



-- **FEATURES**
produced by Baptist Press

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March 9, 1982

82-37

Agency Head Series No. 10
Saturday's Hero Scores
Every Day of the Week

CO
By Norman Jameson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--When the gun sounded to end a peculiar Nashville youth league football game, the coach cheered with the winners and cried with the losers. Then he told them both he would see them at practice Tuesday.

Hollis Johnson, a familiar face in the local YMCA volunteer coaching staff, was coach of both teams.

"It was a strange feeling," says Johnson, who in the "off season" is executive director of the Southern Baptist Foundation. "Here were boys I worked with for two months. I wanted both teams to win. I didn't want either team to lose and I didn't want a tie.

"The referees said it was the most intense game on the field they'd had all year. When the game was over, we knew we'd done our job because the players hugged each other. The next week in practice they worked together as if they'd never played against each other. They acted as if they'd matured 10 years."

The maturity gain pleased Johnson most. He coaches not for the boys' Saturdays, but for their lives.

Then, last summer, he coached his daughter's softball team in an exercise he says effected his life as much as anything he has ever done. "I learned how to deal with people and be civil about it," he admits. "It taught me to recognize relative ability, not to expect more out of anybody than they can deliver."

Participating in games is less significant now for Johnson, who was a three-year starter on the Vanderbilt University baseball team after being cut as a freshman. The campus newspaper once dubbed the 6-2, 145-pound shortstop "Saturday's Hero" for delivering the game winning hit two weeks in a row. But he was so thin, when he walked to the plate fans yelled "Hey bat, swing that player."

A bad back keeps Johnson, 46, out of most sports activities, but more significantly, a spiritual maturity has changed the focus of his energies.

Once addicted to Vanderbilt sports, he now feels the events conflict with too many important things--deacons meeting on Mondays, teacher training and church on Wednesdays and Sunday School preparation when the games are Saturday nights.

"When you teach Sunday School, it's hard to get frenzied up for a basketball game Saturday night and still put in the time for Sunday School," he says. "We try to keep Saturdays open."

"We" includes his wife, Celeste, who teaches with him in the college department of Belmont Heights Baptist Church. They met when Celeste, once a finalist in the Maid of Cotten beauty contest, introduced herself to him at a Vanderbilt homecoming.

She was a current student and he was a sailor, assigned to the USS Hammburg. But fortune was not all smiles that night because he could not secure a date with her for a year. Then, he called her at 6 p.m. one Saturday for a date that night.

"I didn't get a date for six weeks," Johnson says. "I've always accused her of not really being booked but having to tell me she was to keep up her image."

They meet daily now, for a quick three-mile walk along a wooded road near their house. The exercise is in lieu of more strenuous activity for Johnson but he cherishes the time alone with Celeste when they can discuss their Sunday School lesson and their children, Hollis E. Johnson IV, 18, and Martha, 13.

The walk is glue time that cements their marriage. During a Sunday School section last fall on Christian marriage, the Johnsons "threw the book away and did our own. I've never seen such feverish note taking."

Johnson said they were explicit within the bounds of propriety and he was sure his class members had never heard the characteristics of Christian marriage described so plainly.

Johnson managed \$200 million of assets as the trust officer for First American National Bank in Nashville before coming to the foundation in November 1976. While at the bank, he handled the foundation's account and met monthly with the foundation executive committee.

When Kendall Berry retired as executive director, the foundation turned to Johnson. They talked to him at just the time he says the Holy Spirit was starting to make him unhappy at the bank. "It just wasn't fun anymore," he wrote in the May 1981 Baptist Program.

Johnson, a layman, and Celeste, had let their spiritual lives grow cold. Then the loss of two babies, one before and the other 48 minutes after birth, jarred them aware of their dependence on God. The Johnsons' rededication to their Christian task pushed them into involvement at all levels of their church. Then the foundation's offer to manage its \$17 million came and Johnson saw it as Spirit directed.

Johnson's involvement in economic issues prompts daily questions around the break table downstairs in the Southern Baptist Convention building. For years as the U.S. economy slipped ever deeper into inflation-ravaged recession, Johnson said if Americans did not effect a cure themselves, it would be affected for them.

He predicted two years ago it would take a wrenching recession to cure the inflation caused by greed. "The inflation problem has been one of psychology," Johnson says, "the psychology of greed. We all went out and bought all we thought we would need because we could pay for it later in deflated dollars."

Johnson, not wanting to be drawn into politics, would comment little on the current economic planning in Washington. He would say: "We needed change. We needed to try something different. Whether Reagan's plan is the cure-all, I'm not smart enough to know. But I'm pleased we're trying something."

