



# --- FEATURES

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76-64

## "Very Important Goats" Get Special Philippine Welcome

By Robert L. Stanley

MANILA, Philippines (BP)--W. Hugo Parkman, Southern Baptist missionary and business manager of the Philippine Baptist mission, is accustomed to greeting Baptist "VIP's" when they arrive at the Manila International Airport.

But recently he met a select group of what he called "VIG's"--very important goats.

The eight goats, purebred nubians selected from some of the best milk-producing goat herds in the United States, were on their way to the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center, near Davao City in the Southern Philippines.

Southern Baptist missionary Harold R. Watson, director of the center, plans to use the two males and six females as breeding stock to help upgrade the milk production in the center's experimental goat herd, consisting of some 150 animals.

He envisions the project as instrumental in helping to establish a new home dairy industry built around the dairy goat.

"We feel the dairy goat is the animal for the Philippines," Watson explained, "They require only a small grazing area, children can handle them and help take care of them, and they are properly acclimatized to their tropical region."

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, with the assistance of Agricultural Missions Foundation of Yazoo City, Miss., made more than \$5,000 available to buy the goats and pay for their air cargo transportation to the Philippines.

The goats, selected by members of Hefter Project International, attracted considerable interest as they were unloaded from the Flying Tiger Line, Inc., plane which had carried them some 8,000 miles from California to Manila.

Filipino customs men and cargo handlers hopped up on the cargo truck to see the "kambing" (the Tagalog word for "goats") and expressed surprise when told the females could produce over a gallon of milk a day--far surpassing the cup of milk which a native Filipino goat normally produces.

Then, as hundreds watched from the airport's crowded second-floor observation deck, Parkman and a mission photographer rode with the goats across the busy terminal into the cargo area.

The next day the goats were loaded aboard a Philippine air cargo plane for the 600-mile trip to Davao City and a truck ride out to the Rural Life Center, where they will graze in the picturesque country near the foothills of 9,690-foot Mt. Apo, the Philippines' highest mountain.

Watson, who was on hand to meet the goats in Davao City, is already looking ahead to 1977

One of the Rural Life Center's main thrusts next year will be dairy goats--with seminars planned on how to feed and milk them and how to care for them in a home situation.

In the Philippines where fresh milk is a rarity, Watson sees great possibilities for the dairy goat industry around the population centers. He believes many families could benefit from having their own milk-producing animal.

Already, people are coming from as far as Cebu (in the Philippines' central islands) to buy goats at the Baptist center.

To help focus attention on the project, Watson plans to donate a purebred nubian goat to the Davao regional office of the Bureau of Animal Industry for use in its breeding program.

The nubian goat's ancestry goes back to the Nubian Empire, located between Egypt and Ethiopia, that prospered from the sixth to the 14th centuries.

"Even the half-breeds and less desirable goats that come from the Rural Life Center herds are useful for meat purposes," Watson added, "since the half-breed nubian weighs almost twice as much as the native goat."

Robert L. Stanley is a Southern Baptist missionary to the Philippines.

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Southern Baptists, Roman  
 Catholics Top RPRC Awards

PHILADELPHIA (BP)--Religious communicators from Roman Catholic and Southern Baptist organizations collected eight individual awards each to lead entrants from other denominations in the 1976, national Paul M. Hinkhouse-Victor DeRose Awards competition of the Religious Public Relations Council (RPRC).

The RPRC, national, interfaith organization of religious communicators, presented 42 individual awards from among 183 entries by RPRC members during the organization's annual meeting here.

Other winners by denomination or organization are representatives of United Methodists, with four; Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Missouri Synod Lutherans, and the Buffalo Council of Churches (Williamsport, Pa.), with three each; and Episcopalians, the interdenominational Riverside Church, N. Y. City, and the Lutheran Brotherhood, an independent organization, with two each.

Don Hepburn of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, paced Southern Baptist winners, with three awards--first place awards of excellence in two categories (folders, and posters and flyers) and a runnerup certificate of special merit in the booklet category.

Ione Gray of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, had two awards--first in the editorial category and second in news writing; and representatives of Time-Rite, Inc., a Dallas-based subsidiary of the SBC Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, took runnerup honors in both the audio tapes category (Frank H. Olsen) and the TV series category (W. C. Woody).

Dan Martin of the public relations department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, took a second place award in the newspaper category for the publication, The Voice of Mission Action, published by Texas Baptist Men.

Best in class Hinkhouse-DeRose Awards--the top awards in the competition--went to Owen Campion of Nashville, for his newspaper The Tennessee Register, a Catholic publication; Charles De Vries of the Lutheran Brotherhood, Minneapolis, in the audiovisual class for a motion picture, "The New Patriots;" J. Michael Vincent of the Lutheran Layman's League (Missouri Synod), St. Louis, in the broadcast class for a TV series, "The Lie;" Alton M. Motter of the Buffalo Area Council of Churches, Williamsport, Pa., in the writing class for a news story; and Monica M. McGinley of the Medical Missions Sisters, Philadelphia, for a public relations campaign.

