



Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

--- FEATURES

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**Dolbin Travels Now
Without 'Spare Tire'**

By James Lee Young

DENVER (BP)--Jack Dolbin, wide receiver for the Denver Broncos professional football team, is one Christian who doesn't believe in maintaining a "spare tire" relationship with Jesus Christ--finally.

It took awhile. Dolbin has struggled to establish his priorities--from an injury-riddled collegiate career at Wake Forest University, to a minor league football stint and financial desperation that forced him into a job catching shoplifters, to a bankrupt pro league, and finally to a job as the premier pass catcher for the Denver Broncos, who clinched the first play-off berth in the team's National Football League history.

He feels he's now succeeded. No longer will he call on God only in times of desperation or just before a football game.

Dolbin admits he hasn't "arrived" yet but claims he's come a long way as a Christian from the days when a friend would sign his name on the attendance sheet at the mandatory chapels at the Southern Baptist university he attended.

Dolbin had come to the Winston-Salem N. C. school as a highly touted high school All-American football prospect, pegged for instant stardom. He suffered knee injuries his first two years there, playing in only four games as a sophomore. But he rushed for over 100 yards in each of those games and was tabbed a pre-season All-American before his junior year.

At that time, football was the only thing in Dolbin's life. "I would have been offended if anyone had suggested I wasn't a Christian," he says now, but he admits he hadn't read the Bible and had never heard of having a personal relationship with Christ.

Then he missed most of his junior season with a knee injury and played in only one game the next year because of ankle and hand injuries.

"Now I know I was being put to the test," he says. "The thing I had placed first had been taken from me. There was that void. I was searching for something to fill that void."

He didn't find it when he returned to his boyhood home of Pottstown, Pa., to work as a carpenter's helper and play minor league football with the Pottstown Firebirds.

He didn't find it driving 200 miles twice a week to practice with the Schuylkill County Coal Crackers, another minor league team in the coal region of Pennsylvania.

There the locker rooms were often flooded with water. "But I was a star," Dolbin says. "A star shines brightest in the dark. And it was really dark, but I was number one in my own mind."

Finally deciding Schuylkill was the end of the line in football, Dolbin moved himself and his wife Jane to the midwest where he enrolled in National College in Chicago, earning a bachelor of science degree in biology.

In Chicago he worked nights as a store security guard, nabbing shoplifters and setting a furious pace of "stardom" even at that job. He made more arrests than anyone else on the security force.

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"We seemed to be making progress, and I was just as competitive as a guard as I was at football," Dolbin recalls. "I still wanted to be number one, still on an ego trip."

Then Mrs. Dolbin became pregnant and the couple's financial goals were thrown into disarray. "It looked like we would have to stay with her parents," Dolbin says. "I had said we wouldn't be a burden on our parents."

Dolbin recalls that one night in his security guard's observation post, while watching some youngsters steal records, he realized he had never made a commitment to God, that he was trying to control his life himself. "I got down on my knees and prayed," he remembers. "I asked God's forgiveness for rejecting Christ and ended the 'spare tire' relationship."

Soon after, an agent from the new World Football League (WFL) team Chicago Fire (both defunct) called. Dolbin was hesitant but thought maybe it was the door that God would open for him to play football again. He earned one of only two available wide receiver spots from 20 competitors and suited up for the Fire.

But life was hard in the financially trouble plagued WFL. Paychecks stopped coming halfway through the season and Dolbin had to go back to his security guard job at season's end. He and Jane couldn't even pay their rent. But it was while Dolbin was in the WFL that he became affiliated with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), a moving force in his life.

"The FCA had speakers each week (in pre-game services) and many were from skid row," Dolbin says. "These were the most impressive to me. These men had lost everything and finally found Christ. Some had experienced financial success and lost it. But what was important was Christ and how they came to be where they finally were."

When the WFL folded, Dolbin picked through 18 pro football offers and latched on with the Broncos in Denver, where he played a key role in the team's 12-2 regular season record which won a division title and the play-off berth.

"People look up to pro athletes for all the wrong reasons," Dolbin insists. "But we're able to use it to witness for Him. It's unfortunate that we're looked up to because we're pro athletes or because we're on TV. But the song says, 'Just as I am.' Some others can give better witnesses than me but aren't as well known."

Dolbin knows his fame will fade when the Sunday afternoon turf no longer belongs to him, but unlike many athletes, he has prepared himself for that predictable event. He graduated in May from chiropractic college and hopes to start practicing in February, 1978, in Arvada, a Denver suburb, where he is an active member of Ward Road Baptist Church.

