

(BP) -- FEATURES

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Woman Chaplain In Charge
 At Richmond Men's Prison

By Walker Knight

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Marjorie Bailey stood before the heavy gray bars leading to a cell block. A mustiness mingled with the smell of men's bodies and disinfectant. Metal doors and grating keys sent hollow echoes racing through the fortress-like prison.

The guard was polite but firm, "I'm sorry ma'am; I can't let you in."

Bailey stiffened. A slender, angular woman in her 50s, she stood at the door with her feet slightly apart, right hand on her hip. "I'm the chaplain here," she explained. Her bright yellow suit contrasted sharply with the drab prison interior.

"I know that but I can't let a woman in," the guard replied. The discussion continued. Bailey argued; the guard stood firm.

"I'm the chaplain for the whole prison and I can go anywhere I want to go," Bailey insisted.

"You're not coming in here," the guard said, but soon seemed to lose some resolve. Finally, Bailey was allowed in the cell block; the guard would check with a supervisor for future meetings with Bailey.

This was not the first time--nor would it be the last--that Chaplain Marjorie Bailey would have to act with all the authority she could summon as she moved through doors where no woman had walked before at The Wall, the Virginia penitentiary near Richmond.

Bailey, an ordained minister, has served as chaplain in the Virginia prison system for more than 11 years, primarily at the Women's Correctional Center near Goochland and at the juvenile institution at South Hampton. In 1977 she added duties at the state prison for men.

Her new ministry at The Wall meant adjustments. The inmates call the prison "the Zoo" and refer to each other as animals--giraffe, elephant, lion, tiger. They are animals behind bars and the people come to see them, they say.

Prisoners appear not to harbor the hate characterizing many maximum security institutions. Yet the air seethes frustration in the alien world of confinement. In this tense, abnormal system, Bailey and a senior chaplaincy intern share ministry, both to the prisoners and the correctional staff.

Inmates constantly test the chaplains, sometimes in obscene, personally confronting ways which might threaten weaker individuals.

After one incident in her office, Bailey did not "blow the whistle on the inmate" because it might have ruined her effectiveness. Her calm unflustered approach was her way of preserving the inmate's manhood--and the incidents have stopped.

The chaplains' rapport with inmates constitutes the ministry's strength and in gratitude inmates report "anything coming down" to the chaplains--bodily harm or disruptions.

Sunday mornings Bailey walks through security at 8:15. By the time the service starts, nearly 40 inmates have scattered through the large chapel. The intern opens the service. Bailey preaches, speaking in her strong, fast-paced voice.

After spending some time with the men following the service, she leaves for a quick lunch at home and to feed her cats--long a part of her life. Sunday afternoons she drives to the women's center, 30 miles from her home. Her happiness in 11 years at Goochland shows in her bouncy step and assertive moves on the campus, a large grassy treecovered

area which contrasts vividly with The Wall.

"I'm a different person here," Bailey explains.

At the women's facility, like at The Wall, Bailey's objective is helping each inmate "become a whole person, which has to do with the spiritual as well as the other areas of their lives, and to maintain some sort of dignity and personhood within an institution."

When one middle-aged female inmate died and the family did not claim the body, Bailey conducted the funeral. The occasion allowed Bailey to tell the women that the body is not the important element, the soul is.

Bailey is comfortable in her role as minister. When she was ordained, she sensed a change in the women's view of her. The women were proud of the fact she was ordained.

But with her ordination--the third of a woman in the Southern Baptist Convention and the first among Virginia Baptists--came national publicity and letters from throughout the nation from both well-wishers and those upset that biblical teachings, as they interpreted them, were violated. Bailey saved all the letters and clippings in an album.

They, too, are part of her past, like her degree from Blue Mountain College in Mississippi, and her 10 years of work at the South Richmond Baptist Center. She attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary two years and worked in New Orleans for the Home Mission Board at the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission.

In 1966 she became chaplain at the women's unit in Goochland and part of The Chaplaincy Service of Churches in Virginia, Inc., which includes eight full-time chaplains, two interns and as many as 30 student workers in 41 institutions.

What makes the hassle, the long hours, the pain all worthwhile for Bailey is the profound change she witnesses in a few lives.

