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Timnah Expedition: A
Union With History

By Jonathan Pedersen

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Dense smoke filled the room as the lone defender struggles to find the door of the two-story building which might at any moment become his fiery tomb.

His desperate eyes, squinting through a flood of tears brought on by the pungent smoke of the burning wood paneling, fail to find the hoped for exit. Suddenly the bricks of the upper level floor begin falling about him. Struck nearly unconscious by one of these bricks, the ancient occupant of the Iron Age city falls backward over debris and lapses into an unconscious state from which he never recovers.

With a great hissing and moaning the flame swathed second floor thunders down on top of the doomed victim. The walls sway and fall inward, adding to the flaming pyre which merges its light to the other buildings now ablaze along the main road of ancient Timnah.

Invaders have put the city to the torch--amid the cries of children, the screams of women and the hopelessness of a destroyed city. A note of finality settles across the scene.

Now the bright sunshine has returned as an inquisitive archaeology student from New Orleans Baptist Seminary, scratching and digging, turns a spade of dirt and lets the sun once again bring to light the conflagration that occurred some 4,000 years earlier. It's the first season of work at the Tel Batash (ancient Timnah) digs. Nearly 30 participants from the New Orleans Seminary, along with others from Mississippi College, Louisiana College and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, busily dig, sort and prepare the site for archaeological investigation.

Expedition Director George Kelm, professor of Biblical introduction and archaeology at New Orleans Seminary, heads a staff of 12 seasoned archaeologists, including chemists and architects and dig supervisors.

The tel or site, of several successive towns down through history, is located in the Sorek valley near the town of Beth Shemesh.

Finds thus far unearthed include the skeleton of the iron Age citizen of the town. "We can tell that he died amid a great fire because the bones are burnt to a bluish color," Kelm explains. "An interesting find near the skeleton is a pair of bronze arrow heads. It's uncertain whether these were simply part of the debris or instrumental in his death."

The present level under excavation dates from the 13th Century B. C., a time when the ancient Israelites had already been in occupation of the "Promised Land."

The excavations this summer revealed remains of buildings, ovens, pits and silos, including decorated Philistine pottery. The Philistines were the "sea people" who occupied the Southern coastal region of Palestine prior to and during the early years of occupation by the "chosen people."

The main gate of the town has been located, though as of yet undated. The gate complex included two towers guarding a 15-foot wide entrance with recessed guard stations. The gate had three doors which the traveler or invader must negotiate before entering the city.

The excavation is part of an annual program of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Other Southern Baptist schools and seminaries participate in the excavation sites with New Orleans Seminary. Many of the finds of the excavations find their way back to school and seminary museums such as the Museum of Archaeology recently dedicated at the New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

Students from the New Orleans Seminary have an option to tour the European continent and the Mediterranean countries enroute to the six-week work period at the excavation sites in Israel.

This year the group toured Rome, Pompeii, Brendisi, Athens, and many parts of Israel, such as the Lake Galilee and Dead Sea, Qumran, Jericho and Massada.

The seminary offers the program not to develop "little archaeologists out of people," Kelm says, but "as an opportunity to share in the process of discovery. As Baptists, we're committed to the Bible as authority, so we should be in a role supportive of Biblical archaeology and exploration. We ought to be in the forefront of an endeavor which has in the past supported the Biblical accounts," Kelm continued.

"Simply finding a piece of pottery, a stone idol or burial site is not enough reason for digging into an historic site. We're concerned with the interpretative aspects important in drawing inferences to help understand the facts and background of Biblical accounts."

"One may believe in the validity of Biblical texts by faith from reading the account in the Bible, but when you uncover the remnants of a civilization which existed when Abraham did, or was the hometown of a Bible character, you're put in touch with history itself," Kelm said.

"It's interesting," he continued, "to see someone working in an excavation square for the first time. He or she uncovers various finds and begins to research on their own time what happened to the artifacts that have been uncovered.

"Through study of resource materials and by observation of the position of finds, the student comes to a point of personal involvement. It's at this point that the worker has become somewhat expert and can begin to infer the events which caused the pottery to be left as it was, or how the man whose remains have been unearthed, died," Kelm said.

"The whole excavation program provides a historical approach that puts one in union with history," remarked Kelm. "It's like a trip to a museum--you see the artifacts that were handled and formed by hands of human beings some thousands of years ago, but at the site you are the one who brushes back the dust and lifts it out of the place where that ancient brother had thrown or placed it."

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(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist papers by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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700 Texas Students Volunteer
For Short Term Missions

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FORT WORTH (BP)--More than 700 Texas college students volunteered here Saturday to spend up to two years in the U. S. or abroad in the new Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps.

