



March 15, 1977

77-48

Seminarians' Concern Helps
Reunite Nigerian's Family

By Nancy McGough

LOUISVILLE (BP)--After three years of separation, a Nigerian family has been reunited here--thanks to some concerned seminary students and a number of area Southern Baptist congregations.

Rufus Adetona, now a student at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, left his family in 1973 to come to the United States to better prepare for Christian service in his country.

Since then he, his wife Olanike, and children, Jide 10, and Oye 5, had prayed for some way for them to be together. Oye was just two when Rufus left and could not remember his father.

Their dream came true when another Southern Seminary student, Bud Turner, became concerned about his friend and decided to do something about it. The two had also been classmates at Sanford University in Birmingham, before coming to Southern.

Turner said he and friends living on the third floor of Southern's Sampey Hall talked it over and decided, "Let's just try to raise some money and see if we can get them over here."

In mid-October, 1976, the students dug into their own pockets. Many returned to their home churches and explained Rufus's situation.

In response to the need of a family they had never met, churches in Clarksville, Tenn., Decatur and Anniston, Ala., Indianapolis, Ind., and several other cities contributed, including the Sunday School class to which Rufus belongs at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville.

Shortly after Thanksgiving, the students trooped over to Rufus's apartment and presented him with \$1,200 they had collected. Rufus went into action, and on a snowy day in early 1977, his shivering family stepped off of a jetliner.

They had never seen snow before--in fact, had never been in cold weather--and saw the U.S. as a winter wonderland.

They are making adjustments to a new culture and climate. Olanike is finding it difficult to cook the new foods which "are not like ours at home." And so, "I have been the cook since they've come," Rufus said with a laugh.

Rufus, from a royal family in Nigeria and raised as a Moslem, was led to Christ as a young man by Southern Baptist missionaries. Olanike's father, a pastor, befriended the young Christian Rufus had visited her home several times before he met Olanike, who was away at college.

"I think my coming here will be fruitful," Rufus recalled thinking the first time he saw Olanike. And he was right. They were married in 1962.

Rufus will probably be at the seminary--earning the doctor of education degree--about three more years, he said.

But no doubt the next three years with his family will be far less lonely.

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
480 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041

DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996

MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461

NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461

RICHMOND Richard M. Styles, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151

WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226, 77-48

March 15, 1977

Baptist, Jewish Theologians
Deplore Unification Church

By Mike Bailey

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP)--A joint Jewish-Christian statement has been released here deploring the "bigotry against Jews" and the "distortion of the Christian message" promoted by Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church.

William Hendricks, professor of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, and Rabbi James Rudin of the American Jewish Committee of New York, said their respective conclusions were drawn after 18 months of independent study of the cult and after counseling with former Unification Church members.

Hendricks said Moon presents "strange and unusual caricatures of Christian thought," including belief that the death of Jesus on the cross was a failure and denial of the resurrection. By implication, Hendricks said, Moon points to himself as the new messiah. "In Moon's view, Jesus was not a complete savior," he said.

Rabbi Rudin, assistant director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee said Moon sees the ancient Jews as both "faithless" and "spiritually corrupt." According to Rudin, Moon believes the slaughter of six million Jews during World War II was a "cleansing sacrifice for having killed Jesus of Nazareth."

He also noted that Moon's teachings are "totalitarian at heart" and constitute a "severe threat to our democratic institutions."

Rudin and Hendricks attacked Moon's methods of recruiting and psychologically brainwashing persons into staying in his flock. "You always have the right to leave the Christian church or a Jewish synagogue," Rudin said.

Both theologians said one of the main concerns of traditional leaders is that Moon has used his followers, who are called "slaves", to build a fantastic economic and political base. Reports indicate Moon controls a financial empire estimated at more than \$60 million and has been linked politically with the government of South Korea, his home country.

Both men agreed that Moon should be considered a serious threat and not as a "kook."

"Moon offers warmth and sense of community," Rudin said. "This is what we have claimed to offer. But religious institutions have neglected spiritual values. He advocates a return to the basics of prayer, faith and fellowship.

"It has to be that sense of fellowship that draws young people age 18 to 30," Rudin said. Otherwise, he noted, "Moon's theology wouldn't draw flies."

Hendricks added that a good press and a strong educational process would do much to combat the rising membership of the Moon movement. "We need to educate our children in the proper Christian doctrine," he said.

During a question and answer period with news media here, a well-dressed young man identified himself as an active member of the Unification Church. In response to accusations from Hendricks and Rudin, he claimed they "misunderstood" the Unification Church when they leveled charges of anti-Semitism and mind control.

The "Moonie," Steve Wilson, said he is a former Southern Baptist and has been a member of the Moon church for 18 months. He said he serves as a lecturer for the church.

Admitting to fund raising projects by the church, Wilson was uncertain for what purposes the \$60 million raised by the Moon church had been used. He further stated that the Moon church does not use mind control, citing himself as an example.

