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Cannatas Go
Extra '100 Miles'

By Terry Barone

DALLAS (BP)-- "It's 100 miles beyond the Great Commission," said Ginny Cannata when she and her husband, Dr. Samuel R. J. Cannata Jr., were transferred by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to Sudan, Africa.

The Sudan is under a Muslim government and, considering the Iranian situation, a person might hesitate to be assigned there, despite the biblical commission in Matthew 28:19-20 to go into all the world.

But that's not true of the Cannatas, veterans of 22 years of medical missions service in three other countries. "We have encountered these things before," said Sam, who spent 16 days in an Ethiopian prison during the spring of 1977.

"We seek his guidance and leadership," Ginny said, "and if he says go, we go. We have knocked on many doors and all have opened."

"We have always been isolated," she added, referring to their previous appointments in Rhodesia, Ethiopia and Kenya, "but not as isolated as we will be."

The Cannatas, the first Southern Baptist missionaries to arrive in Sudan, will live at Pibor Post on the Pibor River in southern Sudan, where missionaries Ron and Judy Bodenhamer will join them. Ron is an agriculturist.

Cannata's primary goal is to make disciples of a few of the people in the area in which he works. He also wants to work in community development of the area and on a health care training program. Bodenhamer will implement agricultural projects to relieve the food situation.

"We are going to concentrate more time in making disciples out of the people in Sudan so our work may be continued when we are gone," Cannata said.

"I have been scattering instead of planting seed," he said. "I believe it is time to plant and I believe what the Lord teaches us about discipleship is right."

"We must make disciples, and in order to do this, we must spend a lot of time with God and with the people. We will have to work in small groups and concentrate on the people and on how they live," he said.

The Cannatas will be in an area where there are about 30,000 members of the Murle tribe, a predominantly nomadic people who raise cattle.

Another aspect of the Great Commission, said Cannata, is that "all things must be taught, not only salvation, but suffering and commitment. We have started teaching tough things.

"We have always run from suffering, but I believe we must experience suffering to become closer to God."

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An inventor, Cannata anticipates implementing several energy projects which have been used successfully in other African countries where they served.

"Why should these people burn their forests for fuel," Cannata said, "when they have plenty of sunshine?"

He is taking solar panels, a solar water heater, parabolic reflectors for cooking, a single sideband radio for communication, hydroponics for growing quality vegetables and a methane digester to produce methane gas and fertilizer.

Cannata has been asked by the Sudanese government to develop a primary health care training program in the area which will entail finding and listing the most common diseases of the area and developing a program to treat them.

One of the hardest aspects of the Cannatas' new assignment will be learning the language, their fourth. But, there is something different about the Murle language--it has never been written.

They said a translator is already in the region writing the language. But he will only be with them for a few months.

They've only seen photos of the house in which they will be living. The house, built by Presbyterian missionaries who left Pibor Post in 1972, appears to be built of stone and has a thatched roof which is falling in.

With all of the uncertainty and with no one having gone before, Ginny said, "We really are excited. I know it's going to be hard, but the Lord has been taking us a step at a time from our beginning to where we are now, getting us ready for this move."

The Cannatas find comfort in each other because both feel their partner is the "best person in the world to go to Africa with."

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

America Warned in Advance
About Embassy, Walsh Says

By Robert O'Brien

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The American government should not have been surprised at the takeover of the U.S. embassy in Iran because it had plenty of warning before the event took place last Nov. 4, a Southern Baptist clergyman who visited Iran said here.

John Walsh, Baptist chaplain at Princeton University, said high Iranian leaders told him that high American officials were warned by the Iranian government on Oct. 9, 1979, and again on Oct. 22 that an incident would take place if the deposed shah of Iran entered the United States.

That incident, U.S. leaders were told on Oct. 22, would probably involve the U.S. embassy, Walsh related in a question-answer session with some employees of the Baptist Sunday School Board during a visit to Nashville.

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Walsh was one of a group of seven clergymen invited by Iranian leaders to visit the country Dec. 22 to Jan. 3 as an outgrowth of an interdenominational prayer vigil on the Iranian crisis at the Statue of Liberty on Dec. 13. During the visit, the group met with the students, the Ayatollah Khomeini, two other ayatollahs, and the major current and former Iranian officials.

Walsh said he was told that the U.S. government and the Iranian government had been talking since early June about whether the shah should come to the U.S. for medical treatment.

He said the students at the embassy showed the group what they said were some of the secret telex messages in the files of the embassy. One of the telex messages sent in early July, purportedly by an embassy staffer to the U.S. State Department, said, "We still have to come up with a good ploy to excuse letting the shah into the country."

"That's why, Walsh said, "when the world was told in late October that the shah was desperately ill, nobody in Iran believed it for a minute."

Walsh emphasized that he is not saying that the shah's illness is a hoax but that Iranians believe "the seriousness of the illness was a hoax... Even now the doctors in New York who were the shah's physicians have been willing to admit that the nature of his illness was not such that the New York hospital was the only one in the world he could have come to."

