

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

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February 8, 1977

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TV Programming Protests
 Escalate Across the U. S.

SOUTHAVEN, Miss. (BP)--A Methodist minister here urging citizens across the nation to turn their television sets off for a week, Feb. 27-March 5, is calling also for Feb. 28 to be a "TV Talk Back Day" for viewers to express their displeasure over violence and distorted sex on the tube.

"We are asking that every concerned parent and citizen call their television stations on that day and express their disgust with the violence and sex that dominates so much programming," Donald E. Wildmon, pastor of First United Methodist Church, Southaven, Miss., said.

Wildmon, who has dubbed the boycott week as "Turn the Television Off Week" (TTOW), is also urging that Feb. 27, the first Sunday of the effort, be a Day of Prayer for network programmers and advertisers.

Groups across the country which have shown concern over the issue of television violence include the national Parent-Teacher's Association, the American Medical Association, Southern Baptists, United Methodists (who are conducting regional workshops on television), a Church of God body, the board of directors of the Screen Actors Guild, the National Citizens Committee for Broadcasting, the National Council of Churches, and business leaders.

In Nashville, Harry N. Hollis Jr., director of special family and moral concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said such response "demonstrates that people strongly feel the television networks have been unresponsive to their pleas for more responsible television programs," which, he said, "are feeding American homes a deadly diet of exploitive violence, gutter language, and manipulative sex."

Hollis said the Christian Life Commission is not involved in Wildmon's TTOW because "we are presently engaged in a far-reaching project of regional hearings on television and morality, a survey of television's treatment of moral issues, and some consultation with the networks, Federal Communications Commission and legislative leaders.

"But morally irresponsible television programs ought to be turned off until networks officials hear the anguished and angry protests of concerned Americans and clean up these programs," Hollis added.

The survey Hollis mentioned will be conducted by 10 churches in four regions of the country during the week of Feb. 21-26 to document both positive and negative TV treatment of moral concerns, according to the project's coordinators, Hollis and C. Welton Gaddy, the commission's Christian citizenship development director.

Wildmon said that more than 30 members of his church are also conducting "a week-long objective study of the amount and type of sex being presented on prime time television" and will make the findings public.

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Baptist Missionaries Safe,
 Continuing Rhodesia Work

Baptist Press
 2/8/77

GATOOMA, Rhodesia (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) foreign missions leaders have expressed "shock" and "sorrow" at the slaying of seven Roman Catholic missionaries in Rhodesia, Feb. 6, and report that all Southern Baptist missionaries in the country are safe and that their work is continuing normally.

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"We are all shocked, of course," said Southern Baptist Missionary Edmond B. Moses Jr., during a Feb. 8 phone call to SBC Foreign Mission Board headquarters in Richmond. Moses, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Rhodesia, added, however, that there has been no change of plans for Southern Baptist work.

In Richmond, Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive director, said, "The Foreign Mission Board extends our deepest sympathy in this hour of sorrow . . . We grieve with all who have been touched by this tragedy and pray that God may bless the families of those who have lost their lives and those who have lost their colleagues and their labor. We pray that God may bring out of this tragedy witness to his grace, love and redeeming power."

The Roman Catholic missionaries were lined up and shot at the St. Paul's Mission in bush country on the Mangwende Tribal Trust Land about 40 miles east of Salisbury. Dunstan Myerscough, 65, the only survivor, said black guerrillas were responsible for the killing of three Jesuits and four Dominican nuns.

No Southern Baptist missionaries are stationed in the northeast area of the country where the killings took place. All Southern Baptist missionaries are in centers of population and communication, with the exception of the Sanyati and Sessami stations, which are not in military operational areas.

Davis L. Saunders, the board's area secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, said, "Our missionaries take precautions in matters relating to security. Missionaries in every foreign country are affected by political changes, or by major disasters. The missionaries themselves make the decisions concerning security with the complete backing of the Foreign Mission Board."

Moses urged Southern Baptists to continue their prayer support for Rhodesia and Baptist work there.

Saunders also reported that phone calls had been received from two other African areas. Edwin Lee Mason, a lay nonmissionary volunteer serving for one year as business manager in Ethiopia, called from Addis Ababa to report that all board personnel in that country were safe and work was continuing after an aborted coup.

Missionary Euclid Moore reported from Arusha, Tanzania, that there had been some inconvenience caused by Tanzania's closing of its borders with Kenya. The action was taken after the East African Airways Corp., jointly operated by Kenya and Tanzania, was dissolved by Kenya.

Kenya and Tanzania form the East Africa Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries), and closing the border prevents normal flow of communications between missionaries in the two countries.

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4,500 SBC Rooms
Already Assigned

Baptist Press
2/8/77

KANSAS CITY (BP)--About 4,500 hotel and motel rooms out of 7,000 available rooms have already been assigned to persons attending the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention here in June, according to Billy D. Malesovas of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Malesovas said all downtown hotels are now full and that persons who want reservations should move quickly to get accommodations in hotels relatively near the convention center which were not full as of Feb. 8.

