



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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77-80

3 Missionaries Arrested,
Released in Ethiopia

RICHMOND (BP)--Three Southern Baptist missionaries in Ethiopia have been released following a 48-hour detainment in Mehal Meda, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board was informed April 29.

The missionaries are V. Lynn Groce of Missouri and Texas, an agriculturist; Dr. Dale E. Beighle of Kentucky, a veterinarian; and Dr. Jerry P. Bedsoe of Alabama, a veterinarian.

Detainment of the three missionaries came just eight days after another Ethiopian missionary, Dr. Samuel R. J. Cannata, was released from custody in Addis Ababa. Dr. Cannata had been held 16 days on a firearms technicality, although he was licensed to own guns with which to shoot destructive animals.

The three missionaries were not informed of any charges or reasons for detainment, according to Davis L. Saunders, the board's secretary for eastern and southern Africa. They were arrested in Mehal Meda in the Menz District of Central Ethiopia. They were on their way to check on a medical clinic and were carrying Bibles for distribution in the area. The three were detained by Menz District government officials.

Dr. Cannata informed Saunders that the three missionaries had been taken into custody. Cannata said that the missionaries had informed him on April 27 of their captivity, and on the next day that their shortwave radio had been confiscated. He received no further word until their release on April 29.

Upon their release the three missionaries said, according to Cannata, "The Christians were strengthened, the Bibles were distributed . . . Praise the Lord." Cannata added that the missionaries plan to remain in Ethiopia.

Some Americans have been forced to leave the country in recent days at the request of the Ethiopian government. None of the directives to leave, however, have included mission groups.

Southern Baptist missionaries have moved their families in recent weeks to the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, from bases in rural areas affected by political upheavals. The Ethiopian government has suggested since the time of Cannata's detainment that the missionaries remain in Addis Ababa.

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Cooperative Program Receipts
8.94% Ahead of 1975-76

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5/2/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--Receipts for the first seven months of the 1976-77 fiscal year of the national Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program unified budget were 8.94 percent ahead of the same point last year.

After six months, the Cooperative Program receipts were 10.07 percent ahead but dropped when giving reported in April 1977 ran only 2.72 percent ahead of the same month last year.

State Baptist conventions, which receive state Cooperative Program receipts from SBC churches, forwarded \$30,240,612 for worldwide SBC mission causes from October 1976 through April 1977, compared with \$27,759,432 for the same period last year.

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Cooperative Program receipts for April 1977, were \$4,386,683, an increase of \$115,996 over gifts for April 1976, according to the financial planning office of the SBC Executive Committee.

Total SBC receipts through April, including the more than \$30 million year-to-date Cooperative Program figure and another \$31,466,044 in designated contributions, amount to \$61,706,655--a 7.83 percent increase over the \$57,227,348 given last year for the same period.

Designated receipts alone show a 6.78 percent increase over the \$29,467,916 given in the first seven months of the 1975-76 fiscal year.

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Southern Baptists in Detroit
Aid Kentucky Flood Victims

Baptist Press
5/2/77

DETROIT (BP)--A Southern Baptist deacon and his wife rallied local churches and enlisted other support here to send 12 tons of food, clothing, furniture and other goods by truck to flood victims to Pikeville, Ky, in mid-April.

The project began with Baptist layman Ralph Melton, a deacon of Grosse Pointe Park Baptist Church near Detroit, who talked with his pastor then went to a trucking firm to ask for a truck.

He found the owner willing to help, so he next went to his boss and asked for a week off. His boss agreed, so Melton and his wife began phoning Detroit churches to invite them to bring supplies to the Gross Pointe Park Church. They also printed 500 flyers and distributed them locally.

A local television news show highlighted the effort, and churches and individuals responded.

A mattress company gave \$2,000 of mattresses and springs, and a local Lutheran church gave \$50 to the Baptist effort, among other donations.

The truck load of supplies was taken to a Baptist church in Pikeville, Ky.

The Pikeville residents were glad for the help, but it was "just a drop in the bucket compared to the staggering needs," Melton asaid.

He and the Grosse Pointe Park congregation were trying to fill a second truck to take to Kentucky in May.

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Texas Baptist on ODC Team
Studying W. Africa Drought

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5/2/77

DALLAS (BP)--James M. Dunn, director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission, has been named to an 18-member team of Americans to study West African nations hit hard by the drought of 1968-73.

Dunn was to travel through Senegal and Mali the first two weeks in May as a part of the Transnational Dialogue sponsored by the Overseas Development Council (ODC) of Washington, D. C.

The dialogue was to focus mainly on food. Dunn is co-author of the new Broadman Press book, "Endangered Species," on the world hunger crisis.

Dunn, on a team that includes economists, politicians, writers, agriculturalists and businessmen, said the dialogue is designed to increase contact and discussion among policy makers and specialists from the developed and developing countries. One other Texan, Ms. Marilyn Samuelson of Coupland, is in the group.

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Primary purpose of ODC, an independent, nonprofit "think tank," is "to increase American understanding of the economic and social problems confronting the developing countries and the importance of these countries to the United States."

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Alcohol Ad Guides Upheld By
NAB Radio Code Board

Baptist Press
5/2/77

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Radio Code Board of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) meeting here upheld its Alcoholic Beverage Advertising Guidelines banning sponsorship by distillers and distributors of public service-type announcements.

It also reaffirmed policy provisions incorporated in the Code's guidelines pertaining to "mixer product" advertising, but agreed that acceptability of specific copy language which is descriptive of the product should be left to the individual licensees. The policy continues to preclude references to specific hard liquor drinks.

In other actions, the board:

--Declined to change the Code policy which would have allowed advertising of a horoscope service by telephone. The change was requested by representatives of Young and Rubicam and the N.Y. Telephone Co.

--Reaffirmed Code policy which disallows hypnosis for weight reduction and smoke cessation clinics.

--Reaffirmed its policy which finds unacceptable the advertising of cigarette paper.

The Code Board, while continuing to uphold its policy precluding the advertising of contraceptive products, responded to a proposal by directing its personal products committee and the Code Authority to enter into discussions with the National Council of Churches, the United Methodist Church and Harvard University regarding the formulation of a test program for contraceptive product commercials which utilize the theme of "responsible parenthood." A full board review is planned at various stages of discussion, a NAB spokesman said.

At a recent meeting of NAB's Television Code Review Board, a similar plan was set up and the committees of both boards will meet for mutual discussions on the subject, the spokesman noted.

The Code Board also appointed a committee to review advertising prohibitions contained in the Radio Code booklet. The committee chairman is Jack Stuppler, director, program practices, CBS, Inc., New York, NY.

The board also reiterated its caution that individual stations are responsible for monitoring lyrics of songs played on the air.

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