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November 22, 1983

83-180

**Missionary Hit And Killed
By Argentine Express Train**

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary Kent W. Balyeat was killed in Buenos Aires, when he walked in front of an express train late in the evening Nov. 21.

Balyeat, 58, was returning home from International Baptist Theological Seminary when he stepped off his bus and walked across the railroad tracks nearby, apparently not seeing an oncoming train.

He and his wife, the former Lloydene Umstot of Kansas, were appointed missionaries in 1961. He had been director of the church music school at the seminary since 1977.

Mrs. Balyeat was to attend a memorial service at the seminary and burial in Buenos Aires before leaving Nov. 23 for Atlanta, Ga., where the family will meet her.

A native of Alexandria, La., Balyeat was graduated from Ottaway (Kan.) University with the bachelor of arts degree: from Colorado State College (now University of Northern Colorado), Greeley, with the master of arts degree: and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, with the master of church music degree.

Before his appointment he taught music in Kansas public schools and was music director for churches in Oklahoma and Texas. He was professor of church music at the seminary in Buenos Aires for 15 years before becoming director.

Besides his wife, he is survived by four children: Michael, of Fairfax, Ala.; Merry Carol and David, of Dallas, Texas; and Susan Keshtkar, of Austin, Texas. His mother, Mrs. Elbert Weir lives in San Rafael, Calif., and his sister, Mrs. Stanton Nash, lives in Fort Worth.

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

Southeastern Trustees
Ratify Election Of Balentine

Baptist Press
11/22/83

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--In their semi-annual meeting, the trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary elected officers and ratified a previous mail ballot electing Samuel E. Balentine to the faculty.

Reelected chairman was W. Lee Beaver, layman from Chesterfield, Mo.

Samuel E. Balentine, assistant professor of Hebrew and Old Testament, assumed his teaching responsibilities with the current semester. He is a native of South Carolina, and a graduate of Furman University, Southeastern Seminary and Oxford University. From 1979 to 1983, he was on the faculty of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

The trustees also adopted a new fee schedule for the 1984-85 year, maintaining the current matriculation fees, but increasing slightly certain other fees and rents; designated retired professors John T. Wayland, James Leo Green, Garland A. Hendricks, James E. Tull, and J. Carroll Trotter as emeriti professors and conferred academic tenure upon T. Furman Hewitt, professor of Christian ethics.

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It's Been Kind Of Hectic;
Reports Grenada Missionary

By Erich Bridges

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (BP)--Carter Davis had quite a month.

The Southern Baptist missionary dentist in Grenada witnessed an invasion of the island, said goodbye to his wife as she was evacuated by airlift, laid low for days to avoid being shot at, saw his dental clinic become a temporary camp for U.S. troops, and worked feverishly to set up a relief ministry.

"It's been kind of hectic," Davis reported with a rueful laugh Nov. 18. It was his first direct telephone contact with the Foreign Mission Board since the Oct. 25 invasion of Grenada by U.S. and Caribbean forces. He spoke from a public telephone in St. George's. Phone service to the area around his home is not expected to be restored for several months.

His wife, Charlotte, missionary Robin Eberhardt and her son, David, returned from the United States Nov. 9. Two Southern Baptist dentists, Jack Fuson and William Davis, both of Knoxville, Tenn., followed a few days later. Davis and missionary Michael Eberhardt never left the island.

The two volunteer dentists worked with Davis in government clinics around the island, treating hundreds of patients. Public service radio announcements publicized their work.

The extra help has allowed Davis, one of only two dentists living in Grenada since the exodus of Cuban health workers, to reopen his Baptist clinic. Davis practiced with the Ministry of Health the week before the volunteers arrived. During the post-invasion food shortage Davis and Eberhardt provided about 40 families with flour, rice, sugar and powdered milk. Now they're coordinating Grenadian Baptist construction teams who will use \$5,000 in Southern Baptist relief funds to repair war-damaged homes.

