



January 31, 1978

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**Ethiopia Off Limits,
Prayers Still Get In**

MEMPHIS (BP)--"We came out of Ethiopia, not in defeat, but in victory!" said veteran Jerry Bedsole, and eight other Southern Baptist missionaries to Ethiopia, now dispersed to other lands, nodded in agreement.

Although there are no Southern Baptist missionaries currently serving in Ethiopia because of current political conditions, Baptist missions work there still goes forward.

Agricultural missionary Lynn Groce and the other missionaries give a glowing report of how God is continuing to work in Ethiopia.

The agricultural missions project in the Menz District is still going on, and the medical clinic in Tsai Tsina is still operating under the direction of Muko Okare, an Ethiopian layman. Muko continues to lead a regular Bible study for the Christians in Tsai Tsina, Groce reported.

The Bible Way Correspondence Course is going even greater than before the missionaries left, added Suzanne Groce. And the Ethiopian churches are still distributing the Bibles provided by the Ethiopian Baptist Mission.

In the capital city of Addis Ababa, the Reading Room full of Christian literature operated by the Baptist Mission is still open, and two nights a week, the Ethiopians are showing Christian Bible films provided by Baptists to 200-300 people.

About 15-20 employees of the Baptist Mission are still working daily, running the mission enterprise. And through a special "management trust" arrangement, the mission is continuing to pay the salaries of the office workers, guards, gardeners, secretaries, and employees.

Many of the programs initiated by the missionaries are continuing to operate through the Ethiopian Christians and the management trust.

In the absence of the missionaries, the "trustee" who manages the missions work and more than \$1 million of property is Habti Tesson, who was the accountant at the Good Shepherd School adjacent to the mission compound.

"We didn't want to leave the idea with the Ethiopian government that we were abandoning everything when the missionaries left Ethiopia, for everyone is hoping to return someday to Ethiopia," explained Ed Mason, Tallahassee, Fla., attorney who worked out the trust management while a volunteer business manager in Ethiopia.

Neither did the mission want to dismiss the faithful Ethiopian employees. Because of the difficult situation in Ethiopia, it has been extremely difficult for the people to find work.

The missionaries agreed that the spiritual experiences that came because of the tension during those last months in Ethiopia were tremendous.

"Spiritually, it was a fantastic experience," said Bedsole. "God was answering prayers day by day."

They all said they felt the power of prayer most intensely after missionary doctor Sam Cannata was imprisoned for 16 days, April 3-19, on a firearms technicality.

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During his time of imprisonment, Dr. Cannata prayed, sang, read the Bible and witnessed to others in prison. "It was wonderful to be in jail for awhile," he recalled. "I read and prayed as I had never prayed before."

His wife Ginny was given free access to visit him, and brought him all his meals.

"The nights were the worst time," she said. "I was afraid they would take him off during the night." To dispel her fears that he would not be there, she sang songs of praise at the top of her lungs on her way to take his breakfast.

On the Sunday before his Tuesday release, members of the church the missionaries attend in Addis Ababa decided to pray around the clock for the next 48 hours for Dr. Cannata's release. On Tuesday, Dr. Cannata was so convinced of his impending release that he placed all his belongings in a bag and got ready to leave.

Mrs. Cannata, meanwhile, had located the report on her husband and found an Ethiopian colonel who said he would get her husband's release if he could get a paper signed by Dr. Cannata's interrogators. Almost miraculously, the interrogators walked into the colonel's office with the release paper just before closing time.

Cannata and his wife, Mason and Bedsole arrived at the mission station in the last two minutes of the 48-hour prayer vigil. Cannata is writing a book about his experiences.

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Adapted from the December, 1977 issue of World Mission Journal.

Seminaries, Sunday School
Board Effort Launched

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Baptist Press
1/31/78

NASHVILLE (BP)--A cooperative effort among the six Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) seminaries and the SBC Sunday School Board took another step forward here during an orientation of four professors who will share information on seminary campuses about Southern Baptist educational programs and materials.

Meetings at the Sunday School Board were designed to clarify working relationships between the seminaries and the board, and identify special resources that could help the professors communicate the work of the denomination in the seminaries.

Grady C. Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board, said the new program is "vitally important, particularly in a time of vigorous para-church movements and aggressive efforts toward non-denominationalism." He said the joint venture should help Southern Baptist leaders become "aware of the resources, services, materials and support of their denomination."

The professors will receive a regular flow of information and materials from the Sunday School Board to share with other faculty members and students.

Current files will be kept on each campus of all materials published by the Sunday School Board. These materials will be available to the faculty and students to make them aware of board-provided resources.

