

**(BP)****-- FEATURES**

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Nativity Scene Baby  
 Brings Christmas Joy

By Terry Barone

LONGVIEW, Texas (BP)--This Christmas may seem more like the first for Longview, Texas, residents, since Charles L. Holland, pastor of First Baptist Church, discovered an infant boy behind the manger in the church's nativity scene.

As Holland walked to his office on Dec. 3, in 32-degree weather, he heard what sounded like a baby crying. He first thought someone had added a recording to the scene, but he sensed reality in the voice and investigated.

About four yards behind the manger in a square, cardboard box, Holland discovered "the most beautiful, tiny, baby boy." The infant was wrapped in a crib sheet and was lying on a pillow.

"I was absolutely awestruck," Holland said.

Inside the box on a scrap of paper was a note which stated: "I'm Timothy. Please take care of me." Throughout the rest of the day, because of the holiday season, the infant was given the name Timothy Christmas.

Timothy was taken to the church nursery to be cleaned and clothed and Holland notified the police and department of human resources who took Timothy to a Longview hospital for examination.

Holland said Timothy, who was two days old when found, weighs about seven pounds, eight ounces, is 20 inches long and is in "perfect health."

Timothy had been left at the scene only a few minutes because his body temperature was about normal when he was discovered.

The discovery of the infant has captured world attention. Major networks and newspapers have covered the story of Timothy. Holland has received calls from Canada, Europe and about half of the states inquiring about the baby.

Timothy was placed in a foster home, and on Tuesday and Wednesday was carried to the human resources office where he and Holland met with reporters from across the United States.

Holland believes God has used Timothy's appearance, as he did Christ's almost 2,000 years ago, to remind us that he is here and is with us.

"Here was a child," Holland said, "thrown into a cruel and hostile world. But because of this child, the basic human elements of love, affection, concern and compassion have been displayed. Through this action, God is telling us he is in our presence."

Holland believes God was in the process of the discovery for two things were out of the ordinary on that Monday. First, Holland was late in getting to his office and second, he chose to enter his office by a route he never takes.

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Holland asked a reporter from a major network why he came to Longview to cover the story. The reporter's reply was, "Dr. Holland, the only good news in the world today is in Longview."

The next Sunday's sermon at First Baptist Church, Longview, was "I'm Timothy. Please take care of me." The text was Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born."

So far, no one has claimed Timothy and his mother has not been identified. But this year, Timothy will have the love and affection of Longview because, said Holland, "This is Longview's Christmas present."

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Barone is information consultant in the public relations department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers.

Seminary Will Send  
Winter Olympics Team

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WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--A delegation from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, headed by John Tresch, associate professor of evangelism, will spend Feb. 13-24 at the Winter Olympics, competing for the souls of men.

Tresch will take about a dozen students to reach "as many individuals as possible in personal witnessing and seek to help them make a personal commitment to Christ during the days of the winter games."

A second goal for the group, which is cooperating with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the New York Baptist Convention, is to help lay a foundation on which local Baptists and pastors can build an ongoing work.

"Lake Placid is an unusual town along with the others in the area," Tresch says. "It stands literally as a monument to dead churches. There are business establishments and bars that are housed in what were formerly church buildings, but the churches made decisions years ago not to minister to the community."

It's estimated there will be 6 1/2 million tourists coming into Lake Placid during the duration of the games. "That lets you see something of the magnitude of the task," Tresch says.

Baptists in Lake Placid have a house that used to be a travelers' inn and it's in a key location. "We will have cards which our students will hand to the persons with whom they engage in conversation, inviting them for coffee, donuts and just a time of conversation together..."

Some students will be at the activity sites of the various games to engage in conversation witnessing to persons who are there also as spectators. "The primary thrust is to identify persons who have particular needs who are looking for help with problems and needs in their lives. Our people will try to share with them the good news of Jesus Christ," says John Tresch.

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Cothen Urges State Leaders  
To 'Get Under the Burden'

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--In an emotion-filled address to Southern Baptist state program leaders, Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen urged Southern Baptists to avoid being diverted from getting "under the burden for the people of the world who are without Christ."

Speaking to the annual meeting of church music, church training and Sunday School state directors here, Cothen addressed the lack of vitality and growth in many local churches today.

"It isn't that there is not a world full of people who do not know Christ," he said. "But many have substituted orthodoxy for spiritual concern. Orthodoxy of belief is crucial to what we are, but without the spirit it is sterile," he added.

"No 'liberal-conservative' argument in evangelical history has ever issued a spiritual revival," he observed. "We must not substitute believing the right thing for believing and doing the right thing. The cultural, religious substitution for Christianity is very comfortable."

Quoting an associational missionary "that many Southern Baptist churches are drying up because members do not care about lost people around them," Cothen said, "Our solutions have too often been superficial. There are no quick and easy answers to old and difficult problems."

