



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 5, 1979

79-18

Christian Life Spokesman
Suggests Hunger Council

ATLANTA (BP)--An official of the nation's largest Protestant denomination has called for the adoption of a "comprehensive, anti-hunger policy for the United States" and recommended that a presidentially-appointed council be established to see that such a policy is "fully developed" and "implemented effectively."

In testimony before the Presidential Commission on World Hunger, W. David Sapp of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, said that instituting a Presidential Council on World Hunger and Malnutrition would help government deal with the complexities of global hunger. The council, he said, would also insure that the voices of the hungry--who "cannot afford lobbyists"--are heard by the nation's policy makers.

The council of experts, Sapp recommended, would be responsible for advising the president on the impact various legislative and administrative proposals would have on hunger problems, monitoring the effectiveness of hunger-related government programs and gathering information about domestic and foreign hunger and malnutrition.

In addition to giving the nation "an institutional handle on hunger problems," Sapp claimed that establishing the presidential council "would signal the world that the United States is serious about human rights."

"There is no human right more basic than the right to food," he told the commission. "If the United States is to exert its traditional moral leadership in the world, it must find new ways to demonstrate that it is serious about justice and basic human rights for all of humankind."

The hearing at Atlanta's Presbyterian Center chapel was the first in a series of regional hearings sponsored by the commission on world hunger. The commission, established last October by President Carter, has been given a two-year assignment of studying the causes of world hunger and suggesting options for dealing with the ancient problem.

Chaired by Ambassador Sol Linowitz, the 20-member commission includes congressmen Benjamin Gilman, R -N.Y., and Richard Nolan, D -Minn., Sen. Robert Dole, R -Kan., and Patrick Leahy, D -Ver., National Council of Churches official Eugene Stockwell, and singing stars Harry Chapin and John Denver.

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Alaska Executive
Director Resigns

Baptist Press
2/5/79

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP)--Troy Prince, executive director-treasurer of the Alaska Baptist Convention since July 1, 1971, has resigned effective Feb. 16.

Prince cited "continuing health problems, pressures associated with responsibilities as executive director-treasurer, and advice from his physician" as reasons for the resignation.

He was stricken in late September while returning from the meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville and did not return to his Alaska duties until mid-November.

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Allen H. Meeks, director of the religious education department of the convention, will assume duties as interim executive director-treasurer Feb. 19. For Meeks, who has been with the Alaska Baptist Convention 14 years, it will be his third stint as interim executive director-treasurer.

The Alaska executive board accepted Prince's resignation "with regret" at its Jan. 29 meeting and voted to send letters to the SBC Home Mission Board and the other SBC agencies commending him as "highly respected and loved, and one with great ability."

Prince had also served as director of evangelism, editor of the Alaska Baptist Messenger, director of stewardship promotion, executive director of the Baptist Foundation, and as interim state missions director for almost three years.

Office responsibilities will terminate Feb. 16, one day after hosting the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association. Sick leave and vacation time will begin March 1 and conclude on July 14.

During Prince's eight years of service, annual Cooperative Program receipts increased from \$87,519 in 1971 to \$226,239 in 1977. A ten-year high point in baptisms was achieved in 1978, marking the third consecutive year of increased baptisms. A family service center with children's home and counseling services was constructed.

The Prince family will make their temporary home in Conway, Ark., with their son and daughter-in-law the Michael Princes, faculty members at the University of Central Arkansas. The address is 706 Faulkner, Conway, Ark. 72032.

Prior to directing the Alaska Baptist Convention, Prince was pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La. He is a native of Laurel, Miss., having served as Bible professor at Clarke Memorial College, Newton; superintendent of missions, Meridian; and he held pastorates at Friendship, McComb; First Baptist, Carthage; and First Baptist, Sharon.

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Minn.-Wisc. Offices
Move to New Address

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ROCHESTER, Minn. (BP)--Headquarters offices for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Fellowship have moved to 303 Elton Hills Dr., Rochester, Minn., 55901. The phone number remains the same at 507-282-3636.

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Furman Professor
Wins Book Award

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2/5/79

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)--"Meaning in Texts: The Historical Shaping of a Narrative Hermeneutic," a book by Edgar V. McKnight, professor of religion at Furman University, has won the Conference on Christianity and Literature's 1978 Book Award.

The award goes annually to the book which contributes most to the dialogue between literature and the Christian faith. The Conference on Christianity and Literature is an international organization dedicated to scholarly excellence and fellowship. A graduate of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Oxford University, McKnight joined the Furman University faculty in 1962.

