



# -- FEATURES

produced by Baptist Press

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

April 5, 1977

77-62

Enrique Benites Knows  
Miracles Never Cease

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (BP)--In the spirit of New Testament miracles, Ecuadorian Baptist Enrique Benites left here with one leg and returned 10 days later with two.

The "miracle" worker was Southern Baptist missionary prosthetist Jerrell R. Ballard, stationed in Barranquilla, Colombia, some 1,000 miles away. (A prosthetist replaces missing limbs with artificial substitutes.)

It doesn't bother Benites' that his new leg is artificial. At least now he doesn't have to mobilize himself in a swivel desk chair to scrub and mop the floors at the Baptist Student Center here, where he works as a student helper.

And, of course, the biggest advantage is that he can walk without a crutch.

Benites was hit by a car more than seven years ago, according to Southern Baptist missionary Floyd (Pat) Patterson. Because of complications, Benites' leg had to be amputated.

Patterson took an interest in the young man who is active with the associational Baptist youth and is well known in Baptist churches throughout Ecuador. To find out what a new leg for Benites would cost, Patterson contacted Ballard at the Baptist Hospital in Barranquilla. Ballard agreed to make the leg for a \$300 discount.

Funds for the artificial limb and the journey were then collected at youth meetings and other meetings at Ecuadorian Baptist churches. A final contribution of \$150 from a North American made the miracle a reality for Benites.

"Enrique made his trip in late September and returned to Guayaquil 10 days later with a new leg and a new attitude," Patterson related:

"He is extremely happy to be able to walk again without a crutch, the result of a cooperative effort by Ecuadorian Baptists, Southern Baptist missionaries, the Baptist Hospital in Barranquilla, and all Baptists who participate in foreign missions," the missionary said.

"I am very thankful to the Lord Jesus and Mr. Jerrell that now I can walk with two legs, Benites said. "Everyday I remember what his hands did to help me. All of the young people are so happy to see me walking with two legs. Keep praying for me."

-30-

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

# # #

BWA General Council Moves  
Meeting from Guatemala

Baptist Press  
4/5/77

WASHINGTON--The General Council of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) will hold its 1977 meetings, July 11-15, in Miami Beach, Fla., rather than at Guatemala City, Guatemala, as originally planned, because of visa problems.

Robert S. Denny, general secretary of BWA, made the announcement after the Alliance's staff decided that "the securing of visas to Guatemala would be both difficult and uncertain" for General Council members from several countries.

He said that questions about the availability of visas developed in recent conversations with Guatemalan government officials. The uncertainty centered on applicants from Great Britain, Taiwan, Cuba, the countries of Eastern Europe, and possibly others. Guatemala and Britain do not have diplomatic relations.

The decision is based on a BWA policy that it will hold its meetings only in locations where all its constituency is welcome.

Earlier, the BWA moved the Baptist World Youth Congress set for July 19-23, 1978, from Hong Kong to Manila, Philippines, because the BWA could receive no assurances that youth from Eastern Europe, Taiwan and Cuba would be granted visas to enter Hong Kong.

Approximately 300 persons participate in annual meetings of the General Council and its related committees. The BWA's four study commissions and four division committees meet concurrently with the General Council.

Meetings are held in various parts of the world from year to year as a convenience to the BWA's widely scattered constituency. The 1976 sessions were at Whitley Baptist College, Melbourne, Australia.

-30-

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

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

SBC Executive Committee  
460 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

April 5, 1977

77-62

**Tent Ministry Continues  
Despite Some Opposition**

By Pat Muse

QUITO, Ecuador (BP)--Despite opposition in several towns, a Baptist tent ministry in Ecuador has resulted in almost 700 people making public professions of faith in Jesus Christ during the past eight months.

In Tambo, a mob attacked the tent on the revival's opening day, March 20, and told the Baptists to leave or there would be bloodshed. The meetings continued as scheduled for four days, with protection by armed guards.

But the revival was then closed because of the difficulty in holding religious services under these circumstances and because of plans for a street fiesta, which would attract thousands of rural Indians. The governor asked the tent team to leave before they came, fearing serious trouble might occur.

The Baptists have repaired and re-equipped the tent. The latest evangelistic campaigns were scheduled to begin April 2 in Ecuador's most populous province, Guayas.

Since August, 17 evangelistic campaigns have utilized the 40-by-80-foot canvas tent. Many of the converts are now baptized church members, and others are studying in doctrinal classes. Lay training classes are being conducted for emerging leaders in new mission stations.

The tent evangelism ministry has contributed to church growth throughout Ecuador. Congregations of Baptists and other evangelical believers continue to spring up throughout the Indian cultures of Ecuador "as the spirit of God moves across the land touching thousands of lives," missionaries report.

Nine all-Indian congregations have sprung up among Ecuadorian Baptists. A little more than two years ago, only one Indian Baptist church existed.

