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83-33

Jonsson Reverses Mission Flow;  
From South Africa To America

By Marv Knox

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--From ministry among the Zulus to teaching American seminary students, John Jonsson defies the stereotype of a bigoted white South African.

That's because the professor of missions and world religions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., has spent his life trying to show people the love of God, not the shackles of racism.

Born to Scandinavian Baptists who evangelized the Zulu-speaking people of South Africa, Jonsson grew up on the mission field. But in a culture where white outsiders controlled black native residents, he was not allowed the selfish luxury of paternalism.

"As children we were taught to differentiate but not to discriminate," he remembers, noting the worth of individuals is the same, regardless of backgrounds.

That idea of equality is supported by the teachings of the Bible, Jonsson claims. He calls it "incarnational ethics," the ability to see something of Jesus in everyone.

"I've never seen Jesus face-to-face, but I have seen my children," he explains. "Since they are his creations, what I do to them affects him. This is true beyond my family. How I treat Africans, Americans, everyone reflects how I treat Jesus."

Jonsson did not come by his convictions lightly. When he completed secondary school and asked his missionary father what theological education he should choose, the elder Jonsson told him, "Go into the world and make yourself useful."

"Working in electrical engineering in a secular environment, I learned to be authentic. A Christian must earn the right to bear witness through the demonstration of Christ's life in one's own behavior," he reflects.

With such a foundation, he sought to "personalize" the revelation of God by attempting to display the love of Christ.

A major portion of his quest was spent examining claims of the Bible, supplemented by researching psychology, mythology and anthropology to understand how humans think as religious beings. All of this supported his faith in the Bible which "speaks to the modern world and always comes forth as the word of God."

"The Bible became a basis for my ministry and research because it provides us with all sorts of possibilities for doing missions in a pluralistic society," Jonsson says.

"With increased ease of travel, the whole world is becoming much like Palestine was in Bible days. In communicating the gospel, we must learn how to relate to an age of conflict, from a serious study of the context in which the scriptures emerged."

His desire to do just that pushed Jonsson to earn five degrees in biblical, theological and religious studies. He went on to co-found Treverton College in South Africa, serve as president of the Baptist Theological College of Southern Africa and teach history of religions at the University of Natal. He also was elected president of the Baptist Union of South Africa and the South African Baptist Missionary Society.

Yet when Southern Seminary beckoned, Jonsson resigned the top teaching post in his field at the University of Natal. He and his wife, Gladys, left three grown children and moved halfway around the world a little more than a year ago.

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His decision to move was made with the conviction of necessity. His goal was to equip persons to minister redemptively in a changing world.

"Today we are moving into a global village situation," J nsson explains. "The world is shrinking as peoples of all kinds of faiths and religions are being brought together. It is to this we must address ourselves in the interest of ministry."

-30-

(BP) photo mailed to Baptist state newspapers by Southern Seminary

Anti-Tuition Tax Credit  
Petitions Go To Congress

By Larry Chesser

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WASHINGTON (BP)--More than one-half million signatures on petitions opposing President Reagan's tuition tax credit proposal have been delivered to key congressional opponents of the measure.

The National Coalition for Public Education, representing 45 education, labor, civil rights and church groups (including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs) turned over the petitions to Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., and Rep. Timothy E. Wirth, D-Colo., at a Capitol Hill press conference.

Hollings and Wirth attacked the tax credit proposal as expensive, unfair and unconstitutional.

Hollings, who led a previous effort in the Senate to turn back tuition tax credits, said the plan "would benefit few at the expense of many, violate the clear meaning of the First Amendment and add a sea of red ink to a budget already drowning our economy."

Despite administration estimates the phased-in program would cost only \$200 million in fiscal 1984, climbing to \$800 million by 1986, Hollings charged it would eventually become a \$20 billion government program and criticized Reagan for proposing it in light of his repeated pledge to cut the size of the federal government.

Wirth charged the administration program would mean federal government spending per pupil in private schools, attended by approximately 10 percent of the nation's students, would exceed per pupil expenditures in public schools.

By proposing the measure, he added, the administration is neglecting "fundamental fairness."

In addition to calling tuition tax credits a "foot-in-the-door" economically and a "budget buster," Hollings said the measure is also "foot-in-the-door constitutionally", noting 90 percent of private schools have religious affiliations.

