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Alvie Is Paralyzed; Still
Makes 80 Visits a Week

Lynn P. Clayton

LAWRENCE, Kan. (BP)--Alvie Tate, a layman, calls on approximately 80 families a week for his Lord, and his church.

That's not a bad average for anyone, but for Alvie, 61, it's incredible.

He is almost totally paralyzed below his neck.

Alvie's journey into "being more useful for the Lord" and the mechanics of how he goes about his ministry fit the pattern of his life.

As a 48-year-old ice deliveryman, he experienced a numbness in his fingers and doctors put him in a hospital for surgery. They discovered that when Alvie was five-year-old, a fall down a stairwell had broken his neck. The effect of the injury began a delayed result, and after the operation the paralysis grew.

Alvie began attending First Southern Baptist Church here through its ministry to the Valley View Care Home in Lawrence, Kan., where he lives. He made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ, asked for church membership and was baptized on Father's Day, 1975.

"He was immersed (baptized) in a prone position because of his disability," Alvie's pastor, Jimmy Cobb, recalled.

But Alvie has not been in a prone position concerning his special call to serve God, according to Cobb.

Prior to a Ministry Evangelism Weekend (also known as a Lay Renewal Weekend II) in 1976, Alvie and Cobb began working on a way he could utilize his gift of ministry--a "unique way with words," the minister said.

A special telephone was envisioned to allow Alvie a line of communication with people far beyond the care home.

The men's Sunday School class Alvie attends regularly, in a wheelchair, accepted responsibility for getting the special speaker phone. A class member installed it, and the class pays the monthly bill.

Alvie holds a pencil between his teeth to activate and dial the push-button phone. The speaker hook-up allows him to talk and hear without picking up the receiver.

When he receives a call, he inches his way to the phone by slightly shuffling his heels across the floor of his care home room.

"The phone lets me feel I'm contributing," he said, "and that I'm able to achieve God's purpose for my life in spite of being paralyzed. I feel more responsible by being useful, though it may be in a limited way."

Alvie and his ministry, have "proven to be a tremendous inspiration to all our church family and others in the community," Cobb noted.

The Baptist layman has joined a similar ministry with another senior adult, disabled person in the church, Mrs. Dorothy Wilson, a widow confined to crutches.

"They provide needed, valuable assistance to me and the other church leaders," Cobb said, "by calling absentees and the home-bound, and by announcing church events via phone.

"Neither is reluctant to make 50 or 60 calls--one after another. Our people see this as a vital contribution to the work of the church," he added.

Then Cobb mused, "I wonder how many other churches are doing what we did--overlooking some of their members because they may be limited or restricted physically. If given the right kind of equipment and encouragement, they may be able to serve Christ in great ways," the minister concluded.



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April 21, 1977

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IRS Extends Time
To File Form 990

WASHINGTON (BP)--Certain church-related organizations required to file annual information Form 990 have been given an extension of time, according to an announcement by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) here.

The extension of time to file Form 990 applies to church-related organizations that are not integrated auxiliaries of churches and that are covered by a group exemption letter issued by the IRS to a church central or parent organization.

Prior to this year, these organizations were exempt from filing Form 990. However, earlier this year, IRS announced a rule defining "integrated auxiliaries of churches" and made it effective as of May 15, 1977.

The IRS announcement said that "the extension is granted to enable these organizations to establish recordkeeping systems."

Specifically, the announcement said, "organizations with a filing deadline of May 15, 1977, have been given a three-month extension to August 15, 1977; those with a June 15, 1977, filing deadline have a two-month extension to August 15; and those with a filing deadline of July 15, 1977, have a one-month extension to August 15."

The extension, which is automatic for these filing deadline dates, does not apply to church-related organizations required to file Form 990 after July 15, 1977.

"Church-related organizations covered by this announcement should include the church's central or parent organization group exemption number on line 18b of the Form 990 when filing," IRS said.

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Myers Named to Board's
Overseas Division

Baptist Press
4/21/77

ATLANTA (BP)--Lewis I. Myers Jr., Southern Baptist missionary who served in Vietnam, has been elected associate to the director of the Foreign Mission Board's overseas division, effective July 1.

