



April 12, 1978

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Georgia Baptist Men  
Rebuild Black Church

By Jack Harwell

WASHINGTON, Ga. (BP)--From across the southeast, about 250 Baptist men and boys gathered in rural eastern Georgia to give a collective demonstration of Christian ministry and reconciliation in action.

They gathered to rebuild Mulberry Baptist Church, one of four black churches burned by three white teenagers on Dec. 18, 1977.

In less than one week, volunteer laborers erected a 275-seat sanctuary with adjoining educational space, fully heated and air conditioned. The building, valued at \$125,000, cost just \$68,000 to build because of all the volunteer labor, donated materials and discounted supplies.

Mulberry Church is one of two Baptist churches burned by the three teenagers who admitted that they had been drinking beer and smoking marijuana. Two Methodist churches were also burned. Baptists helped to rebuild the Mulberry and Mt. Zion Baptist Church buildings. Methodists of Georgia are helping to rebuild the two Methodist churches.

One of the hardest workers at the Mulberry Baptist Church site was 17-year-old Keith Palmer, one of the three boys who burned the church buildings. He and his father worked all week at Mulberry and at Mt. Zion.

"I did wrong," Palmer told the Christian Index, Georgia Baptist newspaper. "I don't remember much about what we did that night, but I want to do what I can to make things right."

"We had been drinking beer and smoking marijuana," he said. "We didn't have any bad racial motives. We weren't mad at the church or at God. I guess it was just craziness. I don't remember much about it and I'm sorry and ashamed. I want to do better."

Albert Rucker, chairman of deacons at Mulberry Church, made a motion in church conference that the congregation forgive Keith and his two friends and asked the court to show mercy. It was unanimously adopted.

"Our church teaches love," Rucker said. "How can we teach and preach about love and forgiveness if we don't demonstrate love and forgiveness to these young boys?"

That same spirit of reconciliation and harmony was evident among the dozens of men and women who came great distances to share in the rebuilding project.

Richard Hage, heating and air conditioning contractor from Thomasville, Ala., brought his truck and tools and spent most of a full week. An entire electrical crew from Augusta installed all electrical facilities without charge.

Jim Miller, a physics professor at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tenn., read about the project in the Tennessee Baptist newspaper, and brought 10 people from Southwest Baptist Church in Johnson City to work on the building.

Oliver Kessler, member of Hill Street Church in Toccoa, Ga., brought a giant forklift tractor and lifted heavy trusses and roof decking for two days.

Don Curry, a young apprentice carpenter from Ferguson, Mo., read about the effort in his state Baptist newspaper. He rode the bus 23 hours to get to Washington, and worked all week. He worked alongside Ed Watts, one of the leading civil engineers of Atlanta. Watts was so impressed with his work, he offered him a job.

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Henry Whitehead, architect from Atlanta, who has done many major projects for the Georgia Baptist Convention, gave full time for more than a week to supervise the construction projects; Wayne Mixon, Georgia Association Brotherhood director, directed local efforts to get supplies, materials and labor; Waldo P. Harris, Georgia associational missionary, coordinated many details about housing, food and materials.

Woman's Missionary Union leaders and other ladies--black and white--served breakfast and lunch to the workers. Local restaurants and motels provided some free meals and rooms. Louie D. Newton, 83 years old, worked a full day alongside Jack Harwell of the Christian Index.

R. Eugene Dailey, state brotherhood secretary, worked three days in addition to securing the 250 volunteers who labored.

Albert W. Huyck, pastor of Washington First Baptist Church, was chairman of the committee seeking to raise \$100,000 to share among the four churches. Nearly \$80,000 has been secured.

"These rebuilding projects have done more good for race relationships in the Washington-Wilkes area than anything I can remember," Harris said.

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(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers.

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Satellite Demonstration  
Links Forth Worth, Nashville

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4/12/78

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Texas Baptist leaders in Fort Worth will talk with and view Tennessee and Southern Baptist Convention leaders in Nashville via satellite in a two hour space age communications demonstration April 26.

The SBC Radio and Television Commission will use the demonstration to show the latest developments in communications technology that will eventually carry the commission's 3,406 radio and television programs to the 2,836 stations airing them.

The demonstration will use two of NASA's portable earth stations. One of the earth stations will send audio and video signals to NASA's Communications Technology Satellit from the Radio and Television Commission's parking lot in Fort Worth.

The other earth station will be parked across the street from Nashville's First Baptist Church, where it will receive the signal from the satellite. In turn, Nashville viewers will be able to speak with those in Texas via an audio signal.

Use of satellites will lower the cost of program transmission in the future as it eliminat s need for high cost telephone line and microwave transmission.

