



-- FEATURES

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October 17, 1979

79-174

Cambodians Fill
Colorado House

By James Lee Young

DENVER (BP)--Seven Cambodians squatted on the floor, their faces sullen. One of them was physically ill.

The five females and two males ranged in age from nine to 45. "That is going to make a real bunch in our house," said Don Fahrenkrug of Manitou Springs.

Fahrenkrug and his wife, Sue, had just picked up their new charges who had been flown from Bangkok to Hong Kong to Seattle, and then to Denver.

The seven were totally exhausted from their trip. They spoke no English so the prospects of a new homeland and people had to be one of deep and mixed emotions.

The seven came from a farm in Cambodia but fled the country in the midst of government oppression.

"We believe the father of the family may have been killed in the effort to get out of the country," Fahrenkrug said. "These people had only a week to find a U.S. sponsor or they would have been shoved by the Thailand government back across the border into Cambodia," Fahrenkrug said, adding that would have meant certain death.

The Fahrenkrugs read of the plight of refugees and contacted a resettlement group, offering to sponsor boat people with the greatest need. The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta has helped resettle nearly 2,000 refugees this year and many state Baptist conventions have resettlement coordinators.

They discovered the Bous and their son-in-law had escaped out of Cambodia and had only three days to find a sponsor, or they stood a chance of being killed by their own government.

"These people would be dead by now if we hadn't acted," Fahrenkrug said. "What a waste that would have been."

"I read in Matthew 25, about meeting hunger, thirst, and other needs--and I John 3:15-17," Fahrenkrug explained as his motivation for helping.

"We're living here in this country with relatively abundant needs and I just couldn't sit back and do nothing. We have six children of our own and not a lot of money but had to do something in light of the Sermon on the Mount."

Fahrenkrug is employed by the Colorado Springs Sun newspaper as an engraver.



BAPTIST PRESS

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Homosexual Obscenity Case Set for High Court Review

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court will decide if the FBI violated the constitutional rights of two men convicted on obscenity charges when the powerful federal agency prosecuted them on the basis of films obtained by accident from a third party.

In a case with an unusually complicated set of facts, FBI agents were called by an Atlanta employee of a hosiery company which had received by mistake 12 boxes of homosexual films. Based on their review of the films, the FBI prosecuted the co-owners of two film companies, William Walters and Arthur R. Sanders Jr. The two were convicted two years later, in 1977, for transporting obscene films across state lines.

Walters and Sanders were sentenced in federal district court to concurrent three-year prison sentences. In addition, the two film companies they headed were fined a total of \$43,000. On appeal at the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court in New Orleans, a divided panel affirmed their convictions.

The two men have now asked the Supreme Court to decide if the FBI violated their rights by going through the seized films without a warrant and if their convictions violated their First Amendment free speech and free press rights.

Also challenged by Walters and Sanders are instructions to the juries in their cases on the question of what constituted "community standards" in Atlanta, where they were tried. Because Atlanta has a sizeable homosexual population, the men argue, that segment of the population should have been taken into account by the juries which convicted them.

Depending on the weight given by the high court justices to this last argument, the case could result in a significant decision. Six years ago, in *Miller v. California*, a divided court decided that each local community may, in effect, set its own obscenity standards. The justices could possibly review that guideline in the present case.

Even if they choose to let stand that controversial guideline, they will presumably face the question of whether juries must consider homosexuals in their communities as a legitimate segment of the population in determining appropriate "community standards" for obscenity.

No decision is expected in the case before next year.

Blake Dies
In Colorado

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP)--Norman Blake, former pastor of Heritage Hills Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, Colo., died Oct. 10 after a bout with cancer. He was 44.

Blake, featured in a Baptist Press article in late August, knew of his impending death and said it gave him a better understanding of life.

"The average person lives doing what he has to and doesn't make many conscious decisions," he said. "Now the problems of life seem so unimportant and insignificant. The fusses and battles people have are so unnecessary."

Blake resigned from Heritage Hills Baptist Church Sept. 23 because his pain wouldn't allow him to function as pastor. The funeral was at First Southern Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, where he was licensed to preach.

Blake had been pastor of churches in Texas and Colorado and was a graduate of Wayland Baptist College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is survived by his wife, Beverly, and two sons and two daughters.

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El Salvador Missionaries
Await Outcome of Coup

Baptist Press
10/17/79

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (BP)--The two Southern Baptist missionary families stationed in El Salvador are waiting in their homes for conditions to stabilize following establishment of a new military government in this Central American country.

In an Oct. 16 phone call from San Salvador, missionary William W. Stennett told the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., that his family and the N. Hoyt Eudalys are safe in the midst of the coup.

The government of Gen. Carlos Humberto Romero was ousted the night of Oct. 15 by a new military government led by Col. Jaime Abdul Gutierrez and Col. Adolfo Arnoldo Majano.

Stennett is from Richmond, Va., and his wife, the former Elizabeth Graeff, is from Washington, D.C. Eudaly is from Pecos, Texas, and his wife, the former Marie Saddler, is from Appleton, Mo.

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NABF Elects Weatherford,
Spotlights Hispanics

Baptist Press
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MEXICO CITY (BP)--The North American Baptist Fellowship's general committee took several historic steps and spotlighted Hispanic evangelism and enlistment during its meeting in Mexico City.

Meeting for the first time in Mexico, the NABF general committee elected its first woman chairman, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, and its first Mexican officer, Ernesto A. Uriegas, who will serve as vice chairman. Uriegas is pastor of Getsemani Baptist Church, Mexico City.

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Charles F. Wills was named secretary, and Fred B. Rhodes, treasurer, by virtue of their respective roles as associate secretary and treasurer of the Baptist World Alliance. NABF is one of several regional fellowships operating under the umbrella of the BWA.

Leonard Ballesteros of the American Baptist Churches in the USA told 75 participants from nine national Baptist bodies in the U.S., Canada and Mexico that at least 19 million Spanish language people live in the U.S. and that the number is growing rapidly.

He said these millions present a growing challenge to American churches, both in evangelistic outreach and social concern. "Many Hispanics who were not reached by the church in Latin America have found Christ in their new homes in the U.S.," Ballasteros said.

Fermin A. Whitaker, a Panamanian now on the staff of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., added, "The world has come to our doorstep." He declared that "the largest Spanish Baptist group in the world is in the U.S.A."

Whitaker urged that Anglo churches develop "a spirit of mission" among Hispanics, at the same time avoiding a paternalistic attitude. Spanish language churches "must be self supporting," he said, to be of maximum influence in Spanish communities.

He said the work of Spanish language churches "is growing by multiplication," and that in some cases Spanish churches are starting Anglo missions.

In addition to the in-depth study of work among Spanish language people, NABF participants also conducted "sharing sessions" on evangelism and education, communications, social concerns, lay development, and stewardship.

Agustin Acosta, general secretary of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico, reported that the number of Baptist churches in his country has more than doubled in the past 10 years, increasing from 200 in 1969 to the present 410. He said another "600 missions are now in the process of becoming churches."

The growth is even more dramatic in Mexico City, the country's booming metropolis and national capital, he said, with the number of churches jumping from 3 to 42 in the last 15 years.