

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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December 27, 1984

84-185

Bill Wallace's Remains
Brought Out Of China

By Erich Bridges

HONG KONG (BP)--Thirty-four years after Bill Wallace's death in a Chinese Communist prison in Wuzhou (Wuchow), the remains of Southern Baptists' most famous missionary doctor are being brought to the United States.

Three Southern Baptist missionaries returned to Hong Kong Dec. 21 with Wallace's ashes. They probably will arrive in the States in early January for burial in Knoxville, Tenn., Wallace's hometown.

The three Hong Kong missionaries--Robert Davis, Betty Vaught and Cornelia Leavell (retired)--went to Wuzhou in south China Dec. 18 with the full permission and cooperation of Chinese government and church officials.

"The (government) officials apparently were very anxious to help us any way they could," said Davis, representative for Wallace's family and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The pastor and two staff members of the Christian church in Wuzhou also assisted the Americans throughout their visit, Davis said. More help came from three physicians of the formerly Baptist hospital (now government-run) where Wallace worked.

Wallace--the only Southern Baptist missionary martyred in China during the Communist era--first went to Wuzhou in 1935. The tall, quiet, unmarried Tennessean worked as a surgeon and administrator at Stout Memorial Hospital there for the next 15 years, through the upheavals of World War II, the Japanese occupation of south China and the Communist victory over the Nationalist Chinese in 1949.

He kept working for a year after the Communist takeover. But the start of the Korean War in 1950 sparked an intense anti-American propaganda campaign in China. Wallace was arrested in December 1950 and falsely accused of being a spy. He died in prison two months later and was buried in an unmarked grave in an old cemetery near Wuzhou. At personal risk, Chinese friends later marked the grave with a monument reading, "For to me to live is Christ."

The body rested there for more than 30 years. But in 1984 retired missionary Cornelia Leavell, born and reared in Wuzhou by missionary parents, received a letter from a Chinese friend. The letter revealed the old cemetery had been moved and it might be possible to claim Wallace's remains and return them to the United States.

Contacts with Chinese officials through the American consulate in Guangzhou (Canton) opened the door for Leavell and her colleagues to go to Wuzhou. They arrived by boat from Hong Kong Dec. 18 with letters from the Foreign Mission Board and Wallace's sister, Ruth Lynn Stegall, requesting the doctor's remains.

Leavell said the Wuzhou church officials "smoothed the road" for the visitors, ushering them to various government offices. "They even called in the doctors from the hospital, two of whom had been very close friends of Bill." The two who had known Wallace recognized Leavell from her early years in Wuzhou; one greeted her with the Chinese name she used during that time.

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The Americans were given a tour of the hospital, which is now being expanded, then taken to claim Wallace's remains. They claimed his bones and took them to a nearby crematorium where they were cremated. The cremation was required by Chinese health officials, the missionaries said.

The night before the Americans returned to Hong Kong, the three Chinese doctors paid a brief visit and asked to see the box containing Wallace's ashes. "The doctor who was closest to Bill, as he left the room, put his hands on this box and just sort of patted it, and then walked out," Leavell said. "It was sort of his last farewell to Bill.... I don't think anybody else saw it. He did it so gently and quietly as he left."

The three missionaries emphasized the friendliness and helpfulness of the Chinese, including the government officials involved. "I was afraid there could have been some hostility, but there was not one unfriendly look in the bunch," Leavell said.

Leavell will likely bring the remains to the United States in early January. Mrs. Stegall, Wallace's sister, is planning a memorial service in Knoxville. She said Wallace's remains will be buried in Greenwood Cemetery in the city, beside his parents.

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

American Mount Everest Expedition
Described By Author Peter Jenkins

By Bonita Sparrow

Baptist Press
12/27/84

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The beloved Ernie Pyle is dead and buried but his special heartbeat for the people of the United States is alive and well and writing. The by-line, however, is that of Peter Jenkins.

