



BAPTIST PRESS

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Hastey Named Baptist Press Bureau Chief in Washington

WASHINGTON (BP)--Stan L. Hastey has been appointed chief of the Washington bureau of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, succeeding W. Barry Garrett, who will take early retirement Nov. 1.

Hastey, appointed bureau chief by Baptist Press Director, W. C. Fields, in cooperation with James E. Wood Jr., of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, was also elected by the Baptist Joint Committee to succeed Garrett as director of information services for the agency.

Garrett, 63, served in the dual role for nearly 21 years in Washington, where he launched the first bureau for Baptist Press in 1958. The news service now has six bureaus working with its national office in Nashville, Tenn.

Hastey, 34, is a native of Oklahoma but was reared in Mexico as the son of Southern Baptist missionaries. Since 1974, he has been the Supreme Court correspondent for Baptist Press.

He also has served the Baptist Joint Committee since that time as assistant to the director of information services, 1974-75; coordinator of denominational services, 1975-76; and associate director for denominational services since 1976. He has also been managing editor of "Report from the Capital," the Baptist Joint Committee's monthly publication.

Hastey is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, where he majored in government. He has studied journalism at George Washington University and holds master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he concentrated in church history and church-state relations.

-30-

Missionary Efforts Continue In Midst of Beirut Fighting

By Ruth Fowler

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10/4/78

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in Lebanon continue to work in spite of renewed fighting between Christian militia and Syrian peace-keeping forces.

In a telephone report, missionary Mabel Summers told J. D. Hughey, SBC Foreign Mission Board secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia, that church services are continuing and power, water and telephone services are still operating.

During the heaviest fighting of Beirut's more than two-year long civil war, utilities were not always working. During that period, people at times could not leave their homes to meet at church.

Beirut is divided into two main sectors and occupied by three military groups.

The Muslim sector contains the remains of Beirut's once-thriving tourist industry, the main business section, the airport and the Palestinian refugee camps--a major point of contention during the civil war. Controlled by Muslim leftist forces, this sector borders the sea and controls much of the shipping industry.

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The Beirut Baptist School and housing for its missionary personnel sit in the Muslim sector. This sector has been relatively free of fighting because the primary trouble is between Christian rightist militia and the Syrian peace-keeping forces. The Syrian forces are located throughout Beirut.

The other sector is the Christian community which reaches back into the hills and surrounding villages and stretches to the foot of the Lebanese mountains. In this area, composed mainly of smaller businesses and residences, Southern Baptists have a seminary campus. The publications and broadcast ministries, which continue to function, have headquarters at the seminary. Missionaries assigned to these ministries live at the seminary or nearby.

The seminary itself has not come under fire in this last round of fighting even though it is located in the Christian sector where most of the fighting has occurred. The seminary and missionary housing are nearer the mountains and much of the fighting has been in the border area of the two sectors.

The primary danger for missionaries lies in traveling from one sector to another. But such travel has been kept to a minimum.

A Baptist church was bombed earlier in the renewed fighting and several thousand people have been left homeless in the most recent skirmishes. Southern Baptist missionaries and local Baptists are involved in relief work which ranges from providing survival necessities to rebuilding homes.

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Radio-TV Commission
Wins Chris Statuette

Baptist Press
10/4/78

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has received Columbus Film Festival's top award --the Chris Statuette--for "Malcolm Muggeridge."

John C. Stevens, vice president of script development for the commission, produced and directed the 16mm film. The commission also won Chris Statuettes in 1966 and 1970.

"Malcolm Muggeridge" will be released to the public in January 1979, in the commission's "The Human Dimension" series for television.

"This is a prestigious award that's very difficult to earn," said Stevens. "Only seven awards are given each year in categories such as Art and Culture, Business and Industry and Religion and Ethics." The objective of the award is to promote more human interest subject matter.

Malcolm Muggeridge, an international journalist, has received much acclaim for his book, "Jesus, The Man Who Lives." He also is widely known for creating "Punch" magazine and is a former columnist for "Esquire" and editor-in-chief for the "Manchester Guardian."

"The film was shot on location at Muggeridge's home near Robertsbridge, England," said Stevens. "It's an overview of his years as a journalist and the conclusions he's developed over a lifetime of thought and writing.

"Muggeridge is a devout Christian and through the film he expresses his views on faith, western civilization and man's preoccupation with himself. He speaks frankly about death and sees it as a singularly beautiful experience."

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BJC Acts on Domestic,
International Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs took action on a number of items related to domestic and international issues, honored retiring director of information services W. Barry Garrett, and elected as its new chairman Gideon K. Zimmerman, executive secretary of the North American Baptist Conference.

The Baptist Joint Committee is the public affairs agency of nine Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada, with offices in Washington, D. C.

