

# (BP) - - FEATURES

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77-124

At Fillmore, It's Not Who You Are, But What You Are

By Everett Hullum

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--During the five years he has been at Fillmore Baptist Center, Tom Belote has been punched, abused, threatened with death, and called names.

This summer, Belote is leaving the center in the predominantly black, low-income neighborhood in San Francisco.

But no one calls Belote a quitter. He has earned respect for his tenacity in one of the toughest assignments a minister can take in Christian social ministries.

During the past five years, Belote has brought about some dramatic changes in the center's functions.

"I've tried to instill a little discipline," said the 55-year-old ex-Navy chief. "And pride."

Pride has not come easily in a community where failure is a way of life.

But more than one youngster can now say to Belote, as one did recently: "If it hadn't been for you, man, I'd be nowhere. You pushed me when I needed it. I'm making it 'cause of you."

Belote is one of three Christian social ministries missionaries in the San Francisco Peninsula sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board. Jim Pittman, who served at the Fillmore center for five years before Belote, and A. L. McDaniel are pastor/missionaries, serving churches located in the problem sections of the city.

With those three men, the San Francisco Peninsula Association has more Christian social ministries (CSM) missionaries per capita than any other association in the country.

"If we are going to penetrate San Francisco's secular society," says Jim Barber of the Home Mission Board's Christian social ministries department, "we've got to do it on every front. CSM is one of the most effective means of witness in San Francisco."

Belote agreed, although he realizes the work takes a high toll.

"I've changed," he admitted. "The oppression you feel here is real. It's affected my life. I can see I've come to the point where I'm sort of hardened."

"I feel the tension here (in the Fillmore District)...you've got to be strong to survive here."

"I felt I couldn't hack it at first," Belote said about the early days as director. "I got a feeling I was not here alone. Christ was with me. From then on I've had the feeling it doesn't make any difference what happens to me."

Belote had every reason for worry. When he came, the center was in shambles. Kids had thrown pool balls through the walls; windows were broken; curtains had been ripped down. Paint was smeared over walls.

Before he picked up a hammer, however, Belote talked with the kids, and let them know that he wasn't about to repair the center if they were going to tear it up again.

Eventually, one of the kids volunteered to help Belote make repairs. Using his experience in the Navy in electronics, plumbing and other building and maintenance skills, Belote began work--with the kids' help.

"We were together," he recalls. "I worked with them and showed them how to do different things."

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Today the center is clean and neat, its walls painted and its equipment put away when not in use.

The kids who once broke pool cues over chairs now police the center.

The ones who were most troublesome are now leaders of activities.

The programs, run by high school graduates under Belote's supervision, include juvenile rehabilitation; sports teams (in leagues with other city social organizations); work scholarships for high school graduates; camping; counseling; and afternoon drop-in activities.

With youngsters running most of the programs, Belote said his job "is to help these kids learn to live with the problems of the ghetto. It's not a nice place. I try to convince the kids you can change where you live..."

When his wife's mother became ill this past spring, Belote and his wife decided to return to their home in Virginia to care for her.

Still, part of the decision came because "I've about done all I can here," he said. "It's time for a younger guy to put some new life into the program."

CSM intern, Jerry Buckner, a Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary student, may be offered the directorship next. If it comes, he'll be the first black to head the program. But his success won't depend on his race. Tom Belote has proven that at the Fillmore, it's who you are--not what you are--that counts.

And a lot of kids are living proof that lesson means much in the ghetto.

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Adapted from June, 1977 World Mission Journal.  
(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state papers.

Congress Acts To Provide  
Full Vatican Ambassador

Baptist Press  
7/14/77

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--Congress is on the verge of repealing a century-old statute prohibiting public funds for a United States ambassador to the Vatican.

The Senate has already voted repeal of the law enacted on February 28, 1867. The matter now goes to a conference committee between the House and Senate to iron out differences between the two versions of the 1978 appropriations bill (H.R. 6689) for the Department of State. The repeal of the 1867 statute was not in the bill as passed by the House of Representatives.

U. S. Sen. Richard Stone (D.-Fla.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, proposed the repeal of the 1867 law because he felt that such a prohibition should not stand in the way if the President of the United States desired to appoint an ambassador to the Vatican.

The Foreign Relations Committee report on the State Department appropriations bill explained about the repeal proposal. It said, "The provision does not mandate the establishment of such ties, but will permit the administration to exercise its discretion in determining whether U. S. interests would at some time be served by formal diplomatic relations."