He was elected to the newly created position during the April meeting of the Foreign Mission Board at the Wieuca Road Baptist Church here.

As associate to the overseas director, he will work under the supervision of the director to augment the effectiveness of the division. He will work closely with the consultants in the division to assist them in coordinating and strengthening their programs of responsibility.

Among other duties, Myers will provide a clearing house service for specializations which the Foreign Mission Board does not have consultants such as in broadcasting and Theological Education by Extension (TEE). He also will compile data and conduct research projects needed by the division.

Myers and his family were on furlough from Danang, Vietnam, when Southern Baptist missionaries evacuated as the country fell to Communism in the spring of 1975. His furlough was extended until July 1977 for him to assist the Home Mission Board in Atlanta with refugee work in the United States.

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In Danang, Myers was an evangelistic worker and chairman of the Vietnam Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries).

Myers and his wife, the former Toni Alexander of Boyle, Miss., were appointed by the board in 1960. In 1962, Myers started the publication department at Baptist headquarters in Saigon and directed Baptist publication work in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968. He also produced Sunday School lessons, evangelistic tracts and books.

He served as pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Saigon and participated in general evangelistic work there. He also helped survey nationwide evangelistic needs and opportunities.

Prior to missionary appointment, he served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Sumner, Miss., for two years.

A Mississippian, he was born in Chalybeate and grew up in Skene. He was graduated from Mississippi College, Clinton, with the bachelor of arts degree, and from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., with the bachelor of divinity degree.

During college and seminary days, he was pastor of Calvary Baptist Mission, Ruleville, Miss.; Friendship Baptist Church, Tutwiler, Miss.; and New Bethel Baptist Church, Hardinsburg, Ky. He was music and youth director for First Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, Ky.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Hastey, Panama Missionary,
Elected To Associate Post

Baptist Press
4/21/77

ATLANTA (BP)--Ervin E. Hastey, Southern Baptist missionary to Panama, has been elected associate to the Foreign Mission Board's consultant in evangelism and church development, effective July 1.

He was elected to the newly created position during the April meeting of the Foreign Mission Board at the Wieuca Road Baptist Church here.

Among his duties, he will work closely with the consultant to help discover and enlist appropriate personnel for projects in evangelism and church development. Hastey will also assist in special overseas conferences on evangelism, especially in training nationals to lead WIN (Witness Involvement Now) schools for church leaders.

Hastey worked previously in this capacity during an extended furlough from 1971-73, visiting more than 30 countries to conduct WIN training and to assist in preparing for major city crusades. In August, he will spend three weeks in Hong Kong conducting the WIN training for national leaders in a program similar to the one he conducted in Niteroi and Sao Goncalo, Brazil, in August 1976.

Stationed in Panama since 1974, the Hasteys have been involved in general evangelism work. He has preached in revivals, trained workers and helped to establish new churches and strengthen existing ones.

He has served as interim president of the Panama Baptist Seminary, taught in Seminary Extension centers and acted as chairman of the mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries).

Mrs. Hastey has taught religious education and private music lessons in the seminary. She also was mission counselor to the associational Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), did bookkeeping for the seminary, and wrote historical background for the program base design of the mission.

Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1952, the Hasteys were initially stationed in Hermosillo, Mexico. In 1956, they moved to Torreon, where he taught in the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary.

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The Hasteys also served in Mexico City, where he became full-time director of evangelism for the National Baptist Convention of Mexico in 1964. He had served part-time in evangelism promotion since 1959.

In addition to his responsibility as director of evangelism, Hasteys served as an evangelistic worker in the state of Yucatan for about a year, stationed in Merida. He was coordinator of programs for the National Baptist Convention of Mexico, 1971-74.

A native of Thomas, Okla., Hasteys was graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. He was pastor of several churches in Oklahoma prior to missionary appointment.

Mrs. Hasteys is the former Ruth Tyson of Buffalo, Okla. She received the bachelor of science degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and attended Southwestern Seminary.

She was head bookkeeper at the university both before and after her graduation. Later she taught high school for a year in Thomas. -30-

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist State papers.