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Special Committee Studying  
Future of European Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A special subcommittee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is working with the board's area secretary for Europe in considering the future of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The seminary, beset by the twin problems of inflation and the decline in the value of the U. S. dollar, had a deficit of \$48,730 last year and may run as much as \$100,000 in the red for 1978.

J. D. Hughey, secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia, reported to the board at its April meeting that "we hope that the seminary can continue, but other options are being considered."

He listed the options:

1. To sell the property and either relocate the seminary in a less expensive place, perhaps in relationship to another seminary, or to strengthen some of the existing European seminaries with faculty members, books or scholarships. Such closing, if it occurred, would not be before the end of the 1978-79 academic year, Hughey said.
2. To retain the property or at least a part of it and redirect the ministry of Ruschlikon.

"This might mean," Hughey said, "discontinuing the regular seminary program but continuing and expanding conferences and short courses of study and developing, as we have already anticipated, correspondence courses."

The seminary, opened in 1949, is operated by a board of trustees that includes representatives of Baptists in most European countries. The European Baptists have been told that the seminary's future depends upon "their sharing with Southern Baptists the financial support of the institution," Hughey said.

Gerhard Claas, secretary of the European Baptist Federation and chairman of the seminary's administrative committee, noted in a letter to the seminary's trustees that "for almost 30 years Ruschlikon has been the center of European Baptist life. We have to do our very best to save Ruschlikon."

The special subcommittee considering the seminary problem hopes to have recommendations ready to present to the June meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, Hughey said. "By that time we should know what kind of support can be expected from European Baptists and what they recommend."

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Cecil, Cheyne Elected To Aid  
Volunteer, Relief Projects

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Two associates to assist in the laymen overseas program and hunger relief and disaster response projects were elected by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at its April meeting.

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James W. Cecil, missionary to Hong Kong for the past 10 years, will be associated consultant for laymen overseas, filling a vacancy left by the resignation of W. L. (Wimpy) Smith Jr. in December. Cecil's primary responsibility will be the coordination and participation of volunteers in overseas missions projects.

John R. Cheyne, missionary to Rhodesia and Ethiopia for 20 years before his election as field representative for Eastern Africa in 1974, will be associate coordinator of hunger relief and disaster response. For the past year he has functioned in this capacity on a furloughing missionary status.

When disasters occur, Cheyne will work with the missionaries in providing for the immediate needs of disaster victims. He also will assist the missions (organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries) as they propose and evaluate recommendations to the Foreign Mission Board for programs to rehabilitate damaged areas.

His hunger relief duties will include working with the missions to develop long-term approaches to help alleviate hunger-related problems.

W. Eugene Grubbs, who carries the dual responsibilities of laymen overseas consultant and coordinator of hunger relief and disaster response, said that he and his two associates would function as a team. If two of them are overseas at the same time, the third will give supervision to home office functions to expedite work in both areas.

"Since volunteers are used extensively in disaster response and will be used more in longer-range approaches to hunger relief," he explained, "the work of the two offices naturally is closely related."

Cecil served a year and a half as a furloughing missionary on special assignment to the board's consultant in evangelism and church development before starting work with the laymen overseas consultant Jan. 1.

A native of Harper Springs, Ark., Cecil was pastor of churches in Kentucky and Indiana before he and his wife, the former Katharine Gardner of Penrod, Ky., were employed as missionary associates by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967.

In Hong Kong, he served six years as business manager for the Hong Kong-Macao Baptist Mission and later became associate general secretary of the Baptist Press Publishing House in Hong Kong. He also has served as director of program design for the mission and the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong and as a leader in world conferences for Baptist men and youth.

Cheyne and his wife, the former Marie Golson of Fort Deposit, Ala., were appointed missionaries in 1954. They served in Shabani, Salisbury, Gokwe and Que Que, Rhodesia, where Cheyne directed publication of Baptist literature and advised churches and preaching points as a field evangelist.

In 1967, they transferred to Ethiopia, where Cheyne helped to design and implement the total rural development approach to missions in that country. He was also involved in evangelism, publications and business related to the mission organization.

Before coming to Richmond, Cheyne, a Chicago native, served two years as field representative for Eastern Africa, a liaison position between the board and the missionaries of that area.

## House Panel Eliminates Most Tuition Tax Credits

WASHINGTON (BP)--Opponents of aid to nonpublic schools won a major victory as the House Ways and Means Committee eliminated tax credits to parents of parochial school children at the elementary and secondary levels.

The 20-16 vote, on an amendment to an overall tax credit bill, marked the first occasion for cheer by opponents of tax credits during the current congressional session. In spite of the Ways and Means victory, tax credit legislation is still a possibility this year.

Last month the Senate Finance Committee approved a tax credit measure, the Packwood-Moynihan bill, by a 14-1 margin. That bill has yet to be acted on by the full Senate.