Hollings said much of the flight from public schools to private schools is an effort to avoid integrated education and, by proposing tuition tax credits, the administration is encouraging parents to seek alternatives to integrated education.

The proposal, Hollings added in response to a question, says the same thing about the administration's civil rights record as its 1981 reversal of Internal Revenue Service policy denying tax-exempt status to racially discriminatory private schools. Following adverse public reaction to that switch, the administration partially reversed itself again and the issue is now pending before the Supreme Court in cases involving Bob Jones University and Goldsboro (N.C) Christian Schools.

The Supreme Court, Hollings said, "has made clear the duty of public government in education. It has a fundamental responsibility to foster and support public schools. Its responsibility to private schools is to leave them alone."

-30-

Administration Defends  
Tuition Tax Credits

By Gerri Ratliff

WASHINGTON(BP)--Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell has defended tuition tax credits as a proposal designed to provide equity for parents who send their children to non-public schools, not to benefit private institutions.

Bell told a House appropriations subcommittee the proposal also is designed to encourage diversity and competition in the education system.

"The United States is the only modern, industrialized nation that does not provide a tuition tax credit system," he said.

Responding to a question about the impact on public schools, Bell said under a similar program in the state of Minnesota, public school enrollment increased and, "we don't think this benefit would be that harmful to the public schools."

Rep. Steny H. Hoyer, D-Md., questioned Bell's statement and said, "Minnesota is 96.7 percent white. I have a concern for other areas that most rely on public education."

Under the proposal, parents with adjusted gross incomes of \$40,000 or less would receive a tax credit of \$100 this year, \$200 in 1984 and \$300 in 1985, he said. Smaller credits would be given to parents with adjusted gross incomes up to \$60,000.

Rep. John E. Porter, R-Ill., asked if Bell's projected costs of \$100 million the first year, \$200 million the second and \$300 million the third would be of better benefit to children in another program, such as Title I funds for educationally disadvantaged children.

"Low-income parents who are not happy need an alternative," Bell said. Tuition tax credits would also benefit minorities, he said. "Surprising numbers of minority parents are sending students to private schools at enormous sacrifice. We want to give them a little bit of assistance."

Other administration officials, members of Congress and organizations fighting tuition tax credits place the estimates much higher than Bell.

Bell also outlined a proposed voucher system to meet the needs of disadvantaged children. "Some children need an option besides their Title I school. Under our proposal, a child could go to another public school or a private school."

The voucher program would be under local school authority, he said, but "there has not been an overwhelming interest in the voucher system by school districts," even though "a few individuals want the flexibility of the money following the child."

The secretary of education was appearing before the subcommittee to request \$13.2 billion for fiscal year 1984 and a reduction of \$1.2 billion from the 1983 enacted appropriation level of \$15.1 billion. Budget initiatives for 1984 include a requirement that college students provide at least 40 percent of their costs from non-government sources before receiving federal grant assistance.

-30-

Cave Burial Site Yields  
Ice Age Skeletons, Artifacts

By Alan Hunt

Baptist Press  
3/3/83

WACO, Texas (BP)--The skeletons of an Ice Age man and a child found in a cave burial site in central Texas could be the oldest human remains ever discovered in Texas and among the oldest in the Western Hemisphere.

Professors from Baylor University, affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, participated in the discovery.

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Found with the skeletons were a number of stone tools, necklaces, ornaments and food to prepare them for their "life in the next world," according to John W. Fox, associate professor of sociology and anthropology at Baylor. "These burial artifacts interred with the two individuals 10,000 years ago provide science's first systematic view of Ice Age man's ideological or religious patterns."

Fox termed the site and its findings a national treasure. "The remains are two of less than a half dozen complete Paleo-Indian skeletons found so far," he said. "They are the only Ice Age burial remains found in the Western Hemisphere with a wide array of burial goods."

The cave, 20 miles northwest of Waco, Texas, on the banks of the Brazos River, also yielded the remains of several extinct animals hunted by Ice Age man, including a giant armadillo, a ground sloth and a large turtle. The bones of large game, such as bison and deer, also were found, but of particular significance was the abundance of small game remains such as rabbits, mice, rats, turtle, fish, snakes and birds.

"Many of these bones were charred from cooking," Fox said. "This could be among the few sites in North America showing a largely small game subsistence economy at about 10,000 years ago. Previously, this was thought to only characterize the subsequent Archaic stage, beginning at about 8,000 years ago."