The students were part of 6,000 from about 90 colleges attending the annual Texas Baptist Student Convention at Texas Christian University. They signed commitment cards listing their skills after an address by a former president of the 13-million-member Southern Baptist Convention, Owen Cooper.

At a previous Texas Baptist Student Convention, several thousand students committed themselves to skip a meal a week and give the money to help alleviate world hunger.

"These young people mean business," said Chet Reames, Director of the Texas Baptist Student Division which sponsors the annual convention and the BSU's at colleges across the state. "They're ready to serve wherever God wants them. In addition to the mission volunteers, 165 students at the convention made a decision concerning their Christian commitment."

Cooper, retired Yazoo City, Miss., businessman, told the students that Southern Baptists are seeking 5,000 lay persons to invest their time and talents in short term mission work in many places.

The Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission Boards have already allocated \$1.5 million to help finance the program, said Cooper who was president of the SBC in 1973-74.

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People of all ages and talents are needed to help solve the world problems of hunger, crime and hate, Cooper said.

Since retiring as president of Mississippi Chemical Corporation, a farm cooperative, Cooper spends most of his time in what he calls "undergirding the work of missionaries" through improving food production.

He contends that the best solution to world hunger is through improving agricultural methods. Thus he has helped to provide chickens and rabbits and better breeds of livestock for a number of countries.

Milk goats were sent to the Philippines and rams were sent to Ethiopia where the native livestock had degenerated through inbreeding. Silk worm production was begun in a South American country to provide jobs for boys who must work their way through school.

In still another area, a 100-acre farm, operated through an agricultural missions foundation, is providing a balanced diet for 600 San Blas Indian children.

Cooper said ten men are needed now to help provide agricultural technology in such categories as irrigation and disease control in Brazil.

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Pioneer Missionary Honored
At Birthplace in Virginia

By Ruth Fowler

Baptist Press
9/27/77

CHARLES CITY, Va. (BP)--More than 75 persons gathered here recently to pay tribute to a former slave who became the first American missionary to Africa.

Lott Carey, who saved his money to buy his freedom from slavery, left the United States in 1821 to help establish the small Christian colony in West Africa that was to become the nation of Liberia.

Representatives from several local churches plus special guests gathered in an outdoor service Sept. 25 beside the 200-year-old house where Carey was born in 1780 and lived as a young slave. Charles City is about 30 miles southeast of Richmond.

The original structure has been remodeled and is now the home of the James L. Jones family. Local churches have just recently been made aware of the home's significance.

Congregations of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church and Little Elam Baptist Church sponsored the event honoring Carey, and Cornell H. Goerner, the Foreign Mission Board's retired secretary for West Africa, delivered the main address.

In giving the history of Lott Carey, Goerner pointed out that Carey had been raised by a dedicated Christian father and grandmother. As a young man Carey was sent to nearby Richmond by his owner to work in the Shockoe Tobacco Warehouse.

During that time in Richmond, Carey accepted Christ and taught himself to read by matching letters and sounds from the Gospel of John as he listened to sermons. Carey was so good at his job that his employers paid him more than the regular wage which went to his owner. Through years of careful economy Carey was able to save this money and purchase his freedom and that of his family.

Carey became an effective preacher. When it was apparent that no white ministers would be sent to Africa, an idea which Carey had ardently promoted, Carey and his wife volunteered to go themselves. The Collin Teagues also volunteered and with the Careys were given the support of the Triennial convention, the union of Baptists during the early 1800's.

Carey and Teague, also a freedman, were both publicly ordained and set apart as missionaries by the Richmond Baptist Church, which later became First Baptist Church, Richmond. Just before sailing in 1821, the Careys, the Teagues and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Langford, members of Richmond Baptist Church, met and formed a church. When the two missionary couples landed in West Africa they brought an organized church with them. This church became the Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia, Liberia, which still holds worship services today.

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Carey proved, according to Goerner, to be a capable leader both in church affairs and in government affairs. Carey became the Vice-Governor of the colony of freed slaves, which had been formed through the work of the American Colonization Society on a land grant given the society by four tribal kings. The colony became the nation of Liberia and a similar British colony to the north became the nation of Sierra Leone.

Because the colony of freed slaves was not accepted by all of their African neighbors, the men often had to fight for their right to exist. It was during such a battle in 1828 that an explosion in the ammunition-loading area claimed Carey's life.

