



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

# --FEATURES

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Concentration Camp Meeting  
R lived 38 Years Later

By Jerilyn Armstrong

DALLAS (BP)--Beryl Welch Goodland and Theo Welch first met James Moore on Aug. 17, 1945, when he parachuted near the Weihsien concentration camp in Mainland China.

Moore brought the news of the end of World War II to the camp which had held Eric Little (the Olympic runner featured in the movie "Chariots of Fire") as well as the two children.

The next time the three met was 38 years later at Wilshire Church in Dallas on Oct. 16.

Goodland and Welch are part of a 23-member lay mission team from Gorsley, England, which worked at Wilshire Oct. 11-25. Goodland's husband, Pat, is pastor of Gorsley Baptist Church.

Moore, a retired CIA employee, lives with his wife in Dallas.

"Aug. 17, 1945, was a day of tremendous excitement," Welch said. "I was 13-years-old and a member seeing the plane circling low over the camp and then seven parachutes descending. We all knew it was good news and ran past the guards, out of the gates to greet the paratroopers and celebrate the end of the war."

Welch and Goodland are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Welch who served in the China Inland Mission as teachers to missionary children from 1922 to 1945.

One of their pupils was Moore, the son of Southern Baptist missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. J. Walton Moore, who served in Mainland China from 1920 to 1938.

Moore returned to the United States in 1936 to attend Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. During World War II he served with the FBI and, in 1944, went to work for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in southeast Asia.

"I had just completed jumping school and was scheduled to drop ammunition and medical supplies to a nationalist Chinese general when the war ended," Moore said.

"Our offices then were instructed to bring the news to the Japanese concentration camps and get medical supplies to those in critical need. I was very pleased to be sent to Weihsien since several of my boyhood professors were there and it was great to see them and renew those friendships."

The paratroopers "all were heroes that day," Welch said. "We had no radios or direct contact with the outside world but through rumors understood the war had turned in our direction. It was like we all had been waiting for the day when the announcement would come but never knowing when that would occur. The excitement is difficult to describe."

The Welch family lived in the concentration camp for three years where the internees were guarded by the Japanese but were responsible for running the camp.

Each person had a responsibility. Gorda Welch was the baker for quite a while as well as a teacher, and Theo Welch's chores included pumping water and carrying the eggshells to be ground for including in our cereal as a calcium supplement.

Until his death, Little was in charge of sports at the camp and took care of the equipment.

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Before the war the Scottish missionary worked with college students at a university in Northern China. His wife and children were allowed to leave China when hostilities broke out, but he remained to continue his work and was sent to the Weihsien camp in 1942.

"I think the movie portrayed Little as he really was--a shy, fairly quiet person who was also very kind," Welch said. "He took particular interest in the welfare of the children and it was quite a tragedy when he died of a brain tumor in the camp."

The reunion among the three was arranged when Welch realized he and his sister would be visiting in Dallas.

"There is a very active alumni group among the Chinese mission school and Beryl and Theo had read that I was retired and living in Dallas," Moore explained.

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Nevada Baptists Elect Layman,  
Approve First \$1 Million Budget

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RENO, Nev. (BP)--Nevada Baptists adopted their first \$1 million plus budget, increased their contributions to the national Cooperative Program by two percent and elected their first layman as president at the annual meeting of the Nevada Baptist Convention.

The meeting, held at First Southern Baptist Church in Reno, also featured a celebration of the NBC's fifth anniversary as a state convention.

The 1984 budget of \$1,043,472 contrasts with the convention's first budget of \$390,006 in 1979. The new budget will include \$552,900 in contributions from the Home Mission Board with the remainder being provided by Nevada Baptist churches.

The increase in state convention Cooperative Program participation means Nevada will send 20 percent of its state receipts on to the worldwide mission and education programs of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Jerry Johnston, Reno businessman, was elected president; Mike Proctor, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Fallon, was elected first vice president and Robert Holmes, pastor of First Baptist Church, Henderson, was elected second vice president.

Messengers also gave first year approval to the formation of a foundation. The 1984 convention must give approval before the foundation can be established.

A resolution calling for Oct. 26-Nov. 2 to be observed as a week of prayer for the "current political situations" in Lebanon and Grenada was also passed.

