



June 7, 1977

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77-101

**Two Mansonites Now Witness
For Christ, Says Chaplain**

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE (BP)--Charles "Tex" Watson, serving a life sentence for the Manson family's "Sharon Tate" murders eight years ago, today is an effective witness for Jesus Christ, a prison ministry expert and chaplain claimed here.

Raymond Hoekstra, known to prisoners as "Chaplain Ray," has spent hours interviewing Watson about the Sharon Tate murders and discussing the former Charles Manson family member's conversion to Jesus Christ.

Hoekstra, who has written a book, "God's Prison Gang," about the conversion experiences of Watson and Susan Atkins, another "Mansonite" serving a life sentence, and five other notorious criminals, was interviewed following a chapel address at the Baptist Sunday School Board here.

The 64-year-old president and director of the International Prison Ministry, part of the United Community Churches of America, told Baptist Press his taped interviews with Watson disclose "many startling details" previously either unknown or unproven.

In the interviews, Hoekstra said, Watson admitted for the first time that he alone killed the five persons in actress Sharon Tate's mansion in Bel Air, Calif., in August 1969, and Leno and Rosemary LaBlanca in another part of Los Angeles the following day.

The taped interviews form the substance of another book to be released soon, which Hoekstra said will be "the other side of 'Helter Skelter,'" a book written by the prosecuting attorney in the sensational Tate murders case.

Hoekstra interviewed Watson after Atkins earlier told the chaplain, "I thank God that these two hands of mine have never taken a human life." Watson, who became a Christian a short time later, confirmed her statement: "She's telling the truth. She didn't kill anyone. I killed them all."

Before and after the trial, Atkins claimed she had murdered Sharon Tate, who was eight months pregnant at the time of the killings.

"Susan was trained (by Charles Manson) that women are nothing and men are everything," Hoekstra explains, "so she tried to shield Watson." She was also trying to build a tough reputation in her fight for survival in prison, he says.

Hoekstra said that anyone familiar with the prison caste system "readily understands why Watson never confessed to Sharon Tate's murder prior to his conversion." A big-time criminal, is respected by his fellow inmates, while the killer of a pregnant woman or a child is despised, the minister said.

Hoekstra believes it was a combination of drugs and Manson's unusual power to control their minds that led the members of Manson's "family" to follow and even worship him.

"These mind-bending hallucinogenic drugs taken were all part of the training program--to d program them from everything they had been taught," he says.

"Tex told me that after he had been with the Manson family and had gone through this deprogramming, reprogramming and the drug trips, he got to where his life meant absolutely nothing to him..."

"That," Hoekstra added, "was quite an insight into the depths of reprogramming that can be done by a skillful manipulator--especially when it's combined with the use of drugs."

One of the most "chilling" facts about the Manson family, according to Hoekstra, is that the devotion he was able to elicit from his followers was based on a bizarre form of theology.

Manson somehow constructed the concept, Hoekstra explained, that if Jesus practiced what he preached about loving one's enemies, then Jesus loved Satan, his chief enemy.

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"So when the members of his family saw Manson as Christ, they saw him equally as Satan," he said. "And since good and evil had been joined and made peace, and since Christ and Satan were now one in Manson, there was no right, there was no wrong, there was no good, there was no evil--everything was Charlie,"

Hoekstra said that both Atkins and Watson believe Manson "was possessed of an evil spirit that gave him superhuman cunning, superhuman control over people."

Hoekstra agrees that Manson was "a man possessed."

Watson, in fact, warned him not to go see Manson, commenting that "he's too strong."

"Of course, I don't have that view," Hoekstra says. "If Charlie wanted me to go see him, I'd go see him. And I would share with him the same gospel that I have shared with the other members of the family."

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Seminary 'Student' Slept
Through Every Single Class

Baptist Press
6/6/77

by Michael Duduit

LOUISVILLE (BP)--They say many students sleep their way through seminary.

That was literally true of Ian Farmer, however, who completed his educational adventure in early June at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here. Ian had an excuse, though. He is only 3-months-old.

Both parents of this "youngest seminarian" were students at Southern Seminary--Gary, Ian's father, is a master of divinity student from Owensboro, Ky., and his mom, Laurie, a native of Waco, Tex., is a diploma student in the seminary's school of church music.

So after Ian came along March 1 of this year there was just one solution--he went to class with his mother.

In fact, Ian became a regular part of the classroom scene.