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Court Upholds Separate
Schools For Boys, Girls

Baptist Press
4/21/77

By Stan Hasteys

WASHINGTON (BP)--An equally divided U. S. Supreme Court ruled here that public school systems may continue to operate sex-segregated high schools without violating federal anti-discrimination laws.

The 4-4 vote, with Justice William H. Rehnquist, who was ill at the time, abstaining, means that the decision of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, upholding the right of school districts to separate boys from girls in certain schools, is left standing.

Earlier, a U. S. district court had ruled in favor of Susan Vorchheimer, a Philadelphia student who had sought admission to that city's Central High School, a school for advanced boys.

Vorchheimer and her parents took the school district to court after she was denied admission despite the fact that she finished first in her junior high school class and won top prizes in science and geometry. They argued that the only reason for the denial of her application for admission to Central was her sex.

Central High School has a long and illustrious history as Philadelphia's premier secondary school. It was the second such institution organized in the country. The city also operates Girls High School, an institution designed to offer scholastically superior female students an advanced college preparatory curriculum comparable to Central's.

Attorneys for Vorchheimer argued, however, that Central is superior to Girls High in that it has an established national reputation, is lavishly endowed, and possesses better resources and scientific facilities.

By denying her admission to Central, Vorchheimer claimed that the school district denied her equal protection of the law, a right guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

Vorchheimer's attorneys also held that Philadelphia stood in violation of the federal Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, which states in part that "all children enrolled in public schools are entitled to equal educational opportunities without regard to . . . sex." The law also prohibits assignment to schools solely on the basis of sex.

Attorneys for Vorchheimer, which included several American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) lawyers, asked the high court to rule that Philadelphia's practice of segregating students in the two high schools "reinforces a tradition that channels and curtails young women's aspirations and opportunities." Such a practice, they continued, "retards progress toward a society in which women and men associate with each other as full and equal partners."

On the other side, lawyers for the school district pointed to findings by both lower federal courts which reviewed the case that both Central and Girls High offer comparable quality, academic standing, and prestige.

In addition, they argued that many educators still hold to the view that single-sex schools offer superior training to coeducational institutions and that the Philadelphia policy "is essential to the legitimate goal of allowing flexibility, diversity, and innovation in education."

Jill Goodman, an attorney for ACLU's New York -based Women's Rights Project, told Baptist Press that the high court's decision highlights the need for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

"If we had it today," she said, "the young women of Philadelphia would no longer be deprived of the chance for an equal education."

The ERA was passed by Congress in 1972 and has been ratified by 35 state legislatures. Three more are needed by 1979, when the seven-year period allowed for ratification by three-fourths of the states expires.

The ERA has encountered stiff opposition and, in recent months, several state legislatures have refused to ratify, thus clouding prospects of its eventual ratification.

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Hurst Named Associate
To Medical Consultant

Baptist Press
4/21/77

ATLANTA (BP)--Harold E. Hurst, Southern Baptist missionary to Panama, has been elected associate to the medical consultant in the Foreign Mission Board's overseas division, effective May 1.

He was elected to the position during the April meeting of the Foreign Mission Board at the Wieuca Road Baptist Church here.

He will promote and coordinate the medical/dental volunteer program and organize and coordinate medical emergency disaster teams. Among his other duties, he will coordinate the Baptist Hospital Partnership Program between U. S. Baptist hospitals and overseas Baptist hospitals related to the board.

Hurst, on furlough from Panama, has assisted the medical consultant on administrative matters since Aug. 1, 1976. In Panama, he was hospital administrator at Marvel Iglesias Baptist Hospital.

Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1952, the Hursts spent a year in San Jose, Costa Rica, studying language before moving to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where he was engaged in evangelism and church development.

He was radio and television programmer, taught at Honduras Baptist Theological Institute, directed work with university students, managed a Baptist bookstore, served as administrator for a medical clinic and coordinated medical caravans to outlying areas.

Mrs. Hurst, a registered nurse, was active with religious education and music at the theological institute, was an advisor to the Honduras Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), and worked as a nurse. At church, she taught Sunday School, was church pianist, and a leader in the women's missionary organization.

