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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 29, 1980

80-69

Golden Gate Trustees  
OK Library Contract

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary authorized a library construction contract, a training program for leaders in language-ethnic churches and a program of theological training in the Korean language.

Trustees also approved participation in the Marin Consortium for Higher Education and approved a budget of \$2,254,315 in their annual meeting on campus.

Construction on the \$2.8 million library is expected to begin within 90 days and is scheduled for completion one year after that. Construction funds will come from the capital needs portion of the Cooperative Program budget of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The current seminary library houses 105,000 volumes in three separate campus locations. All volumes will be centrally located in the new 37,000 square foot facility.

The seminary will develop a Multi-Ethnic Theological Association program in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, state Baptist conventions in the west, and local churches. Theological training in the Korean language will also be offered through the Southern California Center of Golden Gate in Garden Grove, Calif.

For the first time since coming to Marin County in 1959, Golden Gate will participate in the Marin Consortium for Higher Education, a board of administrators from the county's six seminaries and colleges for area education planning.

Elsie McCall, pre-school director of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, since 1976, was elected assistant professor of religious education effective Aug. 1, 1980. She is a native of Lakeland, Fla., and a graduate of Carson-Newman College. She received the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and has done graduate study at North Texas State University, Denton.

Max D. Lyall was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of church music. Orine Suffern, assistant professor of church music, was promoted to professor of church music effective upon her retirement in August 1980.

The trustees voted to participate in a cooperative plan adopted by the six Southern Baptist Convention seminary presidents to provide limited course work in 1980-81 at three sites in the northern U.S. They approved the title "artist-in-residence" for those who would be used in special teaching assignments relating to art forms that conform to the Christian faith.

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Trustee Chairman Guy W. Rutland Jr., Decatur, Ga., will rotate from the board in June after more than 20 years as a trustee. (He was a trustee before the seminary became a SBC agency.) In recognition of Rutland, the trustees voted to ask the seminary administration to recommend an appropriate tribute for his service to the seminary.

E. Glen Paden, Sacramento, Calif., was elected trustee chairman, replacing Rutland. He is the first Golden Gate graduate to serve as trustee chairman.

-30-

Mike Jones  
Leaves Index

Baptist Press  
4/29/80

ATLANTA (BP)--Mike Jones has resigned as associate editor of the Christian Index, Georgia Baptist news magazine, to take advantage of some short-term vocational and missions opportunities.

Jones, 31, had been associate since December 1978. A bachelor, he plans to work on the summer staff at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center in New Mexico.

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Convention Adjusts  
After Leadership Loss

Baptist Press  
4/29/80

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Liberian Baptist Convention lost many leaders because of the recent government coup, but it has trained leadership capable of continuing work, said a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board official just returned from Liberia.

John E. Mills, the board's secretary for west Africa, said conditions appeared to be returning to normal and missionaries are optimistic of continuing opportunities for work. He visited Liberia April 25-26 at the conclusion of a tour of several west African countries.

Mills expects the convention to be able to make adjustments in its program and leadership to cope with changes caused by the assassination of William R. Tolbert Jr., who was president of both Liberia and the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention Inc., and by the loss of other Baptist leaders. But he said the convention is having difficulties because all funds are frozen. He does not expect the convention to hold its annual meeting this year.

Missionaries in the Monrovia area told Mills to urge volunteers and new missionaries to come to the country. The new government has indicated it wants foreign help and is trying to protect foreigners during the transition, he said.

A car taken shortly after the coup from Ricks Institute, a Baptist school in Monrovia, was returned the next day by a soldier.

Although the Liberian convention leadership included many Africans of American heritage, Mills says that Baptists also have churches with several African tribes in the country and missionaries are stationed in six centers outside Monrovia.

"The gospel is for all of them and we will continue efforts to establish strong churches everywhere in the country," he said.

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April 29, 1980

80-69

Gospel Links U.S., Brazil,  
Portugal Through One Woman

By Mary Jane Welch

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)—Brazilian Baptist missionary Heriodias Cavalcanti considers herself part of a chain which is rapidly spreading the gospel around the world.

When she and her first husband, two of Brazil's first foreign missionaries, were appointed to Portugal in 1936, they carried a gospel message that was given to her grandmother by the first Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil, Mr. and Mrs. William Buck Bagby.

That foreign mission career was short-lived because of her husband's poor health, but Mrs. Cavalcanti never forgot God's call to her. When her second husband died a few years ago, she was 63, an age when most would be looking forward to retirement. Instead, she picked up her old career and now is one of Brazil's best preachers and mission promoters, says Bill Ichter, Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil.

