



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
Craig Bird, 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

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

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

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

September 14, 1982

82-128

WMU Selects Site,
Sets Groundbreaking

CO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Woman's Missionary Union will dedicate a new site and break ground for its future headquarters building at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 23.

The new national offices for the Southern Baptist auxiliary will stand on a mountain approximately 12 miles south of its current location in downtown Birmingham. The 25-acre site is in one of the newest and fastest growing business and residential areas in the state.

WMU officials say site development will begin immediately with construction of a road to be known as Missionary Ridge. Land and site development costs will exceed \$1 million.

The property was acquired from Dantract Inc. and Pirata Enterprises. The first phase of building construction will consist of at least 100,000 square feet. A two or three story circular limestone office and meeting center will overlook the highway. Two wings of an operations center will adjoin to the rear. The building will be expandable to accommodate future growth.

WMU hopes to occupy the new facility in 1984 with 130 employees. The building will house programming, publishing, consulting, conferences and distribution. An earth station for satellite receiving and transmitting will be part of the project.

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the 1.1-million-member organization, said the new WMU site was selected because of its convenience, its beauty and its relationship to Birmingham.

"Our executive board ruled that we should stay in the Birmingham area. We searched for a site that would allow plenty of room, a naturally beautiful environment, compatible neighbors and easy access to all areas of town," she said.

The Shelby County site is part of the greater Birmingham area and has a Birmingham postal zip code. Weatherford said postal considerations were of prime importance to WMU which mails periodicals with circulation beyond 900,000. The site is on Highway 280 near Interstate Highway 459 which eventually will encircle the Birmingham area.

WMU has been at its present location for 31 years, and has been talking with prospective buyers for its 41,000 square foot downtown landmark. No sales plans have been finalized.

Architect for the new building is Albion W. Knight, president of Waren, Knight and Davis, Inc. The firm has served WMU nearly 35 years.

Site dedication ceremonies will take place in connection with a called meeting of the WMU executive board. The board, consisting of 29 women representing state and area WMU organizations, decide details of the new building.

ACTS Files Twenty More
Low Power Applications

By Greg Warner

CO

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The American Christian Television System (ACTS), the proposed Southern Baptist TV network, has applied for 20 additional low power television (LPTV) stations, bringing the total applications for the network to 125.

Early last year ACTS filed with the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) for 105 of the newly authorized stations to serve as the base of its proposed network of family and Christian programming. But then the FCC stopped accepting applications April 9 of last year to provide the agency time to process the 6,000 filings that had accumulated.

The FCC accepted the 20 new ACTS applications because they were for rural areas which, until June 17 of this year, were exempt from the the freeze on applications. All 20 were filed just under the June deadline.

Eleven of the new applications are in Texas. They are: Big Spring, Brownwood, Bryan, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Huntsville, Lufkin, Palestine, Paris, Sherman and Victoria.

Others are in Flagstaff, Ariz.; Jonesboro, Ark.; Ocala and Vero Beach, Fla.; Waycross, Ga.; Biloxi, Natchez and Laurel, Miss., and Sedalia, Mo.

The FCC defines rural areas as those outside the 55-mile radius of the center of the 212 established TV markets, a definition which includes many medium-size cities. Rural filings account for approximately 15 percent of the 6,000-plus LPTV applications.

The advantages of the rural status is those applications will be processed by the FCC ahead of all others. Additionally all 20 new ACTS filings, as yet, have no other applicants competing for the same channel. These uncontested applications also will take priority in FCC processing. Four of the initial 105 stations proposed by ACTS also qualified for "uncontested rule" status and should receive FCC attention soon.

-30-

Oregon Woman Ordained
For Prison Chaplaincy

By Herb Hollinger

CO

Baptist Press
9/14/82

CORVALLIS, Ore. (BP)--Joyce Marie Borders, 34, has been ordained by Grant Avenue Baptist Church in what is believed the first ordination of a woman by a Northwest Baptist Convention church.

Borders was ordained to the correctional chaplaincy ministry although her ordination followed the regular pattern of a Baptist ordination, including the laying on of hands.

Grant Avenue's pastor, Keith Springer, noted the unique nature of the ordination service as he brought the ordination message. He said the ordination service was the culmination of more than a year of personal praying and studying.