The Nevada Baptist Convention was among the first state conventions to adopt the new Annuity Board plan scheduled for implementation in 1988. Gene Daniel, senior vice president of marketing of the Annuity Board, presented the report to the convention messengers who then adopted the new plan.

Robert Lee, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, reported on the Louisiana/Nevada linkage partnership that was established in 1982.

The 1984 meeting will be Oct. 23-24 at Desert Hills Baptist Church in Las Vegas.

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House Funding Bill Would  
Preserve Non-Profit Rates

By Larry Chesser

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10/28/83

WASHINGTON (BP)--Non-profit postal rates would remain at current levels throughout fiscal 1984 under a funding bill passed Oct. 27 by the U.S. House of Representatives.

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The \$11.9 billion Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill passed by the House on a voice vote contained \$879 million for the postal subsidy which provides reduced mail rates for a wide range of non-profit organizations, the full amount needed to maintain current rates.

However, non-profit mailers could face a rate increase if the Senate, which has yet to pass its Treasury-Postal Service funding bill, goes along with the \$802 million postal subsidy figure approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Non-profit rates would be hiked an estimated 4 to 12 percent under the Senate committee bill.

The Senate is expected to act soon on the Postal Service funding measure because the stopgap bill currently funding it is due to expire Nov. 10. If the Senate settles on the figure approved by its Appropriations Committee, House-Senate conferees would then work out differences between the two bills.

Congress will be forced to pass another stopgap funding bill for all government programs for which it has failed to complete regular appropriations bills by Nov. 10.

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Southern Baptists Challenged  
To Involve Students In Missions

By Michael Tutterow

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ATLANTA (BP)--Because students live in an environment of change, Southern Baptists must adapt "if we are to remain alive with the good news" for today's students, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board leader told state student directors meeting in Atlanta.

M. Wendell Belew, director of the HMB's missions ministries division, told the group college students face a barrage of new ideas which call into question the validity of the traditional church.

Accompanying new religious thought is "religious civility," added Belew, a mindset that allows freedom of belief but shys away from responsibility to tell who Jesus Christ is for fear of infringing on the right to free belief.

Belew noted in the past 15 years, more than 1,300 new religious groups have been introduced in the United States. But he warned, though many use the name of Christ, they are not "Christian."

Muslims are the fastest growing religious group in the country, channeling funds in excess of the HMB's annual budget into the United States for Muslim outreach, Belew said.

Belew called on state directors of student work to "propagate a real theology" among students which emphasizes the mission of the church and the responsibility of each believer to be on mission. He also called for the church to redefine its mission in terms of servanthood.

Too often, said Belew, Southern Baptists talk of missions as "taking" a community for Christ. But, he asserted, "Christ came to give, to minister."

Nelson Tilton, associate director of HMB church extension, challenged state student directors to encourage students to consider starting new churches. Tilton noted already the board annually uses 100-200 first-year seminary students in a church starting program called PRAXIS. He added college seniors could be an untapped resource for church starting.

Tilton advocated students participate in church extension as bivocational ministers. To meet an SBC goal to start 14,000 churches by the year 2000, Southern Baptists will have to adopt new models of the church, including ones led by bi-vocational ministers, he said.

State student directors also addressed HMB staff, pleading for reinforcement of the importance of student work from national agencies to state staffers.

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Eddie Olds, state student director for Iowa Southern Baptists, also asked the Baptist Sunday School Board, which has the program assignment for student work, and the Home Mission Board to clarify their responsibilities for campus ministry and free up restrictions which limit campus ministry personnel from being appointed.

Olds requested HMB help in "refining the process" in state linkages and support between established and newer state conventions. To help newer convention areas develop student ministries, Olds suggested established convention student directors take sabbatical leaves, with salaries paid by the HMB and/or the state convention, and take up residence on a new convention area campus and start a Baptist Student Union there.

Bob Lee, Oklahoma student director, called on each established state convention to take a portion of their summer missions offerings, pool the monies with other state conventions and fund student work in new convention areas. He also proposed the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board match whatever funds state conventions raised for such a project.