The repeal of the 1867 prohibition sailed through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and through the Senate itself unnoticed by the public or the press. However, it came to light when President Jimmy Carter announced that he had named David M. Walters as his personal representative to the Pope.

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A spokesman in Senator Stone's office stated that he did not know who had called this matter to the attention of the senator. He explained, however, that the senator felt that since there is a Vatican presence in many parts of the world and in the interests of President Carter's emphasis on human rights, it would be appropriate for the United States to have an ambassador to the Vatican.

It was not known at the time of this news report whether the initiative in the movement toward full ambassadorial representation at the Vatican was taken by the Department of State, or by the Vatican, or by President Carter, or by other forces.

The conference committee members on H.R. 6689 from the Senate are: Senators John Sparkman (D.-Ala.), George McGovern (D.-S.D.), Joseph R. Biden (D.-Del.), Clifford P. Case (R.-N.J.), Charles H. Percy (R.-Ill.), and Howard H. Baker (R.-Tenn.).

The conference committee members from the House are: Representatives Clement J. Zablocki (D.-Wis.), Dante B. Fascell (D.-Fla.), Charles C. Diggs Jr. (D.-Mich.), Lester J. Ryan (D.-Calif.), Helen S. Meyner (D.-N.J.), Wyche Fowler (D.-Ga.), William S. Broomfield (R.-Mich.), John Buchanan (R.-Ala.), and J. Herbert Burke (R.-Fla.).

Immediate response came from Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), who expressed strong opposition to federal funding of an ambassador to the Vatican.

Declaring that such funding would breach the wall separating church and state, Allen, repeating a statement he made when Carter named Walters, said, "Such a practice would violate the spirit and probably the letter of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

"I would urge concerned citizens to contact their elected representatives on the conference committee and in the House and Senate opposing such action by calling them at the U. S. Capitol at (202) 224-3121 or writing or sending telegrams to the U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510 or the U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. 20515," Allen said.

The history of diplomatic representation to the Pope by the United States of America has followed a controversial and erratic course since the founding of the republic. In 1779 John Adams wrote to the Continental Congress expressing the opinion that Congress would never send a minister to the Pope.

Except for the 20-year period from 1848 to 1867, there has never been full ranking diplomatic representation from the United States to the Vatican. However, for many years there were consular relations with the Vatican state until its fall in 1870.

Consuls are not recognized in international law as diplomatic officials, but they are commercial agents concerned exclusively with affairs of business and travel. Such consular relations between the United States and the Papal state began in 1797 and continued until the demise of the temporal power of the Pope in 1870.

At the time of the Pope's temporal power, he ruled over territory of 16,000 square miles with 3 million population. Since then his dominion has been confined to approximately 100 acres within the city of Rome and his power has been reduced to that of the ecclesiastical head of the Roman Catholic Church, even though Vatican City is technically an independent state in a legal sense.

With the coming of Pope Pius IX in 1848 the United States began formal diplomatic relations with the Vatican. It was thought and hoped that Pius IX would be a liberal, progressive, reforming Pope. However, by the end of the 20-year period he turned conservative and practiced most restrictive measures against non-Catholics in Rome.

By 1867, the Pope forbade Protestant worship within the city of Rome, ordered 2,000 Protestant Bibles burned, promulgated the "syllabus of errors" condemning such American ideals as separation of church and state, religious liberty and public education, among other objectionable activity.

It was this situation in 1867 that led Congress to pass a law prohibiting the use of public funds for an American legation in Rome. This law has prevailed until the present day.

However, in 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt named Myron C. Taylor as his personal representative to the Pope. He claimed that such contact with the Vatican would be useful in the pursuit of the interests of the United States during World War II.

President Harry S. Truman, upon the resignation of Taylor, assured the Protestants that he had no intention of continuing the relationship. However, on October 20, 1951, he nominated Gen. Mark W. Clark as the first full-fledged ambassador to the Vatican. He said this move would help the USA in its fight against Communism. Such a furor arose throughout the United States that within a few months the general asked the President to withdraw his nomination.

No further diplomatic ties were attempted by an American President until Richard M. Nixon named Henry Cabot Lodge as his personal representative to the Pope, an arrangement that was continued by President Ford and now by President Carter.

These Presidents avoided the legal prohibition against public funds for such diplomatic use, by naming their envoys "personal representatives," who were unsalaried and who did not require Senate confirmation. -30-

#### Camping--And Melinda--

#### Memories Are Made of This

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--To hear the children tell it, day camping was "out of this world," at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center during the Bold Mission Leadership Conference here.