Jenkins, who wrote two best sellers (one with his wife, Barbara, about a walk across this country) is working on two more books.

One of them is about the recent American expedition which scaled Mount Everest and about the visit he made to China after the climb. "And Barbara and I are writing alternate chapters about our walk with the Lord for a book for Thomas Nelson publishers," he said.

Jenkins, who was in Fort Worth, Texas, recently to visit with Lawanna McIver, co-hostess for "Lifestyle," the talk show seen daily on the ACTS network, described the Mount Everest experience.

"The guys on the Mount Everest climb were a combination of 'The Dirty Dozen' and 'The Right Stuff,'" he said. "Lou Whittaker, 55, was our leader. Dave Mahre, the father of the Olympic skiing twins, had made many first ascents."

They were the first Americans to climb Everest from the Chinese side. "We went through Tibet. Usually climbers ascend from the Nepal side."

That climb set a number of other precedents. "We took the north wall route that no human had ever climbed before," he said. "Five attempts were made on the summit, more than any other team. Usually, when you climb 25,000 feet there's a negative effect on the body. Five attempts is really a record."

Jenkins, 33, trained four or five months for the expedition. "One must be in incredible condition to even consider climbing Mount Everest," he said. "In mountain climbing it's not just what good shape you are in physically. A lot has to do with inner strength."

Jenkins did not climb to the top of Mount Everest. "I went up to over 21,000 feet--higher than Mount McKinley (the tallest peak in the United States)," he said.

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He described his reaction to the mountain. "You cannot disassociate Mount Everest from the Tibetan culture. It's half-way around the world. It takes weeks to get there. You travel by donkey cart, going places where maybe only a thousand white people in the entire world have ever been.

"And there, above a glacier, is the most gigantic mountain you have ever seen. It's 29,000 feet high--as high as you fly in a jet plane--and you are going to walk up there." Base camp, 17,000 feet up, was still 12,000 feet from the top.

"The thing about Everest is that you know it's hairy when it looks steep a long way off. Mount Everest is razorblade steep. Even at a distance it looks straight up."

Neither does that take into account the constant wind. "The wind blew so hard one team leader was thrown 50 feet," Jenkins said. "He was in such excellent condition he wasn't hurt. One man's eyeballs froze--they looked absolutely opaque--and he was blind for a week. Another member became tremendously ill and his blood pressure went to zero. The doctor at the base camp saved the first man's eyesight and the second man's life."

While with the Mount Everest expedition Jenkins took the opportunity to explore neighboring China as he had explored America. He expects his book about China to be out the same time as the Nelson book.

"In the walks across America I had lived with families and I wanted that opportunity in China," he said. "These Chinese at first said no. However, one official went to the Mongolian grasslands, 15 miles from the Russian border, and found a family who agreed I could live with them. I was the first foreigner since the communist regime in that country to live with a Chinese family in that area. God is a great door opener."

Jenkins is about to finalize a contract to make a feature film based on the walk across America. It took almost a year because he held out for some very important clauses in the contract.

The film makers will not be allowed to change the moral tone of the book; Jenkins will write the lyrics of one of the songs to be used as background for the film, and no merchandising in relation to the film will do anything to cheapen the book.

"I get thousands of letters from people who have read about the walk and they say we have rekindled a love of this country, its diversity and the good people in it," he said.

"If this movie has another direction from the tone of the book, I'm the one who will be blamed, not the Hollywood film producers. I'd rather not see the movie made than see it made with the wrong moral tone."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Radio and Television Commission)

Southern Seminary Graduates
Honor Faculty, President

Baptist Press
12/27/84

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—The December 1984 graduating class of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., drafted a resolution of "heartfelt gratitude and appreciation" to the faculty and administrative staff of the seminary.

The resolution, signed by 189 members of the graduating class, was presented to seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt by class officers during the school's 154th commencement.