The House version of tax credits debated during two days by the Ways and Means Committee was much milder than that passed by the Senate panel. The House measure, introduced by Rep. Charles A. Vanik (D.-Ohio), called for a maximum tax credit of \$250 per pupil within the next three years, while the Packwood-Moynihan proposal calls for a credit of up to \$500 within the same time frame.

Although the powerful tax-writing Ways and Means panel struck out credits for elementary and secondary education, it left intact that portion of the bill calling for tax credits for college tuition.

As it now stands, the measure calls for a \$100 credit per student for 1978, \$150 in 1979, and \$250 in 1980. After that year, new legislation would have to be enacted to extend the credits.

The Ways and Means action came on the same day President Carter warned in a televised news conference that he might choose to veto any tax credit legislation. The president sees tax credits as inflationary because of their potential drain on the federal treasury. He has proposed instead a \$1.5 billion increase in college student grants, a figure already included in the fiscal 1979 budget.

Vanik's original proposal, including credits to parents of elementary and secondary pupils, would have cost slightly more than \$1 billion, while the Packwood-Moynihan measure would cost over \$5 billion when fully implemented.

All tax credit proposals have been opposed vigorously by the National Coalition to Save Public Education, a group organized within the past few weeks for the sole purpose of defeating such measures. One member group in the coalition is the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. During the two days of Ways and Means Committee debate, the coalition brought more than 700 persons to Washington to lobby against the Vanik bill.

Coalition spokesperson Jean Dye, vice president for legislation of the national PTA, said that no compromise measure will satisfy opponents of tuition tax credits. "We aren't interested in any compromise, any deal or any watered down version of a bill covering tuition tax credits," she said. "Our answer is a flat No to any legislation calling for tuition tax credits."

Dye said tuition costs would "skyrocket" if a tuition tax credit were enacted and that only a small number of students would actually benefit from such a measure. According to Dye, only 27 percent of the student population would qualify.

John Ryor, president of the National Education Association, called tuition tax credits a "raid on the public treasury" which would be disastrous for public schools.

Rep. William D. Ford (D.-Mich.), a persistent opponent of tax credits, warned of a "bloody battle" if congress enacts a tax credit measure which the president is forced to veto. He also predicted "the end of the American public school system as we know it" if a tax credit measure becomes law and is upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court. While calling tax credits "clearly unconstitutional," he said that it is conceivable that the high court could uphold them.

"If we fail," he told the coalition, "We can write in our memoirs about being here when the public school system failed as a great experiment in this nation."

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Lottie Moon Offering  
Surpasses Record Total

By Jennifer Hall

Baptist Press  
4/12/78

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--In an element of suspense, a crowd of 5,000 broke into applause in a Fort Worth convention arena with the announcement that Southern Baptists had surpassed their record for contributions to the 1977 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Close to \$29.5 million had been received as of April 5 for the annual seasonal offering, Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, told the spectators at the April 11 missionary appointment service in Tarrant County Convention Center. The final total won't be tabulated until late May when all the contributions will be received.

"It's the largest sum ever given at one time, to my knowledge, for the gospel of Jesus Christ," said an exuberant Cauthen. He then paid tribute to the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for its part in the foreign missions endeavor.

Compared with the amount given this same date for the 1976 offering, the 1977 subtotal exceeds it by more than \$2 million. The 1977 subtotal of \$29,475,670.65 is already well ahead of the complete 1976 total of \$28,763,809.71--for a difference of \$711,860.94.

In the first appointment service Southern Baptists have held in Texas since 1969, 30 new missionaries, 28 with Texas ties, were given a charge by Cauthen to "let not this book depart from you." Carrying a black Bible, Cauthen told the group "no matter how skillful you are...you won't be an effective missionary...except as this word gleams through your testimony."

He fervently urged them to "put your feet in his (Jesus') footprints and follow where he leads. I speak to you what I know by experience. Be very courageous."

The 15 new missionary couples received their charge following a colorful procession of flags from all 90 countries where 2,755 Southern Baptist missionaries now serve.

All but two of the 15 couples were assigned to Western South America. Adding to the unusual aspects of the evening service was the appointment of Charlotte Halbert (Mrs. N. Benjamin) Kirby and Judy Halbert (Mrs. C. Ellis) Leagans, sisters. The sisters and their husbands pursued and considered missions for some time but neither couple had consulted the other until just a few months ago.

Also among the new missionaries is a husband-wife nursing team, Mr. and Mrs. J. David Wilson, registered nurses. Two of the men appointed were certified public accountants. And two of the appointees had been on the mission field as children with their Southern Baptist missionary parents.

Sixty persons went forward to commit their lives to special Christian service during an invitation given by Cauthen at the close of the evening.