"My group in 'Group Dynamics' (a religious education class) really liked for me to bring him--he's just part of the group," Laurie said.

One class even pitched in and bought a suit for their new classmate.

"Then I really thought he was part of the class," she said.

Laurie's professors were "very understanding" about Ian's presence in class, and some of them teased about her unique situation.

"Dean (Forrest) Heeren at the music school, when I first took Ian to class, said we should bring him in for his first voice lesson," she said. Asked if Ian needed any help with his voice, his mother replied, "He does quite well on his own."

Laurie and many fellow students feared that Ian's arrival was going to disrupt her senior recital, on February 10. Ian was due February 13.

"Everybody at the music school was really crossing their fingers hoping I'd be on stage instead of in the hospital that night," she recalls.

Ian cooperated, however, and didn't come until March. The recital went as scheduled--though not without some discomfort to Laurie.

"It was an hour-long piano recital," she recalled, "and I thought I was going to die. Never play an hour recital when you're nine months pregnant!"

"As it was, Ian only caused his mom to miss ten days of classes, and then their joint educational career began.

Father, mother and son all finished their seminary study during commencement exercises June 3, and all three crossed the stage--with Ian in his mother's arms as she received her diploma.

Gary has been called as associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Waco. Though Laurie eventually plans to return to Baylor University there to finish her music degrees, she has decided that "I'm going to be a housewife and a mother and nothing else for awhile."

That's all right with Ian--he apparently prefers sleeping at home to sleeping through lectures.

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BP Photos mailed to Baptist state papers

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

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77-101

Young Named Editor
 Of Rocky Mountain Baptist

DENVER (BP)--James Lee Young of Nashville has been elected editor of the Rocky Mountain Baptist, weekly news publication, and public relations director for the Colorado Baptist General Convention, effective July 1.

Young, 34, feature editor of Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention news service, since Oct., 1973, succeeds Larry R. Jerden, who resigned May 15. Jerden will become religion editor of the Alexandria (La.) Daily Town Talk, July 1.

Before joining the SBC Executive Committee to accept the newly-created feature editor function of Baptist Press, Young had served as media representative for Family Stations, Inc., Oakland, Calif.; director of news and information services at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; and reporter for the San Diego Evening Tribune.

He has also served as minister of music and minister of music and youth at churches in Johnstown, Calif., and San Rafael, Calif.; manager of a news-public relations office for a U. S. Navy Seabee battalion in both Gia Le, Vietnam, and Gulfport, Miss.; and managing editor of the Daily Aztec while a student at San Diego State University.

A native of Altus, Okla., Young was reared in Arizona and California. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from San Diego State, and a master of religious education degree from Golden Gate Seminary.

During his tenure at Baptist Press, Young also served as photography-features manager in the press operation at annual national meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He married Glenda Charlene Melton of El Cajon, Calif., in 1969 and has two children, Renae, age two, and Lance, nearly six months old.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Circus Performers Worship
 God Under the 'Big Top'

Baptist Press
 6/7/77

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia (BP)--Benny, the strong man in the oriental circus based here, was baptized recently. So were his wife, three owners of the circus and 19 other employees. Twelve others are awaiting baptism, according to missionaries here.

The same tent that draws up to 15,000 for circus performances in one day is a sanctuary of worship and praise on Sunday mornings for many of the 70 circus team members.

"It's a strange phenomenon to drive to the town square on Sunday mornings and be greeted by the sounds of songs of praise pervading the whole vicinity coming over the public address system," said Southern Baptist missionary John D. Smith.

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Decisions by Benny and others have followed several years of fellowship with several Southern Baptist missionaries in the area, the missionary said.

The circus performers are now looking for ways to witness through their acts, Smith noted.

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Bible Teachers Named
For World Conference

Baptist Press
6/7/77

WASHINGTON (BP)--Three Bible scholars--one each from three major national Baptist bodies in North America--have been chosen to lead Bible studies at the 2nd World Conference of Baptist Men.

An attendance of 5,000 men from 60 nations is expected for the meeting, scheduled for Indianapolis, Ind., April 5-9, 1978. The first world conference was held in Hong Kong in 1974. The event is sponsored by the Men's Department of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA).