Born in Alton, Ill., Hurst grew up in Belleview, Mo. He received the bachelor of arts degree from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and the master of theology degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C. At the time of his missionary appointment, he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Mill Creek, Okla.

Mrs. Hurst, the former Alice Leavitt, was born in Tampa, Fla., and moved with her family to San Antonio, Tex., as a teenager. She was graduated from the school of nursing at General Hospital, Kansas City, Mo., and from William Jewell College. She also studied at Southwestern Seminary.

Prior to missionary appointment, Mrs. Hurst was campus nurse at William Jewell College and staff nurse at a hospital in Fort Worth.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

Court Upholds 'Witnesses'
License Plate Protest

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Supreme Court ruled here that states may not require citizens to display slogans on their automobile license plates when they conflict with religious beliefs.

The high court's decision was specifically directed at the state of New Hampshire, where privately owned autos must display the state motto, "Live Free or Die."

George and Maxine Maynard, practicing Jehovah's Witnesses, had argued earlier that the slogan was contrary to their beliefs. In testimony before a lower court, George Maynard had explained that "My 'government'--Jehovah's Kingdom--offers everlasting life. It would be contrary to that belief to give up my life for the state, even if it meant living in bondage."

Maynard was arrested three times over a five-week period in late 1974 and early 1975 for covering the slogan with tape. After the second offense, he was ordered to pay a \$50 fine or go to jail. He chose the latter and spent 15 days confined.

In its ruling, the high court held that the state may not "require an individual to participate in the dissemination of an ideological message by displaying it on his private property . . ."

The 7-2 opinion, written by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, repeatedly cited a 1943 Supreme Court ruling which held that children may not be compelled to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and salute the American flag.

"The right to speak and the right to refrain from speaking," Burger said, "are complementary components of the broader concept of 'individual freedom of mind.'" He went on to say that New Hampshire's law, in effect, required the Maynards to use their private property as a "mobile billboard" to convey the state's "ideological message."

Burger also ruled that New Hampshire had failed to prove that requiring the slogan's display on private property was of "compelling state interest." The state had argued that display of the motto helped police officers identify license plates and that use of the slogan promoted appreciation of history, individualism, and state pride.

Burger noted that however desirable such objectives might be and "no matter how acceptable to some, such interest cannot outweigh an individual's First Amendment right to avoid becoming the courier for such message."

In a dissenting opinion, Justice William H. Rehnquist disagreed with the court's reasoning, saying that New Hampshire had not forced the Maynards to "say" anything. He maintained that displaying the motto on license plates indicates neither agreement nor disagreement with it.

Rehnquist also reasoned that just as atheists who disagree with the motto "In God we Trust" engraved on U. S. coin and currency do not affirm their belief in God by using it, no affirmation of belief is involved in the display of mottos on license plates.

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Camp Safety Act Does Not
Deny Freedom, Says Wood

Baptist Press
4/21/77

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--Youth Camp Safety bills currently before Congress would not interfere with religious freedom, according to testimony by a Baptist executive before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Health and Safety of the House Committee on Education and Labor here.

Rosemary Brevard, assistant to the director of research services of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, presented testimony for James E. Wood Jr., executive director.

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The Baptist Joint Committee, supported by nine national Baptist bodies in the U. S. and Canada, including the Southern Baptist Convention, took no position for or against the proposed Youth Camp Safety Act. It addressed only the question of separation of church and state and religious freedom.

Representatives of Christian Camping International, including a Baptist encampment manager, opposed the legislation before the subcommittee.

Wood's testimony said that the bill under consideration "does not reveal a legislative intent either to prescribe religious beliefs or to limit religious practices. The 'noninterference' provisions . . . of the bill are apparently intended to make sure that there will be no statutory or administrative limitations on religious practices at those camps covered by the bill," he said.

According to Wood, however, the guarantees of noninterference in the bill need strengthening. He suggested substitute wording which members of the subcommittee said they found acceptable, even better than the original language.