The resolution expressed gratitude for and pledged continuing commitment to "the nurturing of our faith, excellence of academic pursuit and challenge to ministry that have been mainstays of our experience at Southern Seminary."

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The resolution also paid tribute to Honeycutt, describing him as "a sensitive pastoral model of spiritual insight who encourages the desire for expanded forms of ministry, discipleship and the proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the world."

The class members described the resolution as "a small symbol of thanksgiving that can never be adequately expressed or repaid—only passed on."

Honeycutt, accepting the resolution on behalf of the seminary, noted it was an unusual expression by a graduating class. He said the resolution will be placed in the seminary's library archives.

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McCall Offers Graduates 'Choice'
At Southern Seminary Commencement

Baptist Press
12/27/84

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Despite disappointments and setbacks, young ministers "have a choice" in the kind of world they perceive and live in, Duke K. McCall told December graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

McCall, chancellor of the Louisville, Ky., seminary, president from 1951 to 1982 and current president of the Baptist World Alliance, spoke to 225 graduates and a capacity audience at Alumni Chapel during commencement.

Quoting the famous opening lines of *A Tale of Two Cities*, McCall said 1984, like 1759 when Dickens wrote, was "the best of times and the worst of times."

McCall pointed out 1984 "was the year of Kansas City." Acknowledging the issues under discussion in the Southern Baptist Convention are not new, McCall nevertheless went away from the convention "sick at my stomach."

Recalling school prayer was an issue when he was executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee in the 1940s and early '50s, McCall said school prayer "has been linked to denominational politics and national politics in a way that is harmful to both." He urged Baptists to "quit trying to solve matters of heart and faith by law" and to support policies of "common sense, good will and respect for the rights of the minority."

He expressed disappointment with W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, who has been quoted as saying Southern Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt should resign for becoming vocal in the controversy in the SBC.

McCall said when he was president, he defended Criswell, who as president of the SBC came under fire for his book, "Why I Preach The Bible Is Literally True."

"I thought he had the right to say whatever he wanted to say," McCall recalled. "I thought he was a Baptist. I thought every Baptist had a right to say whatever he wanted to say."

Citing the story of Camelot, the chancellor reminded listeners the Round Table of King Arthur went through turmoil and division, but hope remained the former glory of Camelot could be restored.

"I am political enough that I know what is going on," McCall told the graduates. "I hope the power struggle is reversed. But that won't settle anything. That will just buy time. You still will have to build Camelot."

McCall told the graduates they must be realistic. "Human nature is depraved stuff. The Bible is right about that. It's rotten. Human nature, in places in this world I have visited as president of Baptist World Alliance, is doing all the rotten things George Orwell ever dreamed about."

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But, he said, "if you will fix your mind on the nature of God, this is the spring of hope."

McCall told of the millions of persons being saved in Africa and India and of the "unbelievable expansion of Christianity" in Brazil and Chile. In China, where the three to four million Christians at the time of the communist takeover now number an estimated 34 million, McCall said, "the greatest revival in all of Christian history is taking place in 1984."

"Nineteen eighty-four is a great year," McCall concluded, "because God is in heaven."

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Congregation Bristles
Over Pastor's Moustache

Baptist Press
12/27/84

DALLAS (BP)—Charles C. McLaughlin, pastor of First Baptist Church, Watauga, Texas, reached his 30th birthday in December and celebrated by shaving off his moustache.

At Sunday evening worship service he found someone had placed a dummy in his chair on the platform. The dummy was wearing a moustache.

When the pastor attempted to move the dummy, a deacon insisted he leave it there and sit on the front pew with his back to the congregation.

Then the deacon read the passage from the Bible about Methuselah who lived to be 969 years old.

"Now that our pastor is 30," said the deacon, "he thinks he's mature enough to shave off his moustache."

The deacon sat down and allowed the pastor to come to the podium.

When McLaughlin turned to face the congregation he found everyone, even the children, were wearing paper handlebar moustaches.

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