



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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84-22

Beer, Cheesecake Poster
Ban Lifted At Baylor

By Craig Bird

WACO, Texas (BP)--Keeping posted about Baylor University is getting easier.

In recent days major newspapers in Houston, Dallas, Austin and Waco, Texas, as well as the Associated Press, have reported a controversy at the Baptist school over students decorating their dorm rooms with beer advertisements and pin-ups.

The posters were banned by the Baylor administration in late January, but university President Herbert Reynolds rescinded it after learning about it while reading the student newspaper. "The ban was not reviewed by me and I was not aware of it," Reynolds said.

Reynolds said Baylor's stance toward alcohol and its opposition to degrading women by displaying lewd photographs is well known.

"It is important...our student body know we are reasonable people and can readily differentiate between those matters which may bring lasting harm to their lives and those which are relatively harmless and of a transient nature," Reynolds told Baptist Press.

"Just because an individual has a beer poster in his room does not mean he is going to sit in his room each night and drink a six-pack. There is a world of difference between our concern for student health and safety and what they want to put up in their rooms."

The issue apparently is a spin-off from Baylor's concern over alcohol use by students. Last fall the university placed three social fraternities on probation until August 1985 for not registering an off-campus party at a Waco skating rink and for serving alcoholic drinks.

The Houston Post coverage of the suspensions was illustrated with a photograph of a student's room with a beer poster and part of what appeared to be a fold-out picture of a nude woman. The outline noted, "girls, beers a no-no except on posters."

Jimmy D. McClusky, the dean for men's programs, said the publicity partly contributed to a decision to ask students to remove the posters. The Baylor student handbook states, "lewd and obscene posters or other such displays are not permitted in the residence halls."

Dorm wing meetings were held to announce the ban, but enforcement was left to students and no penalties were stated for failure to remove posters when requested to do so.

The Austin American-Statesman quoted an unnamed student, who had two kinds of beer posters in his room as complaining the ban seemed, "to be against the First Amendment. I'm not a Baptist and I don't believe in it."

Reynolds said posters which "demean the women of our society" by being "lewd and lascivious" would be removed. But, he told the Dallas Morning News, he used to enjoy Betty Grable pinups himself. "I think the ban was well-intentioned but is equating the poster with the deed," he said. "If you cry 'wolf' enough on things, then pretty soon what you have to say doesn't amount to much."

Reynolds plans to approach the "nationwide problem of chemical abuse, including alcohol" from a health and safety standpoint and plans to have campus workshops on the subject.

Active Christian Lifestyle
Witness To Buddhists, Al Says

By Craig Bird

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--When Lawrence Al accepted Christ, he also accepted Christ's commandment to "go into all the world." And he goes at a breakneck pace.

Al, pastor of First Chinese Southern Baptist Church in San Francisco, has five earned degrees from three different schools, heads a family which speaks eight languages, is chaplain to both police and members of the Chinese mafia, does translation work for the Baptist Sunday School Board and Berlitz and is active at the local church, associational, state convention and national levels of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Civic duties include improving intra-racial relations, working with refugees, helping high schools recover their accreditation and traveling around the world both to preach and to study.

And more.

First Chinese Southern Baptist Church, with 600 members, sponsors a Tai-Laotian mission in Stockton, Calif., (68 miles away) and the Chinese Grace Baptist Church (20 miles away).

Al has been pastor of the church since 1967 and his overwhelming outside schedule apparently helps instead of hinders its growth. When the waves of Asian immigrants began flowing into California he was asked to chair the San Francisco Immigration and Refugee Committee and be a member of the West Coast Consultation of Refugees.

One of his prized keepsakes is a wedding invitation from one of the refugees he and his family sponsored personally.

The almost frantic lifestyle is a conscious move by Al to present a better witness to the world in general and to Chinese in particular.

"Buddhism teaches a withdrawal from the world and a Buddhist feels his religion is to separate him from what goes on around him," Al explained. "I am attempting to prove through my life how Christ can help people continue to grow. Jesus Christ is not merely a role model--he's my savior--I want people to know he changes your life."

Christianity certainly changed Al's life. He grew up going to Buddhist temples with his mother. By the time his family left Canton, China, and moved to Bangkok in 1947 the 15-year-old boy was "worshiping idols regularly."

In Thailand he first encountered Christian missionaries and when his father sent him to Hong Kong for a Chinese education, he was open to the witness of Christians in that city.

In October of 1953 he was baptized by James D. Belote, president of Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary and his life immediately underwent drastic change. His father cut off financial support when he learned of Al's conversion from Buddhism and it was only translating jobs (arranged by Belote) that allowed the young man to survive financially.

Eight years later he began his first pastorate at First Baptist Church of Macao (40 miles from Hong Kong) while completing his bachelor of theology degree from seminary. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Ipoh, Malaysia, (1964-67) before coming to San Francisco.