In several places, people opposing evangelistic efforts have attempted to prevent the setting up of the tent or tried to burn it. Southern Baptist missionary Gerald W. Doyle, who works with the congregations in the Canar-Tambo area, reported that adequate protection had been provided for the Tambo evangelistic campaign after the initial attack. However, every night agitators milled around the plaza, the site of open-air services, raising fear of further trouble.

Two denouncements of the mob action were written to the governor of the province after the tent was attacked. But the three Roman Catholic priests, whom area people had identified as leaders of the mob, denied having any part in the attack.

News media have given publicity to these incidents, and Ecuadorians of different faiths have been outraged by them. Baptists are praying on behalf of their fellow-believers who live daily with persecution.

In general, people in these two towns are astonished at the violent opposition of religious leaders and their followers against the evangelistic campaigns. It has aroused people to investigate evangelical Christianity. Many have come to the tent during the daytime to talk and ask for tracts, both in Spanish and Quechua. The willingness of the believers to stand firm in their faith and even suffer for it has not gone unnoticed by the people there.

-more-

Some eight persons made public professions of faith in Canar, where 15 older children also accepted Christ after private witnessing. Four persons made private decisions in Tambo.

Edgar Andrade, a rural school teacher, made a profession of faith in Canar. Afterwards, the parents of his students told him they no longer wanted him to teach their children. Some have threatened to kill him. Sometimes, when he comes to his classroom on Monday mornings, he finds ugly threats written on the chalkboard. He and other believers in this area know what it means to suffer for Christ.

The attack on the tent revival in Tambo was the second time Baptists had faced opposition there. In October 1975, a mob attacked Southern Baptist missionary Archie V. Jones and a group of worshippers in a home. Jones got away and went for help. He returned with police in time to keep the mob from burning the house. The attack left one man seriously hurt.

The tent team also met opposition in San Francisco de Conocoto. Even after they secured legal permits to erect the tent on a soccer field, the vice-president of the town council led a group armed with sticks and rocks to keep the tent from being set up. One church member was injured.

After the incident, the site of the meeting was changed to the church grounds, even though the location was not as good. In the first service, the 18-year-old son of the leader of the opposition made a profession of faith.

-30-

Pat Muse is a Southern Baptist missionary press representative stationed in Ecuador.

# # #

'Wasn't Talking About SBC  
Renewal Programs:' Chafin

Baptist Press  
4/5/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Tex., said he would "basically stand behind statements" in a Baptist Press story which quoted him as saying the church renewal movement is essentially anti-church.

But, the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board evangelism director explained, he was talking about the broader base of the renewal movement, not about Southern Baptist denominational programs of renewal.

Chafin's original comments came during a 50-minute address, followed by a question and answer period and an interview, during a Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission national seminar on moral concerns in Jackson, Miss.

In the Jackson address, he defined conversion and the church as a basis for morally responsible persons and made the statement referring to the renewal movement as "anti-church."

"Negative" might have been a better word than "anti-church," Chafin told Baptist Press in a followup telephone interview after the original quotes drew protests from denominational quarters.

The former Billy Graham professor of evangelism for The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, told Baptist Press: "I didn't have in mind the renewal programs within Southern Baptist structures in my comments in Jackson.

"I was referring to the movement of 'small groups' and 'para-church organizations' of the 'well-defined,' renewal movement, which has become fairly institutionalized," explained Chafin who was an active participant in the renewal movement for several years.

He originally said in Jackson, "I think all along the renewal movement was anti-church. You cannot renew what you cannot like," he said, urging Southern Baptists to remain church-centered. "The movement will still be around for many years, but I think its effectiveness is gone," the Baptist Press Jackson report quoted Chafin, whose church has won "Guideposts" magazines' "Church of the Year" award for innovative ministries.

-more-

He said also in Jackson that the original renewal movement was formed by "troubled people who were "angry and hurt" and "sick of the church," not from the "people who carried the load" in the church.

In his own defense, Chafin reminded that when he directed evangelism for the Home Mission Board, he brought in Reid Hardin, who directs the agency's renewal program under the department of personal evangelism, "where the renewal movement was tied into the structure of the church."

The Home Mission Board and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission now have a joint program of renewal.

In response to Chafin's comments, the Brotherhood Commission's director of lay renewal, David Haney, chose to state his own view of church renewal.

"Mainline renewal has never been anti-local church," Haney said. "To be unwilling to accept the status quo is not anti-church. It's pro-church. Those committed to renewal want to see the church become all that Christ calls it to be, rather than what it is.

"What we're trying to do in Southern Baptist renewal is not to put another pot on the fire but to build a bigger fire under the pots that we already have.

"Dr. Chafin said that renewal drew the troubled and the hurt but not the solid people of the church who carried the load, and we plead guilty to that," Haney continued. "As Jesus said, 'They that are whole need not a physician.'