Don Hammonds, director of HMB special mission ministries department, explained the board was attempting to push for a higher priority on student work, especially in new convention areas. He added the agency would be open to the idea of special funding for student work projects and to using state student directors on sabbatical to establish new BSUs. He also said the board was exploring ways to more effectively use seminary students in student work.

Belew emphasized the need for Southern Baptists to find new ways to minister and involve students in mission, advocating models of ministry free from "materialistic influence." "The church has a hard time producing the force to outweigh the force of culture" today, he lamented.

"We don't need pastors who will stand behind pulpits and declare what's wrong with the world but those who will go into the world with the good news," Belew said. "Proclamation is not just what we shout from the pulpit or pass out in tracts but how we live in the world."

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Zimbabwe Baptists Respond  
To Mozambique Missions

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GWERU, Zimbabwe (BP)--The Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe, during its annual meeting, voted to send at least 20 Zimbabwean men into Mozambique for a month to help train Baptist leaders.

The Zimbabweans responded to appeals from two convention leaders who had returned from a two-week visit to Mozambique.

More than 20 persons volunteered for the assignment. Pledges of financial support for the project totaled \$737 including \$600 promised by three individuals. It will cost \$200 for each volunteer.

Both Zimbabwe and Mozambique have Marxist-led governments. Mozambique is currently closed to Southern Baptist missionaries.

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Wake Forest Drive  
Exceeds \$20 Million

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)--Wake Forest University has raised over \$20 million in a nationwide campaign, exceeding the drive's goal by more than \$2.5 million.

The drive, the Sesquicentennial Campaign, is scheduled to end in 1984, the 150th anniversary of the school's founding.

The campaign, the largest in the school's history, is the final phase of a three-part capital improvements program which was begun by the university in 1972 and now has raised over \$41 million.

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Baptist Schools Examine  
Ways To Grow Leadership

By Lonnie Wilkey

ATLANTA (BP)--A lack of quality leadership is one of the biggest dilemmas faced by Southern Baptists and our nation today, says the chairman of a recently appointed steering committee of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

R. Kirby Godsey, president of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., met in Atlanta for the first meeting with a committee whose task is to develop plans for a National Education Conference in 1986. The conference will be sponsored by ASBCS and the Southern Baptist Conv ntion Education Commission.

The conference's proposed theme, "Equipping for Leadership," ties in with the SBC's overall theme of Bold Mission Thrust for 1985-90.

It would be hard to find a more appropriate theme, Godsey said, because all levels of society are looking for leadership, including churches, communities, businesses and colleges. "The vacuum of leadership is a serious problem for our society."

He said the largest challenge facing Southern Baptists is defining what it means to lead and how Baptist educational institutions are going to "grow" leaders.

Godsey defined a leader as one who can free persons from their own behavior and expectations and enable them to consider new possibilities.

Equipping leaders, not only for ministry, but for careers in other vocations, is a primary concern of Baptist institutions, he said.

The k y, according to Godsey, is for colleges to raise the level of competence of students before they graduate.

"A real issue for Southern Baptist schools is to make sure we are preparing people who, when they graduate, know more than they did when they entered our schools."

The 1986 conference has two goals--to celebrate the past and present contributions of Baptist schools in equipping lay and vocational leaders for church and society and to recognize the role colleges will play in equipping leadership for the 21st century.

The committee has representatives from 13 Southern Baptist entities (seven universities, two seminaries, one Bible college, one academy, one state convention and one national agency) from nine states.

Committee members, who will be involved in several more planning sessions before the conference, include Godsey; J. Morris Ashcraft, dean of the faculty, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; Jack E. Byrom, president, San Marcos Baptist Academy, San Marcos, Texas;

Thomas E. Corts, president, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; Walter D. Draughon, academic dean, Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla.; Jesse Fletcher, president, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas; Larry Lewis, president, Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo.; Stanley G. Lott, vice president for academic affairs, Louisiana College, Pineville, La.;

T. Robert Mullinax, executive secretary, Council on Christian Higher Education, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Raleigh; W. Dewey Presley, businessman and chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, Dallas; William E. Troutt, president, Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn.; Thomas Turner, vice president for academic affairs, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Milton Ferguson (Ex Officio), president, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.