In 1968, a year after Al's came to the United States, Martin Luther King was assassinated. Al, a newcomer, felt an obligation to minimize the racial problems. He volunteered to teach at Conroe Bible College, a black institution, and remained on the faculty 10 years teaching systematic theology and church history. He also exchanged pulpits with black pastors.

Meanwhile his education continued. In eight years he earned three degrees from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.: master of religious education in 1969, master of divinity in 1972 and doctor of divinity in 1975 (the first Asian-American to get a D.Min. from Golden Gate seminary). In 1979 he added a bachelor of science from the University of San Francisco.

Non-degree training is also ongoing. He has studied at Oxford, Harvard, University of California-Berkley, Stanford and been trained to work in marriage/family counseling, stress situation therapy (suicide prevention), emotional survival of law enforcers, black emotional problems and legal investigation.

On the side he spent three years (1978-81) as public relations director for Hong Kong Shue Yan College, since 1982 has been director of the Chinese School of Theology at Golden Gate seminary, translates such works as the Broadman Church Manual by Howard Foshee and Decision magazine into Chinese, served as chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol and helped George Washington High School in San Francisco regain its accreditation.

He was moderator of the San Francisco Peninsula Baptist Association for three terms and is a consultant to the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC in Birmingham, Ala.

Al's Christian commitment and his past met head-on in 1970 when he went back to Taiwan. His father met him at the airport and pleaded with him to give up his new religion and move back to Taiwan and enter the banking business. "It's very sad for me to say this," Al told his father. "But I can't. I have committed my life to Christ."

Later his father became a Christian (Al's two sisters had converted long before--one attended Wayland Baptist College and the other Hardin-Simmons University, both in Texas) but he still doesn't fully understand why his son remains in the United States.

But for Al it is no mystery. He remains Chinese (he plans to have his body shipped back to him homeland for burial when he dies) but he will not ignore what he feels is God's leading in his activities in the United States.

Most recently that commitment has led him to become a certified chaplain for the San Francisco Police Department and to spend time as the unofficial chaplain at a club which is a hangout for the Chinese mafia.

"When people are in trouble they call the police--but who do the police call?" Al asks. There are 40-50 Chinese-Americans on a police force which is predominately Italian-American. Of the six chaplains, four are Catholic, so Al responded to a segment of people without anyone to call when they were troubled.

Another segment, even more isolated from religious support and counsel also attracted his attention. "The Chinese mafia is very active and very political in San Francisco," Al said. "Many of the Chinese youth are running wild." So he spends some night hours at Le Way Club, where mafia leaders hang out.

"I can't overtly tell them the four spiritual laws because they wouldn't listen," he admitted. "But they have problems with their marriages and with their children too--and when they want to talk to someone, I'm there and I can show how Jesus Christ can help."

Somehow, Al makes you feel Jesus was thinking of Chinese policemen and Chinese mafia when he told his disciples to "go and tell." It is obvious Al believes he was.

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NBC Special Offers
Rare Look At China

Baptist Press
2/9/84

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A rare look at the people of China and their newfound openness to western culture is captured in the NBC-TV special "China: Other Voices," Feb. 26.

The one-hour documentary, produced by NBC in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission (RTVC), recounts the recent Chinese tour by the Centurymen, a 100-voice male chorus sponsored by the RTVC.

The Centurymen spent 13 days in China late last year, performing with the leading music organizations of that country. The chorus made Chinese history Nov. 5, becoming the first group from outside the People's Republic of China to perform in the Radio Peking Music Hall. The concert was later broadcast by the Chinese in other communist countries.

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The Centurymen also were honored at a banquet in the Great Hall of the People, usually reserved for entertaining heads of state. Located in the capital of Peking, the Great Hall is the meeting place for the Congress of the People of the Republic of China. The documentary records these events as well as the Centurymen's personal exchanges with the Chinese people on the streets of Peking, Shanghai and Hangzhou. In Hangzhou the group worshipped at the Drumtower Church, an active Protestant evangelical congregation of the Three Self Movement, the officially registered and allowed movement of Christian churches in China.

The Centurymen performed with the Shanghai Philharmonic Society, Shanghai Music Conservatory, Philharmonic Society of Beijing (Peking) and Central Conservatory of Music in Peking. The cultural exchange tour of the Centurymen was sponsored by the radio and television community and music community of China through Shanghai television and China Travel Service.

NBC is offering the network special to its affiliate stations at 1 p.m. (EST) Feb. 26. Dates and times of local broadcast of the program may vary.

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Unity In Christ
Ethnic Conference Theme

By Mike Davis

Baptist Press
2/9/84

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Beginning a Baptist meeting with Onward Christian Soldiers isn't so unusual, but hearing it sung in seven different languages at the same time is a new twist.

The song underscored a Unity in Christ theme at the second National Brotherhood Ethnic Training Conference Feb. 2-4 at the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. Forty-three ethnic leaders heard presentations about Brotherhood language work and received training in Baptist Men and Royal Ambassador work during the week-end meeting.