Johnson says the current high unemployment and stagnant economic indicators appear to have had little effect on Southern Baptist giving for missions and education through the Cooperative Program. "But if the present conditions hold for another year, we're in trouble," he says. "You can write that down."

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(BP) photo mailed to Baptist state newspapers.

CO

Missouri Bible Teacher Named
Southern Seminary Professor

Baptist Press
3/9/82

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Gerald L. Keown, professor of Bible at the Baptist Student Center, University of Missouri in Columbia, has been named assistant professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Keown, who will join the seminary faculty June 1, taught Hebrew at Southern seminary from 1977 to 1979, when he received a Ph.D. in Old Testament studies. In addition to a master of divinity degree from Southern seminary, he also earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Alabama.

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FCC Says Low-Power TV Rules,
Called "Good News" For ACTS

By Greg Warner

DB

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—After a year and a half of consideration and debate, the Federal Communications Commission officially authorized low-power television (LPTV), setting in motion the licensing process that may provide for a national Southern Baptist TV network.

By unanimous vote, the FCC approved the regulations for LPTV which will determine how licenses will be awarded and what technical standards will govern the operation.

Specifically, the FCC decision placed no limit on the number of LPTV stations that can be owned by one applicant, determined that uncontested applications (those with no competition for the same channel) and rural applications will be awarded first and established a simplified process, for deciding contested licenses.

The decision was hailed as good news by Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and architect of the proposed television network.

"This has placed us in a very strong position," Allen said, "primarily because the FCC did not put a limit on the number of stations we can own."

The American Christian Television System (ACTS), a corporation formed by Allen last year to assemble the network, has 106 applications on file with the FCC. The FCC had considered a limit of 15 low-power stations for any one owner.

In deciding between competing applications for the same channel, the FCC elected to give preference to those with minority representation in their ownership and those filed by applicants who have not owned broadcast facilities before.

Allen said both preferences initially will favor ACTS applications, since the five-member ACTS board include three minority representatives and since ACTS currently owns no broadcast facilities.

The Federal Communications Commission in February rejected a plan to speed up licensing of contested channels through use of a lottery system of random selection paper hearing.

Although they will begin processing the estimated 1,200 uncontested applications immediately, it will take more than a year to handle all 6,000 applications.

Allen was conservative in his estimate of when licenses will be granted to the American Christian Television System. Few of its proposed ACTS stations are in rural areas, he pointed out, so they will not take priority in the FCC licensing process.

Although some of the ACTS applications will be among the 1,200 uncontested, Allen said it is difficult to tell how many. It was previously estimated that two-thirds of the ACTS 106 applications had no known competition, but Allen said the FCC action may alter that picture.

In the process designed by the FCC, all applications must be placed on a cut-off list, which gives other groups 30 days to file competing applications. However, once an application survives the 30-day cut-off list, the FCC will accept no other competition for that channel.

On the other hand, Allen explained, some of the 6,000 applications will be thrown out by the FCC because of poor preparation or other problems.

"It's awfully hard to use figures, but we know we are in a very advantageous position with current competitors," he said.

The FCC is not expected to handle many of the contested licenses until a computer to assist this process is installed in October. Then they project 400 to 600 licenses can be awarded per month.

Allen expects it will be after the first of 1983 before many of the applications are considered. That will not stand in the way of plans to begin programming for the ACTS network on a limited basis during 1983, he said, using some low-power stations as well as cable TV and other outlets.

"We are on track with the ACTS network," he concluded. "Some parts of this will be accelerated, some parts will be late, but there's no question in my heart that this is a forward step. I expect before we are through we will have 100 stations over the nation sharing the message of Christ through the ACTS network. It will take some time to build up to that, but this is a very positive response from the FCC."

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Topeka Man Brings
Polish Family to U.S.

CO

Baptist Press
3/9/82

TOPEKA, Kans. (BP)--Topeka businessman Dave Davies decided to do something about the thousands of refugees he saw each evening on television.

About the same time, Witold Stawierej, an organizer in Poland's Solidarity labor movement, escaped with his family from Poland.

The two families were brought together through the Southern Baptist refugee settlement program with the help of Shawnee Heights Baptist Church, whose members pooled resources to provide a house for the Stawierejs.

Their first trip to the grocery store proved to be a real shock for the newcomers. Mrs. Stawierej looked at her partially-filled shopping cart and said, "We've been married for five years and I've never been able to get that much food."

John Yeats, church pastor, said the community has received the Stawierejs well. There have been offers of jobs, gifts of a motorbike and a sewing machine and several cash donations.

"The people of the church have experienced a broader view of the world and God's kingdom; it has broadened our vision," he said.

