



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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78-160

EDITOR'S NOTE: Pope John Paul I, the spiritual leader of 600-million Catholics, died Friday, Sept. 29, after a 34-day reign. C. Brownlow Hastings, assistant director of the department of interfaith witness at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, reflects on his death and what it may mean to Catholics and to Southern Baptists. Hastings has covered Baptist-Catholic relations on special assignment for Baptist Press.

World's Catholics Mourn
Death of Pope John Paul I

By C. Brownlow Hastings

ATLANTA (BP)--"Isn't it too bad that the Catholics have lost their new Pope," said the widow of a Baptist minister. "I liked his looks and had high hopes for what he might do."

She summarized about as much as one can say about the sudden death of Pope John Paul I after only 34-days of leadership of the world's 600-million Roman Catholics; unfilled hopes coupled with a renewed sense of tentativeness.

The refreshing smile and the genuine humanity of John Paul gave promise of a new style of the papacy. It could have been a time for the healing of wounds within the church and the strengthening of the spirit of openness toward those without the church.

One cannot help but recall the arresting statue over the tomb of Pope Alexander VII in St. Peters in Rome. Before his death, Alexander commissioned the famous sculptor, Bernini, to design his memorial to emphasize the brevity of life and the limitations of power, even of such a one as the Pope. Bernini responded with a classic--a human skeleton holding high an hour glass, carved in gilded stone.

This consciousness may cause the repeat conclave of cardinals to vote for a younger man. Perhaps they will at least be concerned about the life-long health record of the new candidate.

Two rather obvious options appear open to the cardinals. Since Pope John Paul I was so warmly received by all factions of the Catholic Church and by the non-Catholic world as well, they most likely will choose another of the same mold: an Italian, known for his pastoral approach and not previously a part of the Curia (the administrative department heads of the Vatican). Few choices seem left that would also appeal to the progressives and Third World bishops.

One would be Cardinal Corrado Ursi of Naples, who has called his people to a genuine concern for the poor and the neglected of his region. He even led in the sale of superfluous church treasures to benefit the poor and give better example of evangelical poverty to the world.

Another would be Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo of Palermo, Sicily. He has had experience as a papal representative to Indonesia, during the time of the attempted left-wing coup in the mid-1960s. He is very much in the center of the two wings of movement emerging from the Second Vatican Council and is known as an able conciliator.

The other option possibly open to the cardinals is much more complex. This second go-round of voting could permit the reopening of the debate that will always be present between the progressives who want greater implementation of Vatican II and the conservatives who would like a return to the old disciplines. If that happens, then the conclave could last much longer and the consequences be far less clear.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

On either option, it's encouraging to feel the prayerful concern of a growing number of Baptists today for the spiritual leaders of their Roman Catholic friends.

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Southern Baptists Lead
Military Base Revival

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press
10/2/78

FORT SILL, Okla. (BP)--The distant whuump of artillery fire and the whop-whop-whop of overflying helicopters sounded counterpoint as an old-fashioned revival was held under spreading oak trees on historic Fort Sill.

"It may not be unique," said Post Chaplain (Col.) Paul Ouzts, "but it's the first time I've been involved in anything like it in the 20 years I've been in the military."

The revival--called the Fall Festival of Faith--featured preaching, singing and presentations by The Covenant Players, a traveling drama group. It resulted in 283 public decisions, including 24 first-time professions of faith, 22 persons requesting baptism, 88 rededications and 149 other decisions.

"The idea was to give a unified emphasis to the total religious program at Fort Sill," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Don Beeson, the senior Southern Baptist chaplain on the 22,000-man post in Southern Oklahoma.

"The emphasis was that we're more than flesh and blood...more than just a person wearing a green uniform. We wanted to give persons an opportunity to express this through professions of faith, rededications, or in any other way they choose."

The five Southern Baptist chaplains on the U. S. Army artillery post took a lead in the festival, but they called the revival "a true cooperative effort," including 38 chaplains assigned to the artillery center--34 Protestant, 3 Catholic and 1 Jewish.

Post Chaplain Ouzts noted the festival was planned after Southern Baptist Chaplain Paul Mason, former pastor of Second Baptist Church, College Park, Ga., suggested a "post wide effort." "We have had several workshops in the past on things other than traditional religion. I felt we needed some renewal," he said.

Mason, who said he believes the military is the "next great mission field," noted that 50 to 75 percent of the post residents aren't in any type of ongoing religious participation.

"Military chaplains are fully involved in Bold Mission Thrust (The Southern Baptist Convention's plan to proclaim the message of Christ to the world by the year 2000)," he said. "We're practicing evangelization and congregationalization. We feel we are as much a part of BMT as we were when we were pastors."

According to records maintained by the Chaplaincy Division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, accredited chaplains record some 14,000 baptisms each year. Many of those come from the 415 active-duty and 323 reserve chaplains with the military.