Twenty-seven of those were postcollege age; 18 were college students; one was high school; another was pre-high school. Of the college age and younger, six said they felt a leading toward a church vocation, and 14 indicated they felt led into foreign missions.

Cauthen also reminded the crowd to consider volunteer missions: 13 responded to Mission Service Corps. Also that night one person made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

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New missionaries appointed included: Mr. and Mrs. Jack M. Ables of Texas and Massachusetts, respectively, appointed to Ecuador; Mr. and Mrs. David A. Barclay, Arizona and Indiana, to Indonesia; Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Beal, Florida and Mississippi, to Venezuela; Mr. and Mrs. H. Rhea Chafin, Texas and Louisiana, to Honduras; Mr. and Mrs. G. Michael Glenn, Colorado and Kentucky, to Venezuela; Mr. and Mrs. C. David Hagood, Alabama and Texas, to Chile; and Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Hart of Alabama, to Venezuela.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Kirby of Arkansas, to Venezuela; Mr. and Mrs. Bradley W. Layton, Kansas and Texas, to Ecuador; Mr. and Mrs. Leagans, North Carolina and Arkansas, to Colombia; Mr. and Mrs. David A. Lee, Texas, to Peru; Mr. and Mrs. James S. Packwood, Oklahoma and Texas, to Ecuador; Mr. and Mrs. Michael G. Reeder, Oklahoma, to Colombia; Mr. and Mrs. Karl W. Wallace, Mississippi, to Peru; and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson of Texas, to Colombia.

In a special recognition gesture, Tunis (Mrs. James G.) Harris, whose husband was president of the Foreign Mission Board and later of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was presented a gift from the Foreign Mission Board.

The gift was a film print of the 1977 April appointment service in Atlanta, which Harris led as board president. At the time of his death, July 31, 1977, he was pastor of University Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

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#### Atlanta Ghettos Replace Beach For Louisiana College Group

PINEVILLE, La. (BP)--Fifty-six Louisiana College Baptist Student Union members took a break from the traditional spring recess when they traveled 15 hours by bus to Atlanta, Ga., for a week of working and witnessing in the ghettos.

And according to John Moore, BSU director and organizer of the trip, the group's time and efforts were well spent. "When we got on the bus to return home, I've never in my life seen such a look of satisfaction on kid's faces," he said. "Almost to a person, they said how glad they were they came."

The trip was arranged through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and coordinated through the Atlanta Baptist Association.

The group's first day was spent in orientation at the mission sites--Techwood, Steward and Memorial Drive Baptist Centers sponsored by the Atlanta Baptist Association, and Jackson Hill Baptist Church. The three centers are located in a low income, predominately black neighborhood--quite a cultural shock for most of the Louisiana visitors. Typical of this group was Jay Johnston, a senior from Metairie, who labored at Memorial Drive.

"When we arrived at the center, we were met by Freddie Mae Basson, the center director," Johnston related. "She took us on a tour of the area and when we returned to the center she said, 'Now that you've seen the city we can forget what color we are and just let Jesus live through us.' After that we never gave another thought to skin color."

Most daytime hours were spent doing manual labor at the centers, painting, patching holes in the ceiling, cleaning closets, picking up broken beer bottles off the playgrounds.

Late afternoons were devoted to recreation and games, all intended to attract intrigued youths to the evening Bible study and worship. There the students would sing, put on puppet shows and share their testimonies.

While the three center groups faced typical inner city poverty problems, the students working out of Jackson Hill encountered a different problem--indifference.

Jackson Hill Baptist Church is a nicely equipped church in a white collar suburban neighborhood that, the Sunday prior to the groups' visit, had 59 worshippers in its 600-person auditorium.

"In two and a half days, eight people made 534 contacts going door-to-door," Moore explained. "It was really depressing for us because 90 percent of the young couples contacted were unaffiliated and uninterested in any church. We were really burdened by this."

Positive results came quickly at the centers as more and more inner city youths gravitated to the activity. The impact at Jackson Hill was not as evident but Moore believes some of the seeds planted will bear fruit. Two families he contacted were in worship the next Wednesday.

The group slept in sleeping bags on the third floor of Park Avenue Baptist Church in the inner city and only managed about one shower per person during the stay. "But our kids didn't even mind that," Moore said.

"There's just no way to estimate how much this trip has meant to our students," Moore continued. "Some of them can't sing or preach and some even have trouble sharing their testimony, but they all learned that even if they can't do anything else, they can sure paint a floor for the Lord. And that's a lesson we all need to learn."

Perhaps LaNell Long, a sophomore from Sulphur, best summed up the group's experience: "That week was one of the greatest experiences of my life. We went there to minister to them, and they ended up ministering to us."

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