The proposed substitute wording states that nothing in the bill or any regulations issued to carry out the bill may control the religious activities or affiliation of camps in any way. Wood also stated that he agreed with the Supreme Court that government may limit some religious practices if the health, safety, welfare and morals of the people generally are clearly endangered.

Edward Ouland, executive director, and Larry Haslam, president-elect, spoke for Christian Camping International (CCI). Haslam manages Glorietta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, which is owned and operated by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

They objected to the proposed Youth Camp Safety legislation on three counts: (1) The Christian camps are already generally safe, (2) Federal regulations will encroach on Christian camping, and (3) Camp safety programs should be state regulated.

U. S. Rep. Ronald A. Sarasin (R.-Conn.) asked if regulations in Michigan and other states interfered with religious activities in camping. Oulund said he did not object to state regulations, only federal. He felt that it would be easier to influence state officials than federal authorities in Washington.

U. S. Rep. Joseph M. Gaydos (D.-Pa.), chairman of the subcommittee, pointed out that the bills provide for administration of all regulations at the state level.

U. S. Rep. E. G. Shuster (R.-Pa.) noted that regulations may go beyond the intent of Congress and asked if CCI's concern was with the intent of the legislation or the fear of regulations going beyond the intent. Haslam conceded that the intent of the bills does not infringe on religious freedom.

Members of the subcommittee also challenged Oulund's suggestion that the federal government "consider helping camping associations with federal grants to become responsible agents for camp safety through an intensive certification program."

Gaydos noted that such a request from a witness who objected to federal involvement in camping was somewhat inconsistent and would most certainly be a violation of separation of church and state.

Also presenting favorable testimony were representatives of Girl Scouts of U. S. A. and National Parent-Teacher Association.

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Church Doubles Money
For Bold Mission Thrust

By Catherine Allen

Baptist Press
4/21/77

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--A Birmingham church has doubled its Easter offering for home missions to help launch Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust and to repay the Home Mission Board for funding its founding 32 years ago.

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The Mountain Brook Baptist Church will send a check for more than \$10,000 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions because the pastor, Dotson M. Nelson Jr., challenged the church to take a bold part in "Bold Mission Thrust," a plan to evangelize and congregationalize the nation.

Nelson, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and past president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, launched his church's Week of Prayer for Home Missions with a sermon on Bold Mission Thrust.

He explained goals set by the Home Mission Board to present the gospel to every person in the nation and to place a Southern Baptist congregation within the reach of everyone. Then Nelson reminded his congregation, "We're a child of home missions. In 1944 this church worshipped in a house purchased with \$10,000 from the Home Mission Board.

"I suggest that instead of the \$5,000 goal we have set, we raise \$10,000 and pay the Home Mission Board back for what they put in this church," Nelson told the surprised congregation. "That's boldness!

"How bold is bold?" he asked in his sermon. "It is only as bold as you want to make it in prayer, in witnessing, in offering yourself, and offering your money. Otherwise it's just more words.

"Bold Mission Thrust will be a big job, but it's no bolder than when Jesus told some of his disciples on a hilltop to go out and win the world. That was history's most audacious moment," Nelson proclaimed.

Thirty-two years ago, no Baptist church existed in the Mountain Brook suburb of Birmingham, until the Birmingham Baptist Association knocked on doors to find people willing to start a congregation and until the Home Mission Board provided \$10,000 to purchase the property.

Now, Mountain Brook Baptist Church, once on the receiving end of home missions, has 1,700 members, ranks first among Alabama churches in per capita gifts to missions, ranks second in Alabama in contributions through the SBC's Cooperative Program unified budget, and has organized another church.

Bold Mission Thrust proposes to plant new congregations in 600 counties throughout the United States which presently lack an effective evangelistic witness. Funds will come from the Cooperative Program and from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, which has a national goal of \$11,250,000.

Does Mountain Brook Baptist Church consider its debt to home missions paid?

Not if Bold Mission Thrust is to be more than words, according to Dotson Nelson. "We can make big plans but they're no good unless we implement them. The churches will have to accept these goals personally and pay for what we want to do.

"Our church can accomplish anything it wants to. So can our convention," he said.