"We are working to reconcile traditions and what we feel is the leading of the Lord (in the ordination)," Springer told the congregation of about 60 people.

Springer said Borders came to him about a year ago and asked about ordination. The question caused him to begin to study and eventually led him and the church to go outside of tradition to find the answer.

Springer also made a distinction between Borders' ordination and the traditional ordination for a man entering the pastoral ministry, adding he would be opposed to ordaining a woman to enter the pastoral ministry.

In her testimony to the church, Borders said God had "called me to the institutional setting. I have no feelings toward pastoring a church or to a church staff...."

-more-

Borders, a member of Grant Avenue Baptist Church for several years, became a Christian while attending the Seattle Pacific University. She first became acquainted with Southern Baptists through First Baptist Church of Longview, a Seattle suburb.

She is a graduate of Seattle Pacific University, has a masters degree from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash., and recently completed a master of divinity degree at Western Evangelical Seminary, near Portland, Ore.

In a letter of invitation to the service, Springer said, "This is certainly not traditional to Southern Baptists. There are those who question whether such an ordination is biblical. Some of our own people have questioned."

Springer said two or three families did leave the congregation since the church's decision to ordain Borders.

"We see this action as what God has asked us to do to provide Joyce with the certification institutions require before she can serve in the prison system. This ordination would not be used in any other way."

An ordination council was convened just before the service and the council voted to advise the church to proceed with the ordination. The church, in a unanimous vote, elected to do so.

The ordination prayer was offered by Carlton Butler, pastor of Capital Baptist Church, Salem, Ore., and the only other pastor at the ordination from Central Baptist Association. Twelve ordained men, including pastors Butler and Springer, participated in the "laying on of hands," most of whom were deacons at the Corvallis church.

-30-

(Hollinger is editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness, news journal of the Northwest Baptist Convention.)

ABC Television To Spotlight
Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary

Co

Baptist Press
9/14/82

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)--International Baptist Seminary of Ruschlikon will be featured in a three-segment series to be telecast in North America beginning Oct. 3.

The series, produced by the American Broadcasting Co. (ABC) in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, features the seminary in its role of providing theological education for Baptist ministers from Eastern Europe.

Southern Baptists, through the Foreign Mission Board, assist in the support of the seminary, which this year enrolled 73 students from 20 nations, an all-time high.

The first segment, titled "Ruschlikon: Training Christians for Marxist Society," is scheduled for feed to network affiliates at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 3, as part of the ABC Directions series.

The first segment features incoming seminary President Clyde E. Fant Jr., first-year student Zygmunt Karel, from Poland, and RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen. Host of the program is Hal Walker, an ABC news correspondent based in Bonn, West Germany.

The second two parts of the series have been filmed but not yet scheduled for airing. Tentative dates are to show the second part in November and the final segment in early 1983.

The second segment presents students from Poland, Spain, the Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark, while the concluding segment features an interview with Gunter Wagner, professor of New Testament at the seminary. Wagner has been associated with the seminary since he enrolled as a student in the first class in 1949. Host for the concluding segment is Robert Trout, veteran ABC newsman.

Hispanic Seminary Offers
'Spanish For Witnessing'

By Orville Scott

CS

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)--Since 1977 about 130 mission volunteers have received language training in an intensive six-week course at Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary, begun under the direction of Pedro V. Arrambide, professor of general studies.

Arrambide became a student at the seminary (Mexican Baptist Bible Institute before the recent merger with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary) soon after coming to Texas from Mexico in 1954. After several years as a pastor he returned to the school as professor.

Texas Baptists finance the language school through the annual Mary Hill Davis offering for state missions in September (this year's goal is \$2.7 million) and graduates are involved in mission efforts in many parts of the U.S. and Mexico, noted Arrambide.

This past summer students in the language school represented a cross section of Southern Baptist mission endeavors including: A San Antonio nursing student who said God has called her to be a missionary to Spanish-speaking people; a Waco, Texas, couple who are Mission Service Corps volunteers doing medical missions, church construction and evangelism in Honduras; a pastor's wife and her 12-year-old daughter preparing for missions with their family in Mexico; a Texas Baptist public relations employee training to help promote the Texas-Mexico evangelistic partnership and other language missions work in the state, an Anglo pastor equipping himself to lead his church in greater ministry to the three million Hispanics in Texas and a retired air traffic controller training for missions in Latin American countries.