Believing in total health care, Dolbin also has in-depth knowledge of nutrition, which he hopes to incorporate into his chiropractic practice.

He also believes in total "spiritual health care." That's why he is involved in a Bible teaching church, the FCA, and why he wants Christ in control of his life, football and all.



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Baptist Relief Continues
For Earthquake Victims

By Jennifer Hall

RICHMOND (BP)--After-tremors from the devastating Nov. 23 earthquake continued to plague the northwestern part of Argentina as several members of the demolished Caucete Baptist Church near San Juan, sifting through the rubble, uncovered an unusual message.

Standing deep in broken bricks, they found the pulpit with a Bible intact and open to Psalm 60: "O God, thou has cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased: O turn thyself to us again. Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: Heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh."

In the aftermath, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board took emergency steps to help heal these breaches and made available \$5,000 to feed families and provide shelter for some of the victims. The board also sent 102 rolls of plastic sheeting to use for temporary housing for 100 families and anticipates additional aid.

Close to 10,000 homes were demolished and 100 lives claimed by the quake, according to John R. Cheyne, the board's associate coordinator of hunger relief and disaster response, who has returned from an eight-day tour to survey damage and areas of need.

The quake turned thousands of homes with six-inch mud roofs into no more than rubble, said Cheyne, and left some 60,000 people homeless, roads severed and even railroad tracks ripped and twisted.

Most residents were launching into their day's business when the quake struck at 6:30 a.m., a factor which possibly explains the low death toll, said Cheyne.

Even as he toured, Cheyne noted that after-tremors occur frequently in the stricken areas--about 300 had been recorded since the quake. Fears of after-tremors have prompted the Argentine government to close off most remaining buildings to Caucete residents. The government has also advised against beginning reconstruction projects until tremors subside, said Cheyne, who met with government officials and national Baptists during his trip.

Cheyne emphasized, however, that "this is a preparation time for us so we can get everything in place and ready to go" when the government gives its approval.

Amidst the destruction were churches in the towns of Caucete, Veinte-Cinco de Mayo and San Juan. Already the Foreign Mission Board has authorized \$40,000 for the rebuilding of the three structures.

Also, \$2,500 was appropriated for the purchase of a concrete block-making machine for use in repairing and rebuilding projects. When the government gives its approval, Cheyne noted, the concrete block-maker will be used for rebuilding and two other block-makers will be purchased. He said plans have been made whereby local residents will provide labor for block making and, in turn, receive blocks for use in rebuilding their own homes.

Cheyne anticipates that further board appropriations will be made in January to assist in the rebuilding. Residents of the stricken communities are living in tent-like

dwellings--some of which were provided by the Foreign Mission Board. Living situations in Argentina are aided by the dry summer climate now being experienced there, said Cheyne.

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(BP) Photos will be mailed to state Baptist papers by the Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

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HEW Pursues Two
Southern Baptist Seminarles

Baptist Press
12/20/77

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A national news story stating that New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here would be cut off from federal funding due to sex discrimination touched off a furor at the school, which receives no federal funds.

The announcement surprises seminary officials, who had recently been bombarded with telephone calls from Washington asking why the school had not returned forms, related to Title IX of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, promising not to discriminate.

The same problem had earlier involved Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., which, because it receives no federal funds, also did not fill out the HEW forms. Apparently, New Orleans Seminary and Southeastern Seminary are the only two of the six Southern Baptist seminarles being questioned by HEW. None of the six seminarles accepts federal funds.

"The HEW forms clearly state that they are to be completed and returned only if the institution is currently accepting, or expects to receive, federal funds," a New Orleans seminary spokesman said. For that reason, he said, the seminary ignored the forms.

That's when the telephones started ringing. Seminary president Landrum Leavell reports that he has received between two and three phone calls per week for the last six weeks from someone in Washington asking why the seminary did not complete the forms.

Leavell stated that there are three reasons why he does not believe that the seminary is legally obligated to fill out any such form: "First, is the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, which guarantees separation of church and state; second, New Orleans Seminary is an 'integrated auxillary' of the church--we are owned, operated and supported by the Southern Baptist Convention; third, we do not now, nor have we in the past received federal government or tax monies."

New Orleans Seminary has some 1,300 enrolled students, of which nearly 30 percent are women, and employs three women faculty members.

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