

**(BP)****BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Jun 8, 1983

83-88

**Jerry Clower To Host TV Version  
Of 'Country Crossroads' For ACTS**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Comedian Jerry Clower has agreed to host a television version of the popular "Country Crossroads" radio program for the American Christian Television System (ACTS).

Produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, the program will be a weekly feature on ACTS, Southern Baptists' national TV network scheduled for launch next May.

Clower will team with Hall of Fame disc jockey Bill Mack on the show. Clower and Mack co-host the radio version of "Country Crossroads," heard each week on 1,422 stations nationwide, and will recreate their roles for the TV version.

The agreement with Clower and Mack covers the first 13 episodes of the new one-hour program, which will be videotaped June 20-24 before a live audience at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington. The Brooks Brothers Band, recently voted the best country band in Texas, will perform on most of the shows.

Country stars scheduled to appear include Helen Cornelius, Roy Drusky, George Hamilton IV, Walt Mills, Susan Raye and Jeannie C. Riley. Each will perform and be interviewed on two shows. A newcomer to country music will also be featured on each episode.

Jim Rupe, producer of "Crossroads" for both radio and TV, said the format of the new show will draw much from the old. Country music and interviews with performers will be mixed with spiritual insight.

Rupe has been using that formula successfully since the show premiered on radio in 1969. Mack, one of the most famous disc jockeys in country music, has been with "Crossroads" from the start. Clower joined the team three years later.

A member of the Grand Ole Opry, Clower hosted another TV show, the syndicated "Nashville on the Road" and has recorded thirteen albums and written two books. He also is a deacon in First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, Miss.

In addition to hosting the new "Crossroads," Clower will offer some of his homespun humor on each episode while visiting different spots in the Six Flags amusement park.

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(BP photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by RTVC)

Golden Gate Graduates 82;  
Cauthen Delivers AddressBaptist Press  
6/8/83

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--"When God places his hand on us, life takes on new meaning," Baker James Cauthen told the 35th graduating class at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Cauthen reminded the class their call to ministry and preparation for Christian service have set them apart. "Although we are privileged to communicate the gospel, we are burdened with responsibility for it as well," he added. "We must remember we are called to a gospel for all nations--it is for all mankind."

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Reflecting on the current nuclear age in which we live, Cauthen said, "This is a day of fabulous possibilities and indescribable horrors. The nuclear bomb is here. I don't believe that foolish, selfish, sinful man can ever annihilate himself. I believe this is in the hands of God. But," he added, "God has given us the responsibility to try to put it all together--to reconcile it all. You have been set apart for the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Recalling his graduation from seminary 50 years ago, Cauthen reminded the commencement audience, "Wherever your ministry takes you, let Jesus be your unfailing testimony. He is where the power lies. If you have anything to do for Jesus Christ, do it now. Time won't wait, it gets by fast."

Cauthen, former head of the SBC's Foreign Mission Board, is distinguished visiting professor of world missions at the seminary.

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Six States Provide  
Officers For BPRA

Baptist Press  
6/8/83

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--A new slate of officers for the Baptist Public Relations Association was elected at the annual workshop in Memphis. The eight officers represent Baptist agencies in six states with three working at the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr., associate editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message, was selected president; Bonita Sparrow, promotion director of the Radio-Television Commission in Fort Worth, Texas, was elected program vice president, and Mike Creswell, associate editor of The Commission at the FMB, was picked as membership vice president.

Dan Euliss, assistant communications director for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, is the new newsletter editor; Virginia Flanagan, director of public relations and alumni at Campbellsville (Ky.) College, is secretary and Tim Nicholas, associate editor of the Mississippi Baptist Record, is treasurer.

Bob Desbien, projects coordinator in communications at the FMB, is the awards chairman for this year and Irma Duke, information services coordinator for the FMB, was appointed to handle the BPRA's placement service that seeks to match qualified BPRA members with jobs in SBC national and state agencies.