One aging, graying woman arrived at Goochland wishing to die. Then she met Marjorie Bailey.

"In Miss Bailey's eyes I saw a light that fascinated me and we talked and talked," the woman said later. "Tears ran down my cheeks and all the while Miss Bailey listened. Her parting words were 'Don't forget, Leona, Jesus loves you.'"

After a few more visits and a growing relationship, Leona accepted Christ. She later was released from prison and joined a Baptist church. Then Leona developed cancer and doesn't expect to live much longer.

Now she is again ready to die, but for a different reason--partly because of the ministry of Chaplain Marjorie Bailey.

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Adapted from "Chaplaincy: Love On The Line," copyright 1978, Home Mission Board, SBC.

(BP) photos mailed to Baptist state newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

Family Comes to Glorieta
Despite Loss of Home

By Bracey Campbell

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Nan and Michael Dean planned for some time to participate in a Sunday School leadership conference at the Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

However, they hadn't counted on their Wichita Falls, Texas, home being destroyed April 10th by the tornado that took 43 lives. But they came to Glorieta anyway, with seven others from the Hillcrest Baptist Church, where Dean serves as pastor.

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One other couple in the group also lost their home and all nine were directly affected by the twister.

"We felt the Lord had a special blessing for us here this week and we are finding that to be true," said Mrs. Dean, who abandoned her home to stay with her parents four blocks away when the sirens warned of the approaching tornado.

Smiling about the experience that left them with a piano, a sewing machine and a few pieces of clothing covered with tar and fiberglass, Mrs. Dean said she had considered remaining in the part of the parsonage which had been recommended as safest.

"That area was completely destroyed by the tornado. I could really see the Lord had his hand in the decision to go to my parents," she said, adding that her parents' home suffered only minor damage.

Dean, a second year student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, was at the school when he heard about the tornado. Rushing home, he found only the floor and a few walls remaining of what had been a four-bedroom home.

He said the devastation has drawn the Texas community closer together. "It made all of us more people-conscious and aware of how useless it is to put so much emphasis on material possessions."

"We found out how those materials can be gone in a flash," Mrs. Dean said.

She said they had discovered "the importance of the family of God" through the frightening experience. Their church, which suffered \$12,000 damage to windows and roof, has a membership of 250. "At least 50 percent of that group suffered home or business damage," she said.

Mrs. Dean said Baptists from every state have provided multiple types of assistance to them and their congregation. A group of workers from the First Baptist Church, Iowa Park, Texas, is rebuilding the parsonage. "There was no way that our church could have rebuilt our home without their help," he said.

Michael said they had debated taking the break from the clean-up and rebuilding in Wichita Falls, "but we all knew it (coming to Glorieta) was the right thing to do."

More than 6,400 persons have participated in the leadership conferences sponsored by the Sunday School department of the Sunday School Board in Nashville.

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On Independence Day, Baptists
Remember 1st 'Boat People'

By Roy Jennings

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--United States immigration commissioner Leonel Castillo capped a tumultuous celebration of the nation's birthday here with a dramatic appeal to Southern Baptists to display an attitude of acceptance to the thousands of boat people of Southeast Asia who want to come to America.

Addressing 2,000 persons attending a Bold Mission Leadership Conference, Castillo reminded them that the first "boat people" were the Pilgrims who came to America in search of freedom.

"I visited the boat camps of Southeast Asia, and I've seen the wretched conditions," Castillo reported. "Parents even offered me their children to take to America. You wonder why people would give away their children to strangers they don't know. It's because they believe in America."

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The address was one of a series of events the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union, sponsors of the conference, used to call attention to Independence Day.

A 22-entry parade attracted the most spectators. It included decorated floats and cars from 16 states and horses carrying top leadership of the two sponsoring agencies, including Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, and Norman Godfrey, director of the ministries section of the Brotherhood Commission.

Following the 30 minute parade, two patriotic musical extravaganzas were offered simultaneously from two locations.

Introduced by Oscar Romo, director of the department of language missions for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Castillo praised Southern Baptists for the help they are giving to aliens in detention.

Citing Romo and Dan Moon, language missions consultant for the Brotherhood Commission, the commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalizations Service expressed appreciation for the material they are providing the six detention facilities in this country. "I'm delighted with the help I'm getting from the religious community in this country. I look forward to working with you further," he said.