Lee Satterfield, a Southern Baptist layman of Alta Vista, Va., chairman of the conference steering committee, announced the Bible study leaders:

--Gerald L. Borchert, professor of Biblical studies, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, S. D.; Robert C. Campbell, executive secretary of the American Baptist Churches, Valley Forge, Pa.; and Dale Moody, professor of theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Satterfield said that an international panel of speakers and discussion leaders are being arranged for the program, using the theme "God Working Through You." A discussion group approach will be used to encourage the exchange of ideas among men from many nations, he said.

The conference is open also to pastors and the wives of men attending. Information and registration forms may be secured from BWA Men's Department, 1628 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20009.

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'Significant Growth' Cited
Among Malaysian Baptists

Baptist Press
6/7/77

PENANG, Malaysia (BP)--The naming of a national as president of the Malaysian-Singapore Baptist Theological Seminary, sending of the first home missionary, and transfer of Baptist institutions under consideration, were cited as "definite signs of growth" in national leadership among Baptists here.

The increased leadership among nationals indicated "significant growth" in the 23-year-old Malaysia Baptist Convention, according to William R. Wakefield, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Southeast Asia.

Wayne Siao Wei Yuan, recently inaugurated as the seventh president of the Malaysia-Singapore Baptist Theological Seminary here, is the first national to hold the position. He succeeds Bill Clark Thomas, Southern Baptist missionary who served as president from 1970 to 1976. Southern Baptist missionaries have held this position since the beginning of the institution in 1954.

During the seminary's first year of operation, Siao was a teacher and dean of studies. He served in that capacity again from 1970-76.

Elsewhere in Malaysia, growth among Baptist work has also been experienced. At the annual convention meeting in Port Dickson recently, committees were elected to work with Southern Baptist missionaries and the Foreign Mission Board on the future transfer of Baptist institutions in West (peninsular) Malaysia to the Malaysian convention.

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The Baptist institutions under consideration for transfer to the national Baptist convention are the seminary, the Baptist Book Store, Golden Sands Baptist Assembly, and the Building and Loan Fund, according to Kathryn (Mrs. Hugh) Smith, Southern Baptist missionary.

The convention's appointment of its first home missionary is also significant, according to Wakefield. Leong Tuck Yue will assist in beginning Baptist work on the east coast of West Malaysia. He will work with Mrs. Smith and her husband, who have been missionaries on the east coast since 1975.

Wakefield is "cautiously optimistic" about the presence of Southern Baptist missionaries in West Malaysia, although there was concern at one time that the number of missionaries might be limited. After a period in which visas were denied to missionaries, two missionary couples this year were granted visas to work with leadership training in the country.

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

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Court Again Strikes Down
Mandatory Death Sentences

Baptist Press
6/7/77

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--States may not impose mandatory death sentences on convicted murderers of policemen, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled here.

The 5-4 decision came one year after the high court ruled that mandatory execution for other types of first degree murder violates the Constitution's ban on "cruel and unusual punishment." At the same time, however, the court held then that capital punishment as such does violate the Eighth Amendment prohibition.

The court's new decision came in the case of Harry Roberts, who was tried and convicted for the murder of police officer Dennis McInerney in New Orleans three years ago. According to Louisiana law, Roberts was automatically sentenced to death when he was found guilty. Louisiana's supreme court upheld the conviction and sentence.

In reversing that court, the U. S. Supreme Court majority cited much the same reasons as it did last year in striking down mandatory death penalty laws in both Louisiana and North Carolina. At the same time, the justices upheld capital punishment statutes without the mandatory provisions in three other states, Georgia, Texas, and Florida.

The court held then that ". . . the fundamental respect for humanity underlying the Eighth Amendment . . . requires consideration of the character and record of the individual offender and the circumstances of a particular offense as a constitutionally indispensable part of the process of inflicting the penalty of death."

In its new opinion, the majority conceded that society has "a special interest in affording protection" to public servants, including policemen and firemen. Nevertheless, circumstances such as the offender's youth, absence of previous record of conviction, emotional disturbance, and "even the existence of circumstances which the offender reasonably believed provided a moral justification for his conduct" are examples of so-called "mitigating" factors which argue against the automatic application of the death penalty.

Four justices dissented, including William H. Rehnquist, who in a bitterly worded statement attacked the majority view of "moral justification" for killing a policeman.

"I cannot believe that states are constitutionally required to allow a defense . . . which depends on nothing more than the convict's moral belief that he was entitled to kill a peace officer in cold blood," Rehnquist wrote.