"These families we are going to assist initially are in houses which are damaged but repairable," Davis said. "Some other homes in the same area have been destroyed so we are looking for ways we might utilize volunteer construction teams from the States. Right now men in our churches are going to be helping these families repair their homes."

Davis is also asking the Foreign Mission Board to find a volunteer surgeon, pediatrician, ear-nose-throat specialist and more dentists to come to Grenada beginning in January. The original request came from the Grenadian Ministry of Health; since a serious health care shortage has developed with the Cuban departure.

Life is beginning to return to some semblance of order for the Davises and Eberhardts. But the two men laid low during the fighting.

"I went across the road to a neighbor's house once or a couple of times," Davis said. "But we didn't try to move around. Near where we live there was a lot of uninhabited ground along one stretch of road and there was a lot of shooting on that ridge between American forces and the People's Revolutionary Army and Cuban troops. It just wasn't safe to move along that road."

Eberhardt later discovered the son (a Grenadian militiaman) of a member of a Bible study he teaches was killed during the fighting. His father and other members of the Bible study expressed bitterness and hostility toward Americans, including Eberhardt, after the fighting.

The general feeling among Grenadians on the street and in the churches, however, is relief and gratitude toward the U.S. and Caribbean forces, Davis reported.

Kansas-Nebraska Convention
Elects First Layman President

TOPEKA, Kan. (BP)--Messengers to the 38th annual meeting of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists Nov. 15-17 elected their first layman convention president and approved a \$2.69 million budget.

Approximately 325 messengers registered for the Topeka, Kan., meeting.

Mahlon Morley, a banker from Belle Plaine, Kan., was elected president and John Bobel, pastor of Northern Hills Baptist Church, Topeka, was elected vice president by acclamation.

The 1984 budget of \$2,689,444 is a 9.7 percent increase over the 1983 budget and increases KNESC's Cooperative Program giving to national and worldwide Southern Baptist Convention programs one percent to 26 percent for 1984.

The 1984 meeting will be in Kearney, Neb., Nov. 13-15.

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Missions Leader Builds Bridges
During Long-Awaited Soviet Visit

By Bill Webb

Baptist Press
11/22/83

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A shiny red lapel pin bearing the likeness of Nikolai Lenin is one of Charles Bryan's most prized mementos from his recent trip to the Soviet Union.

Bryan, who heads overseas operations for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, had taken a picture of three uniformed school boys in Tbilisi, capital of the Soviet republic of Georgia. The youngsters had played cat-and-mouse with him before allowing themselves to be photographed.

Unable to speak their language, Bryan smiled his appreciation and started looking for other subjects to photograph when one of the boys, who was 12 or 13, approached him. The boy removed a lapel pin from his jacket and handed it to Bryan.

The former missionary didn't know why he was being given the pin but sensed the occasion was special. He removed his own lapel pin--depicting two hands lifting the world in prayer--and offered it to his new friend.

The Russian words on the Soviet pin translate "Be prepared." The youth gave it, Bryan was told later, because the boy "wanted to reach out to you, to share something with you."

"I thought that was a tender moment, showing with all they hear and all we hear about our enemy, deep down in the soul of people--whether young or old--there is a desire to reach out," he reflected.

The entire trip was a 38-year dream come true for the missions administrator. "When I was at Baylor University in a prayer meeting, the Lord impressed me to be willing to serve as a missionary in the Soviet Union," he said. "I did not interpret that as a call (but as) a willingness to go."

Bryan made the trip with his wife, Martha; John David Hopper, fraternal representative to Baptists in Eastern Europe, and his wife, Jo Ann; and Keith Parker, associate to the board's director for Europe, and his wife, Jonlyn.

The Foreign Mission Board representatives were invited to make the trip by Russian Baptists three years ago but had been unable to schedule it until this fall.

In addition to their stop in Tbilisi, the three couples visited Moscow and Baku, capital of the republic of Azerbaijan.