The Stawierejs worshipped in the Shawnee Heights Baptist Church and found it different in form and content from Catholic churches in Poland.

When asked if he thought the refugees would become Baptists as a result of this project, Yeats said: "I would like for them to come to know Jesus in a real way, but there are no strings attached to our help. We are finding out the way to demonstrate Christ is to care for people, and this is what we are doing. There will be no coercion - that is not a part of love."

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Union Sells Former Campus
For Juvenile Justice Center

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Baptist Press
3/9/82

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)--A national juvenile justice training center will be housed on Union University's former east Jackson campus following the sale of the facilities to the Madison County Commission.

The final 10-acre plot with buildings was sold for \$550,000. Other parcels and buildings had been sold earlier for \$650,000 for a total of \$1.2 million. When the 150-year-old school first moved across town in 1975, they had asked \$3.5 million for the old property.

Blythe Hall and the Student Union Building will be used to establish the juvenile center, according to stipulations in the federal grant providing \$210,000 of the purchase price.

Since it occupied its new campus six years ago, Union's enrollment has jumped by 40 percent. Trustees recently voted to replace overflow housing lost by the sale of the old campus, and approved the construction of apartments for 60 students at a cost of \$350,000.

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Missionaries Encouraged to Find
New, Innovative Ways to Minister

By Mary Jane Welch

RB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist foreign missionaries are being encouraged to find new and innovative ways to use increased hunger and relief funds.

John R. Cheyne, relief ministries consultant with the Foreign Mission Board, recently returned from a trip to eastern and southern Africa, which was intended to increase missionary awareness of new possibilities opened by the rapid rise of gifts to hunger and relief causes.

Because contributions rose quickly from \$889,190 in 1977 to more than \$5 million in 1980, Cheyne says missionaries have not yet fully grasped the variety of ways they can use the money "to meet human need in the context of sharing the message of Jesus Christ and planting churches."

He adds the missionaries are not being asked to abandon an old ministry for a new one, but to integrate relief ministries into their other work.

Cheyne's trip to meet with missionaries and African Baptist leaders in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Uganda is one of several moves made by the FMB in recent months to make good use of the increasing gifts.

Timothy Brendle, Cheyne's associate, is visiting missionaries in eastern South America.

The Foreign Mission Board made progress on its efforts to increase use of the funds in 1981, increasing allocations by 17 percent while Southern Baptist giving to overseas relief dropped 16 percent from the record in 1980.

The Foreign Mission Board allocated \$3,528,058 for hunger and relief projects in 37 countries in 1981 while Southern Baptists gave \$4,760,266. At the end of the year, \$5,537,738 remained unallocated.

Cheyne learned on his trip that other relief agencies have similar problems with accumulating funds because of a surge in American interest in world hunger. Missionaries in two countries had been approached by other relief agencies for their help in distributing excess funds, he said.

The Foreign Mission Board has an advantage over many relief agencies, Cheyne pointed out, because it has people already in place who can respond to needs as they arise. Those missionaries can also monitor conditions, suggesting adjustments as needs change.

He found that relief agencies in Somalia and Uganda are planning such adjustments in the coming year. With the critical food shortages past, agencies are turning to developmental projects to keep people in these countries from becoming dependent upon food handouts, Cheyne reported.

Southern Baptists are stepping up development projects in Uganda. But because there are 38 relief agencies working in Somalia who seem to be adequately funded, he said the need for Southern Baptists to enter Somalia is not urgent. "It seems more important that we put our weight down where we have staff to meet urgent needs," he said. Southern Baptists will continue working with Somalian refugees who have crossed into Kenya.

Cheyne said he believes the increased awareness by the missionaries in Africa will result in \$1 to \$2 million in new hunger and relief projects, such as food distribution, clean water projects and better-life centers which would offer a number of community services.

One such project now being considered calls for Southern Baptists to provide food to a 2,000-bed hospital where a missionary physician is assigned. The hospital lacks funds both to feed patients and buy medicine. The Baptist mission is proposing to supply milk and food for a specified time so the hospital can use its money to buy medicine and equipment it needs to resume full operation.

Two projects proposed on the trip had been submitted to the Foreign Mission Board by Baptist missions by the time Cheyne returned home. In Kenya, missionaries propose to provide food, shelter and clothing to villagers whose homes were destroyed in tribal warfare in the Kisumu area.

In Zimbabwe, missionaries have asked for food distribution funds, the first step in what may become a major developmental project for nine villages in the Gokwe area. When Cheyne was there, the end of the rainy season was approaching, but there had been no rains and no crops would grow. People in one village had a little barley, but most people had only grass to eat.