Rabbi Rudin said the "Moonies" are different from other minor religions like the Hare Krishnas in that "they have a lot of money and may be connected with a dictatorial government."

He said that Moon has about 70 "front organizations" around the country operating under all kinds of different names, but all for Moon." Wilson was unable to dispute the charges.

-30-

Brotherhood Commission
Names Business Director

Baptist Press
3/15/77

MEMPHIS (BP)--Miss Lynette Oliver, comptroller of Orgill Brothers and Company, a wholesale hardware firm here, for 20 years, has been named director of the business section of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission here.

In the new position, Miss Oliver leads in preparing and administering the commission's budget and directs such operations as accounting, purchasing, office personnel coordination, insurance, building and properties.

At the wholesale hardware firm, Miss Oliver was responsible for preparation and control of a \$60 million budget, employment and termination of 600 employees, insurance, pensions, purchasing and inventory.

Miss Oliver was a public accountant in an auditing firm for 13 years before joining Orgill Brothers. She's a graduate of Mid-South Institute of Accounting and attended the University of Tennessee and Memphis College of Accounting. She is a Methodist.

-30-

(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist papers

#

Baptist Minister Regional
Finalist in National Contest

Baptist Press
3/15/77

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Southern Baptist minister in Adelphi, Md., is one of three ministers in the nation who have been selected among 104 regional finalists in the competition for 1977-78 White House Fellowships.

Allen L. Oliver, senior minister of the Hillendale Baptist Church, Adelphi; Thomas H. Quigley Jr., executive director of the Louisville, Ky., Area Interchurch Organization for Service; and Walter F. Wieder, minister of the Unitarian-Universalist Community of El Paso, Tex., are the three clergymen to reach the regional finalist stage of the competition.

Since the beginning of the White House Fellowship program no minister has been chosen as fellow, although others have been regional finalists.

Panels of distinguished community leaders in 11 cities from coast to coast are now in the process of interviewing the 104 region finalists. Approximately 30 candidates will be selected as national finalists, from whom 14 to 19 will be selected as White House Fellows to the President on May 23.

Created in 1964 to provide outstanding young Americans with first hand experience in the process of governing the nation, the White House Fellowship program is open to U. S. citizens from all occupations and professions, who are not less than 23 nor more than 36 years to age.

-more-

In addition to their educational assignments with the vice president and members of the cabinet and the President's principal White House staff, the fellows participate in an extensive program of 250 to 300 off-record seminar meetings with top government officials, scholars, journalists and leaders from other segments of private life.

Oliver's community service experiences include membership on the board of directors of the Richboro Mental Health Council in New York, leadership in the Baptist Committee for Refugee Relief for the Resettlement of Vietnam Refugees, and development of a local area teen center.

Among the 104 regional finalists this year are university professors, attorneys, businessmen, physicians, hospital administrators and state, county and local government officials.

The President's Commission on White House Fellowships, the White House, Washington, D. C. 20415, said that applications for the 1978-79 program will be available in August, 1977. Leadership, intellectual and professional ability and a commitment to community and nation are the broad criteria employed in the selection process for the fellowship program.

-30-

College Trustees To
Re-examine Divorce Policy

Baptist Press
3/15/77

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--Protests from faculty, alumni and students have caused the board of trustees of California Baptist College here to take another look at a policy they adopted recently on hiring divorced persons for faculty and administrative posts.

The 20-member board approved a policy that the administration of the college "refrain from the employment of administrative officers and teaching personnel who have been divorced."

The policy, which would not affect administration and faculty already divorced, will not go into effect until the board's May meeting when the trustees will re-examine the policy in light of protests, according to Dr. Andrew Tucker, chairman of the board of the four-year, liberal arts Southern Baptist school.

Critics of the policy say the ruling does not allow persons who are "innocent bystanders" in a divorce to serve at the school.

"The academic dean and I have told the board we think we should be careful on the question of divorce but that we feel the policy is too restrictive and that each case should be looked at on an individual basis," James Staples, college president, told Baptist Press.

"Only four of 51 faculty members at the school are divorced," said Staples. "Only one of those has tenure, and her former husband is deceased."

Academic Dean Stephen Carleton said he agrees that the example set by teachers is a "unique ingredient of a Christian education" but that there needs to be flexibility to deal with individuals.

"There are instances where a divorce is justified, such as when the spouse runs off, has severe mental problems, or is incurably alcoholic," Carleton said. "Hiring should be done on a case-by-case basis. A hiring policy such as this, which allows for no exceptions, is wrong."

Board Chairman Tucker has said that the trustees "won't back down" but "may modify the policy somewhat" at the May meeting.

"There is a tendency for moral deterioration to creep into colleges," he said. "We feel the breakdown in the homes in our society is a sign of moral deterioration. The board feels that the faculty should represent as close to an ideal Christian witness as practical. The scriptures have definite things to say about divorce."

-30-