The four men present for the initial orientation sessions are already at work in the seminaries. Teaching assignments and other academic matters will be handled by the seminaries.

All professors will be employed by the seminaries, assigned responsibilities and supervised by the seminaries, with the Sunday School Board reimbursing them with a sum equal to the salary and fringe benefits on the same scale as other faculty members.

At Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Charles A. Tidwell has been named as a professor of church administration. He will serve in the School of Religious Education.

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Bernard M. Spooner will be an associate professor of administration at New Orleans Seminary, in the Religious Education Division.

Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. has selected Jerry M. Stubblefield to serve as an associate professor of religious education.

Bruce P. Powers will be an associate professor of Christian education at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

Professors have not been selected at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., or The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Cothen said the new effort would help the Sunday School Board stay abreast of current academic thought in matters related to the purpose of the board. He also said he expects the cooperative effort to give the seminaries the practical expertise of the Sunday School Board to help keep the faculties and students up-to-date on current practices in the board's areas of responsibility.

He said the continuing exposure of seminary students to literature, church programs and services of the Sunday School Board would help them as they serve on the staffs of Southern Baptist churches.

"This program will make the students more aware of the vast resources of our denomination," Cothen continued, "plus providing them with an understanding of the varying responsibilities of Southern Baptist agencies."

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers by the Sunday School Board.

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Naylor, Seats Honored
By Seminary Extension

Baptist Pr ss
1/31/78

NASHVILLE (BP)--Robert E. Naylor and V. Lavell Seats were honored for their 20 years of service to Seminary Extension work during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department's Administrative and Curriculum Committees here.

The committees also approved a Seminary Extension library plan, agreed to grant course credit to students taking approved Holy Land tours, and gave preliminary approval to a summer conference for Seminary Extension students.

Naylor automatically became a member of the Seminary Extension Administrative Committee when he was elected president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1958. He will retire in August of this year.

Seats has served on the Curriculum Committee since Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's first term of operation in 1958. He will rotate off the committee this year in compliance with a limitation of two successive three-year terms instituted a few years ago. Seats serves as professor of missions, registrar, and dean of students at the Kansas City school.

The approved Seminary Extension library plan establishes guidelines under which Seminary Extension students may gain access to seminary library resources. Those seminary libraries which agree to participate in the plan will allow Seminary Extension students to check out books and tapes by mail for a \$4.00 annual service fee.

A Holy Land tour of at least six days may now earn a Seminary Extension student credit for the Seminary Extension Department (SED) course, "Biblical Backgrounds" (BB101), provided certain conditions are met. The student must (1) read the textbook for BB101 before the tour, (2) attend lectures during the tour given by a person certified by SED, and (3) pay the prevailing SED registration fee.

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Initial approval was given to a "Seminary Extension Campus Week," with detailed plans to be presented later to the Administrative Committee. The week-long conference on the campus of one of the six Southern Baptist seminaries would be open to current and prospective Seminary Extension diploma students. In addition to special lectures and small-group discussions, the week would provide opportunities for Seminary Extension students and their families to meet seminary faculty members and learn how about on-campus learning resources. Target date for the first such week would be in the summer of 1979.

The Administrative Committee also gave preliminary consideration to the Seminary Extension Department's program plan and operating budget for 1978-79.

In a budget-related action, the presidents approved an increase in the registration fee for Seminary Extension students, effective June 1, 1978. The new fee will be \$15 per course, up from the \$11 figure used since 1970. "Women in the Church" (WC185), Seminary Extension's newest course, will be exempted from the fee increase until June 1, 1979.

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Drummond Heads
Evangelism Group

Baptist Press
1/31/78

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (BP)--Lewis Drummond, Billy Graham professor of evangelism at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, was elected president of the International Academy of Professors of Evangelism at the group's meeting here.

Drummond has also been named co-chairman of the committee organizing the World Consultation on Evangelism in Theological Education, planned for London in 1979.

A former vice-president of the evangelism professors' organization, Drummond will serve a two-year term as head of the academy, formed for the stimulation and development of evangelism programs in theological education.

The London evangelism meeting is being planned as an outgrowth of the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelism, a 1974 meeting which drew participants from around the world.

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Wife of Mississippi
Baptist Leader Dies

Baptist Press
1/31/78

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Mrs. Earl Kelly, wife of the executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, died Jan. 29 following a lengthy illness. She was 53.

Mrs. Kelly was born Amanda Harding at Cottage Grove, Tenn. and grew up there. She was a graduate of the University of Tennessee and a home economist with the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Mrs. Kelly is survived by her husband; three children; Dana, 19, Brian, 12, and Kay, 11; and three brothers.

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