



BAPTIST PRESS

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Chancellor, Nutt
Get RTVC Awards

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--NBC news anchorman John Chancellor and humorist Grady Nutt will receive top honors in the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission's Abe Lincoln awards.

Chancellor will receive the Distinguished Communication Medal and Nutt the Christian Service Award in ceremonies Feb. 11. Chancellor's award is the highest recognition given by the RTVC.

In addition to the special honors, the Abe Lincoln Award each year recognizes broadcasters nationwide for outstanding public service programming and projects. Eight winners of these awards also will be recognized Feb. 11.

RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen said: "The Distinguished Communication Medal and Christian Service Award are not presented each year, but only when people of exceptional merit are found. Both John Chancellor and Grady Nutt have epitomized character and quality that these awards were created to recognize."

In announcing the award to Chancellor, Allen cited the "NBC Nightly News" anchorman for his contribution to the integrity of broadcast journalism. Chancellor also will be keynote speaker at the banquet.

Past honorees include former Federal Communication Commission chairman Robert E. Lee, last year's recipient, and Edward R. Morrow, Bob Hope, Billy Graham and Walt Disney.

Since coming to NBC news in 1952, Chancellor has distinguished himself for his political and election coverage, Allen said. He has anchored "NBC Nightly News" since 1971, teaming with David Brinkley from 1976 to 1982. Chancellor is a native of Chicago and graduate of the University of Illinois.

Nutt, Christian humorist and a regular on television's "Hee Haw" since 1979, is an ordained Southern Baptist minister. His credits include six albums, five books and numerous television guest appearances. Nutt is from Amarillo, Texas. He graduated from Baylor University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Others who have received the Christian Service award include former President Jimmy Carter, Dallas Cowboy coach Tom Landry, comedian Jerry Clower and singer Dale Evans Rogers.

This is the fifteenth year for the Abe Lincoln Award, founded in 1970 to encourage broadcasters to better their communities through public service efforts.

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The awards competition is judged by a panel of the entrants' broadcasting peers and on the basis of accepted professional standards.

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Radio and Television Commission.

Baptist Trucks Bring Food,
Encouragement To Poland

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1/18/82

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (BP)--The Polish government is allowing church and relief groups to effectively distribute food, medicine and other supplies from outside the country, a European Baptist Federation official reported after a trip into Poland.

Knud Wumpelmann, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, made the observations after accompanying a team transporting more than 23 tons of food and supplies from Danish Church Aid to Warsaw Jan. 7. The trip was his first to Poland since martial law was declared Dec. 13.

"The situation in Poland is still critical and help will be needed for a long time to come," Wumpelmann said.

"The help from outside is not only received as much-needed material help but as a great encouragement in a very difficult time," he added.

"The relief distribution is well organized by all the churches," he said. The Danish truck he accompanied drove to a church distribution center in Warsaw without delay. The supplies were quickly distributed through participating institutions to families with children and to elderly people unable to stand in line for several hours in winter weather for government rations.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has already released \$265,000 in hunger and relief funds to assist the needy in Poland, and European Baptists also have given substantial aid.

"Besides the help sent directly, Baptist churches (functioning as distribution centers) also receive their proportionate share of aid sent through the Polish Ecumenical Council," Wumpelmann said.

Zdzislaw Pawlik, general secretary of the council and former general secretary of the Polish Baptist Union, represents the council on the National Committee for relief work.

That committee includes seven other relief organizations, including the Red Cross and Caritas, the Roman Catholic charitable organization, as well as the Polish ministers of health and transportation, Pawlik said.

While decisions as to where aid must be directed are left to the relief organizations themselves the committee assists in effective distribution, he explained.

Monthly rations in Poland are small, Wumpelmann said, including less than two pounds of meat for hardworking people such as miners and less than a pound for others, less than a quarter pound of butter and less than a half pound of sugar. Bread and flour are not rationed and easier to get than before.

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The average worker earns \$80 per month; Baptist pastors receive \$40. In June, 10,000 people lived under the "social minimum." That increased to 1.2 million by November and was expected to reach 3 million by Jan. 1, 1982, he said.

Just before Wumpelmann and his team left Warsaw, Pawlik appealed to them on behalf of the Polish Ecumenical Council for 100 tons of food and blankets for flood victims at Plock, 70 miles northwest of Warsaw.

There, an estimated 4,000 homes were under water after the Vistula River overflowed its banks. Temperatures in the homes were below freezing.

Some relief supplies being sent to church distribution centers, such as a truckload from Norwegian Church Aid, have been diverted to Plock. Danish Church Aid on Jan. 12 distributed 4,500 blankets in the area.

As Wumpelmann's group returned to Denmark, they also met a truck from a Baptist church in Falkenberg, Sweden, bringing food and clothing from churches, civic and relief organizations to the Polish city of Szczecin. Those supplies were delivered at a Baptist church and distributed through all the free (nonstate) churches in the city.

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Two Charged In
Louisville Fire

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Baptist Press
1/18/82

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Louisville police have charged two young men with arson and burglary in connection with the Jan. 10 fire that destroyed St. Matthews Baptist Church sanctuary.

Warren R. Emrich, 20, and a 17-year-old friend, were arrested Jan. 13 by seven officers at Emrich's home, one block from the church that suffered more than \$3 million damage.

