



-- **FEATURES**
produced by Baptist Press

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

January 5, 1981

81-01

Football Toting 'Preacher'
'Revives' Richmond Football

By Jerry Lindquist

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—During his first three years at the University of Richmond, Canadian Ian Beckstead had learned to hate college football.

Football players on the campus of the Baptist school were perceived as some sort of low life and students loathed them. Faculty recommended that the school drop football, which it almost did.

But the final game of 1980 revealed a new Ian Beckstead and a new spirit on the team which had won only six of 27 games during the previous three years, including an 0-11 record last season. Under new head coach, Dal Shealy, 1980 was different in more ways than the team's improved 5-6 record.

Following the season's windup, a 26-14 victory over William and Mary, a hush fell over the locker room as Beckstead, the team's leading cynic, rose and approached Shealy. He hadn't gotten out more than a few words when he began to break up. Tears filled his eyes. The 6-4, 240-pound tight end discovered he wasn't such a cynic after all.

The more Beckstead tried to describe what the Christian approach of Shealy and his assistants had meant to him and the team, the more difficult it became. Finally, he reached out and embraced Shealy. "I never thought I would feel this way," he said later.

Beckstead and his teammates knew what Shealy, the 41-year-old born-again Baptist layman, had meant to them. From the beginning, when he was named coach a year ago, Shealy made it clear he wasn't typical. He was described as an evangelist, a kind of football-toting preacher, and he is. He sparked a revival, built on religious principles. Shealy freely discussed his relationship with God, and Jesus Christ. He knew people would snicker because they thought they recognized the incongruity of it all, and he didn't care.

He said he would care about his players. They would be more than just numbers. To Shealy they aren't meat. He told them what was expected of them, and what they could expect of him. He probably is more motivator than coach.

Shealy taught them the value of prayer. Every practice ended with one. He escorted them to church on Sunday. They didn't have to go but they did. At first many were skeptical. He knew they would be.

"I'd never seen religion related to football like that," said Jesse Moore, senior offensive guard. "I didn't know if this was the place for it... (but) after going a whole season with it, I understand where he's coming from.

"It's a matter of giving us exposure to something we've never had before, then letting us make our own decision. Nothing was forced on us but I can tell you, it changed all of us as people a little bit."

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Shealy promised he and his assistants would be "people coaches," and they were. They emphasized the positive. Instead of chastising a player for making a mistake, they praised him when he did something right.

When he told the seniors after the William and Mary game, "If there is anything we can do for you, any time, any place, just call and we'll be there," that's what Shealy is really all about. When he says they won more off the field than on the field, believe him.

"They made us feel important. They cared what we thought," James Short said. "I saw some guys come around I never thought would come around."

"Coach Shealy is a unique individual," said Rueben Turner, the senior cornerback who started 43 straight games. "Football has a reputation for mean and nasty things, and he showed us it doesn't have to be like that."

Some University of Richmond officials thought they would never see football players become leaders instead of instigators and troublemakers. Disciplinary problems relating directly to athletes on football scholarships have been minimal to nonexistent.

The turnaround is striking in that regard, too.

"There aren't many coaches I'd work for," adds Morgan Hout, assistant in charge of receivers. "Too many of them ask you to do things you know are wrong. I couldn't live like that. I'd get out of the business before I'd accept that."

"This season has been an unreal experience," adds Beckstead. "I only caught 12 passes, but I was a better player because of the coaches, and I know I'm a better person."

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Jerry Lindquist is a sports writer for the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch.

Missionaries' Daughter Dies in Truck Collision

Baptist Press

WARREN, Texas (BP)--Danna Ruth Mines, daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries Donald E. and Margie Deloach Mines in Argentina, was one of two persons killed in a head-on collision early Jan. 3 near Warren, Texas.

Miss Mines, 19, was a freshman at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas. She and Dennis Warren, student and part-time instructor at Lamar, were returning to Woodville from Beaumont in dense fog when their pickup truck collided head-on with a tractor trailer, driven by William Argabright of Fred, Texas. Argabright also died in the accident and Warren is in fair condition at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont. Miss Mines was spending the Christmas holidays with her grandmother, Mrs. J.T. Deloach of Woodville.

Mines is from DeLand, Fla., and Mrs. Mines is from Fort Worth, Texas.

Besides her parents and her grandmother, Miss Mines is survived by two brothers, Steve and David, still living at home; and her paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall G. Mines, Lakeland, Fla.