Among actions taken during the agency's semiannual meeting were the following:

- Commended President Carter both for his leadership at the Camp David summit meeting on the Middle East, and for his stated opposition to tuition tax credits.
- Authorized the staff to monitor religious liberty developments in Israel, Turkey, Egypt and the Soviet Union;
- Appointed a task force to examine the effects on churches of the new law on age discrimination in employment;
- Directed the staff to support legislation restricting interstate and foreign commerce which exploits children;
- Opposed legislation amending the Federal Communications Act of 1934 which does not include adequate provision for the concept of "public interest" in broadcasting;
- Authorized the staff to act to nullify the effect of an Internal Revenue Service ruling which threatens nonprofit groups with loss of tax exempt status if they publish the voting records of political candidates;
- Asked the staff to try to set up a meeting with President Carter on church problems with the IRS;
- Opposed the Department of Labor's ruling requiring parochial schools to pay unemployment insurance state taxes; and
- Condemned government funding of solar energy demonstration projects in churches or church-related schools.

Garrett, who served as information director for 21 years and founded the Washington bureau of Baptist Press, was presented with a check and a book of letters at a luncheon attended by Baptist Joint Committee members and representatives of Baptist Press and the Southern Baptist Press Association. He had announced his intention to retire at age 63 this summer.

The Executive Committee of the Baptist Joint Committee informed the full committee that Stan L. Hastey, the current director of denominational services, had been elected as Garrett's successor. His selection as Baptist Press bureau chief in Washington was made in consultation with W. C. Fields, Nashville, Tenn., director of Baptist Press. Hastey came to the committee five years ago, and for the first two years was Garrett's assistant.

Zimmerman, named as new chairman of the Baptist Joint Committee, has previously served as chairman of the agency's finance and personnel committees. Elected first vice chairman was Elizabeth J. Miller, secretary of the office of Issue Development, American Baptist Churches in the U. S. A. The new second vice chairman is Melvin G. Cooper, executive director of the state Ethics Commission of Alabama. Named secretary was Dorothy Parrott, head of the Christian Social Action Committee for the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

The agency's governing body also chose Oct. 2-3, 1979 as the dates for the 17th Religious Liberty Conference here under the theme of Human Rights in International Affairs.

-30-

Baptist Violin Expert
Makes Sweet Music

By Ben King Jr.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)--Julio Voirin has seen dollar signs dance in people's eyes when they think there's a prized violin stored away in their closet.

He's also watched the same people crumble in dismay after they learn their "prized" instrument would be worth more as firewood.

Voirin, a member of Trinity Baptist Church, is one of the few people in the United States recognized as a qualified expert of rare violins. The San Antonian's world revolves around names like Stradivarius, Guarneri and Amati.

To most people the names mean little--until they think one of them is inscribed in a violin they have lying around the house. Then, those hard-to-pronounce words suddenly talk money: \$50,000 or more.

Voirin has traveled to many countries to tell people whether they possess priceless violins. He's gathered many tales about the strange things that overcome people when they believe they're cradling a fortune in their arms.

"This one man had been trying to get me to look at his violin for over four years, and when I finally passed through his city, I got a chance to see it," he told the San Antonio Express-News.

"When I told the man it was worthless, his wife started laughing hysterically. She told him: 'And you never left this house for 27 years because you were scared someone might steal that piece of junk.'"

Voirin described what happened to two brothers he knows in Uruguay:

"When their father died he left one son his house and money and the other one settled for what everyone thought was a rare violin. The one that got the violin is now pumping gas."

And while some of the stories are tragic, others have a humorous note that offer insight into the human condition.

"One woman called me long distance to find out when the Italian violin-maker Stradivarius lived in Japan," he said.

"I told her, 'Ma'am, I don't think he ever lived in Japan.' But she said that was impossible, because she had a Stradivarius violin with 'Made in Japan' marked on it."

Voirin teaches a string program in the music ministry of Trinity Baptist Church. He also repairs violins and considers himself something of a savior to the instruments as he gets them back into the hands of musicians from the closets and attics where they've lain.

When Voirin goes to a city on a violin inspection tour hundreds of people turn out clutching their violins. Some have tried to bribe Voirin to say their instrument was made by Stradivarius.

When experts finally do come across masterpieces they're usually in unlikely places, says Voirin.

"One man was walking around in Madrid and happened to see some kids dragging a violin down the street as a toy.

"He stopped one of the boys and then went to his mother and offered to pay \$20 for the instrument. The mother said, 'Sure you can pay him, but you're crazy.' The violin was a Stradivarius."

Voirin also remembered a little adobe bar in Mexico where a Stradivarius hung on the wall. He paid a pittance for the instrument and took it home.

And while some people might see Voirin's dual roles as a violin expert and collector as a conflict of interest, he goes to lengths to explain his position.

"As a collector I'm like anyone else who collects something. If I see a Stradivarius in a pawn shop, I pay the price asked and that's it," he explains.

"The main thing is that if a great violin is in hiding it should come out and be passed on to coming generations so they can enjoy it."

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