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Jose Shed Joyful Tears On  
Hearing Gospel in Quechua

By Archie V. Jones

CANAR, Ecuador (BP)--It was Sunday afternoon as I prepared to lead my second worship service of the day here.

Something was wrong. Only two small boys had come from the Quechua-speaking Indian community of Tambo.

The boys informed us the others could not come because three-year-old Pedro had died on Friday. I asked if they had buried him. "No," they answered. "They (the community religious leaders) won't let us bury him in the Tambo graveyard because his mother is a believer."

A lump came to my throat as I remembered the persecution and bloodshed we had already suffered in that town.

I rushed down to the office of the high sheriff of Canar and gave him a brief report and asked his advice. He suggested we try not to counter the harsh religious opposition in Tambo. "Bring the boy's body to Canar," he said, "and bury him here."

In Tambo we found a group of quiet Indians around a tiny coffin of wood in a dark windowless room. There was a single candle burning on top of the coffin and a rusty spade on the dirt floor. After having prayer with them, we took the body to Canar.

No one was in the graveyard. It was a dark, lonely Sunday afternoon. We walked toward the backside of the graveyard where the poor and Indians are buried. Jose Huerta, the dead boy's uncle, found a place on the side of the hill between two other unmarked graves and began to dig.

It is a sad scene when an Indian is buried here. Many times there are no tears. Everyone stands quietly and watches. Sometimes a mother will hide her face.

I walked away. Jose was not crying. Indians don't cry, especially in the presence of white men.

A few Sundays later I came to lead the Sunday afternoon service. Jose and other Indians had come from several miles around to hear the preaching. There were not many present, only about 20. All were believers except two.

This particular afternoon was like so many others. I felt extremely thankful to have a part in what the Lord was doing among the Indian people of Ecuador. I was thankful, too, for the believers there who had suffered and sacrificed much to follow the Lord.

After the closing prayer of the service, Manuel Pinguil stood up and said the two new friends he had brought wanted to accept Jesus Christ. He explained they did not know how this was to be done.

I quickly turned to John 3:16-18 and asked them if they understood Spanish. They answered they did not understand very well and could not read at all. I then asked Manuel to turn to the same passage in his Quechua Bible and read it to them. After reading it to them, he explained it in their own language.

We then turned to Romans 10:9-10 and Manuel read in Quechua those exciting words of the Apostle Paul. I asked in Spanish if they truly believed in their hearts these things. It was translated to them and they answered in the affirmative.

As they stood before the believers gathered there Manuel led them in a Quechua prayer of acceptance. When they said, "Amen," I opened my eyes to a real surprise.

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For more than a year, Jose had been saying to me, "Pastor, we need to hear it in our own language." It had been nearly a year since Jose was baptized, but it was his first time to hear how to accept Christ and make a public profession of faith in his own language.

I saw an Indian cry tears of happiness in Canar that Sunday afternoon.

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Archie Jones is a Southern Baptist missionary to Ecuador.

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Gift From Former Okla. Gov.  
To Build Children's Home

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Former Oklahoma Governor and Mrs. Raymond Gary have given 40 acres and \$200,000 to the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma to build a children's home in southern Oklahoma, the convention's child care department announced here.

The site is located between Madill and Kingston and is part of the original Gary homesite in Marshall County, Okla. The Garys reside in Kingston.

"Care'N Share," the child care department's publication, which made the gift announcement, quoted the former governor:

"I met many dedicated child care workers for state and child care homes and agencies while I was in the Senate and later as governor. I made up my mind then, however, that child care is the responsibility of the churches." Gary served 12 years as a state senator and one term as governor.

The home and foster care program operated from the new site will care for more than 100 children when in full operation, according to Lowell D. Milburn, director of the convention's child care department.

The Oklahoma Convention operates three children's homes, a statewide foster home, adoption program, care for unwed mothers, and related ministries.

Joe L. Ingram, executive director-treasurer of the Oklahoma Convention, said the gift, "will help Oklahoma Baptists to serve all the people of the state in a better way."

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Southern Names Bell  
To Annual Giving Post

Baptist Press  
8/17/76

LOUISVILLE (BP)--George N. Bell has been named to the position of director of annual giving at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, according to vice president for development Wesley M. Pattillo.

Bell has served as director of the annual fund at Taylor University, Upland, Ind., for the past three years. Prior to that he served six years as an executive with the Boy Scouts of America.

Southern Seminary's new director of annual giving is currently serving as president of the alumni association of Judson College, Elgin, Ill. He is also an alumnus of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Oak Brook, Ill.

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Radio-TV Bible Teaching  
Joint Project Proposed

Baptist Press  
8/17/76

GLORIETA (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board meeting here approved a joint project with the denomination's Radio and Television Commission, looking toward exploring possibilities of a radio-TV Bible teaching program in conjunction with correspondence Bible study.

The proposed project must be approved by the Radio-TV Commission trustees, and the next step would be a presentation to them in October.

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Chief target groups for the project, according to Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen, would be non-Christians who would be encouraged to undertake Bible study, inactive Baptists and Christians who have dropped out of church activity. These would all be referred to local churches for appropriate ministry, he said.

"The idea is yet incomplete," said Cothen. "Yet, it is of such tremendous potential in helping us move out in our priority commitment to reach the masses for Bible study that we intend to pursue it with immediacy and diligence."

In a joint statement issued by the two agency executives, Paul M. Stevens, president of the Radio-TV Commission said, "I am enthusiastic at the prospects of this venture. It is consistent with the program statements of both our agencies. Our facilities, technical assistance, program placement and distribution capabilities will all be eminently suited to the project."

Cothen and Stevens pointed out that immediate steps will be taken to work out details of the joint venture.

The Sunday School Board president said he envisions the setting up of a special unit at the board to direct the venture, working closely with appropriate radio-TV commission personnel.

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Manila Missionaries Ok  
After Quake, Tidal Wave

Baptist Press  
8/17/76

MANILA, Philippines (BP)-- No missionaries have been injured by the earthquake and subsequent tidal wave in Manila, according to Robert N. Nash, chairman of the Philippines Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries).

He also said that as far as he knew, no missionaries throughout the islands were injured nor any mission property damaged from the Aug. 17 earthquake that registered 8.0 on the Richter Scale.

W. L. (Wimpy) Smith, assistant consultant for disaster relief for the denomination's Foreign Mission Board, has sent a telegram to Nash, assuring him the board is standing by if assistance is needed.

Bryan Moss of the U. S. State Department told Smith in a telephone conversation that more than 300 deaths had been reported and the toll may reach 2,000 or more. He had no information on American casualties but said that the areas most heavily damaged had generally fewer Americans than in other areas of the Philippines.

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