The Ice Age man occupying the cave apparently developed a new flint projectile point to hunt these small animals, Fox said. A number of these were found in the cave, differing considerably in shape and size from other flint projectiles normally associated with the Paleo-Indian period, but made by similar methods.

The newly discovered tools have been cataloged by archaeologists as the "Brazos Fishtail" because of the pronounced "ears" fashioned at the rear of the sharp projectile. These "ears", along with a distinctive hollowed-out or "fluted" section, served to retain the binding attaching the flint to the tip of a spear.

Excavation operations have been conducted at the cave site for 15 years. Many of Texas' professional archaeologists have been invited to witness the excavation and Baylor anthropology students have been involved in the "dig" for the past five years.

Fox said the burial site is important in archaeological terms because it could have been a major Ice Age meeting point--"a kind of transitional zone linking these people from both the east and west." He added, "Some of the artifacts found there tend to support this theory of a communication network that probably spanned much of the Southwest during the Ice Age.

"A sea shell pendant discovered in the cave was identified as originating from the Gulf of Mexico and we also found samples of red Alibates flint, which comes from the Texas Panhandle. The Eden projectile points found may derive from the northern plains, perhaps as far north as the Dakotas and Wyoming.

Fox said the skeletons are fully modern (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) in appearance. "The quite pronounced eyebrow ridges of the adult male resemble those of Gulf coastal populations in Texas well into recent times," he said. "In skull form, their features are quite similar to those found at Choukoutien (Upper Cave) in China and at Predmost in Czechoslovakia, also dating from the end of the Ice Age 30,000 to 10,000 years ago.

"The heavy wear on the back teeth (molars) of the adult also suggest a foraging way of life in which plant foods and small animals figured prominently in their diet."

The skeletons were found covered, except for the heads, by a stone slab. Both were in the "flexed" position. The head of the adult skeleton was resting on a turtle shell, suggesting some kind of ritual significance.

In addition to the Ice Age remains, the cave contains evidence of occupation by successive cultural groups spanning more than 10,000 years up through the present century, including other burial sites, arrow points, pottery and 20th-century iron artifacts, Fox said.

Tape Ministry Leads  
Coupl To Mission Field

By Larry High

HIGH POINT, N.C. (BP)--Two more missionaries are in Ghana, Africa, because a woman tape records Royal Service magazine for the blind.

Saralyn Collins, wife of the pastor of Green Street Baptist Church in High Point, N.C., records the Woman's Missionary Union publication each month so cassette tapes can be sent to visually impaired Baptists.

Until Granny Robertson's death in 1981 the tapes were sent monthly to her in Alabama. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Dothan, Ala., where Marshall Collins had been pastor before going to North Carolina in 1975.

The Royal Service tapes were played for the blind women in her home where she lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Beth and Dean Byrd.

Collins admits, while recording, she often thinks of a person or a couple who could fill one of the needs for missionary volunteers. While reading a request for a hospital administrator, Collins was thinking of the Byrds, knowing they would hear the tape when Robertson received it.

Byrd was administrator of Southeast Alabama Medical Center, 1956-1978, before moving to Birmingham as his retirement years approached.

When Collins read the request for a hospital administrator in Ghana she said, "I know a couple that is getting close to retirement age that this would fit perfectly and I'm praying they will be thinking about doing some volunteer mission work.

"I never mentioned their name but a few weeks later I got a letter from the Byrds, asking, 'Are you talking about us?'"

Over a course of time the Byrds became more conscious of what they could do in missions. Then the Foreign Mission Board scheduled a missionary appointment time in Birmingham.

The Byrds attended the service and met briefly with John Mills, area director for West Africa. Because of age they could not be appointed associate missionaries. But other avenues of missionary appointment were open and they were asked to go to Richmond to discuss appointment to a special two-year volunteer mission project.

After a complete battery of tests--psychological and medical--the Byrds were approved for appointment on Oct. 13, 1982, to the Baptist Hospital Center in Nalerigu, Ghana.

"The Byrds have said what actually got them on the path to missionary service was listening to these tapes from Royal Service. I feel there's a real connection there. There is a good chance it would have happened over a period of years anyway. But the fact they zeroed in on this, and something they heard hit them exactly at the right time, is a source of good feeling for me," Collins said.

Collins has been recording Royal Service for two years and her husband is about to begin a ministry of recording the Brotherhood Commission publication, World Mission Journal.