SBC housing reservations forms are available from executive secretaries of state Baptist conventions and in the Nov., 1976 issue of the Baptist Program. Housing in Kansas City is being coordinated by Betty Thompson of the Convention and Visitors' Bureau of Greater Kansas City.

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'Oil City USA' To Pump
Funds into Baptist School

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)--A West Tennessee oil executive has announced a different kind of gift for Union University, a four year liberal arts school here.

Baptist layman William "Bill" Gurley is opening a 15-pump service station in Jackson and plans to donate all profits to the Baptist university.

"This is just my way of serving the Lord," said Gurley, owner of Gurley Oil Company of Memphis. "He's blessed me in many ways and this is how I feel led to respond."

Gurley came up with the idea about a year ago and proposed it to university officials who concurred that it would be worthwhile.

The self-service station--to be called "Oil City USA"--is to open in February equipped with 30 gasoline hoses. Although the business is owned and operated by Gurley Oil Co., all profits are to be donated to Union University on a regular and continuing basis, Gurley said.

"I'd like to see more Christian businessmen become missions-minded in their own community. The Bible doesn't teach that I'm to be preoccupied with making all the money I can as quick as I can. It does teach that it's more blessed to give than receive, so we're trying to return a portion of what Christ has given us.

"For that reason," Gurley added, "we will not open Sundays. There's enough money to be made the other six days without having to work on our Lord's Day."

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Southern Seminary Acquires
Letters of Baptist Pioneer

Baptist Press
2/8/77

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Two hand-written letters by early Baptist pioneer John Clarke have been acquired by The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here with funds provided by Mrs. Richard Hill, a Louisville resident and member of the seminary's board of trustees.

Clarke was co-founder, with Roger Williams, of the Rhode Island colony and was founder and pastor of the Baptist church in Newport, R. I., in 1644. The Newport Church is one of the two oldest Baptist churches in America.

The letters, one written in 1655 and the other in 1658, were addressed to Col. Robert Bennet, an active Baptist layman in England.

The importance of these letters, according to a seminary spokesman, lies in the major role played by John Clarke in Baptist beginnings in America and in the scarcity of documents written by Baptists in this period.

Clarke obtained the charter for Rhode Island from Charles II in 1613, and the two letters were written during his period in England. Upon his return to the colonies, Clarke served three terms as deputy-governor of Rhode Island in addition to his duties as pastor of the Newport Baptist Church.

The two Clarke letters will be housed in the Boyce Centennial Library on the Southern Seminary campus. The new addition joins several other well-known collections on the seminary campus, including the Billy Graham Collection and two museums of Biblical and Near Eastern Archaeology.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers.

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WMU Announces Winners
of Elizabeth Lowndes Award

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union executive board has announced winners of the WMU's annual Elizabeth Lowndes Award to deserving MKs (missionary kids).

David C. Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Ralph Davis, missionaries to Ghana, and Martha Dale Chestnut, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Chestnut, home missionaries in Selma, Ala., will each receive a \$200 cash award.

Decisions on the award winners, a WMU spokesperson said, are based on school records and other recommendations from colleges attended by children of Southern Baptist home and foreign missionaries. Candidates are nominated by the denomination's Home and Foreign Mission Boards.

Davis, now a graduate student at Baylor University, a Baptist school in Waco, Tex., graduated first in his class--summa cum laude--from William Carey College, a Baptist school in Hattiesburg, Miss. Born in Nigeria, he was active in many service organizations at William Carey and received many honors.

Chestnut, now doing graduate study in music at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. She was a member of several service organizations, received the Outstanding Music Student award during her freshman, sophomore and senior years, and received several music awards and scholarships outside the university.

Her brother, David Hall Chestnut, was a 1974 recipient of the Elizabeth Lowndes Award.

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WMU Picks National
Advisory Panel

Baptist Press
2/8/77

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Six high-school age girls from across the nation have been selected to serve on the first Acteens National Advisory Panel of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Four alternates were also named.

The panelists will serve as "on-the-scene" consultants, making suggestions to WMU about plans for its Acteens organization for girls in grades 7-12.

The girls, who will serve until Dec. 1, 1977, when a new panel will be selected, will also serve as pages at the WMU annual meeting, June 12-13, in Kansas City, and may write articles for Accent, WMU magazine for girls in grades 7 through 12, and may often be asked to appear at state or associational WMU related meetings. The panel will make its debut in Accent's June issue.

The six are Amy Carlisle of Huntsville, Ala.; Talitha Edwards, Grenada, Miss.; Valerie Fink, Vanndale, Ark.; Karen Massey, Loganville, Ga.; Lisa Morland, Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Susan Youngblood, Austin, Tex.

The alternates are Jodene Brooks, Enka, N. C.; Lou Ann Kiser, Shrewsbury, Pa.; Rhonda Waggoner, Radcliffe, Ky.; and Sarah Zimmerman, Lawton, Okla.

The panelists and alternates, chosen from a nationwide slate of 160 Acteens, range in grade from sophomore through senior in high school. They submitted applications and met WMU-established requirements, according to Beverly Sutton, WMU Acteens consultant, who announced the selections.

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