Because the villagers said they would buy grain if it were available, Baptist missionaries are proposing that they build a grain storage shed and provide transportation to bring grain into the area. People can then buy the grain at cost.

Among other projects Cheyne discussed with missionaries and African Baptists were several pure water projects. In two cases where the water table is depleted or polluted by salt, plans call for tying into pipelines owned by others. Some projects call for well-drilling rigs to drill new wells or reopen abandoned boreholes. In one case, the Baptist mission may provide water for a hospital which now carts its water by wheelbarrow from a spring more than three miles away.

In several cases, Cheyne recommended better-life centers which would tie in with existing clinic or food distribution ministries and offer a wider range of services, such as nutritional education, literacy training and health services.

At least two projects he discussed with missionaries could be carried out with a state Baptist convention from the United States, such as Tennessee Baptists are working with missionaries in the Sanwabo area of Upper Volta. In Upper Volta, Tennessee Baptists are helping build a dam and providing volunteers for health services, literacy and agricultural training and evangelism.

Many projects also call for local involvement, Cheyne said, citing food-for-work phases of several projects which require some construction. In the Gokwe region of Zimbabwe, for example, local citizens will help build the grain storage shed.

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

Midwestern Dean
Returns to Class

CO

Baptist Press
3/9/82

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--John C. Howell, academic dean at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1975, will return to full-time teaching and writing as professor of Christian ethics, effective Aug. 1, 1982.

Currently, Howell is on study leave from his role as academic dean and is engaged in a research project in the area of family life ministry and the local church.

N. Larry Baker, associate professor of Christian ethics at Midwestern, is acting academic dean during Howell's study leave and will continue in that capacity until a new academic dean is named.

Howell indicated that he had been considering the move for some time, and said, "I would like to devote my time and energies to teaching and writing with a particular focus on families and the church's ministry to families. I believe that much more can be done to minister to student families on campus as well as to train our students for more effective ministry."

Howell has taught at Midwestern Seminary since 1960, and in recent years emerged as a recognized authority in the area of family life ministry. He has traveled and spoken extensively in churches, conferences and workshops, and written several books and numerous articles in that area of study.

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Parks Urges Support
Of Fund For Sorrels

WB

WASHINGTON (BP)--R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, is urging Southern Baptists to give generously to a fund set up to aid paralyzed mission volunteer Robert (Bob) Sorrels.

Parks encouraged support for the fund while speaking at Capitol Hill Metropolitan Baptist Church, the church of which Sorrels was a member and which sponsored him as a Mission Service Corps volunteer.

Sorrels, now 30, was injured April 15, 1980, less than a week after he arrived in Nigeria. The traffic accident which paralyzed him from the neck down killed veteran Southern Baptist missionary William D. Bender and Nigerian Baptist Seminary professor Titus Oluwafemi.

A dispute arose late in 1981, when a group of members of the church--calling themselves "Friends of Bob Sorrels"--circulated letters critical of Parks and the FMB for its handling of the case.

The FMB declined to accept long-term responsibility for Sorrels because he had gone as a volunteer and not as an employee. While Sorrels had life and health insurance, he did not have long-term disability coverage.

The board spent in excess of \$28,000 for Sorrels' medical care, and voted to continue a monthly stipend of \$603.50 until October of 1982, at which time government disability benefits are expected to take effect.

After the dispute surfaced, Sorrels, two members of the "Friends" group and Capitol Hill Metropolitan associate pastor Walt Tomme went to Richmond to meet with Parks, expressing what they called a "strong desire for reconciliation."

Another outcome of the meeting was establishment of a "Fund for Sorrels" by the District of Columbia Baptist Convention Foundation.

Vinton Koons, president of the foundation's board of trustees and finance chairman at Capitol Hill Metropolitan, said some \$6,800 has come in thus far. Of that sum, he noted, \$3,500 was given by missionaries in Nigeria. Numerous Foreign Mission Board staff members also gave or pledged funds.

Pointing out that gifts for Sorrels are tax deductible, Koons observed that what the injured man needs now is contributions, not mere sympathy.

"A lot of people are concerned about Bob," Koons said. "But for too many it stops there. What we need is dollars."

Tomme also struck the same theme: "I think Baptists have a responsibility to Bob" because he went out under Baptist auspices. It's my concern that Baptists demonstrate to the world...that we take care of our own," he said.

Gifts to the Sorrels fund can be sent to D. C. Baptist Convention Foundation, 1100 17th Street, N.W., Suite 412, Washington, D.C. 20036.

In a separate matter, an application for a hearing to determine if Sorrels is eligible for workmen's compensation has been filed with the Industrial Commission of Virginia.