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Injured Missionary Doctor
Improving in Ghana Hospital

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Walter Moore, Southern Baptist medical missionary seriously injured in a traffic accident near Tamale, Ghana, has been transferred to Baptist Medical Centre, Nalerigu, Ghana, where he is improving.

Moore's head and chest injuries have improved, but he will be in a cast for some time because of a broken kneecap, said Betty Kay Abell, administrative assistant for West Africa for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Moore, an Oklahoma native, was taken to the government hospital in Tamale, Ghana, after the truck in which he was riding hit the rear of a dump truck 20 miles south of Tamale Dec. 18. Surgeons operated on his knee and he was transferred to the Baptist Medical Centre Dec. 23.

Because of a medical personnel shortage in Ghana, Moore has been carrying medical and administrative duties at the Baptist hospital, as well as working in public health.

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Buchanan Becomes
CLC Consultant

Baptist Press
1/5/81

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--John H. Buchanan, Alabama's Sixth District Republican representative to Congress for the past 16 years, has become a consultant for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission effective Jan. 1.

Buchanan, who was the only Southern Baptist minister in Congress, lost his bid for reelection when he was narrowly defeated in the Republican primary last September by a Moral Majority-supported candidate.

According to Foy Valentine, executive director of the commission, Buchanan will represent Southern Baptists in Washington, D.C. in areas of Christian social concern and Christian social action, assigned to the commission by the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Buchanan's long and outstanding record as a proponent of human rights, the Christian way in race relations, refugee settlement and peace with justice attest to his commitment to moral concerns," Valentine said.

"We look forward to the contributions he will make to the total work of Southern Baptists through this new relationship with the Christian Life Commission."

Buchanan said, "I count it a special privilege to be working in this new capacity with the Christian Life Commission whose commitment to applied Christianity and to Christian citizenship have given me great support and encouragement through the years."

Buchanan, formerly pastor of churches in Tennessee, Virginia and Alabama, is an active member and deacon of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington where his wife has served for 10 years as music director.

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CP Gifts Continue
Strong Increase

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--December giving through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified missions and education budget, increased \$841,181 over December 1979 and pushed a single month's gifts over \$6 million for only the sixth time ever.

December's 14.9 percent increase helped push undesignated giving to \$18,267,115 for the first quarter of the fiscal year, up 10.03 percent over the first three months last year.

Designated giving fell off from its vigorous 85 percent pace of the first two months. The \$721,944 contributed in December was a 5.7 percent increase over December 1979. For the year, designated contributions are \$3,479,340, still a healthy 60.3 percent ahead of last year.

Designated and undesignated contributions for the first quarter total \$21,746,456, a 15.85 percent increase over the same period last year.

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Sapp Challenges Food Policy
Of Ag Secretary-Designate

Baptist Press
1/5/81

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--W. David Sapp, a Southern Baptist hunger specialist, has written an open letter to Secretary of Agriculture-designate John R. Block, challenging his statement that "food is a weapon to tie countries to us."

Sapp, director of organization for the Christian Life Commission and a leader in Southern Baptist efforts to alleviate world hunger, wrote to Block: "Although you later softened this statement, you went on to explain your belief that we should lure other nations into depending on us for food so that we can exercise some degree of control over them by threatening to cut off their food supply.

"At first glance this strategy seems to be an attractive way to restore American leadership in the world. But in reality it is both impractical and morally abhorrent."

Sapp told Block, a hog breeder and director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture for the past three years, that "no peace could be secure in a world where millions lived in fear that we would starve them if their leaders offend us."

"The OPEC nations have sought to manipulate us by similar means," Sapp added, "and we have denounced their tactics as unfair, selfish and morally reprehensible. We must not sink to their level."

Sapp told the secretary designate Americans are not owners, but stewards of the abundant food produced in the United States and have no right to use it in any way that violates God's purposes.

"Food is a gift of God to be shared with the hungry," Sapp wrote. "It's not a weapon to be wielded by the powerful. God provides food to give life to persons, not to manipulate nations."

Sapp told Block times may come when withholding food may be the least available evil, but when it is necessary, this sad strategy should be employed sparingly with tears in our eyes and repentance in our hearts. Sapp ended his letter by telling Block he would pray for his success in the Department of Agriculture.

"But I will also pray that you will abandon this position concerning food as a weapon which is so foreign to the ideals of both the Bible and the American nation," Sapp said.

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