Castillo also asked Southern Baptists to consider participating in the development of communities of other nations which provide most of the aliens trying to enter this country.

"If we could target this development in those communities providing the aliens, the people would stay home and work. I look forward to fuller discussions with you on this subject."

The elements of the July 4 celebration were tied together with musical talents supplied by Richard Bradford, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N. M., and music director for the conference.

Bradford and the "Impacts," a 20-member young adult musical ensemble from his church, received a standing ovation at the close of the celebration from the 2,000 flag-waving conferees.

Trudging back to her room in the moonlight, with a flag in one hand and a Bible in the other, an unidentified, middle-aged WMU worker, summed up the day to her friends: "It's the most meaningful Independence Day I've ever experienced. And I'm glad to be an American."

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Love, Not Money, Will
Win People, Drumwright Says

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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Theologian Huber Drumwright told Southern Baptists here that love for people, not money or missionaries, will win people throughout the world for Christ.

In the closing commitment address to the Bold Mission Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, Drumwright called on the conferees to back up their words with love.

"Love people with your lives," said the dean of the school of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. "The money will be there when the people love. The missionaries will be there when the people love. Everything depends on our love for the Lord."

The conference, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union, attracted 2,070, up more than 230 from last year.

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In an earlier session, missionary Sue Lindwall helped close out a testimony period by 17 missionaries with an account of how she organized a WMU group composed of all men in Guatemala.

"That's how we get WMU work started, because most of the women can't read," she explained. "My husband asked me to present WMU work to these young preachers, so I organized them into a WMU group to teach them how to organize WMU groups in their churches."

"Weeks later I got a letter from one of them who reported their mother church had put them in charge of missions through WMU."

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Thomas Halsell Named
W. Va. Chief Executive

Baptist Press
7/6/79

ST. ALBANS, W. Va. (BP)--Thomas Earl Halsell, evangelism and stewardship development director for Indiana Southern Baptists, has been elected as the second executive secretary-treasurer of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists.

Halsell, 58, a native of Benton, Ark., will succeed the retiring John I. Snedden, Jan. 1, 1980. He will join the West Virginia Convention staff, Oct. 1, 1979, as executive secretary-treasurer elect. Snedden will retire at age 65.

Before joining the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana in 1973, Halsell was pastor of Alberta Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., for five years. He was a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, 1955-69, where he served as president of the Equatorial Baptist Theological Seminary and professor of New Testament and evangelism. He has also held pastorates in Memphis, Tenn., and Evansville, Ind.

Both he and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, also a former missionary to Brazil, are graduates of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark. He also earned master and doctor of theology degrees from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and has done special study at the University of Alabama, Union Theological Seminary in New York, and Oxford University in England.

The Halsells have four children, including a son, Thomas E. Halsell Jr., a missionary in Senegal, West Africa, and a daughter, Maribeth, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Halsell's brother, Howard, is a consultant in the growth section of the Sunday School department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn. Another brother, Aubrey, a retired U. S. Air Force chaplain, organized the First Baptist Church, Anchorage, Alaska, the first Southern Baptist work in Alaska. His father, W. C. Halsell, was a mission pastor in Arkansas.

Snedden was the first appointed missionary to the state of West Virginia and has served there 21 years. He became the West Virginia Convention's first chief executive. The convention, which formed in 1970, consists of 98 congregations, including 76 constituted churches and 26 church-type missions, with a total membership of about 17,500.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers.

SBC Challenged To Resettle
1,000 Indo-Chinese Families

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist associations of churches are being asked to commit themselves by October 1 to the resettlement of 1,000 Indo-Chinese refugee families.

The challenge came from a special committee for refugee resettlement created by William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"We must find ways to accelerate the resettlement of these thousands of persons, many of whom are dying of starvation and exposure," Tanner said in forming the committee from personnel in his agency in language missions, volunteer enlistment, associational missions

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and refugee resettlement."

Tanner also said he would coordinate the work with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the state Baptist conventions.

The committee's challenge to Southern Baptists asks that each association of churches promote and enlist churches as sponsors of the refugee families, and as soon as a commitment is made to notify the state coordinator of refugee resettlement.

