



BAPTIST PRESS

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85-92

Louisiana Basketball Players Score Points In Guadeloupe

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe (BP)—Louisiana basketballers earned credits for sportsmanship as they won four games and tied one of the seven they played in Guadeloupe recently in spite of rainouts and a shattered backboard.

The team, 11 players chosen from among Louisiana Baptist Student Unions, played seven games, with all but two on outside courts.

Three of the games were rained out or the location changed because of rain. The second game was changed twice—once because of rain and once after the glass backboard shattered when a Louisiana player made a slam-dunk during warmups. The game was relocated then to an outside court with an asphalt surface rough as a Louisiana blacktop highway. Louisiana won, 51-32.

Charles Harvey Jr., coach of the Louisiana team, remembered the first game. "The first night we ended up playing one of the strongest teams on the island. They had a 20-point lead at halftime and Guadeloupeans seemed disappointed they had to play a weak team.

"But in the second half we overcame the deficit and ended the game 81-81. They do not play overtime. But our credibility was established with the second half performance."

Playing basketball was a secondary purpose for the Louisiana team. The first priority was helping to enhance the Baptist image and to provide a Christian witness, according to David Murray, Southern Baptist missionary in Guadeloupe who coordinated the program.

Baptists have been in the French West Indies for 21 years, Murray said. "During this time we have never been mentioned in a newspaper or on radio or television. Basketball has given Baptists a lot of exposure with newspaper, radio and television reports of the games."

Louisiana players gave their Christian witness during halftime and following the games. One man, an assistant coach for a Guadeloupe team, made a profession of faith on the Sunday after the games ended, Murray said.

Following the game in St. Claude, a city official said publicly, "I appreciate the way the Baptists played basketball. I noticed that several times when the game got rough, and international basketball is rougher than American style ball, and there was the possibility of tempers flaring, the Baptists stuck their hand out and shook hands.

"I hope the people of Guadeloupe will learn how to play basketball like that and learn to have the attitude the Baptists have showed us this week."

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**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Laos Asks Baptists To Help, Balks At Missionary Presence

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press
8/2/85

VIENTIANE, Laos (BP)—The government of Laos has invited Southern Baptists to help with long-term development but stopped short of saying a missionary could live in the country.

The request came in July to Murphy Terry, Southern Baptist associate area director for south and southeast Asia, who talked in Laos with officials in the offices of planning, health, agriculture and foreign affairs.

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"There's enough social need in the country that we don't have to apologize" for agreeing to do just development work, Terry said. "In addition, we feel we can encourage the Lao evangelical church."

Terry, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Laos, will propose to strategists at the Foreign Mission Board a well-defined, three- to five-year plan. It will fit into a larger development proposal engineered by UNICEF outlining possibilities for international agencies in the country.

"I felt they (government officials) were saying 'We're open to your involvement in the country, but we're open at an arm's length,'" Terry explained. He said the officials showed him the UNICEF project proposal manual and wanted him to say how Southern Baptists would help.

But they would not promise Southern Baptists could maintain missionary presence in the country. The government grants such liberty only to those who have been observed for some time, he was told. "He (the official) was very friendly about it. He smiled and said that would come after a period of observation of our work and our behavior in relationship to those programs," Terry said.

Terry's trip to Laos was sponsored by the nonaligned, U.S.-based Indochina Project of the Center for International Policy. He accompanied Murray Hiebert, a former Mennonite Central Committee representative to Laos. Heibert is co-director of the Indochina Project.

With Laotian officials, Terry and Hiebert visited a site where the government hopes to build an agriculture school and a project to convert refuse from Vientiane into compost for farming. They also observed community health programs.

Terry will propose Southern Baptists set up an easy-to-monitor, high-visibility project around Vientiane to "give us an opportunity to get better acquainted with them while they get acquainted with us." The next step could be a more comprehensive project in a rural area.

He will suggest Southern Baptists work from a base outside the country, such as Bangkok, Thailand, scheduling trips into Laos at specific points during a project, such as at purchase, delivery and completion.

He also will propose response be made in 1985, to establish a Southern Baptist presence in the minds of officials during an anniversary year for the nation. Ten years ago Dec. 2 the present socialist government gained control of the nation. As it examines the past 10 years, the government probably will be more open to change, Terry said.

Terry and Hiebert were under no restriction during their stay in Vientiane. They drove around the city and into the countryside. They worshipped with believers at the Lao Evangelical Church in Vientiane. The Catholic church also was open and Terry saw evidence of Buddhism being practiced.

He said he sensed a government openness to Christianity but was unsure what kind of encouragement could be given to believers. "Wherever we went there was no hesitation to introduce me as a representative of Southern Baptists, a Christian organization, and to explain our interests in the country grew out of who we were as Christians."