Eugene A. Schneider of the United Church of Christ, New York, N. Y., won a Hinkhouse-DeRose Distinguished Award for the video tape, "A Personal Experience."

Besides Hepburn, three individual awards each went to Motter and James Gardiner, SA, Atonement Friars, Graymoor Communications, Garrison, N. Y. Motter, in addition to his "best in class" Hinkhouse-DeRose Award, won a first place award in the news writing category and a second place award in the feature writing category. Gardiner took a first place in the TV spots category and second place finishes in the posters and flyers category and for public relations campaign.

Seven persons besides Gray had two awards apiece.

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Decided their respective class. Ankhouse DeRose Awards, Campion, De Vries, Vincent and McGinley won category first places for newspapers, motion pictures, TV series and public relations campaign respectively.

Other two-time winners were Nancy S. Montgomery, editor of Cathedral Age, Washington (D.C.) Cathedral (Episcopal), first places in both the magazine and booklet categories; Charles A. Hamilton of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) office of communications, Indianapolis, first places in audio tapes and radio program series categories; and Emily Deeter of the Riverside Church, N. Y. City, runnerup awards in the advertising and radio program series categories.

Six other persons collected single first place awards in the competition. They are David A. Wilson of the American Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, newsletter category; Howard E. Royer of the Church of the Brethren, Elgin, Ill., advertising category; J. Fred Rowles, United Methodist Communications, Nashville, Tenn., filmstrips or slide presentations category; Robert L. Friedly, office of communications, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, photography; Gordon Loux, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, radio spots special programs category; and Kenneth Lindsay, Bethesda Lutheran Home (Missouri Synod), Watertown, Wisc., feature story category.

Seven other individuals had single second place awards.

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European Baptists Discuss  
Liberty with Soviet Leader

Baptist Press  
4/9/76

MOSCOW (BP)--Five representatives of the European Baptist Federation (EBF) and the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) held a frank, two-hour discussion on religious liberties with a Soviet government official here in late March, which included an appeal for clemency for Baptist pastor Georgi Vins and others.

The conversation was "the frankest discussion European Baptist leaders have had in recent times with a representative of the Soviet Union," in the opinion of David S. Russell of London, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, who wrote a report of the meeting to BWA officials in Washington and London.

Victor N. Titov, deputy chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs of the USSR, heard the delegation's plea for clemency for Vins and about 78 other persons thought to be in Soviet prisons for their religious beliefs. Similar appeals were voiced in interviews with the press and radio, and to the chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs in Kiev, capital of the Ukraine.

Russell preached to a capacity audience with many young persons at the Kiev church (Initsiativniki, Reformed Baptist) where Vins used to be pastor. After the sermon Russell spoke privately with Vins' wife. She expressed gratitude to Christians around the world who have prayed for her husband, whom she visited in Siberia in January.

In addition to their appeal for leniency for Vins, now serving a five year prison sentence, the delegation referred to the situation of Janis Smits, a Baptist minister in Latvia, whose repeated requests to leave the country with his family had been refused. Titov said that such permission has now been given.

The five Baptist leaders from western Europe were in Moscow for meetings of the executive committee of the European Baptist Federation, the first time any such gathering has met in a European socialist state. The timing of the March 25-27 meeting came about 100 years after the emergence of Baptist witness in the USSR.

Baptists in three churches at Moscow and Kiev assured Russell that the openness he experienced with the Soviet officials "is marked in many other ways also and that the treatment they receive is now much better than for a long time past."

Besides Russell, the Baptist delegation which conferred with Titov included Gerhard Claas of West Germany, secretary-elect of the EBF and BWA; John Merritt, executive secretary of the European Baptist Convention in West Germany; Theo van der Laan, general secretary, Baptist Union of the Netherlands; and Knud Wumpelmann, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Denmark.

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The "straight talking" between the Baptists and Titov included Claas' expression of appreciation for Soviet government permission in response to his earlier request to import 3,000 German language Bibles for German speaking people in the Soviet Union.

Referring to the need for continuing detente and the encouragement of fraternal relations with the Baptist union in the USSR, Russell emphasized "the deep desire of many Christians in the West to show solidarity with those who, for the sake of conscience and in particular deeply felt religious convictions, are suffering under present circumstances."

Russell's report to Baptist World Alliance said that the delegation expressed concern about the attitude of Soviet authorities to dissidents, especially religious dissidents.

The report said Deputy Chairman Titov claimed that "no one is imprisoned in the Soviet Union for his religious beliefs, but only for breach of the law," adding that "there is often much misunderstanding of the Soviet attitude on such matters . . . The law in the Soviet Union, which is in the process of further democratization, has to be respected."