The school's director this summer was Michael D. Thomas, professor of Spanish and Portuguese language studies at the University of Houston. He accepted Christ five years ago after "many frustrating years seeking happiness through intellectual achievements." One of his first mission commitments was a "crash course" in Portuguese during the early stages of Texas Baptists' Mission to Brazil to equip 25 new college graduates for a year of mission work in that country.

One of the student workers, J.J. Jones, now a convention employee in Dallas said, "We were amazed at how much Portuguese we were speaking after only a few weeks of intensive training."

Thomas and Arrambide explain at the beginning of the school that the key to learning enough Spanish to witness effectively in just a few weeks is largely an individual commitment and willingness to "open yourself to the Lord."

"Jesus and the Holy Spirit can give you the ability to express yourself in Spanish, just as when you witness in English," said Thomas.

The language training is interspersed with Bible study in Spanish, prayer, testimonies by students and individuals and after hours fellowship with Spanish-speaking students and faculty of the seminary. Students are encouraged to spend the last week of the program doing personal witnessing in Mexico.

Daniel J. Rivera, president of the seminary said, "We hope that many others will see this as a unique opportunity to gain some of the language skills needed to witness effectively in our state, in Mexico or wherever the Lord may lead them."

-30-

American Preachers Discover
Tanzania Hungry For Gospel

By Evelyn Knapp

RB

Baptist Press
9/14/82

KYELA, Tanzania (BP)--The guest American preacher stared with amazement as the young man crawled hurriedly down the path on his hands and feet. There was an earnestness and urgency about his movements.

Noticing he wore a broken pair of shoes on his hands and that his knees were hardened and wrinkled as though they were the soles of his feet, the American came nearer and asked through an interpreter, "Where are you going?"

-more-

"We're having a revival meeting at our church today and I don't want to be late!" the young man replied. Bill Robinson, First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., found it hard not to contrast the eagerness of the cripple who had to travel on his hands and feet to the nonchalance of churchgoers in other parts of the world.

But others were eager too. Robinson and nine other laymen and pastors who went down back roads and trails of the Kyela district of Tanzania saw 7,505 first-time decisions to become Christians during an intense two-week evangelistic effort. They visited 84 churches and 34 schools throughout the district, and the original goal of 2,000 decisions for Christ was toppled after the fourth day.

Not only was one of the pastors invited to speak at the only high school in the district, his interpreter was invited back for weekly Bible classes with all 565 students.

As Bill Billingsley, pastor of Sheridan Hills Baptist Church, Hollywood, Fla., greeted one young man who came forward, the congregation laughed out loud--the man was the town drunk. Asked why he came forward he replied, "My life needs to be changed."

The pastor told him he needed to quit drinking beer. "I've already quit," he answered. "You need to come to church," the pastor pointed out. "When they ring the bell, I'll come running," the man answered before accepting Christ as his Lord and Savior.

On another occasion a young man had an epileptic seizure and interrupted the invitation. Gary Folds, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Macon, Ga., stopped the service and prayed for the youth. Immediately, the man stopped his screams and regained control of his body. The man, his parents and several brothers and sisters all accepted Christ.

As the team traveled across the district they heard reports that the revival was continuing in the churches.

Team members were: Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, accompanied by four laymen, Robinson, Stan Pucket, John Phillips and Ben Halliday; Billingsley, accompanied by layman Steve McDonald of Sheridan Hills church; James Tisdale, pastor of First Baptist Church, Scottsboro, Ala.; Carl Kuhl, a dentist from Louisville, Ky., and Folds.

-30-

Brazilian President Joins
120,000 At Baptist Crusade

RB

Baptist Press
9/14/82

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP)--Some 120,000 people, including Brazilian President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo, heard Brazilian Baptist evangelist Nilson Fanini preach Aug. 28 in Rio de Janeiro.

The throng gathered at Maracana Stadium, the world's largest soccer area, as 32 musical groups sang, the National Marine band performed and white doves and balloons headed skyward.

Fanini, heard weekly on television and radio in Brazil and surrounding South American countries, preached on the crusade theme, "God Save the Family." Figueiredo also spoke, declaring the family is the base of society, preparing children for adult life and productivity.

Often called the "Billy Graham of Brazil," Fanini is pastor of 3,500 member First Baptist Church of Niteroiemba.

-30-