While a guest at a recent Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board meeting in Alexandria, La., Mrs. Cavalcanti told how God called her to missions even before Brazilian Baptists began sending foreign missionaries.

While she was dating her first husband, she lived in south Brazil and he lived in north Brazil. Both felt God call them to missions in Portugal, but when he came to visit her, neither brought up the subject. Later, however, each wrote the other a letter telling about God's calling. Their letters crossed in the mail.

In Portugal the work was difficult. They were beset by religious and political persecution. Her husband's health deteriorated. After five years they returned to Brazil, where he died several years later.

As a widow, Mrs. Cavalcanti took her two teen-age daughters to the United States where she attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for a year, continuing the six years of higher education she had received in Brazilian Baptist schools.

Back in Brazil, she met a doctor in the diplomatic corps and moved to the Dominican Republic to be his wife. There she carried out her missionary call by witnessing to members of the diplomatic community.

A month before he died, she told Cavalcanti she planned to return to Portugal and continue her mission work after his death.

"No, you are crazy," he told her, asking her to maintain her high society and diplomatic friends.

"He could not understand," she said. "When he passed away, I told God that I put before God all my things and all that I am."

With the blessing of the Brazilian Baptist Foreign Mission Board, she returned to Portugal to continue her women's work. There she found a new freedom. As one of eight Brazilian Baptist missionaries in Portugal, she engages in personal evangelism—preaching in schools, prisons, cafes and on the streets. Brazilian Baptists, she says, practice much more personal evangelism than Baptists in the United States.

Occasionally she returns to Brazil to preach and promote missions in mini-missions conferences for the Brazilian Baptists. On her last trip to Brazil, she preached in the suburbs of Rio de Janeiro, and 25 persons made decisions to become Christians.

But right now she is engaged in a unique work as a Brazilian Baptist. She is going to Massachusetts to spend two months doing mission work among the Portuguese people living there. She is sharing the gospel in the land which sent it to her.

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

Father and Son  
Hear Same Call

by Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

Baptist Press  
4/29/80

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)—Like father, like son aptly describes John and David Cheyne.

John, the father, was among the first Southern Baptist missionaries appointed when Baker James Cauthen led his initial appointment service after becoming Foreign Mission Board executive secretary in 1954. He is now associate consultant for relief ministries for the Foreign Mission Board.

Son David was among the appointees when Keith Parks led his first appointment service in April in Alexandria, La., after becoming Foreign Mission Board executive director in January.

Both men are pioneer mission workers. John and his wife, Marie, helped open work in Gatooma, Shabina, Gokwe, Que Que and in Ethiopia.

David and his wife, Kim, will start work on St. Lucia Island in Windward group "unless visas are not available because of the political situation."

John and David were involved in mission work before appointments by the Foreign Mission Board. The father was a mission pastor for Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, while attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

David worked in a Spanish mission of the same church while in the same seminary. In addition, he served as a journeyman while in college.

Father and son parted ways for college; John is a graduate of Auburn University and David graduated from Ouachita Baptist University. Both have master of divinity and master of religious education degrees, but from different seminaries.

"Missionary kids have a harder time knowing the direction for their own lives," John said. "They must figure out what God has for them rather than following the easier path of family tradition."

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John and Marie first served in Rhodesia with two children (David was three years old). David and his wife, Kim, will leave for the Windward Islands in January with no children.

John and Marie have three other children and two grandchildren. Daughter Becky was approved as a journeyman nurse the morning following her brother's appointment. She will serve in Eku, Nigeria in a clinical hospital for two years.

John was quick to point out another similarity of father and son, "David and I both married beautiful women."

-30-

Miami Baptists Relieve  
Frenzied Cuban 'Dunkirk'

Baptist Press  
4/29/80

MIAMI (BP)--Thousands of anxious Cubans jammed the Miami airport to meet relatives brought from Cuba on a plane chartered by Miami Spanish speaking Southern Baptists during the wild "Dunkirk" after Fidel Castro opened the doors of his island nation.

The first refugees estimated as many as half a million Cubans would scramble for the open door while relatives who wait anxiously for word on their families fear it may clang shut any day.

Ninety percent of the membership of 38 Spanish Baptist churches in the Miami area are Cuban. Those churches collected \$15,000 to charter two airplanes to Havana to bring back political prisoners that Castro agreed to release and the U.S. government agreed to accept.

The first planeload of 115, including family members, returned April 28 and the second is scheduled for May 12. While the United States government has given asylum to these political prisoners, it is not providing transport.

