  
Musical Inspiration--Clint and Jarvis Rose Nichols, New Orleans, La.
- 1:30 Business Session
- 1:45 The Virginia Baptist Male Chorale--Allen R. Brown, Richmond, Va., director
- 2:15 Exhibit Break
- 2:40 \*Special Interest Sessions (choose one--see below)
- 3:30 \*Special Interest Sessions (choose another--see below)
- 4:20 Division Meetings--Election of Council Members
- 4:45 Adjourn

\*Special Interest Sessions (indicated above)

Sacred Harp Singing--Hugh McGraw, Bremen, Ga.

Youth Mission Tours--Joel T. Land, Atlanta, Ga.

Music Missions--T. W. Hunt, Fort Worth, Tex.

Puppetry and the Music Ministry--Joe and Gloria Morrell, Bradenton, Fla.

Early American Church Music--Robert H. Young, Waco, Tex.

New Materials, Exhibit Area--Sam Prestidge, Dallas, Tex. -more-

Monday Evening, June 14

- 7:30 Choir of the First Baptist Church of Berkley, Norfolk, Va.--Geraldine Boone, director
- 7:50 Premier of Anthem Commissioned by the SBCMC, "Come Before Him Singing with Joy," Mark Blankenship, Nashville, Tenn., Adult Choir, First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va.
- 8:00 An Original Music Drama reviewing highlights of Southern Baptist Church Music in America since the landing of the Pilgrims  
Produced by Thad Roberts, Houston, Tex., in collaboration with Sarah Walton Miller, Houston, Tex., and Harry Eskew, New Orleans, La.
- 9:30 Benediction

Officers

President--Paul Bobbitt, Jacksonville, Fla.  
President-Elect--James C. McKinney, Fort Worth, Tex.  
Vice President--Sam Prestidge, Dallas, Tex.  
Vice President--A. Joseph King, Fort Worth, Tex.  
Vice President--Evelyn Phillips, Fort Worth, Tex.  
Secretary-Treasurer--Mary June Tabor, Oklahoma City, Okla.

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Seminary Reaffirms Evangelism  
Slot; Elects New Professor

Baptist Press  
3/29/76

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees, in its annual meeting here, reaffirmed its commitment to a professorship of evangelism, adopted a record \$2,098,040 budget for 1976-77, and elected a new member of the faculty.

Responding to the recommendation of its instruction committee, the 30-member board reconfirmed its previous goal to establish a professorship in evangelism. The trustees made plans for raising funds for the professorship, and provided for the teaching of evangelism each semester until the faculty position is permanently filled.

The record 1976-77 budget, tentatively adopted, will receive 75.3 percent of the \$2,098,040 total from the national Cooperative Program unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Other income will be from student fees, although no tuition is charged, endowment earnings, gifts for workgrants and operating expenses and auxiliary enterprises such as rentals, food services and health care. Expenditures of \$1,163,076, or 55.4 percent, will go for instruction; \$374,876, or 17.9 percent, for administration; \$384,488, or 18.3 percent for operation and maintenance of facilities; \$125,600, or six percent for auxiliary services; and \$50,000, or 2.4 percent for contingencies.

Glenn T. Miller of Clinton, N. Y., was elected to the faculty as assistant professor of church history, effective August 1, 1976.

Miller, 33, a native of Virginia, is currently teaching at Hamilton College. Before joining the Hamilton faculty, he taught at Union Theological Seminary, N. Y. City, and St. Mary's Seminary, and was pastor and youth minister in Baptist churches in Virginia, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

He holds degrees from the University of Richmond, Andover-Newton Theological School, and Union Theological Seminary.

Other action approved changes in the seminary's bylaws and created the Homer V. Lane Endowment Fund and the William L. Wyatt Endowment Fund. Wyatt, a resident of Raleigh, N. C., was the first treasurer of the seminary. His son, Edgar M. Wyatt of Raleigh, is presently serving on the board.

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The trustees granted tenure to two faculty members, J. Colin Harris, assistant professor of Christian education, and Robert L. Richardson, assistant professor of field education. Also, approval for sabbatical leaves during the 1976-77 academic year were granted for Professors John I Durham, Ben S. Johnson and J. Carroll Trotter.

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Baptist Expansion Continues  
In South America

Baptist Press  
3/29/76

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptist growth in South America continued this past year, but at a slower rate than before, according to preliminary statistics for 1976 released by the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) here.

Membership in 12 South American countries where Baptists have work now number 515,434, compared to 512,379 a year. Three years ago the number was 462,169.

Six of the 12 countries showed an increase in church membership--Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, and Surinam. Five declined--Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Data for Bolivia did not change. No Baptist work exists in the Falkland Islands or in French Guiana.

A slight decline in the number of churches has been accompanied by a noticeable increase in "home missions" of the churches, according to the BWA.

Counted at 4,470 a year ago, the number of churches is now only 4,447. But, with that decrease has come an offsetting increase in the number of other "preaching places," according to Carl W. Tiller, BWA statistician.

Taking the Baptist Convention of Argentina as an example, he observed that the number of believers has gone up from 21,560 to 21,886 in one year; the number of churches has declined from 296 to 287; but the number of additional preaching places has risen from 103 to 163. Such places are variously called "chapels," "missions," or "outreach points."

"The total Baptist community is much larger than reflected in the church membership data," Tiller declared. "Because Baptists do not accept young children into church membership, the half million or so Baptists reported are not an accurate reflection of the group's total strength. Also, there are many non-member adults in regular church attendance."

Again using the Baptist Convention of Argentina as an example, Tiller pointed out that the 21,886 members in convention churches are only a small part of the numbers regularly within the influence of the churches. The larger figure of its "Baptist community" is reported by the Argentine convention at 107,544.

The BWA South American statistics are not limited to the 11 member bodies of the Baptist World Alliance in South America, but also embrace other Baptist work on the continent. Every country has at least two kinds of Baptists; one (Brazil) has as many as 15 varieties, according to the BWA.

	BAPTISTS IN SOUTH AMERICA			
	1976*		1975	
	<u>Churches</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Churches</u>	<u>Members</u>
Argentina	388	25,083	396	24,732
Bolivia	157	8,400	156	8,400
Brazil	3,379	444,633	3,417	442,217
Chile	166	11,885	166	13,200
Colombia	86	7,976	85	7,561
Ecuador	47	2,239	46	2,315
Guyana	27	2,080	27	2,093
Paraguay	29	2,581	25	2,376
Peru	70	4,560	47	3,381
Surinam	4	255	4	213
Uruguay	44	2,471	52	2,501
Venezuela	50	3,271	49	3,390
Falkland Islands	0	0	0	0
French Guiana	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	4,447	515,434	4,470	512,379

\*Subject to revision

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