"God's work has always required emotional and spiritual involvement from our people," Cothen said. "True spiritual awakening is an act of God, but it is costly in human commitment. Somebody must be willing to put their heart alongside the hearts of those who suffer. If God's people don't feel, they aren't going to do much about suffering."

Cothen told the church program leaders that the only hope for the world, the church or the individual is to follow God's spirit in caring and commitment.

"Before we have much Bold Mission Thrust, we've got to get hold of God, find out what he wants us to do and do it," observed Cothen in reference to Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust goal of proclaiming the message of Christ to the whole world by the year 2000.

Cothen issued a challenge to "lead the churches and young people through music. Apart from preaching the word, there may not be a better instrument of the Holy Spirit."

He also called for a renewed emphasis on church training.

"If we want to know Baptist doctrine, we've got to study," he continued.

"If Southern Baptists are going to help the people know what they believe, we're going to have to train the people to work at it. We need to develop the people of God in witnessing, doctrine and missions."

Pointing to the fact that more than 3,000 new Sunday Schools have been organized by Southern Baptists within the last three years, Cothen said, "We're going back to the basics--finding people who don't know God. There is a new birth of getting back to the basics--upon teaching the word of God."

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"This is where Bold Mission Thrust rests," he declared. "To reach the world, we must grow the churches. Until Bold Mission Thrust gets down to the churches, it's just a denominational slogan."

Cothen urged the church program leaders to declare their commitment to do missions in their part of God's work. "How much Bold Mission Thrust do they see in you every day?" he asked.

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Language Materials  
Unit Announced

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A new unit to produce language materials for use in churches will be activated Jan. 1, 1980, at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Robert G. Fulbright, director of the Bible teaching division where the new unit will be housed, told state program leaders meeting here that "any new non-English materials produced by a board component will be produced in this special language unit."

"El Interprete" and "El Interprete: Maestro," adult Sunday School periodicals in Spanish, will be transferred from the Sunday School department to the new unit, along with the editor, Tito Fafasuli. "La Fe Bautista," a church training periodical, will continue to be produced by the church training department.

The unit will initially produce only Spanish language materials but future plans call for development of products in other languages, according to Jerry Terrell, assistant in the Bible teaching division.

In addition to Fafasuli, the unit will include a supervisor, general field service consultant, manuscript assistant and a clerk typist.

"These people will be bilingual with multi-ethnic experience in church, associational or state work," Terrell said.

Creation of the language unit represents "another step in the board's commitment to meeting the needs Southern Baptist churches have for language materials," said Terrell.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Sunday School bureau of Baptist Press.

New Foreign Leader  
To Be Installed Jan. 7

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--An installation service for R. Keith Parks, executive director-elect of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will be held Jan. 7 at board headquarters in Richmond.

Parks, who has served as the board's mission support division director since 1975, will replace Baker J. Cauthen, who will retire Dec. 31.

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Cauthen, in the main address, will offer a challenge to Southern Baptists for their future in foreign missions. Parks will respond to that challenge, giving some directions he hopes Southern Baptist foreign missions work will take.

Others participating in the installation will be Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union; Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee; Grady C. Cothen, president, Baptist Sunday School Board; James H. Smith, executive director-treasurer, Brotherhood Commission; John W. Patterson, president, Foreign Mission Board; Luther Joe Thompson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Richmond; and William R. O'Brien, secretary for the Foreign Mission Board's denominational coordination department.

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#### Wood Hits Deprogramming, Investigation of 'Cults'

WASHINGTON (BP)--The executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs joined two recent victims of deprogramming in denouncing the controversial technique.

At a press conference sponsored by the Alliance for the Preservation of Religious Liberty, James E. Wood Jr. repeated his concern over a series of hearings on the so-called "cults" by some members of Congress. He said he views such hearing "with considerable alarm."

The news conference was called in part to call attention to the fact that deprogramming is now being used in cases where young people have been converted not into "cults" but into established churches.

The two star witnesses were Debby Dudgeon, 26, a Canadian who left the United Church of Canada to become a Roman Catholic and Becky Gascho, of Lexington, Neb., who left her family to join a fundamentalist, independent Baptist congregation. Both women said their parents kidnapped them and hired deprogrammers who attempted unsuccessfully to force them to change their minds about their new church allegiances.

The Church of Scientology, one of the "cults" in question, has been particularly active in organizing and staffing the Alliance for the Preservation of Religious Liberty.

"All religions are equal before the law," Wood declared. That 14th Amendment guarantee applies to church groups as well as to individuals, he said.

Wood went on to include the Church of Scientology, Unification Church, Children of God, Hare Krishnas, and other controversial sects in a list of groups which deserve equal protection.

At the same time, Wood emphasized that government has a responsibility to investigate and prosecute individuals or groups, regardless of their religious identity, if there is probable cause that they have committed crimes. He cited the Jim Jones community in Jonestown, Guyana, as one instance in which government failed to respond, though he said there was clear evidence that Jones had violated a variety of federal laws.

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