Rehnquist argued that the state has special interests in protecting police officers in that they "are literally the foot soldiers of society's defense of ordered liberty."

The high court has heard arguments in another major death penalty case which is expected to be decided before the end of the current term. That one involves the application of the death penalty in rape cases.

High Court Upholds Obscenity Conviction

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)--A divided U. S. Supreme Court upheld the conviction of a California man convicted of selling two reels of obscene film despite his contention that the judge at his trial gave the jury improper instructions.

Roy Splawn was convicted in 1971 under a California law making it a misdemeanor to sell obscene materials. His case has been in the courts ever since. It reached the Supreme Court once before, in 1973, but was sent back to California state courts for action in wake of the high court's historic Miller decision that year.

The court ruled in Miller that local communities may set up their own standards in determining what constitutes obscenity.

Splawn persisted in his argument that the jury at his trial received improper instructions from the judge. The judge told jurors that they could consider the motive of "commercial exploitation" in arriving at their verdict. Splawn's position was that while others in the "chain of distribution" of the films might have been guilty of such exploitation, he was not.

While a majority of five members of the court disagreed with Splawn, four others dissented from the decision. One of them, justice John Paul Stevens, held that no evidence had been presented to indicate that Splawn's customers were victimized by "commercial exploitation." Instead, Stevens argued, they voluntarily purchased the films in question.

Stevens also argued that while the films' distributors admittedly advertised them as "sexually provocative," that in itself did not prove their obscenity. He concluded that he would not send Splawn to jail "for telling the truth about his shabby business."

Although this obscenity case dealt with procedural, not substantive, issues, its disposition by a slim 5-4 margin is further evidence of the continuing debate within the high court surrounding the whole question of obscenity and the role government ought to play in regulating it.

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Ministers' Confidentiality
Bill Passes in Missouri

Baptist Press
6/7/77

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--A bill providing confidentiality for communications between a pastor and counselees was approved by both houses of the Missouri legislature here with only the governor's signature necessary for it to become law.

House Bill 175, co-sponsored by Reps. Carrol McCubbin of Eldon, Mo., and Fred Lynn of Springfield, Mo., was passed with "little opposition" in the senate after "considerable difficulty clearing the judiciary committee," according to the Word and Way, Missouri Baptists' weekly news publication.

Final vote in the senate was 30-0, with three senators absent, the news account said.

The next day, the house accepted the amended version of the bill by a vote of 105-51, according to the report.

The bill was to go next to Missouri Governor  who was expected to sign it, the Word and Way said.

The law as it has been refers to "confessions made to him in his professional character in the course of discipline enjoined by the rules of practice of such denominations," in reference to confidentiality of communications between a minister and counselee.

The bill now pending the governor's signature defines as confidential information, "a communication made to him (a minister) in his professional capacity for the purpose of obtaining spiritual counsel."

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Missouri Baptists became interested in the legislation two years ago, according to the Word and Way, when Kansas City pastor Tom Burgdorf, pastor of Rock Hill Baptist Church, said he was threatened with contempt of court for refusing to divulge information received in counseling sessions with a church member.

A study by the Missouri Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission led to a conclusion that the courts could force a minister to divulge information gained in counseling sessions, since most court cases stipulated that only information gained in confessional situations, according to the teachings of a religion, could be confidential.

With the aid of legislative consultant Willard Rhine, a bill was drafted and introduced in the 1976 legislative session. The bill died, however.

This year, identical bills were introduced in the Missouri House and Senate. State Sen. John Russell of Lebanon, Mo., sponsored the confidentiality bill in the senate. The house version of the bill progressed more rapidly than the Senate one, and the McCubbin/Lynn Bill was adopted by both legislative houses, according to the Word and Way.

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T. B. Lackey Hospitalized;
Listed in Serious Condition

Baptist Press
6/7/77

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Thomas B. Lackey, retired executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma was listed in serious condition in the coronary care unit at Baptist Medical Center after suffering a heart attack here.

Lackey, 71, became ill on May 31 at a meeting of the Oklahoma Health Care Corporation which he was serving as president, and was hospitalized, a convention spokesman said. His condition is "very serious," according to the spokesman.

Lackey was retired in 1971 after 20 years as executive secretary-treasurer of the Oklahoma convention and was slated to retire from the hospital management corporation position in June.

After he became ill, the corporation directors voted that president-elect Haskell Harris, a layman and deacon at Trinity Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, should take office immediately.

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