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80-17

Missionary Bakes Cakes,
Witnesses on Japan TV

SAPPORO, Japan (BP)--Beverly O'Reagan never dreamed her fruitcake recipe would lead to frequent television appearances in Japan.

She was just trying to be neighborly when she took a fruitcake to some friends at the American Consulate in Sapporo, Japan, where she and her husband Dan were stationed as Southern Baptist missionaries. Those friends were among many in Sapporo who received an O'Reagan fruitcake that year, but that gift has led to nationwide witnessing opportunities.

It all started when the guest chef for a popular Japanese program similar to NBC's "Today Show," called in sick. Frantically, the producers called the American Consulate with a request for "an American fruitcake cook."

When Beverly answered her phone that morning, she was in the middle of a conversational English class she taught to several Japanese women. As it happened, she had invited them to stay after the lesson that day for an American-style luncheon. The studio needed her there at 1 p.m. Could she make it?

"I'll be there as near one o'clock as possible," she promised.

After the last lady left, she grabbed up the ingredients and a cake which she'd pulled from the freezer right after the phone call. There was no time to fix her hair or put on a special dress. There was barely time to get made up before she was on television--live.

Things must have gone well because the station invited her to come back as often as she could. Guest appearances have ranged from other cooking sessions to a panel discussion of different cultures. She has demonstrated an American potato peeler, a can opener, how she cuts up things with a knife, and how Americans count on their fingers--which is different from the Japanese way. A photographer has taken pictures of her house--showing how Americans decorate and what kitchen appliances they use.

But whatever the program's format, she says, "I have attempted to always keep quietly before me the challenge of bearing a positive witness for Christ."

Several good opportunities have come for her to witness on the program. Once the host said he knew nothing about Christianity and asked how someone became a Christian.

Another time she was on TV with some Buddhist monks who had described a case of divine healing. The host asked her if she believed in divine healing. "Of course, I do," she answered emphatically. To explain she told how her husband more than five years earlier had been diagnosed as having cancer and only six months to live. Soon they learned that missionary friends of all denominations and friends around the world were praying for Dan to be healed. He didn't die.

Their work in Sapporo has continued, and Beverly has added another responsibility--making the most of every opportunity to witness for Christ on national television.

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Mrs. O'Reagan was born in Jennings, La., and grew up in Lake Arthur. Her husband Dan is a native of Galveston, Texas.



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Global Spiritual Awakening
Only Hope, Allen Declares

By Renee Wash

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A global "spiritual awakening" is the world's only hope in the 1980s, said Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, on the ABC-TV news religious-cultural series, "Directions."

In a half-hour discussion with Herbert Kaplow, ABC news Washington correspondent, Allen said the "spiritual malaise," or lack of religious concern, of the '70s was leading to a "new enthusiasm for religion" in the '80s. This spiritual awakening, "evidenced by the number of people of all ages examining spiritual values as the base root of their lives," is emerging in both domestic and foreign policy, he said.

Allen, immediate past Southern Baptist Convention president, appeared on "Directions" on Jan. 27 in the last of a four-part series on ethical, moral and religious options for the 1980s entitled "Counsel for the '80s." The segment was taped in Allen's office at the Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth.

In the first three parts, Kaplow interviewed Saul Linowitz, President Carter's ambassador at large for Middle East negotiations; Martin Marty, a leading Protestant writer/philosopher; and James Monroe Cameron, a Roman Catholic philosopher, poet and lecturer of St. Michael's College, Toronto, Canada.

A consultant to the Camp David domestic summit conference in 1979, Allen said the American people are now addressing the lack of confidence in themselves which caused the absence of faith and religion in the last decade.

"The decade of the '70s was a time of disenchantment and withdrawal into inward journey," he said. "People were not as gung-ho about the government, environmental changes, or meeting the needs of the human spirit as we once were. Now, however, God is bringing about a spiritual awakening which is the prelude to a breakthrough essential to the health of our nation.

"God has given us a spiritual hunger and the American people are spending a lot of energy to satisfy it," he continued. "When there is a hunger, God is not far behind trying to meet the needs of his people."

Allen said Southern Baptists are channeling their spiritual energies to realize Bold Mission Thrust, the Baptist plan to confront everyone in the world with the Christian message by the year 2000. He said he's "excited over the overwhelming involvement of individual church congregations in Bold Mission Thrust."

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Allen, who recently returned from a fact-finding mission to Iran, also discussed the importance of morality in foreign policy.

"If the United States shows no concern for human values in its foreign policy, we become so much like those we are opposing, we don't leave much of an option for Third World countries," he said.

"As Americans, we must be as true to our basic principles about liberty, freedom and human rights in our foreign policy as we insist on in our domestic policy."

Speaking specifically about the crisis in Iran, Allen said the role of Islam will be a considerable and growing force in the '80s. He expressed concern over the lack of knowledge many theologians, including himself, have about the Islamic faith.

