



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2000
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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**Officials Told of Baptist
Concern About Arms Race**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptist concern for nuclear disarmament and a shifting of national priorities from nuclear weapons to "basic human needs" has been communicated to the president, secretary of state, the U. S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and all members of Congress.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, sent a copy of the resolution on multilateral arms control passed by the Southern Baptist Convention in June with a letter assuring support for any efforts "to achieve strategic arms limitation, to eliminate nuclear weapons, and to insure world peace."

The resolution calls on Baptists to "urge our representatives in Washington to move in imaginative and reconciling ways to seek mutual agreements with other nations to slow the nuclear arms race."

The resolution also calls for the United States and other nations "to shift funds from nuclear weapons systems to basic human needs, such as education, medicine, and relief from hunger."

Wood pointed out that this resolution is consistent with the stand of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. On March 8, 1977, the committee voted to commend the president for his commitment to limiting arms to domestic safety needs and ultimately to eliminating all nuclear weapons.

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**Chet Reames Dies
In Dallas Auto Accident**

Baptist Press
8/4/78

DALLAS (BP)--Chester L. (Chet) Reames, director of the division of student work of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was killed in an auto accident on a Dallas expressway, Aug. 3.

Reames, 46, was known to thousands of college and university students involved in the 92 Baptist Student Unions coordinated by the student work division. The Texas Baptist executive board elected Reames as student director in 1974.

A native of Altus, Okla., Reames was involved with Baptist Student ministries for more than 20 years. He succeeded W. F. Howard, Texas student director for 32 years. Reames had served with Howard for 10 years as an associate.

Reames was a BSU director, 1959-64, at North Texas State University, Denton. Previously he was a pastor in Texas and a youth director in Oklahoma City. He was a graduate of Oklahoma State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is survived by his wife, the former Margret Jane Norvell. Funeral services were to be at Northway Baptist Church, Dallas, where Reames had served as deacon chairman, with burial in Corsicana, Texas.

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Churches Unite to Oppose
Prayer Amendment in Senate

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--Bipartisan opposition to possible floor action in the U. S. Senate on Aug. 7 concerning prayer in the schools has formed in Washington. Religious groups have also rallied to prevent the success of such action.

Reports indicate U. S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R.-N. C., will propose an amendment to S. 3100, a bill dealing with the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, which would prevent the federal courts from dealing with the question of state or school sponsored prayer in public schools.

Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, D.-Mass., and Charles McC. Mathias Jr., R.-Md., have launched bipartisan opposition to combat the measure.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said in a letter sent to all members of the Senate, "Through the years the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs...has expressed unalterable opposition to any efforts to circumvent or circumscribe the historic decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court of 1962 and 1963. Any such efforts we view as an abridgment of the First Amendment and in no way as an aid to religion or the religious exercise of prayer."

Wood told Baptist Press, "This is a deplorable strategy for dealing with what must be considered a fundamental constitution question with regard to the integrity of the First Amendment respecting the establishment of religion."

Similar efforts to avoid federal court involvement in decisions regarding prayer in the schools have been made in the past. None has been successful.

Besides the Baptist Joint Committee, opposition to the possible Helms amendment has been communicated to all senators by a coalition of the Church of the Brethren, the United Church of Christ, American Jewish Congress, the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., Unitarian-Universalist Association, and the United Methodist Church. Opposition also came from Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the American Civil Liberties Union.

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Note to state Baptist editors: A follow up will be sent soon by Baptist Press.

Mission Volunteers
Flood Colorado

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
8/4/78

DENVER (BP)--As currents of Southern Baptist outreach concern begin to rise, streams of summer mission volunteers have virtually flooded Colorado.

"So far as we know, Colorado has the largest number of out-of-state special project missionaries of any state in the nation," said Don Murray, state director of missions.

That number is daily swelling toward the 5,000 mark, according to Murray.

The latest official count of persons channeled into volunteer work through the state missions office totalled over 3,800. Murray reported that his office knows of at least 1,000 other missions volunteers in the state this summer who have not signed with his office.

As churches across the state report progress in their communities, that number of "unsigned" volunteers grows weekly.

Expansion of mission action in Colorado is in keeping with growth of such work across the Southern Baptist Convention. The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has reported that over 18,000 volunteers--a record--have been sent or assigned to mission fields by that agency alone this summer. Of that number, a minimum of 600 were assigned to Colorado, Murray said.

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The volunteers in Colorado include church mission teams and youth groups, Christian Service Corps volunteers, Builders For Christ teams, Baptist Student Union and Home Mission Board summer missionaries and Sojourners (high school student volunteers).