On another front, an estimated 2,000 boat owners have clogged the 90-mile sea lanes between Key West and Mariel Beach in Cuba where emigrants are being processed. All public transportation and accommodations in Key West are filled beyond capacity with more Cubans still pouring into the area from the entire east coast to try to get their relatives' names on applications for immigration.

The national immigration service is fining boat captains and confiscating boats for bringing in refugees illegally, but the captains pay the fine, find another boat and go again. Cuban officials at Mariel Beach, however, are processing only about 25 boats a day and the logjam there is creating additional problems.

The Miami Baptist Association is trying to provide food and clothes to the refugees who have made it to the United States. It is in desperate need of money and clothing and contributions may be sent to the Miami Baptist Association Refugee Relief Fund.

Associational Language Missions Director John Pistone, who flew with the chartered plane to Havana, said the contributions are not to try to get more people out of Cuba, but are to help those who have already arrived with just the clothes on their backs. All possessions were left behind or confiscated at Mariel Beach.

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Pistone said although the Spanish Baptist churches are working feverishly, there has been little response from Anglo Baptist churches, with one exception, Sunset Heights Baptist Church, which is in an area where 95 percent of the population is Spanish speaking. "There's such a prejudice," says Pistone. "How can people be without such sensitivity? If we're not sensitive to this crisis, we'd better think again what we Baptists stand for."

The refugee rush was instigated on Good Friday morning when a car load of Cubans crashed through the Peruvian embassy gate demanding asylum. Castro, probably in a pique of anger, issued a proclamation that said anyone could seek asylum with no repercussions.

The response was overwhelming. Within hours, 10,000 Cubans were jammed inside the embassy compound where they were packed so tightly they couldn't move. There was no food or water and people defecated where they stood.

Castro then had officials give the asylum seekers a pass so they could return home. Shortly thereafter, Castro announced that anyone who wanted to leave Cuba, could, but they would have to find their own way out. Then ensued the mass departure.

-30-

Texas Man Loses Fight With  
IRS Over Social Security

Baptist Press  
4/29/80

WASHINGTON (BP)--A self-employed Texas man who refused to pay Social Security taxes for what he claimed were religious reasons lost in his effort to have the Supreme Court overrule two lower courts which held against him.

Jacob R. Ward, a self-employed salesman, failed to pay self-employment taxes on Social Security from 1973 to 1976 on earnings of just over \$70,000. Instead, while filing his 1973 federal income tax return, Ward applied for exemption from Social Security payments and waiver of benefits, claiming he was exempt on religious grounds.

The Internal Revenue Service rejected the application, pointing out that Ward had not established that he qualified as a duly ordained minister or as a member of a qualified religious faith.

In his challenge to the IRS ruling, Ward argued unsuccessfully that his application was rejected in spite of his being a "fervently religious individual." He accused IRS of exempting only "members of state approved organized religious sects."

Nowhere in his legal brief filed with the high court did Ward indicate his denominational affiliation or preference.

Earlier both the U.S. Tax Court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans affirmed the IRS ruling.

-30-

Sorrels' Letter Reflects  
High Spirits After Crash

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press  
4/29/80

EKU, Nigeria (BP)--When Robert W. Sorrels, Mission Service Corps volunteer, noticed the small signs on Nigerian roads warning—"It's your neck. Nobody cares"—he didn't realize their significance.

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But days later he was joking about the signs in a lighthearted newsletter to his home church, Capitol Hill Metropolitan Baptist in Washington, D.C., after an automobile accident injured his neck and left him paralyzed from the shoulders down.

Sorrels, 28, said he was "praising the Lord in all things" and told about his one week of adjustment to the hot, humid Nigerian climate before giving details of the accident. The crash killed Titus Oluwafemi, a Nigerian seminary professor about Sorrels' age, and William D. Bender, 55, Southern Baptist missionary in Ibadan. Bender, a 25-year-veteran of missions in Nigeria, was buried in Ogbomosho.

"I survived the accident with only one broken bone, but that had to be the fourth vertebra in my neck which left me paralyzed from my shoulders down," dictated Sorrels to his sister, Elaine Bean, who visited him in Nigeria.

The impact of the crash, which occurred when an oncoming truck entered their lane to pass another vehicle, was so great that when it was over their clutch and brake were resting in the front seat, he said.

Sorrels said Bender, who lived for a few days after the crash, was able to ask that he and Sorrels be sent to the Baptist Hospital in Eku before he lapsed into delirium.

Latest reports from Eku indicate that Sorrels has regained some feeling and movement in his arms and legs.