The old-fashioned revival was the Protestant expression of the Fall Festival of Faith. The Catholic program emphasized strengthening chapel organizations, and the Jewish congregation celebrated Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah.

"I think it's been just super," Mason said. "It has given people an opportunity to make decisions. There are hundreds--thousands--of people at the post who will not go to church downtown. We believe we have a real ministry here."

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers by Atlanta Bureau of Baptist Press

Corps Volunteers Called 'Pioneers'

ATLANTA (BP)--The first Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteers to undergo orientation were told they are "pioneers in a great mission thrust."

Twenty-nine persons--ranging from college age to past retirement--underwent the week-long orientation, preparing them for a variety of mission service opportunities, spanning from church starting to college teaching.

"I'm inspired by your witness," said Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention. "You are pioneers...you are the beginning of a trickle that will become a great flow of lives being invested in God's service."

Mission Service Corps, a plan to place 5,000 volunteers in mission service by 1982, was adopted by messengers to the 1977 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

"Mission Service Corps addresses persons who feel God has called them to service in missions," said David Bunch, coordinator of MSC for the Home Mission Board. "MSC is part of the Southern Baptist Convention's Bold Mission Thrust to reach the world for Christ in this century."

"The goal of Bold Mission Thrust and of Mission Service Corps is to evangelize and congregationalize," he continued. "We want to bring people to know Christ as Lord and Savior and to gather them together into congregations to grow and serve."

William G. Tanner, the board's executive director-treasurer, told the volunteers the goal of MSC is "worthy...but the important thing is not just the goal. The important thing is that you are here...that you are willing to go, and that you are doing mission work."

"If it takes 20 years--not just five--for us to reach the goal of 5,000, that will not bother me at all," he declared. "We are creating a channel for people to serve and for mission work to be accomplished."

Tanner, noting MSC was born a year ago in June, said, "By the end of this year (1978) we possibly will have 135 or 140 persons on the field around the world."

"We're looking at over \$800,000 in funds which have been given and pledged. We're looking at the lives of 130-plus people invested in mission work. That would not have happened without the impetus of this program."

Tanner told the volunteers there would be times in which they would be "...upset... You're gonna crawl the walls and bawl. But you will not be bored...The opportunities you will have are real. They're not busy work for the third grade. The opportunities are credible, verifiable, viable needs you will be filling."

Bunch told the volunteers 57 persons currently serve on the field through MSC. "By the first of the year, we anticipate there will be some 100 MSC volunteers serving in home mission positions, and the Foreign Mission Board will have approximately 35 persons assigned, or ready for assignment," he said, repeating a report made earlier to the SBC Executive Committee by Bunch and Lewis Myers, Foreign Mission Board MSC coordinator.

Orientation for the Home Mission Board volunteers included three primary areas, Bunch said: "Personal growth, evangelism or personal witnessing and congregationalizing through the local church." Training sessions were conducted by Home Mission Board staffers.

During the orientation banquet, volunteer Carl Peacock of Eastman, Ga., said: "I have just retired after 43 years in the pastorate. Now that I have retired, I will be able to fulfill what I have always dreamed of doing; serving on the mission field."

Peacock retired recently from Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Cadwell, Ga. He and his wife, Neva, will serve at Ft. Benton, Mont., where he will be pastor of an 11-member church. "I plan to do whatever needs to be done to get it on its feet and going," he said.

Another volunteer, Christine Reeves of Amory, Miss., said she applied to MSC after reading of it in "Royal Service" magazine and the "Mississippi Baptist Record."

This year, after 32 years of teaching--and being named Mississippi teacher of the year--she retired. "They decided I was too old to teach any more," she said. She will teach now at Baptist Memorial College in Miami, Fla., under MSC.

Mike Tabb of Pensacola, Fla., recently graduated from Samford University, will serve in the inner city of Baltimore for two years and then attend seminary. "I became convinced that God wanted me in inner city ministries," he said. "After I graduated, I spent four months wandering around trying to find a place to serve. I'm grateful that MSC offers me an opportunity to get involved in inner city ministries."

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SBC National Gifts
Top \$100 Million

Baptist Press
10/2/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Total giving by Southern Baptists on the national level topped \$100 million for the first time in the Southern Baptist Convention's 133-year history, according to a report at the end of the 1977-78 fiscal year.

That figure--\$105,330,123--includes both undesignated giving to the SBC's national Cooperative Program unified budget for ongoing work of the denomination around the world and designated giving, mainly contributions to the SBC's home and foreign mission offerings.

Undesignated contributions through the Cooperative Program totaled \$57,418,384, a \$5,477,924 or 10.55 percent increase over the 1976-77 fiscal year. It exceeded the 1977-78 basic operating and capital needs budgets of SBC agencies by \$2,338,384, which will be used for unmet Bold Mission Thrust needs. But it fell \$5,981,616 under the total \$63,400,000 goal, which includes \$55,080,000 for basic operating and capital needs and \$8,320,000 in Bold Mission Thrust challenge funds.