Wallace Buckner, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's multi-ethnic ministries department, emphasized the Unity in Christ theme. "No longer do we have a melting pot of cultures in America," he said, "we have a unity in Christ."

Buckner added men are the key figures in ethnic church, family and community structures. Reaching ethnic America, he said, depends on reaching the men in ethnic communities.

The ethnic leaders spent most of the weekend learning about Baptist Men and Royal Ambassador programs in local churches. Brotherhood staff members presented in-depth sessions on how to begin and develop good Brotherhood programs in ethnic churches.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of a plaque to the first Mexican national ever invited to attend a national training meeting at the Brotherhood Commission. Adolfo Fuentes, a medical doctor in Mexico City, was presented at plaque by Brotherhood President James Smith for his outstanding work with Baptist men in the Mexican Baptist Convention.

Fuentes said he was a participant in the conference as a result of a partnership relationship with Texas Baptist Men. He plans to lead Brotherhood conferences in Mexico as a result of the training he received in Memphis.

The seven ethnic groups represented at the meeting included: Chinese, Korean, Laotian, Haitian, French, Arabic and Hispanic. Dan Moon, director of language work for the Brotherhood Commission, coordinated the conference.

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Lebanese Baptist Man Killed
Feb. 6 In Beirut Cross Fire

Baptist Press
2/9/84

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)--Samuel Atweh, a Lebanese Baptist, was killed in cross fire in Beirut Feb. 6 when he ventured out to buy food for his family.

Atweh's funeral and burial were in Monsouriyeh, an east Beirut suburb, but it was not clear whether he was killed in the east or west side of the divided city.

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Atweh, the brother-in-law of Ghassan Khalaf, president of the Lebanese Baptist Convention, died on the day Shiite Moslem militiamen and the Lebanese army waged a fierce battle for control of west Beirut.

Finlay Graham, Foreign Mission Board field administrator for the Middle East, reported from Nicosia, Cyprus, Feb. 9 all 20 Southern Baptist missionaries, their nine children and a volunteer couple are safe. Graham has maintained daily telephone contact with the missionaries since civil strife intensified in Lebanon Feb. 2.

Four missionaries and five children will evacuate Lebanon for Cyprus when transportation becomes available, according to Leon Ballenger, the board's director for Europe and the Middle East. Currently the international airport and the two primary ocean ports are closed.

Mack and Linda Sacco, from Gilroy, Calif., and McAlester, Okla., plan to leave with their four children, ranging in age from 4 to 15, as do Pat Dunn, from Mobile, Ala.; her 13-year-old daughter, Ashleigh, and Russell Futrell, a new missionary from Pineville, La.

As of Feb. 9, the American Embassy had not called for a general evacuation of the estimated 1,000 Americans in Lebanon, though nonessential embassy personnel were evacuated earlier to a ship waiting offshore. Steve and Meriam Fox, volunteers from Centerville, Ohio, are aiding a west Beirut Baptist family whose home was destroyed in the fighting, Graham said.

Missionaries also have benefited from the support of Lebanese Baptists and other neighbors. Nancie Wingo, a native of Santa Anna, Texas, said neighbors in her primarily Moslem apartment building had been "wonderful to me." She expressed concern about the conception of many Americans that "everyone turns on everyone else here." On the contrary, she said, people are trying to help each other.

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Police in Sarajevo Put Damper
On Baptists' Olympic Miniatury

By Evelyn Benfield

Baptist Press
2/9/84

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia (BP)--Government authorities held a Yugoslav Baptist leader for questioning for three hours on the opening day of the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

In addition, permission for Baptists to distribute materials to visitors to the Games was abruptly withdrawn after being granted just one day earlier.

Police came to a coffeehouse set up at Sarajevo Baptist Church after Yugoslav Baptists and five Southern Baptist representatives had spent a day handing out leaflets inviting Olympic visitors to drop by. Authorities ordered them to collect all the materials previously distributed. The Baptists retraced their steps to pick up the leaflets in hotels and other public places around the city.

The coffeehouse will be allowed to remain open during the 12-day Olympic events but fewer people are likely to find the nine-member church without the leaflets.

The Baptist representatives had taken as much tea and coffee into the country as they were allowed and planned to maintain an informal music/conversation station at the coffeehouse. They include Tom Stallworth and Jim Smith, Austria; Charles Thomas, France; Albert Craighead, Italy, and Paul Thibodeaux, Yugoslavia.

"We are staying in Sarajevo," Stallworth said. "We can witness to our faith in conversation if we are careful."

In response to a request from Yugoslav Baptists, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board provided \$6,000 for repairs to the Sarajevo church to help it establish a witnessing point during the games. The work included painting and installing a new heating system.

Two Yugoslav Baptist pastors also are helping in an ecumenical Christian center in Olympic Village.

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(Evelyn Benfield is the Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Austria.)

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