Police were led to Emrich's home through wire taps in the telephone of a neighbor, who for four years had endured harrassment in his quiet, professional St. Matthew's neighborhood.

Richard Seadler and his family endured death threats, attempts to run them down with an automobile, cut telephone lines, non-existent fires being reported at their address, bedroom windows shot out, and obscene phone calls.

Finally, after several unexplained fires in the neighborhood in October, arson investigators asked the Seadlers' help by letting their phone be tapped. They obliged, according to information in the Louisville Courier-Journal, happy their numerous complaints were being taken seriously.

The taps led to Emrich's home, where police waited three hours outside until Emrich's father came home from work. The son was found hiding under a bed. The 17-year-old had burrowed beneath a pile of clothes in the hall. A stereo stolen from the church the day of the fire was found in the house.

"It's a sad thing," said Ruben Swint, associate pastor at the church. "There's some relief that we know the cause, the answer, but it's a sad answer."

Emrich also was charged Jan. 13 in a Thanksgiving day burglary at the church and is being held in lieu of \$50,000 cash bond. The 17-year-old, who is known to have attended St. Matthews on occasion, is in the juvenile detention center.

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Light Fires Of Belief
Fisher Urges Educators

By Linda Lawson

BSSB

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--A Southern Baptist educator who has battled a serious illness for three years and gained a renewed commitment to his Christian faith, told international theologians that "lighting the fires of Christian belief is one of the great challenges of our day."

Ben Fisher, former director of the SBC Education Commission and now special assistant to the president of Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C., delivered a wide-ranging address on the challenge of secularism to Christian education at the Baptist World Alliance conference on theological education.

A member of the BWA ad hoc committee on theological education which convened the conference attended by 70 educators from 28 nations, Fisher said his experiences with illness and the possibility of death have brought "deepening spiritual insight, new understanding of the message of the scripture and a fresh certainty of the existence and presence of God."

In contrast, he said he is concerned that "we have seriously underestimated the degree to which the secular way of viewing man has influenced the societal order and even the church itself."

For example, he said, when people today ask what modern man must do to be saved, "they're not talking about heaven but about how to deal with atomic holocaust or psychological problems or learning to live together without destroying each other."

He said the demise of the humanities, the influence of secular literature and mass media and conflicts between science and religion have created a society in which students have no values and "little encouragement to accept Christian doctrine, much less to practice it."

Television networks which interrupt regular programming for a bulletin about a plane crash in which only five persons may have survived and then switch immediately to a toothpaste commercial "are virtually destroying human sensitivity and humane values," said Fisher.

In the church, he criticized marketing tactics in the name of evangelism where the gospel is taken only where it is likely to get a positive hearing.

"God will hold us accountable," said Fisher. "We don't have a choice. We are to share the gospel with all persons."

Fisher challenged the educators to "incorporate character as well as competence, wisdom as well as knowledge, humility as well as confidence, a world view and eternal hope which lies outside human reference.

"From deep personal experience I believe we must not confuse indoctrination with providing our students the Christian view of man," said Fisher.

He said educators and pastors must help people to see the Christian life includes the knowledge "that we may be sick, yet well; dying, yet living; weak, yet strong; foolish, yet wise; troubled, yet at peace; blind, yet seeing; stumbling, yet not falling; with diminished powers, yet with undiminished hope."

Christians also must testify, said Fisher, "that those burdens which God does not lift, He gives us the strength to bear."

We must live our lives showing "that every man is my brother, every woman my sister and every human being my responsibility," he concluded.

McCall Deplores
Refugee Camps

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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Baptist World Alliance President Duke K. McCall said he will speak out against any government, including the United States, which locks up refugees in "concentration camps."

Citing a camp for Haitian refugees near Miami, Fla., McCall said, "You can't tell any difference between the barbed wire around this place and a concentration camp," even though the food and medical care may be better.

To the government, McCall said, "Under God it is your responsibility to disband that place of evil and pain where the scars of the barbed wire are on the bodies and the hearts of those people."

Acknowledging that most refugees arrive illegally, McCall said, "Our concept of legal is sometimes immoral. Refugees are always illegal."

McCall will assume fulltime duties as BWA president on Feb. 2 when he retires as president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

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Anonymous \$250,000 Gift
Given To Southwestern

Baptist Press
1/18/82

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has received an anonymous gift of \$250,000 for the seminary's World Mission/Church Growth Center, according to John Earl Seelig, vice president for public affairs and chief fund raising officer.

In addition to the monetary gift, the seminary received records and equipment formerly owned by the World Evangelism Foundation, established in 1968 by W.H. Jackson of Dallas to promote evangelistic and missions endeavors around the world.

The World Mission/Church Growth Center was established in 1979 as a research and resource facility. It provides specialized mission and church growth strategy study in each of the seminary's degree programs, as well as continuing education opportunities for current missionaries.

A portion of the gift will be used to establish a teaching program of partnership evangelism within the center, Seelig said. Partnership evangelism involves laypersons and churches in the United States teaming with laypersons and churches in other countries in personal evangelism and church growth efforts.

The gift also will enable teams of students and faculty to do on-site research and/or participate in partnership evangelism.

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