"We rejoice that the Bold Mission Thrust challenge funds will provide more than \$2,338,000 in additional funds for areas of desperate mission needs," said Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee. The 10.55 percent increase is slightly more than the inflation factor, so it will mean some new thrust. We thank every church member, every pastor, every state leader for their significant help."

Designated contributions above the Cooperative Program figure totaled \$47,911,740, which amounted to \$5,466,116 or 12.88 percent more than last year's total.

The total figure of \$105,330,123 exceeded last year's amount by \$10,944,040, or 11.59 percent.

September, 1978, the final month of the fiscal year, showed a strong finish, with total contributions of \$5,788,958, an increase of \$843,978 or 17.07 percent over the same month for the previous year.

That monthly total included \$5,014,015 in Cooperative Program gifts (an 11.73 percent increase) and \$774,943 in designated gifts (a 69.45 percent increase over \$457,338 the previous year).

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**Baptist Minister Denies
Charges of Homosexuality**

MADISONVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A Baptist minister who runs a boys summer camp denies charges that he and a camp volunteer involved themselves in homosexual activities with boys at the camp.

District Attorney General Richard Fisher said that James B. Dotson, 54, of Rockford, Tenn., who runs the camp, was charged with six counts involving homosexual activity and Charles Suttles, 30, of Maryville, Tenn., with one count.

Dotson, former Southern Baptist pastor and missionary, operates Tellico River Ministries, northeast of Madisonville, which is not affiliated with any Southern Baptist organization. He also serves as pastor of Baptist Outreach, a congregation which meets in a public school in Alcoa, Tenn., and has no affiliation with Southern Baptists.

"It just ain't so," Dotson said. "There is no sex involved. I may go to the penitentiary, but God knows I'm right. I have been affectionate with my kids, but there has never been any sex involved."

He said, "The children have run off, and some became angry and wanted to go home. They were told--and there were some people who wanted to see the camp closed--that if the camp closed, they could go home."

Dotson, who reportedly has started a number of small mission churches in Tennessee, is former pastor of several Southern Baptist churches in the state and served for brief periods on the mission field with both the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Boards.

Fisher said the camp, which housed 100 to 200 campers at its peak during the summer, contained five boys, most of them teen-agers, the week authorities filed charges. He said two of them had been sent home with illness before the arrest of Dotson, who was released on \$10,000 bond pending a preliminary hearing. The other three were placed in foster homes. Some had been referred to the camp by juvenile authorities in East Tennessee.

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Carter's Dollar
Goes to Lottie Moon

Baptist Press
10/2/78

WASHINGTON, D. C. (BP)--President Jimmy Carter's 54th birthday dollar is on its way to be part of the 1979 Southern Baptist Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Carter handed the dollar to Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, during Sunday School at the First Baptist Church in Washington, D. C., Sunday, October 1.

Fred Gregg, Carter's Sunday School teacher, recognized Carter on his birthday and said "Down South on your birthday it's customary for you to give a penny for each year."

Carter quipped back, "Unless you don't want to tell your age, then you give a dollar."

"We always gave our birthday money to the WMU," Gregg said.

Carter fished out a dollar and handed it to Miss Weatherford, who was visiting the class from Birmingham, Ala.

She said the dollar would be used to launch the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions due to be taken beginning December 3.

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She admitted she would send another dollar bill in Carter's behalf. "This one is going in a frame in my office," she said of Carter's dollar.

Now WMU needs to raise only \$39,999,999 to reach its goal for the offering which provides about half the annual income for Southern Baptist foreign missions programs.

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Wake Forest Asks
To Elect Trustees

Baptist Press
10/2/78

ASHEBORO, N.C. (BP)--Wake Forest University has requested charter changes which, if approved, would take away the North Carolina Baptist Convention's power to elect trustees or to remove them from office.

Under the plan, Wake Forest trustees would elect their own successors.

The Baptist school's proposal would provide that a majority of trustees be members of churches cooperating with the Baptist state convention but would permit out-of-state and possibly non-Baptists to serve. Now, all of the trustees are North Carolina Baptists.

The request to the convention's general board came from Wake Forest's president, James Ralph Scales, and trustee chairman, James Mason. Both said the proposed changed relationship would help remove tension between the school and the convention, which has cropped up over the years.

North Carolina Baptists' general board approved executive committee recommendation to refer the proposal to the state convention's Council on Christian Higher Education for study.

The general board further approved an executive committee suggestion that the Wake Forest proposal be reported to the 1978 annual sessions of the Baptist state convention in Raleigh, N. C., Nov. 13-15, to seek approval of the executive committee's and general board's actions. If convention messengers approve the continuation of the study in November, final action on the proposal could be taken at the 1979 sessions of the Baptist state convention.