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(BP photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Baptist Press)

Emergency Calls Should Go  
To SBC Office In Pittsburgh

Baptist Press  
6/8/83

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The 15,000 Southern Baptists expected to invade Pittsburgh for the annual SBC meeting June 14-16, will be scattered all over the city.

To help locate anyone for an emergency message, you may call the Southern Baptist Convention Office at the Pittsburgh Civic Arena at 412-288-0192.

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Vandals Damage French Church;  
Harass SBC Missionary Couple

Baptist Press  
6/8/83

BORDEAUX, France (BP)--Vandals sprayed "C.I.A." on the front window of Bordeaux (France) Baptist Church in early May shortly after a French telecast speculated evangelicals in Central America are used as information sources by the Central Intelligence Agency.

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Southern Baptist missionary pastor Gene Phillips said the letters also were sprayed on a garage next door to the church, on two other nearby buildings and on the pavement, all with arrows pointing toward the church. The following night, someone added (in French) "Down with Yankee Imperialism" to the message on the pavement.

Phillips and his wife, Jackie, have been awakened at all hours of the night by telephone calls during the past few weeks. When they answer, there is only silence.

Through the years, the Foreign Mission Board has taken a strong stand against any attempt to use its missionaries in intelligence gathering. In a meeting a year ago with the board's president, R. Keith Parks, and executive vice president, William R. O'Brien, CIA director William Casey affirmed the board's position that to involve missionaries in intelligence activities violates the First Amendment to the Constitution regarding separation of church and state.

Parks maintained in that meeting any CIA use of missionaries "jeopardizes not only the work of missionaries but has the potential of putting them in a dangerous situation and even jeopardizes their lives as well as our being able to stay and work in various countries."

Vandalism and harassment are not new for the little congregation of 40 members. Their large front window has been broken three times during the past year.

The adversity has only strengthened the church members' resolve to witness to their faith, Phillips said. As he helped a nearly blind neighbor clean graffiti from her shutters, the missionary pastor shared information about the church with the crowd of sympathetic passers-by that gathered.

He said neighbors have been supportive of the church, which the Phillipses began in 1976.

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

Book Profits Prompt  
Check for \$25,000

Baptist Press  
6/8/83

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A Kentucky pastor and a missionary presented to the Foreign Mission Board a \$25,000 check from profits of a book the missionary wrote about Bangladesh.

The book, "Death to Life--Bangladesh," was written by Southern Baptist missionary Jim McKinley about his family's experience during the war which resulted in the death of East Pakistan and the birth of Bangladesh as a nation.

It was published in 1978 by Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., where Bill Hancock is pastor. To date, 52,000 copies have been published in the States and 4,000 in Bangladesh. McKinley hopes to have a Bengali translation soon.

The money is to be used to build an auditorium and training center for Baptist lay leaders in Bangladesh. The center will be built on property of Immanuel Baptist Church in Dhaka, but will be owned by the Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship (national convention).

McKinley says sales have been slow because the book has not appeared in bookstores, which would take a share of the profits, and the church staff is not equipped to handle single-copy requests. But sales have improved in recent months and McKinley hopes the trend will continue. "Many churches and church groups have helped tremendously," he says.

Earlier First Baptist Church of Central City, Ky., where Wilson Lofland, a former missionary to East Pakistan, is pastor, sent a check for \$2,180. In turn, Highview church sent copies of the book to more than 500 pastors in Texas, Lofland's home state.

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

Georgia Church Donates \$160,000  
Building Fund To Canadian Church

By Michael Tutterow

ATLANTA (BP)--"God has stepped in in a marvelous way and has answered our prayers," said Bo Brantley, pastor of Victoria Baptist Church in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Brantley had reason to celebrate. Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., notified him June 6 his church would receive a \$160,000 gift.

Eastside pastor Clark Hutchinson said his church voted to draw the money from their current building fund and donate it to the Victoria congregation to help the church purchase a third acre of land and establish a permanent home.