A survey of 64 children in grades 1-6 showed hiking led the interest of the day campers.

Six-year-old Lance King of Midland, Tex., wrote very distinctly: "HIKYN."

During the daily four hour session on 20 acres on the eastern edge of the 2,500 acre conference center the youngsters participated in more than a dozen interest activities, while their parents took training in Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union work nearby.

With the help of 12 counselors, Phyllis Weems, a petite blonde, second-year student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, led the children through such activities as a flag ceremony, and puppet show, a two-hour hike, a variety of games, worship time, Bible study, and nature study.

Art and crafts ran a close second to the hiking as the most interesting activity, followed by a gypsy hunt and a running game called "Spud."

But everything wasn't rosy, despite the efforts of Miss Weems of Springfield, Mo., who has worked in the day camp for six summers.

Asked what they liked least about the camping experience, the boys were very disconcerted about the rules against throwing rocks.

For the girls the answer was clear--sitting down, holding hands with boys at the flag pole, and boys, boys, boys.

Chris Thurman, 8, of Farnsworth, Tex., put singing at the bottom of her list. She expressed it this way: "Singing is terable" (sic).

The children listed a wide range of answers such as counselors, singing, and hiking as the things they would remember most about the experience.

Jenny Nation, 8, of Phoenix, Ariz., used graphics to denote her interest--a tepee with GA (Girls in Action mission program) sign.

Steve Quinn, 9, of Shreveport, La., was very specific about what he would always remember:

"Melinda!"



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**Cooper Spearheads Model Energy Plan in Yazoo City**

By Jim Newton

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) -- While the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was adopting a resolution expressing support of "our national leaders in their research and development of a domestic energy policy," a former president of the convention extolled the merits of community action to do something locally about the energy crisis.

Retired Mississippi industrialist Owen Cooper, SBC president, 1973-75, took the leadership role in creating and organizing a 40-member Energy Conservation Committee for Yazoo City, Miss.

Asked how the project was initiated, Cooper said, "We requested the city council to adopt a resolution creating such a committee." Then asked who he meant by, "we," Cooper confessed, "Well, I guess I'm using the editorial 'we' in this case."

"I talked to some folks in the community and got good support, so 'we' went to the city council with the proposal that Yazoo City not wait for Washington to develop a national energy program, but organize a committee to do something about it now, right here in Yazoo City," Cooper said.

Cooper, who headed the Yazoo City-based Mississippi Chemical Corp., the world's largest ammonium fertilizer manufacturing cooperative, before he retired, said it has only recently dawned on him that the world has a limited supply of hydro-carbons and petroleum.

"We've got to come to the point that instead of 'pocketbook' decisions for today, we will make 'grandchildren' decisions for tomorrow," he declared.

Explaining what he meant by 'pocketbook' decisions, Cooper said that after President Jimmy Carter's televised broadcast outlining his new energy proposals, almost everyone reacted on the basis of how it would affect his or her personal pocketbook.

"Instead, we have to make our decisions on the basis of how they will affect our grandchildren. If I drive a Cadillac today, will it force my grandchild to ride a bicycle in the future?" Cooper questioned.

To do something "now" about the energy crisis, the Yazoo City Energy Conservation Committee has organized 40 different subcommittees, involving as many as 200 people, to tackle every conceivable aspect of conserving energy in the city.

They've hired an executive director to coordinate it all, and have written to every national agency concerned about energy conservation, every gas and petroleum company, and every resource they can find to get more information.

Baptists, the predominant denomination in the city of 12,000 population in Mississippi's delta region, are also predominant on the committee.

Cooper is the chairman. His former right-hand man at the Mississippi Chemical Corp., Gene Triggs, is vice chairman. Country Humorist Jerry Clower is as vocal on the Energy Conservation Committee as he is on television. All are Baptist laymen and deacons, as is the mayor of Yazoo City, Floyd Johnson.

Although rattling off ideas that the committee has for doing something practical, Cooper emphasized that neither he nor the others were trying to dominate. Rather, he said they encourage each of the 40 subcommittees to be as creative as possible in coming up with practical suggestions that will work in Yazoo City.

They've talked about urging the women in winter to wear wool socks and felt-lined ankle-high shoes so they won't be cold in lower thermostat settings.

And they've suggested that neighboring families "car-pool" not only to church, but to shopping centers and to the new high school at the edge of town.

"We're too small for public transportation," Cooper said, "but what we might do is provide a 'jitney' service up and down the streets."