"I don't sympathize with the holding of the hostages, I condemn it," Walsh declared. "They (the students holding the hostages) admit the illegality and immorality of their act. The first thing the students in the embassy said to us was: 'We know it's illegal.'"

Walsh said one reason the students are holding the hostages is because they believe it is the only way to get Americans to face what their government did to support the shah's regime, during which they said he had thousands of Iranian citizens tortured.

"Amnesty International called the shah probably the worst dictator in the world in 1976," Walsh said. "That was at the height of when Idi Amin was killing most of the people he was killing in Uganda--and Amnesty International said the shah was worse."

"That's one of the things the Iranian people want us to understand," Walsh said. "The American people are really beginning to say that the shah was a bad guy, but we haven't seen the evidence. I think that once you see the evidence (of U.S. participation), you will be outraged as human beings that our country participated in it and helped them."

"The Iranians charge that the CIA trained SAVAK (the shah's secret police) in torture methods," Walsh said. "The evidence is that we not only brought him to power in 1953 and arranged a coup in that country in 1953, but we kept him in power all those years."

"So when our country refers to the 'terrorists' inside the embassy, those students say to us, 'You are the terrorists. What you did to our country for 27 years was the terrorism. We're now trying to call your hand on it. We want you to know what you were doing. We don't hold the American people responsible, we hold the American government responsible.'"

Walsh said the Iranians have what they believe is "credible evidence that the U.S. has been busy since the revolution" trying to help Shapur Baktiar to return to power. Baktiar, appointed by the shah as prime minister before he fled, was also forced to flee. He reportedly has announced he is forming an army to return to Iran, Walsh said.

"The Iranians are convinced that we (the U.S.) have continued to support the shah and Bakhtiar against the people's revolution and that's another reason they're holding the embassy," Walsh said. "They want our people to know that we are continuing to have complicity in what's going on in Iran."

Walsh said he believes Iran ejected the American media from Iran because they were concentrating on the hostages in the embassy and not giving attention to the causes lying behind the embassy takeover.

He said he "does foresee returning to Iran" at some future date to again participate in dialogue about the release of the hostages. "I don't want to toot the horn, but I really honestly believe that our conversations in the two-week period the seven of us were there opened a floodgate for dialogue and conversation."

Although the seven did not go as official representatives of the U.S., the U.S. government did everything possible to facilitate their trip, Walsh said. He added that at least three of the group have talked with high U.S. officials since their return.

He believes that the next step before the hostages are released will have to be an international tribunal to investigate the shah--or at least beginning steps toward such a tribunal "as a good faith gesture."

Walsh, who has worked with students for seven years, said the persons the clergymen talked to inside the embassy were, in their opinion, actually devout Muslim students--not Marxist terrorists.

He said the students told them they would die to protect the lives of the hostages to keep Islam from being "defamed before the eyes of the world."

"They really believe that our government might be willing to do something to create an incident that might cause harm to the Americans being held," Walsh said. "So as few people as possible see them for security reasons."

"One of their comments was: 'Your government knew there was an American prisoner of war camp in Hiroshima, but you still dropped the (atomic) bomb.'"

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Price Will Rise
On WMU Magazines

Baptist Press
1/21/80

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Prices of Woman's Missionary Union magazines will increase effective with July issues according to a report at the national Woman's Missionary Union executive board meeting.

"Prices have not increased since 1976, but we cannot continue to absorb higher costs of paper, printing, postage and office operations," Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, told the board. "We're giving advance notice of the increase so that churches and individuals may adjust their budgets before the new prices are in effect," she said.

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The rate hike affects nine magazines with combined circulation of more than 845,000. "Share," a young periodical aimed at preschool children, is the only magazine not increased. Price of nearly 300 stock literature and supplies items is not affected.

Costs of production in the last budget year exceeded income from sales by more than \$207,000, WMU reported. Contributions from the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board and by income from investments covered the remaining cost. Although the mission boards have historically contributed to WMU operating expenses, WMU officials in recent years have priced literature to be self-supporting.

Beginning with July issues, "Royal Service," "Nuestra Tarea," "Contempo" and "Accent" leader editions will be priced at \$5 for an annual subscription. "Accent" for members will cost \$4.50. "Dimension," "Discovery," "Aware" and "Start" will be \$4 a year.

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Baptist Medical Team, \$5,000
Sent To Aid Colombia Victims

Baptist Press
1/21/80

BOGOTA, Colombia (BP)--A medical team from Baptist Hospital in Barranquilla is helping to treat about 500 persons injured in the collapse of Colombia's largest bullring. Early reports indicate 147 died in the disaster in Sincelejo.

The team is headed by Robert L. Edwards, a Southern Baptist missionary physician stationed at the Barranquilla hospital. Dr. Edwards, disaster relief coordinator for Colombia, chartered a plane to take medicine and medical supplies to Sincelejo.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board also released \$5,000 on an emergency basis to assist in relief efforts in Sincelejo, a city located about 200 miles southwest of Barranquilla.