Conflict exists in the Islamic world, Allen said, because "many of them do not want to see ayatollahs running their countries."

In reference to separation of church and state, Allen said he feels church people should speak to the conscience of governmental decision makers. "The church should participate in the decision making process but not dominate it, just as the government should not dominate the church."

Allen said he foresees a closer association of religious groups in the new decade. "Although Southern Baptists never supported the formation of a 'superchurch,' as some religious groups did, we believe in the coordination and correlation of various religious factions but not of corporate entities. We are working together toward common goals while understanding and respecting the differences in our ways of worship."

"It's a kind of unity without uniformity," he said.

Areas to be tilled in the '80s, Allen said, are human survival, world hunger and energy.

When accused by Kaplow of being an "eternal optimist" Allen responded: "It may be optimism. I call it faith...faith in the power of God who can resurrect the dead. Theology imping s on faith as the power of God fuses the two together.

"There's a great need in this vacuum we've got today for a spiritual awakening in this country. I believe God is bringing it about."

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Mrs. R.A. McLemore
Dies in Mississippi

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CLINTON, Miss. (BP)--Funeral services were held here for Mrs. R.A. McLemore, who died Jan. 24 of injuries received when she stepped in front of a car after leaving services at First Baptist Church, Clinton, Miss., Jan. 20. Burial will be in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Mrs. McLemore, 79, was curator of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Collection at Mississippi College, Clinton, and the widow of R.A. McLemore, president of Mississippi College, 1957-68.

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Mrs. McLemore, the former Nannie Pitts of Madison County, Ala., coauthored several books with her late husband and had completed a history of the "Baptist Record," Mississippi's state Baptist newspaper, just before her death.

Active in community, civic and religious affairs, she was listed in "Who's Who Among American Women" and "Who's Who in the South and Southwest," and had received a number of honors for her service.

She is survived by a son, Harry K. McLemore of Jackson, Miss., and two grandchildren.

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Pennies for Hunger
Add Up to \$1,500

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (BP)--When V. Allen Gaines asked his congregation for pennies, he had no idea he would get more than \$1,500 for world hunger.

Gaines, president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia and pastor of Parkview Baptist Church, Newport News, proposed in a sermon that his people save one cent per meal from October until the end of the year.

Once the appeal was made, the pennies started coming in and they are still coming in. So far, church members have counted \$1,526.51. Some people brought in quart jars and gallon jugs filled with pennies they had been saving for years and the church got one check from Florida.

The 2,500-member church gave this money in addition to its regular offerings and its \$6,500 goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

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Isley Resigns Seminary,
Accepts Alabama Pastorate

Baptist Press
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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Branson Isley, assistant to the president at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has resigned to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Columbiana, Ala.

Isley, a Birmingham, Ala., native, joined the seminary staff in 1976 as director of college relations. In 1978, he became director of admissions and financial aid, and in 1979 was named assistant to the president.

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Mrs. Ramsey Pollard
Dies in Memphis

Baptist Press
1/28/80

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Mrs. Ramsey Pollard, wife of Ramsey Pollard, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1960-62, died Jan. 27, 1980, in a nursing home in Memphis, Tenn. She was 76.

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Funeral services were to be held Jan. 29 at Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, where her husband is pastor emeritus. Burial was to be in Dallas, Texas.

Mrs. Pollard, the former Della Pickle of Texas, served as the first president of the Southern Baptist Ministers Wives Conference in 1957.

Besides her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Robert Cllett of Atlanta, Ga.; a son, Ramsey Pollard Jr., of Winter Park, Fla.; and a sister, Mrs. Sadie Kruse of Newport Beach, Calif.

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Oil Refinery Explosion
Damages Texas Church

Baptist Press
1/28/80

PHILLIPS, Texas (BP)--The stained glass windows of First Baptist Church here were just beginning to glow with the early Sunday morning light of Jan. 20 when the Phillips 66 oil refinery a half mile away exploded.

In an instant the windows shattered into thousands of glass shards--"shrapnel" which caused \$250,000 damage to its auditorium.

The explosion at 7:45 a.m. injured about 30 persons in the community--only a few hours before worshippers would have perhaps paid a higher price in injuries or even death.

"No one was at the church at that hour," said Jim Koonce, the pastor. Although 24 of those injured in the community were First Baptist Church members, most were at home at the time of the explosion.

Only two injuries were serious, he said. One person had a concussion and another had a broken vertebra. Two elderly persons, who were already bedridden, were placed in hospital care because of the trauma of the explosion.

Most of the houses in the community were damaged and five families in the church were forced to leave their homes to relocate or stay with relatives. Damage to the church will probably take three to five months to repair, Koonce said. Meanwhile the congregation of 552 is meeting in the church's basement fellowship hall.

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