"The work he did lives on," one of Carey's contemporaries commented at the time of Carey's death. Now, more than 100 years later, the work of this pioneer missionary still lives on, Goerner emphasized. Today Liberia, a country of more than 1,700,000 people, is one of the strongest centers of Baptist work in Africa. Its President, William R. Tolbert Jr., is a Baptist and plays a major role in the religious life of the nation, including being president of the Liberia Baptist Missionary Educational Convention, Inc. He is also a former president of the Baptist World Alliance. Carey is buried on the grounds of the Lott Carey School on the outskirts of Monrovia.

Also participating in the services were David White, pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church; Ralph Bowman, deacon at Little Elam Baptist Church; Richard T. Moore, associational missionary for Dover Baptist Association; and William R. O'Brien, the board's secretary for denominational coordination.

Special guests included Mr. and Mrs. Louis Tyler, the oldest local church members present. He is 92 years old and she is 89.

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(BP) Photo to be mailed to Baptist state papers by the Foreign Mission Board.

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House Passes Measure To
Curb Child Pornography

By Carol Franklin

Baptist Press
9/27/77

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Despite warnings that anti-pornography sections might be unconstitutional or unenforceable, the House of Representatives passed legislation designed to stop the sexual exploitation of children.

The measure (H.R. 6693) was approved by 375 to 12. It will be sent to the Senate.

"How big the problem is may never be known," Rep. Albert H. Quie (R.-Minn.) said.

"It has been estimated that there are 30,000 children involved in Los Angeles alone."

Rep. James M. Jeffords (R.-Vt.) described the problem of child abuse and sexual exploitation. "Child abuse (includes) children who have been beaten, bitten, dipped in scalding hot water, burned; children with broken arms, legs, and fractured skulls;... A new area goes beyond abuse and neglect to the sexual exploitation of children. Can you imagine a magazine featuring pre-teen girls showing off their genitals in the style popularized by the so-called adult magazines? There was a social worker sent to jail for allowing his three foster sons to perform sex acts before a camera for \$150 each. Another case involves a couple selling their 12-year-old son for sexual purposes to a man for \$3,000."

Reps. Dale E. Kildee (D.-Mich.) and John M. Murphy (D.-N.Y.) introduced the amendment to the 1974 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. The newly enacted legislation would make it a federal crime to use children under 16 in sexual activities or simulated sexual activities for use in films, magazines, books or other materials for interstate or foreign commerce or shipment through the mail.

Penalties for producers of pornographic materials could extend to a fine of \$50,000 and up to 20 years imprisonment. Distributors of such materials could be fined up to \$25,000 and be jailed a maximum of 15 years.

Similar legislation is expected to be reported out of the House Judiciary Committee within a few days. Debate in the House centered on the appropriate portion of the Federal Criminal Code to be amended by such a measure. Opponents of the bill which was passed stressed their agreement with the aims of the legislation--stopping child abuse and sexual exploitation--but argued that the present measure does not address the problem of freedom of speech and the press as guaranteed by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.

The measure also extended funding for service programs to abused children and their families for five years. A new provision in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act protects parents whose religious beliefs prohibit medical care from charges of neglect.

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EDITORS: The following story updates a similar one released Sept. 26.

Cauthen Asked to Cancel
All 1977 Engagements

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (BP)--Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board who is recuperating from a heart attack suffered Sept. 18, has been asked by his doctors to cancel all of his engagements for the remainder of 1977.

Doctors at Medical Center Hospital here said that they are "gratified" with the progress which Cauthen is making and expect him to make a full recovery. He was released Sept. 26 from the hospital's coronary care unit, with about another week of hospitalization anticipated before he would be permitted to return to his home in Richmond.

Earlier the physicians had suggested that about a two-month period would be required before Cauthen could resume his Foreign Mission Board responsibilities. But even after returning to his office he should not accept any engagements through the end of December, the doctors said.

In Richmond, Rogers M. Smith, administrative associate to Cauthen, said all matters pertaining to the annual meeting of the Foreign Mission Board Oct. 10-12 were moving along on schedule. In Cauthen's absence, administrative responsibilities are being carried by the staff executive council.

This group includes Smith, who presides; J. Winston Crawley, director of the overseas division; R. Keith Parks, director of the mission support division; and Sidney C. Reber, director of the management services division, and acts in consultation with Everett L. Deane, treasurer.

Members of the council expressed appreciation to members of the Foreign Mission Board who are standing by to give assistance as needed. Officers of the board and the chairman of the board's administrative committee met with staff representatives Sept. 23 to affirm their support to direction being given by the staff executive council.

Cauthen suffered the heart attack while preaching on the televised Sunday morning worship service of the Jackson Way Baptist Church here Sept. 18.