J. Brayan Brasington, the board's secretary for western South America, said he was notified of the team's departure in a telephone report from Bobby G. Magee, Southern Baptist missionary in Bogota.

News reports said five sections of the bullring's crowded wooden grandstand collapsed Jan. 20 as an estimated 40,000 persons packed the ring. About 3,000 were in the sections that collapsed. Recent heavy rains, which softened the ground under the bullring foundations, were blamed for the disaster.

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Carr P. Collins
Dies in Dallas

Baptist Press
1/21/80

DALLAS (BP)--Carr P. Collins Sr., of Dallas, insurance executive and Baptist philanthropist, died Jan. 17 at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas after a long illness. He was 87.

Services were conducted at Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, with burial in Restland Memorial Park.

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Collins, founder and organizer of Fidelity Union Life Insurance Co., was a member and deacon of Park Cities Church.

A staunch believer in Christian education, Collins donated substantial gifts to a number of Baptist colleges as well as other Southern Baptist causes.

He was one of the founders of the Baptist Foundation of Texas and a trustee and contributor to Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, and a former member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A former trustee of Baylor University, Collins was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Baylor in 1952. In 1970, he received Baylor's Founder's Medal Citation.

Collins received the Horatio Alger Award in 1964, University Medal and Citation from Hardin Simmons University in 1965, Academy of Achievement Golden Plate Award in 1967, and the Linz Award and Pioneer Leader Award of the Salvation Army in 1972.

He is survived by two sons, U.S. Rep. James M. Collins and Carr P. Collins Jr.; a daughter, Mrs. Charles S. (Ruth) Sharp; three brothers, Hal H. Collins, Jack Collins and Kirk Collins; two sisters, Mrs. Allene Bergman and Mrs. Lillian Lyle; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

The family has requested that memorials be sent to Carr P. Collins Hospital, Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas.

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W. A. Criswell Recovering
From a 'Mild Heart Attack'

Baptist Press
1/21/80

DALLAS (BP)--W. A. Criswell, pastor of the 20,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas, is recovering from exhaustion and a mild heart attack which he suffered Jan. 13.

First Baptist Church administrator Charles R. Bristow said the 70-year-old pastor of Southern Baptists' largest congregation is expected to be released from the hospital soon and rest at home for a few weeks.

"At Dr. Criswell's current rate of progress, we expect he will be back in the pulpit by March 1," said Bristow. The heart attack "resulted in no change in the function of the heart," he added.

Criswell had been writing a book and maintaining a heavy schedule of speaking engagements besides his normal schedule at the church. He recently participated in the Mission to Brazil Campaign, a joint effort of Brazilian Baptists, Texas Baptists and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to double the number of churches and church members in Brazil by 1983.

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Wood Resigns Baptist
Joint Committee Post

WASHINGTON (BP)--James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, will resign to return to the faculty of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, effective June 1.

Wood has headed the Baptist agency, assigned by nine Baptist bodies to work with public policy issues, since 1972. He will become director of the J.M. Dawson Studies in Church and State and Simon Bunn Professor of Church-State Studies at Baylor.

Wood, 57, taught at Baylor from 1955 to 1972 and became the first director of the Dawson studies in church and state in 1959. That same year he founded and became editor of the "Journal of Church and State," an assignment he held until 1973. He will reassume editorship upon returning to the Texas Baptist school.

Before going to Baylor the first time, Wood served for five years as a Southern Baptist missionary to Japan, where he taught religion and literature at Selnan Gakuin University, a Baptist school.

Both before and during his tenure at the Baptist Joint Committee the Portsmouth, Va., native has been active in larger Baptist circles and ecumenical affairs.

He served on the central panel of the Baptist World Alliance's Commission on Religious Liberty and Human Rights, and presently holds membership on the BWA's Commission on Freedom, Justice, and Peace. He has also been active on various panels of the National and World Councils of Churches dealing with religious liberty and human rights issues.

Wood has long held numerous associations with the American Jewish community, including sponsorship of Christians Concerned for Israel, membership on the advisory committee of the America-Israel Friendship League, and sponsorship of the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel. In 1971 he edited and contributed to a book on the subject, "Jewish-Christian Relations in Today's World."

He also has been concerned with the proper relation between public education and religion studies and public funding of nonpublic schools. He is currently president of the National Council on Religion and Public Education and serves on the executive committee of the National Coalition on Public Education and Religious Liberty.

An alumnus of Carson-Newman College, Wood earned a master of arts from Columbia University and bachelor of divinity, master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has done postgraduate work at Yale University and the Naganuma School of Japanese Studies in Tokyo.

He is married to the former Alma Leacy McKenzie, a Newport News, Va., native. The Woods have one son, James Edward III, presently a master's degree student at Baylor.