A youth council to get youth involved and concerned will try to come up with alternative ideas to discourage young people from driving around town at night in their cars, burning up gas. "We'd like to get an adequate recreation program for them."

Yazoo citizens are also working on weatherproofing and insulating existing housing, and beefing up building and zoning codes to prevent wasting energy.

"We may even have a 'wood yard' where people who heat their homes with wood can get firewood," Cooper said. Pointing to an abundance of firewood in the area, Cooper said that high-efficiency wood heating furnaces have been developed. But most people in Yazoo City don't know about them.

A great deal of the emphasis centers on communication and providing information. One subcommittee is working on household hints for energy conservation.

Cooper said the committee is seeking all the technical help available, but won't wait on Washington to agree on a national energy policy. And he believes other towns like Yazoo City could do the same thing.

"Any town, up to maybe 100,000 population, could do this. And they're welcome to come to Yazoo City to see what we've tried to do.

"We feel if we could build a good mousetrap, people will come to look at it."

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Listening Important  
To Aging Persons

Baptist Press

By Laura Deni

LOS ANGELES (BP)--Reminiscing by the elderly is healthy, and church workers can help make it a positive experience, an expert in gerontology said at a "listening seminar" here.

The problem is that most people who work with the elderly don't know how to listen and make the reviewing of one's life a healthy process in aging.

"Many people who have not been listened to become bitter in their old age and failing in their concept of selfworth," said Josephine J. Yelder, associate professor of Pepperdine University's Sociology and Education Department.

"While 'poverty of the purse' is one problem of old age," she added, "poverty of the spirit is much more corrosive of the morale and more difficult to deal with."

Reviewing one's life is a particular preoccupation of older people, Yelder pointed out, noting that today the average life expectancy in the United States is 71 years compared to only 49 years at the turn of the century.

How an aging person views life is the all-important key to how he adapts to increasing incapacitation, seminar speakers said, and persons who deal with them can make reminiscing a positive experience by creative listening and accepting the elderly as persons rather than "problems."

Reviewing life may create problems relating to depression, or, on the other hand, give persons a sense of serenity," said Yelder, who has served as an advisor to numerous programs for the aging.

As examples of the former, she cited "terror and anxiety of past failures," which may dominate an older person's memories. She also added that some elderly people hesitate to talk about their past life because they fear it will create barriers to relationships with the people with whom they are speaking.

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Others, however, take delight in recalling early events of their lives. This may, in fact, be "celebrating the past" in such a way that it gives the older person something to cling to in the midst of forced change in life-style, grief over the loss of loved ones or the feeling of being "demeaned" in institutionalized living.

She stressed that the life-review therapy can be a process to encourage the aging to continue to grow and be active contributors to the community.

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BWA Joins Salk, Hingson In  
Worldwide Anti-Polio Drive

Baptist Press

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) has commended to its 109 member bodies a goal to contribute \$1 million of a \$3 million project to immunize the world's population against poliomyelitis, the paralyzing and often fatal disease that perhaps next to smallpox has been one of the earth's most dreaded plagues in this century.

The action by the BWA General Council to set a goal to raise one third of the project's cost came in adoption of a report of the BWA division committee on relief and development.

The remaining funds will be raised by the Jonas Salk Institute and the Brother's Brother Foundation headed by Dr. Robert A. Hingson.

In 1953, Dr. Salk discovered anti-polio vaccine that resulted in the practical elimination of severe crippling and death of thousands of children and hundreds of adults.

He has recently improved his vaccine to a high-potency effectiveness in a single injection. The new formula does not require refrigeration and is thus useful in tropical countries where the older type vaccine was severely limited.

Dr. Hingson, a Baptist deacon living in Pittsburgh, developed a jet immunization gun that has the capability of injecting vaccine at the rate of 5,000 persons per hour.

He led a survey of world health needs in 1958 and 1962, both under BWA sponsorship, demonstrating the instrument's effectiveness by immunizing 80 percent of Liberia against smallpox and eliminating that disease from the West African country. On the basis of this demonstration, the World Health Organization undertook a smallpox eradication program that has virtually eliminated this deadly disease from the world.

In adopting the resolution to join the two doctors in a campaign against polio, the BWA General Council declared: "We desire to magnify the Biblical command, Arise, take up thy bed and walk."