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-- FEATURES

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BSU Leader Turns Handicap
Into Effective 'Bionic Arm'

By Jim Newton

Feb. 5, 1979

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--"Warn me if I squeeze too hard," quips Randy Gallaway, who frequently is compared to the man with the bionic arm, as he shakes hands.

Gallaway is probably the only Baptist Student Union director in the nation who good-naturedly jokes about his "handicap" when compared to television's Six Million Dollar Man.

His right arm is not really bionic, but it is electronic.

Attached to his left arm, severed at mid forearm, is a mechanical hand most commonly called a "hook."

Gallaway, Baptist Student Union director at California Baptist College and 15 campuses in the Riverside, Calif., area, says his electronic right arm has helped him tremendously in building better relationships with college students on the campuses.

"The (electronic) hand is really not as functional and useful as the hook, but it helps me overcome psychological barriers on the part of the people I meet," Gallaway explains.

"Most people can accept a 'handicapped' person with one hook on the left arm, but it blows their minds to meet someone with hooks on both arms. The shock is just too great for them to accept," he adds.

In 1966 when he was 18 years old, Gallaway was repairing an electrical transformer at an oil-field equipment factory in Fort Worth, when another worker saw the power switch was off and turned it back on, not knowing it was off for a reason.

Gallaway was tightening a bolt on the transformer with both hands when the switch came back on, arcing 13,000 volts of electricity through his body. The surge of power lit his clothes on fire and knocked him off a 15-foot platform on the roof. The tools in the leather tool carrier on his belt were melted by the current.

The pain was incredible. "It was like being hit by a truck and then being thrown into a furnace at the same time," he recalls.

His partner was killed instantly. Gallaway wasn't expected to live. He had suffered two broken ribs, and severe burns on his hands, arms, back and right side. His left hand and entire right arm were virtually destroyed and had to be amputated.

During the next few years, Gallaway underwent surgery and skin grafts 38 times. After almost two years of surgery, he was fitted with a traditional artificial arm with a metal "hook" left hand.

After a year and a half of surgery and recuperation, Gallaway went back to work at the same company. The next year, he enrolled as a mechanical engineering student at the University of Texas at Arlington not far from Fort Worth.

"The first person I met on the campus was a member of the Baptist Student Union, who took me to the BSU Center and encouraged me to get involved," Gallaway recalls.

In the BSU, Gallaway found "a loving family of Christian friends" who "invested a year in just loving me."

One incident stands out in Gallaway's memory. "Wayne Ashlock was the campus cut-up, and he came to me one day and confided that the other students were afraid they were going to hurt my feelings," Gallaway remembers.

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Ashlock warned Gallaway in advance, "Tonight I'm going to try to embarrass you-- to break the ice." That night Ashlock shocked the other students by loudly teasing Gallaway, "Hey, Randy, I bet it's tough to pick your nose with that thing."

Randy laughed loudest of all, and the incident enabled the other students to accept him and to joke about his 'handicap.'

Today, however, Gallaway does not consider himself "handicapped." He believes his personal pilgrimage has given him a sensitivity to the feelings and pain of others, better equipping him for his role as a campus minister.

He feels a unique call to student work, for he has experienced personally the difference that the Baptist Student Union organization and the Christian love of students can make in the lives of others.

"BSU has made the difference in my life," he admits. "I was so shy before. But when I got involved in BSU neighborhood missions, telling Bible stories on Friday nights to kids in a local mission, I realized that even I had something to give. I realized that God could use even me."

In July 1978, after years of student work in Texas, he became an associate in the division of student work for the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, assigned to 15 campuses with 85,000 students in the Riverside area.

Gallaway met his wife, Mary Ann, while she was a student at Texas Technological University and he was in Lubbock, Texas, to speak to the students. They were married in 1975. Early in their courtship, they had an honest discussion about Gallaway's handicap.

"Let's face it," Mary Ann admits. "It's not everyone who will consider marrying someone without any arms; but I have a very strong belief that it is what is inside a person that counts."

In Randy Gallaway, that's a lot.

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Adapted from January 1978 World Mission Journal.

110 Year Old Town
Gets First Church

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Feb. 5, 1979

MOUNTAIN CITY, Nev. (BP)--Efforts by members of the Carlin Baptist Church brought the first church to the 110-year-old town of Mountain City.

The new building, a trailer, was financed by contributions resulting from letters mailed out by LaVern Inzer of Carlin, and was constructed on donated land.

John Ramsey, who works for the Carlin school system, drives 107 miles each way to serve the church without pay. His wife, Merlin, teaches the children at Mountain City and at nearby Wildhorse Chapel, which they also lead.

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