In presenting the recommendation for charter changes, Scales said that Wake Forest wishes to change from an agency to an affiliate status. While Scales and Mason both insisted that they were not asking to sever ties with the Baptist state convention, convention leaders said that according to the constitution and by-laws they interpreted the request as severance as an agency.

The proposal made no reference to ending the Baptist state convention's financial support through the Cooperative Program to the school. But, several observers said that possible changes may come about if the convention approves charter changes.

The convention in 1978 is providing 6.5 percent of its annual budget to Wake Forest, which amounts to about \$815,000 or four percent of the school's budget. Proposed expenditures in 1979 call for \$936,937 or 6.04 percent of the \$15,507,450 convention budget.

The school receives a matching grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation which is dependent on the relationship of the convention and Wake Forest.

Asked if the change in status with the convention would affect the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Scales said, "I cannot tell you and neither can anyone else. That's what is known as an iffy question...No charitable foundation can be in a position of influencing the decisions of one of its beneficiaries."

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Could Wake Forest lose funds from the foundation, he was asked? Scales replied, "I think you have to say in all candor, yes." But, he said the "risk" is "not very grave... so far as the spirit of helpfulness of that organization" is concerned.

"The changes would mean the substitution of a totally voluntary and, I think, joyful association for one of coercion," Scales said. "Above all else, we seek to strengthen the relationship of the university with the convention. The school will remain integrally Baptist."

Scales said the period from 1834 to 1927 was the most productive and harmonious time in the Wake Forest and convention relationship and trustees elected their own successors then.

Controversy has arisen periodically between Wake Forest and the convention, the latest a confrontation which developed after the college's trustees voted to accept, without restriction, a \$299,600 grant from the National Science Foundation contrary to a directive by messengers to the 1977 meeting of the Baptist state convention.

Convention voters rejected an \$85,000 portion of the grant designated for a greenhouse because erection of a building does not fulfill the North Carolina Baptist "services rendered" requirement for acceptance of government funds. North Carolina Baptists did not feel a building on their campus could return a service to the funding source and therefore violated separation of church and state.

Trustees of Wake Forest and convention officials eventually compromised. Wake Forest kept all of the \$299,600 but they agreed to a technical shifting of the controversial \$85,000 portion of the grant to extend the National Science Foundation's endowed three-year study to four years. The school agreed to replace the \$85,000 necessary to pay for the already constructed greenhouse from Wake Forest budget.

The trustees also agreed at that time to come before the convention's services rendered committee with all future requests for federal funds.

(BP)

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Baptist Press Schedule Of Possible News-Making Events

October, 1978

- 1 Arthur Walker, new Education Commission executive director-treasurer, assumes duties
- 3-4 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary fall lectures
- 4-6 North American Baptist Fellowship General Committee and sharing sessions, Toronto, Canada
- 4-6 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary - John Cobb delivers Norton lectures
- 5-6 Kentucky statewide meeting of laymen
- 9 Launching of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary campaign at joint lunch of Development Council and Board of Trustees
- 9-10 Semi-annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 9-11 Foreign Mission Board meeting
- 9-13 Indiana - "Growing an Evangelistic Church" seminar
- 10-13 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary campus revival - Roy Fish
- 13-15 Kentucky state student convention
- 15-18 Home Mission Board fall meeting, board of directors, Atlanta
- 16-17 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, executive council meeting
- 16-17 Nevada Baptist Convention organized
- 17 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Founder's Day ceremonies
- 20-22 Ohio state student convention, near Columbus
- 23-25 Missouri state convention, First Baptist Church of St. Johns, St. Louis
- 23-29 National Renewal Evangelism Conference, Georgia Baptist Assembly, Toccoa
- 24 Tel el-Hesi Archaeological Excavation Report - J. Kenneth Eakins
- 24 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Missionary Day address by Harold Carter, pastor, New Shiloh Baptist Church, Baltimore

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DALLAS BAPTIST PRESS
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- 24-25 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Religious Education School celebrates Silver Anniversary - will include addresses by Harry Piland and John Westerhoff
- 24-27 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Derward W. Deere Lecture Series - J. Morris Ashcraft
- 25-27 Semi-annual meeting of Annuity Board trustees, Nashville
- 29-Nov. 1 Western Baptist Religious Education Association annual meeting
- 30-31 Texas Baptist Men and Woman's Missionary Union annual meetings, Austin
- 31 Roland Bainton delivers Julius Brown Gay Lectures - Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 31-Nov. 2 Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting, Austin

No Specific Dates Given:

Radio and Television Commission Board of Trustees meet in Fort Worth - job changes for some employees

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary - enrollment figures, fall trustee meeting

Seminary Extension Department - year-end statistics story