"We are trying to help these people become solid," Haney concluded.

-30-

'Miss Lillian' Saddened By  
Divisions in Plains Church

Baptist Press  
4/5/77

By Carol B. Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--Plains Baptist Church is "torn and split till we hardly have a church anymore," Mrs. James Earl Carter Sr. told the members of the Dawson Sunday School Class of the First Baptist Church here at their 28th annual charter day luncheon.

Addressing an audience of 150, "Miss Lillian" said sadly, "I've been a member of that church for 52 years and now it's so torn and split we hardly have a church anymore. This will be the first Easter Jimmy won't come home to Plains. He doesn't want to antagonize anyone anymore." Carter plans to visit his son Jack in Calhoun, Ga., on Easter Sunday, according to aides.

Miss Lillian spoke for 45 minutes to an enthralled audience despite pain in her leg. She told the members of the class and their guests, "Jimmy called me before I left Plains and said, 'Mama, you've got to come if you can crawl. Don't disappoint the ladies. After all, this is my church.'"

She did not disappoint the ladies.

Speaking without notes (despite her son's plea that she use them) Miss Lillian moved her audience alternately to tears and laughter with anecdotes of her experiences in India as a peace Corps volunteer at age 68.

Shortly after arriving in Bombay, she and a young Peace Corps volunteer walked through the city late one night to see the legendary "Queen's Necklace" of the lights of the city. "I couldn't look up for looking down to keep from stepping on babies sleeping on the street. I never saw the 'Queen's Necklace,'" Miss Lillian said.

Frustrated and ready to give up on teaching family planning, Miss Lillian was finally able to work for a doctor, work she felt competent to do. But her problems were not over.

"One day they brought in a little girl with infectious leprosy. I couldn't find a place on her body large enough to give the injection she needed. I went to the doctor and told him I just couldn't do it. He said he would give the injection but he was angry with me for not

-more-

giving it so I made up my mind I would do it. I finally found a place on her hip just large enough to insert the needle. I put cotton pads around the spot so I wouldn't have to touch her diseased body. I was scared.

"When I got home that night I prayed to God that I wouldn't ever shun anything ever again. I had come to help those people. Without God, I could never have made it in India," Miss Lillian confessed.

Despite the disease and filth, Miss Lillian learned to love India and her people. "After a while, all I could see was how much they were doing for me and not what little bit I was doing for them," she said.

"I learned to steal in India," Miss Lillian said with no regret. "I also started lying, and I had to quit the black market when they caught up with me." She said that many women in the United States wrote letters chiding her for such immorality but she responded with spirit, "I came to help those people and I did whatever I could."

Sometimes she stole medicine for patients who could not afford treatment. She told of lying to the representatives of United States drug companies to get free samples so she would have more drugs available for the people of Bombay.

Her daughter Gloria sent 50 copies of "Good News for Modern Man" (the Today's English Version of the New Testament) which she had to sneak to people for fear of antagonizing Indian officials. "I had been warned not to talk about religion or politics in India. I had nothing to talk about," Miss Lillian joked.

Miss Lillian referred briefly to her recent return visit to India. "Going back meant more to me than the first time. I was told a few friends wanted to meet me in Bombay. When I got there 700,000 people were waiting for me. I have never been so honored in my life. Two Secret Service agents cried, and if you can get the Secret Service to cry, you can do anything," she exulted.

Other guest speakers at the luncheon included Edward Hughes Pruden, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church and Alma Hunt, retired executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, now serving as overseas consultant in women's work to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Rosalynn Carter, the President's wife, made a brief appearance.

-30-

R. G. Lee Hospitalized  
After Heart Attacks

Baptist Press  
4/5/77

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Robert G. Lee, 90-year-old former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is "resting comfortably" in the cardiac care unit of Baptist Medical Center here after at least two heart attacks.

Lee, pastor emeritus of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, who still travels hundreds of miles each year preaching, had been scheduled to preach a four-day revival, April 3-6, at Oklahoma City's First Baptist Church. The pastor, Gene Garrison, stepped in to preach after Lee became ill.

According to reports, Lee had chest pains at his Memphis home on Friday, April 1, before leaving for Oklahoma City against his doctor's advice. He suffered at least two attacks after arriving in Oklahoma City, one in the hospital's cardiac care unit.

Earlier, doctors had listed his condition as "critical to grave," and called in members of his family from across the country. As of April 5, however, they upgraded his condition to "serious" and expressed some optimism.

Lee, famous for his books and sermons, especially his well-known sermon, "Pay Day Someday," will be 91 in November.

-30-

#### CORRECTION

In graph 3 of the story on "Miss Lillian" on page 4 of today's Baptist Press mailing change ". . . it you can crawl . . . to . . . if you can crawl . . ."

Thanks,  
Baptist Press