Titov cited the case of Vins, who, he said, had been warned for infringement of the law, as a case in point. Vins has the right to appeal to the Soviet Supreme Court, Titov said, if he were willing to "acknowledge his mistakes."

The Baptist delegation conceded that dissidents "may have been imprisoned for a breach of the law," but explained that "such an assertion conceals the fact that the law itself sometimes reflects a measure of religious discrimination, not least in its application at the local level."

Vins was a founder of the dissident Baptist movement which the Soviet government considers illegal. The "Initsiativniki" separated from the officially sanctioned All Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (AUCECB) in 1965 and formed the Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (CCECB), of which Vins is secretary. The AUCECB hosted the EBF executive meeting. Alexei Bichkov, the AUCECB's chief officer, is EBF president.

Frank questions were asked Titov about the government requirement for church registration and about the religious teaching of children. Titov said that the USSR has no law against such teaching of children. He added that a few registration applications from congregations have been rejected for good reasons.

Titov told his visitors that any infringements of the rights of citizens at the local level can be reported, and will be dealt with, by the Council of Religious Affairs.

Within "minutes" of his arrival in Moscow, Russell reported he was preaching at the Central Baptist Church to a congregation that filled the pews and aisles. He said eight men and 16 women were baptized at the church in a Friday evening service.

They "seemed to throw themselves backwards as they stood in the water, eager to be buried with Christ and raised into newness of life, each one uttering a loud 'Amen' in response to the minister's declaration," Russell said. The congregations he visited whispered approval as their ministers prayed.

"In a country whose official belief is that of atheism, the baptism of a believer shows a sense of commitment which is surely real and deep," Russell said. "I shall long remember the look of joy, expressing itself in tears, on the faces of relatives and friends as they presented the newly baptized with flowers."

Russell counted 150 children and teenagers and 30 adults at a youth meeting at 9:30 p.m. after the baptismal service. He said increasing numbers of young and educated persons are joining Baptist churches in the USSR.

Church Had Just Updated  
Insurance & Tornado Hit

CABOT, Ark. (BP)--A Baptist minister who advised his congregation to increase its insurance coverage here is glad he did.

Some 30 days later, the Old Austin Baptist Church whose pastor Eugene Irby saw the need for additional insurance, was hit by a killer tornado that leveled Cabot and heavily "damaged the church in late March. Five persons were killed and 65 places of businesses destroyed or badly damaged, reports indicated.

"It was through the Lord's guidance that we updated the insurance on our buildings," Irby said later.

He estimated that the recently built education building was a total loss and that the church's auditorium would be a 50 percent loss. Ironically, before the insurance was updated, Irby said, the auditorium was covered for 50 percent of its replacement value, and the education building wasn't covered at all. When the storm hit, the church's buildings and contents were covered for 90 percent of replacement value, he added.

As tornadoes swirled and hail pelted the state of Mississippi, more than 1,000 Baptists there ignored weather threats to attend their Bicentennial Bible Conference at First Baptist Church in Jackson.

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A Blanket, A Mite and A Bike  
Go To Highest Bidder

Baptist Press  
4/9/76

LOUISVILLE (BP)--What do a baby blanket, a widow's mite, and a seminary president's old bicycle have in common?

These items, and many more, surfaced at an auction here at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to raise money to send students on mission projects this summer.

A hand crocheted baby blanket was sold for \$80 to a student whose wife is expecting their first child in July; the widow's mite, an actual first century A.D. coin such as that mentioned in the New Testament, was donated by archaeology professor Joseph Callaway and sold for \$45; Duke McCall, seminary president, donated his old bicycle and it brought a \$41 top bid.

Some students got a special bargain at the auction. Doug Van Devender paid \$21 to have Badgett Dillard, vice president for business affairs, mow his lawn. A rather high price on the surface, but Van Devender explained later, "I manage a 21-unit apartment complex."

Highest bid of the day was \$125 for a flight for three people over Louisville with evangelism professor (and pilot) Lewis Drummond, who served as auctioneer. George Gera, who purchased the flight, summed up the motivation for many bids: "I just wanted to put money into summer missions; this was a fun way to do it."

The auction raised \$758.50.

-30-

CORRECTIONS

In (BP) Feature of Apr. 5, 1976, headlined "SBC Shifts from Paternalism to 'Indigenous' Missions," 5th graph from the end, line 4, please change to read--"Of the 176 Southern Baptist churches in the Michigan Convention, 19 churches and one mission are predominantly black." (rather than "Almost half . . . are black.")

And, in news story sent Apr. 8, 1976, titled "Baptist Minister Featured In Prime Time TV Special," please correct graph two line 1 to read "Fanning, now pastor of San Antonio's Trinity Baptist Church," not . . . First Baptist Church.

Thanks--  
BAPTIST PRESS