The concept for the three-party relationship (Salk, Hingson, and BWA) was born at the June 1977 biennial meetings of American Baptist Churches in the USA, in San Diego. The ABC presented its 1977 Dahlberg Peace Award to Dr. Hingson, recognizing his leadership of the successful campaign against smallpox. The world-renowned Dr. Salk learned of the award, came to observe its presentation, and came to the platform to congratulate Dr. Hingson on his successes.

Conversations which followed that program led to discussion of the usefulness of the jet immunization gun in applying the more effective polio vaccine. Dr. Hingson invited Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary, to later talks--and the three-way partnership was proposed.

The story of Brother's Brother Foundation's pioneering efforts against smallpox had been widely publicized by a book and subsequent magazine articles by another BWA staff member, Cyril E. Bryant. The foundation is an interfaith effort with Dr. Hingson as founder-director.

Chester J. Jump of Valley Forge, Pa., chairman of the BWA division committee on relief and development and director of international ministries (foreign missions) of American Baptist Churches, explained that the BWA General Council vote does not guarantee a million dollars to the project.

He said the vote simply endorses the plan "as a special project of the relief and development division" to be "concluded no later than at the 14th Baptist World Congress in July 1980." Carl W. Tiller, an associate secretary of BWA, is staff executive for the relief and development program.

"All relief projects attempted by the Alliance are on the same basis of approved projects and financial goals," a spokesman said. "Goals of \$630,000, ranging from disaster relief to assistance to churches in Eastern Europe, have been projected for 1978 in addition to the

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polio eradication project."

Baptists of the world contributed \$715,000 to relief and development projects in 1976. This budget is operated separate from the BWA's regular operating budget, except that BWA underwrites most administrative costs.

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Billy Graham Will Preach In  
Hungary--Maybe Russia

Baptist Press

MINNEAPOLIS (BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham and Sandor Palotay, representing the Council of Free Churches of Hungary, announced that Graham and his team have accepted an invitation to hold a series of religious meetings in Hungary.

Overtures have also been made, a spokesman said, for Graham to preach in Russia and Romania.

"All that remains to be done for Dr. Graham to preach in Hungary," the spokesman said, "is agreement on a date."

Walter H. Smyth, a vice president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) and director of BGEA's international ministries, said, "It is hoped that such a visit shall take place in the foreseeable future, possibly this fall."

Graham, vacationing in Europe, said he would be willing to "cancel any engagements to accept this invitation." It would not entail the cancellation of any scheduled crusades, Smyth said.

The invitation was issued to Graham following discussions between Smyth and Hungarian church officials at the recent General Council meeting of the Baptist World Alliance in Miami Beach.

At the same time Smyth met with church officials of the Soviet Union to discuss a possible preaching visit by Graham and his evangelistic team to Russia.

"The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and the Russian brethren," Smyth said, "are ready to join forces to make such a visit a reality." He met informally with A. Bichkov, president of the European Baptist Federation and one of the leaders of evangelical Baptists in the Soviet Union, and M. Zhidkov, a pastor in Moscow.

Smyth, who visited Hungary in April of this year to lay much of the groundwork for the issuance of the invitation, also visited Romania on the same trip to discuss the possibility of Graham preaching there.

He also offered assistance from the BGEA's World Relief Fund for Romanian earthquake victims--"possibly a piece of medical equipment that could be made available to all the people of Romania," a spokesman said.

The matter of Graham's preaching in Hungary, Smyth said, has been under consideration for five years since he and Graham first met with Hungarian church leaders at the Cleveland, Ohio, crusade in July of 1972. The Council of Free Churches of Hungary, comprising eight denominations, and the BGEA have kept this possibility under discussion since then.

The invitation to Graham came from a Hungarian delegation including Palotay; Janos Laczkovszki, president of the Baptist Church of Hungary and a former vice president of the Baptist World Alliance; Joseph Nagy, dean of the Baptist Seminary of Budapest and a member of the General Council of the Baptist Alliance; and Dr. Alexander S. Haraszti, a physician and secretary of the Hungarian Baptist Union of America.

During his trip to Hungary, where he was an official guest, Smyth was received by Imre Miklos, president of the State Office for Church Affairs. Their discussion paved the way and clarified important points regarding political considerations of such a visit and the practical arrangements needed.

He also met with the Council of Free Churches and with leaders of member churches. He was received by the faculty and spoke to the student body of the Reformed Theological Academy in Debrecen, a large city in east Hungary, and preached to the Baptist congregation in Debrecen. Describing his reception as "warm and hospitable," Smyth said he was "totally unprepared for the reception I received from clergy and laity and the freedom to preach the gospel freely" in the socialistic country. He said the "churches were packed."

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