



-- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
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

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041

DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996

MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461

NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300

RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151

WASHINGTON Stan L. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

August 7, 1981

81-123

Cult 'Escapists'
Conning Churches

ATLANTA (BP)--A Baptist cult expert warns churches that unscrupulous young people may try to bilk them out of money by posing as desperate people escaping a cult.

Glenn Igleheart, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department, says he has received scattered reports of churches providing money, food, shelter and transportation to such young people, only to learn later they had been deceived.

For example, a young man named George recently walked into First Baptist Church, Auburn, Ala., and asked Dale Peterson, minister of music, for help in leaving the "Moonies." He said he had left the Unification Church the night before in Atlanta. After several hours of discussion, he said he wanted to return to Atlanta to get his clothes.

The church bought him a bus ticket, and called Atlanta to arrange for food, housing and counseling. Just before the bus left, George confessed he had lied about leaving the Moonies, admitted he did not need money, and that he had been receiving help for several months from other church groups. He gave back the bus ticket and did not go to Atlanta.

Peterson said he was convinced George had indeed left the Unification Church and that he was crying out for help. George had no qualms about lying, confessing that "for two years, I've been taught to lie if necessary to achieve the end result."

The "con" can be worked by either a counterfeit ex-cultist, or by youth who have actually been members of cult groups, but whose motive is money, not guidance and help.

"The tragedy is that there are young people who are leaving cults and who come to local churches for help in doing so," Igleheart said. "It is the counterfeit ex-cultists who make it hard for churches to distinguish between the genuinely needy and the con game."

In case someone asks for help in leaving a cult group, Igleheart offered the following suggestions:

--Check out the story. Ask for and write down the names of family members or previous churches. Phone them to verify the story. Ask other local churches if they have had similar requests from the same person.

--If churches in your community have an organization or procedure for dealing with persons needing assistance, refer this person to that organization or process. Remember the special needs they will have if they are coming out of a cult.

-more-

--Maintain a balance of good judgment and Christian compassion, always seeking to get the facts and meet the real needs of persons who are hurting.

--For further information and assistance, contact Igleheart's office at the SBC Home Mission Board.

-30-

Special Offering
Garners \$16,894

Baptist Press
8/7/81

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The special offering on the final night of the Southern Baptist Convention in Los Angeles amounted to \$16,894.93, of which \$6,500 was used to help the Gaither Trio pay travel expenses.

According to Tim A. Hedquist, convention manager for the SBC Executive Committee, the Gaithers billed travel expenses of \$10,000, of which \$3,500 was paid from convention budget.

Also, \$10,000 was used to upgrade the sound system, required by the Gaithers for their final night performance. The system was used throughout the three-day meeting of the convention.

"A special offering such as the one taken in Los Angeles requires approval by the Order of Business committee and by the convention officers. Offerings have been taken at previous conventions, but always require prior approval," Hedquist said.

In previous conventions, he said, special offerings have been used to offset expenses for the image magnification system. No such system was used in Los Angeles.

-30-

Hughes Suffers Attack,
Complete Recovery Seen

Baptist Press
8/7/81

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--Robert D. Hughes, executive director of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, continues to improve after being admitted to St. Agnes Hospital Aug. 4.

Hughes, 62, was taken to the hospital's emergency room suffering from chest pains. A preliminary diagnosis of acute angina was later confirmed by a specialist.

Following tests, physicians confirmed that some minor tissue damage occurred to the heart. However, Hughes' doctor predicted a complete recovery with no further complications.

Meanwhile, Hughes is to remain hospitalized for observation until Aug. 14. He will then spend two to three months recuperation period at home where he will be permitted a limited work schedule.

-30-



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

-- FEATURES

produced by Baptist Press

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

August 7, 1981

81-123

'The Baby Didn't Stay'—
How Long 'Til They Will?

By Pat Bellinger

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP) — "Missy, do you have a box like so?" Borbor asked as he marked the dimensions with his hands.

His voice, his expression, his manner spoke distress and I knew immediately what had happened. The baby had died.