Hutchinson learned of Brantley and the Victoria church while on a recent Home Mission Board of directors' tour to the Northwest and Canada. Brantley shared his church's goals and the struggles he has faced as its pastor for the past seven-and-a-half years.

"As we had talked about Bold Mission Thrust," said Hutchinson, "I felt responsible to step out and help the Victoria church."

Hutchinson returned to Georgia and told the Eastside congregation of the Victoria church's efforts to reach Vancouver's 500,000 residents, only six percent of which are affiliated with an evangelical church. Hutchinson also said the Victoria congregation needed an additional acre of land in order to have enough to build a permanent home while allowing room for expansion.

But property runs \$160,000 (\$200,000 in Canadian dollars) an acre. A recent decision by the Victoria church to build with cash rather than to secure additional loans prohibited the idea of another mortgage and increased debt, said Brantley.

The Eastside church had made a similar decision and was engaged in building an educational unit. "God had led Bo to the point of building debt-free," says Hutchinson. "We need d to encourage that."

After Hutchinson told Eastside members about Brantley's work, a deacon suggested the church "step out on faith" and donate \$100,000 to the Victoria congregation.

After several weeks of prayer and discussion, Hutchinson met with the deacons. In a secret ballot on June 5, the group unanimously voted to send the total amount to buy the third acre and planned to take the idea before the church for a vote sometime this summer.

But following the evening worship service choral presentation of "Call to My People," the story of Baptist missions pioneer Luther Rice, Hutchinson felt the time was right. He called the church into business and the congregation "voted overwhelmingly" to take the money from the church's building fund and donate it to the Victoria church.

A spirit of giving continued. An Eastside businessman, working on a project in Canada, pledged his commission to the Victoria church, an amount totaling more than \$1,500.

The timing was perfect, claimed Brantley. The Victoria church had planned to pay off the mortgage on the first two acres of land and then purchase the third within the next five years. Brantley recently learned the third acre was slated for development before the church would have had the money to buy it.

The gift frees the Victoria congregation to do more in missions, Brantley said. He explained the church intends to be a mission planter, starting congregations throughout Vancouver and British Columbia, using money that would have been tied up in loan payments.

"British Columbia is the most unchurched Canadian province," Brantley said. "We see the need for beginning many new churches."

Now with the money from the Eastside church, Brantley said the congregation can work on paying off the remainder of the debt and move way ahead of schedule on building a permanent home for the congregation, which draws 170 people for Sunday services.

The church plans to set aside June 12 as a day of praise and thanksgiving to celebrate the Eastside gift. Brantley will visit Eastside Baptist Church in July but details of how the money will be presented have not been completed.

"This is something the Lord has done," Brantley exclaimed. "It reminds us of the faithfulness of our heavenly Father toward his children and that God blesses his people when they are obedient. It gives our people a real affirmation and confirmation of the direction of the church to take the good news of Jesus Christ to lost people."

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Southern Baptists to Aid  
Abandoned Brazilian Children

Baptist Press  
6/8/83

SAO PAULO, Brazil (BP)--Southern Baptists will spend about \$680,000 over the next three years to aid some of the thousands of abandoned children in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The first appropriation of \$340,000 was released the end of May.

An estimated 600,000 children and youths comb the streets of Brazil's largest city in search of food and shelter. Some maintain contact with poor parents or relatives who can't support them, but many are sucked into the street world of violence, crime and exploitation.

The hunger and relief money will provide food and basic operating expenses for three children's homes run by Brazilian Baptists in and around Sao Paulo.

That help, plus funding for building improvements, will enable the homes to use other resources to increase their shelter capacity from 215 to 350 children, begin job training programs and employ a development officer to raise funds.

Baptists in Sao Paulo have agreed to provide more trained social workers and at least one chaplain. Many of the children are led to faith in Christ and baptized in local Baptist churches before they leave the homes.

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