All but the BSU and Home Mission Board summer missionaries (all college students) pay their own expenses to come to the state.

Work done by the volunteers involves mission Vacation Bible Schools, Backyard Bible Clubs, church surveys, revival services, resort ministries, campground services, building construction, language missions work, and any other jobs.

Sizes of the groups range from approximately 200 from Bowie Baptist Association, Texas, working in southwestern Colorado, to four from one church in Texas, working in Paonia, Colo.

The majority of these groups are comprised of youth---high school and college aged persons, Murray said.

He noted, in contrast, that Builders For Christ teams consist mostly of adults.

George Carkett, founder and director of Builders For Christ, said Colorado projects are among the easiest to fill in the entire BFC program.

Several groups, such as the one from Bowie Association, are family-oriented, stressing family involvement and spiritual enrichment.

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Real Robot, Tract II,
Greet's VB Children

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ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--Children who attended Vacation Bible School at College Drive Baptist Church, Alexandria, La., probably thought they walked onto the set of a space movie.

They were greeted by a real, live (well, real) robot, "Tract II," who also answered their "yes and no" questions.

"When the kids come to Bible school, Tract II welcomes them in opening assembly," says the robot's inventor, James Fulton, pastor of the church. "Then they go to their classes for Bible study. When they come back to another assembly, Tract II goes over the material again. That kind of reinforcement is very important--especially from a robot."

Fulton has always been an electronic whiz. At 16 he built a communications satellite so sophisticated a science fair judge disqualified it because he felt no one Fulton's age could have built it himself.

Tract II is used for practical demonstrations too.

"I use a light beam and his photo cell to demonstrate how sin interrupts fellowship with God," Fulton says. "A flashlight activates the cell, and a pinwheel turns. But when a card--sin--gets in the way, the 'fellowship' is broken and the wheel stops."

Like all inventors, Fulton is still improving his creation. He hopes to put hands on the ends of Tract II's arms so he can take up the offering!

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August 4, 1978

Modern-Day Matthew Becomes
Baptist Pastor, Evangelist

By Ruth Fowler

SERENJE, Zambia (BP)--When Moses Chimfumpa was a tax collector, he handcuffed delinquent taxpayers to trees and beat them. Later he lost two jobs because of drinking problems and dishonesty. He was not a popular man.

Now Chimfumpa is pastor of four Baptist churches in the Serenje area of Zambia and works closely with Southern Baptist missionaries in their Kalwa Farm agricultural evangelism project. He is respected in his village.

The road to change has been long for this modern-day Matthew. But like the biblical tax collector turned apostle, Chimfumpa's change has been complete.

Chimfumpa had good beginnings. His parents were Christians and members of a church affiliated with the South African Baptist Mission. He attended a mission school and later continued his education through private studies until he reached a high level in his country.

He first worked for the government as a tax collector and was given the authority to arrest anyone who defaulted or refused to pay his taxes. He was feared throughout the whole area. After 10 years in this and other district-level government jobs, Chimfumpa resigned.

He lost two more jobs for drinking or dishonesty, then trained to be a medical assistant and continued to go from job to job. While a medical assistant, three influences began working for his salvation. One of them was his new wife Edna, who remained a dedicated Christian even though her husband was not.

The second was listening to the gospel music recordings of Jim Reeves, an American singer. Chimfumpa refused all attempts at personal witnessing, but would listen to the records.

The third was the reality and nearness of death. He had escaped serious injury or death in an accident and also had seen people dying in the hospitals where he worked. Some died in fear and others in peace. This began to weigh on his mind. He wondered why he had been spared.

Finally, after three years of marriage, Edna Chimfumpa convinced her husband to attend a revival meeting. On the second night of these services he accepted Christ as his personal Savior. After his baptism, his life began to change even more rapidly.

Chimfumpa took on leadership roles in the church and even began to preach as a layman. When he moved he drove many miles each Sunday to find a Baptist church.

The villagers' opinions of Chimfumpa changed too. Just four years after he accepted Christ, he was asked to come back and be headman (chief) for his village, the same village he had served as a tax collector.

But service as a lay preacher and headman of the village was not enough. Chimfumpa felt God's call to full-time service. So at the age of 43 he moved not to another job as before, but to seminary to learn a whole new vocation.

He felt he should go to the rural areas where there were no seminary graduates working in leadership roles. After seminary he went to Serenje where he could be best used.

The journey has been long, but for Chimfumpa, worthwhile. As he celebrated his 10th year as a Christian he learned that his two brothers had accepted Christ. Now all the prayers of his parents for their children's salvation have been answered.



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460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

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LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE NO
NASHVILLE TN 37203