Gene Tunnell, a Home Mission Board consultant working to facilitate resettlement, was named chairman of the committee.

Tunnell, a former missionary to Vietnam, said the commitment by associations would have an immediate impact upon the governments in Indo-China. "These governments have fears they will have tens of thousands of these refugees permanently in their already over-crowded countries."

"Learning of a ground swell of commitment to resettle encourages them to act favorably to accept additional persons into their camps, but because of the slow movement in the past they need this information," he added.

The goal is realistic, especially if the associations will take the risk to make the commitment even before having a commitment from a church," Tunnel said. Southern Baptists have 1,196 associations and more than 35,000 churches. The goal could be met if each association took only one refugee family each.

The committee has sent telegrams to all of the directors of associational missions, the state refugee coordinators, and the state Baptist executive directors asking for immediate action. Earlier, Tanner sent an urgent letter to President Jimmy Carter, asking for an emergency sealift and other steps to aid refugees who are dying in large numbers in the South China Sea.

Named to the special committee other than Tunnell were Gerald Palmer, director of the missions section; Oscar Romo, director of language missions; James Nelson, director of associational missions, and David Bunch, coordinator of Mission Service Corps.

Tunnell advised churches and associations to expect some delay between the time of commitment and arrival of the refugee family.

He said the process of resettlement usually includes several months because of the immigration procedures, the medical checks, and the time of transportation.

Directors of missions are asked to contact their state refugee coordinator at their state Baptist convention offices or the Refugee Resettlement Office, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street NW., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, with word of their commitment.

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WMU Votes No
Price Increases

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--The national executive board of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union voted a 1979-80 budget which will maintain WMU magazine subscription rates at their 1976 level.

The budget of \$4,324,000 is slightly increased over last year's, including economic adjustment in employees' salaries.

Carolyn Weatherford, WMU executive director, said "tighter management" will allow WMU to meet expenses without price increases, even though costs have been increasing.

The WMU board also voted to change its investment procedures for nearly \$2,900,000 in reserve funds, which are managed by the Southern Baptist Foundation. The WMU's investment portfolio will be removed from the large common fund and handled as a separate

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portfolio by the foundation.

A fund also was established for the professional development of long-term employees, beginning with a \$55,000 allocation from the regular WMU budget. Employees who have contributed meritorious service for five or 10 years depending on their position with WMU, may apply for grants to study or travel for professional development. They are eligible to reapply every five or ten years.

In other action, the board updated sick and maternity leave policies and decided to continue on a permanent basis a program utilizing services of volunteers.

Leaders in work with Baptist Women (adult WMU members) also announced a pilot project for providing literature and services for the blind.

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New Orleans Seminary Announces Pool Project

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Plans for building a swimming pool for the New Orleans Baptist Seminary have been adopted as one of several projects for the coming year by the New Orleans Seminary Foundation, school officials report.

The foundation has chosen to designate "a substantial amount" of the interest earned on investments for the year to be used toward completion of the \$100,000 pool project. Plans for the pool had been stalled for some time before the commitment of help came from the foundation. All funds for the project will come from private donations, with none coming from the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, a foundation spokesman said.

About one-third of the \$100,000 needed for construction of the pool has been given already, according to Tom Berry, vice president for development at the seminary and executive director of the foundation. He was unable to say, however, when construction could begin, since the entire pool cost must be raised before work can start.

The pool will be located near housing for families of students and faculty members living on the 75-acre campus. It also will mark further expansion of recreation facilities, which have been required as part of continued accreditation guidelines for the seminary. Other recreational equipment added in recent years includes four new tennis courts and family recreation equipment in the gym.

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Seminary Extension Honors Extension Center Director

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7/6/79

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The first national award designed to recognize outstanding service through Southern Baptist Seminary Extension centers has been presented to Robert E. Smith, director of missions for the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association and director of a center in Weslaco, Texas.

Bob Johnson, associate director for extension center education with the Seminary Extension Department, presented a plaque and citation to Smith.

The citation noted that in the past 15 years of working with Seminary Extension Smith has taught 70 courses, representing more than 1,000 hours in the classroom. During 1978-79 Smith enrolled 175 students in the Weslaco center. More than one-third of them are pastors of Southern Baptist congregations.

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