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At Moscow Baptist Church, the three men preached and the women brought greetings during morning and evening services. About a thousand people filled the sanctuary each time and seven made professions of faith during the two-hour morning service, Bryan said.

"It was a very moving experience," he said. "You've heard about it and you've seen pictures of it. But it's not quite the same as being there and seeing the devotion of the people and how they're packed in those services."

At Baku, situated on the Caspian Sea just north of Iran, the group was met by the interim director of religious affairs for the republic of Azerbaijan, assigned by the government to be "with us constantly--every meal, every service, everywhere we went."

He took the Americans to a monument to 27 early revolutionary martyrs from Azerbaijan. His eyes sparkled when Bryan said. "It's a shame we don't have flowers to present."

"We'll arrange that," the tall, stately Soviet official responded. On their last day in Baku, the visitors were presented bouquets of flowers at lunch.

Afterward, at the monument, each couple placed a bouquet at the memorial. "When we did that, he and the (local) pastor were visibly moved," Bryan noticed.

"I asked him if he minded if we all joined hands in a circle right there--there were a lot of people around--and just have prayer," he said. Bryan wanted to do it for people everywhere who give their lives for freedom as they understand it and because Christ gave his life, he explained.

"It was a moving thing as we all joined hands. He was in the circle, too, and he was teary," Bryan said. "That stately manner of his was mellowed."

Bryan had preached the evening message the day before at the Baptist church at Baku on "What is Christianity?" from the eighth chapter of Romans. Later the religious affairs representative commended through an interpreter, "I have never heard it like that."

At Sunday lunch, the Soviet official told the Americans, "Every time I went to that church I saw an elderly woman who told me she was praying for me. But she died and, you know, I kind of miss her."

"I want you to know there is not going to be just one praying for you but six and we're going to carry on the tradition," Bryan said, evoking a smile from the Soviet.

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Don't Give Others
God's Power: Hollis

Baptist Press
11/22/83

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Christians should be wary of the pervasive "sin of being used" which plagued the church as well as society.

Harry Hollis, associate executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, told a chapel audience at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Louisville, Ky., "the sin of being used is one of the most destructive, yet overlooked sins in our midst."

Modern Christianity usually focuses on the harm of using others. That problem still exists, he said, but Christians also must give attention to the converse sin of allowing themselves to be manipulated by others.

"The genesis of the sin of being used is our refusal to acknowledge who we are as God's creation," he explained, "is a sin that makes others into gods by giving them the power to control us. We allow ourselves to be less than God intended."

The problem, he said, pervades every category of human relationships, including families, business, even churches and can become a "special malady of ministry."

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Hollis warned ministers who give in to the sin of being used may compromise the gospel.

"Nurturing a still-born evangelism that prematurely hurries people down the aisle so our church will be perceived as evangelistic; by catering to the powerful, the successful and the strong at the expense of the weak, so we can be seen in the denomination as 'winners;' by "preaching only on 'safe' issues to keep the peace, to keep the money coming in," and by "tolerating or even supporting doctrinal debates or divisions in our midst, instigated by people who have no sense of our Baptist history or heritage."

The Baptist ethicist added "life is not a child's game where you can call time out for doctrinal debate when so many people today stand in need of the gospel of Jesus Christ." Hollis conceded his warnings "run the risk of being misunderstood." But he said, "The danger is a real one we cannot afford to ignore."

Jesus Christ, he pointed out, "helps up overcome the sin of being used." Jesus, he said, loved others but never allowed people to use him and thereby to distort God's intentions for his life.

"The way of Jesus," Hollis concluded, "is in giving ourselves to others in a life of service."

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CORRECTION--In (BP) story "Louisiana Elects Laymen, Approve South Korean Crusades" mailed 11/21/83, in third paragraph after "conduct evangelistic crusades through" please insert the following underlined material: Sunday schools in 20 South Korean churches in April of 1985 and delete the remainder of the paragraph.

Thanks,
Baptist Press