"The baby didn't stay." How often had I heard those words?

There was Sammy's baby. I had heard only a soft fluttering heartbeat through the stethoscope. The tiny infant's condition was beyond the scope of the school clinic. The hospital was 20 miles away, and the baby couldn't live to go that far.

So I sat with Sammy and his wife and watched the baby die.

Then there was Varnie's baby. I had treated it to the limit of my ability and resources. I begged him to take the baby to the hospital. He refused. He had decided that his wife had been unfaithful to him during her pregnancy, and he would do nothing for her or her baby. The baby died because of his father's anger at the mother.

Albert and his wife had a baby each year. There had been seven. Only the oldest and the youngest were still alive. The baby had been brought to me after treatment by the "country doctor." It was too late for western medicine to help. This baby, too, would die.

As these memories rushed to my mind, we walked to the storeroom for the box and Borbor continued talking.

"Missy, remember when my wife's sister died in the country?"

Yes, I remembered. She had died in childbirth. Since then the old grandmother had been taking care of the baby.

The grandmother had come with Borbor to bring the baby to me some days before. She had done her best, but she lived in a cluster of three or four huts, not in a real village, and there were limited resources. No one was available to wet-nurse the child, so it had been fed rice gruel with nothing added.

Just a look at those bony arms and legs and the dried little face had told me I was helpless. The baby must go to the hospital, and, even then, probably would not live.

The doctor did not give any hope, but he provided some medication and vitamins and told him how to feed the baby. Borbor reported to me about the baby daily. Now he had come to tell me the baby had died. It was not his child, but he would have to bury it, and no one in his village was willing to help.

"How long?" my heart cried. "How long until the babies will stay. How long until infant deaths are no longer common? How long until help will be available everywhere?"

-more-

Babies die here because mothers don't get prenatal care, unsanitary birth conditions lead to tetanus or other infections, there is inadequate or improper nutrition, carelessness, superstition, parasitic infections, other infectious disease, ignorance.

Too many of the world's babies are like Alfred's, or Varnie's, or Sammy's, or the one Borbor brought. Too many miss their first birthday. Too many won't live long enough to find that the next problem is too few schools.

Borbor chose the brightly colored box my blender had been packed in.

-30-

Pat Bellinger is a Southern Baptist missionary to Liberia.

Youth Mission Trip
Starts At Own Door

Baptist Press
8/7/81

MESQUITE, Texas (BP) — Youth of Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church just completed a mission tour which included backyard Bible clubs, choir concerts and neighborhood canvassing.

Not really unusual except this year instead of traveling thousands of miles they stayed home for missions at their own front door in a project they called "To Dallas With Love."

"For several years our group has gone to Colorado, Canada or some other state for our mission trip," said Candy Smith, youth minister at Shiloh Terrace. "This past year the staff began considering the possibility of ministering to the needs in our neighborhood."

The church is in Mesquite, a suburb of Dallas, which has experienced tremendous population growth in the past five years. "As the staff began discussing the idea we realized that within the past 12 months hundreds of new homes had been built within three miles of our church and we had not even begun to reach these people," Smith said.

The young people held seven Bible clubs each morning, Monday through Friday, in the backyards of church members. They enrolled 186 people, a number of whom made decisions for Christ. They held public concerts in shopping areas and at Thanksgiving Square in the center of Dallas and capped the week with a rally at North Mesquite High School.

During the evenings, they canvassed seven residential areas surrounding the church and discovered hundreds of prospects. Shiloh Terrace youth and adults will participate in follow-up with the prospects, said minister of music Don Blackley.

"I've been with our youth on 14 mission trips and this is the first time we've been able to follow-up with those we led to the Lord," said Blackley.

The Shiloh Terrace volunteers discovered several children who'd never heard about Jesus.

Smith asked a youngster who had been enrolled in a Bible club, "John, do you have a Bible?"

"What's that?" the boy asked.

She explained to the child, and he greeted her the next day with, "Did you bring me that thing?" He now has a Bible.

"Talk about a mission field," said Smith. "We do have it at our own doorstep."

-30-