As a missionary evangelist, Terry worked in cooperation with Lao evangelicals until furlough in 1974. Because of political change he was unable to secure a visa to return, and seven other Southern Baptist missionaries vacated their work there.

Figures from nine of the 13 provinces show about 4,500 people belong to the Lao Evangelical Church, he said. That indicates significant growth, especially considering many Christians fled as refugees after the socialist government was set up.

"The church is not just an old remnant," Terry said. "There is a lot of new life, and it is mixed well with the remnant." Bibles are coming into the country and being distributed freely, but leadership materials are in short supply.

Rose To Head HMB
Mega Focus City Emphasis

ATLANTA (BP)—Larry L. Rose, director for the Center for Urban Church Studies in Nashville, Tenn., was elected associate director of the metropolitan missions department for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, effective Aug. 15, 1985.

Rose will assist in coordinating the board's Mega Focus City program, an effort to intensify Southern Baptist outreach in cities with populations in excess of one million.

Rose also will work with directors of missions in metropolitan areas and state missions leaders, providing tracts, information, monographs, research and other material to help develop a ministry strategy for reaching one million-plus population centers.

Rose had directed the Center for Urban Church Studies since 1980. He also has been director of missions for two Texas Baptist associations and was a pastor of several Texas churches. The Texas native is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

In other actions during their summer board meeting, directors of the HMB appointed 17 missionaries, six missionary associates, and 17 church planter apprentices to serve in 15 states. They also approved three state convention staffers and 57 people to receive church, language or field pastoral assistance.

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Telecast To Report
Sunday School Totals

By Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press
8/2/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A live telecast of state Sunday school enrollment reports will allow Southern Baptists to know immediately the final totals of the 8.5 by '85 emphasis.

The Baptist Telecommunication Network will broadcast the enrollment reports from 4 to 6:30 p.m. (CDT), Sunday, Sept. 29.

Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and Harry Piland, director of the board's Sunday school department, will be featured along with interviews with pastors of growing churches and reports from the state Sunday school directors.

Sept. 29 is Celebration Sunday, marking the end of a five-year effort to increase the denomination's Sunday school enrollment to 8.5 million persons. The Sunday school enrollment was 7.8 million as of Sept. 30, 1984.

"We feel like the churches who have participated for five years need to know as soon as possible what our Sunday school enrollment is," Piland said.

Piland is asking pastors to report enrollment figures to associational directors of missions. The directors of missions will call state Sunday school directors who, in turn, will report state convention totals to the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"We are going to be able to tell the entire Southern Baptist Convention what our Sunday school enrollment is, and we can celebrate something magnificent together when we see the victory God is going to give us in that," Piland said.

The live telecast will be unscrambled so the program can be received by any satellite receiving dish as well as by regular BTN subscribers. "We want to wrap it up and know what the result is. Everybody has to participate in order for us to do that," Piland urged."

Piland will be taking the calls from state directors during the broadcast in the BTN studio at the Baptist Sunday School Board. "I think the number of people the churches in our convention have reached in Bible study will be an exciting total," he said.

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Part of the broadcast will include a discussion of the plans for Challenge 10/90, an enrollment emphasis for the next five years with a goal of reaching Sunday school enrollment of 10 million by 1990.

"Celebration Sunday is a chance for churches to share the joy of their victory in reaching more persons than ever before in Bible study, but it's also a time to look forward to reaching out to others for Christ," Piland said.

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Howard Bramlette Leaves
Sunday School Board

Baptist Press
8/2/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--W. Howard Bramlette, editor in national student ministries of the Baptist Sunday School Board, resigned July 30.

Bramlette, 61, whose primary responsibility had been editing "The Student" magazine, was removed as editor and chose to resign, according to Lloyd Elder, president of the board.

"The policy of the Sunday School Board is not to release detailed information about personnel matters," Elder said. "We will treat Howard Bramlette kindly and will not influence his personal or professional positions. We wish him well in any future professional relationships."

Bramlette's decision to leave the department was unexpected, Elder said, and was accepted with regret.

Elder said in handling personnel matters the administration of the board follows "sound management principles, publications policies of our trustee board and holds employees accountable for assigned tasks. We care about our people and seek to treat them fairly and equitably."

Bramlette had been editor of "The Student" since 1975. Previously, he was in student work with the Baptist General Convention of Texas from 1951-56; a consultant with the BSSB student department (now national student ministries) from 1956-66; director of placement and promotion for the Southern Baptist Education Commission, 1966-75, and a consultant in mission education for the Foreign Mission Board for six months before returning to the Sunday School Board.

Bramlette told Baptist Press:

"I regret leaving the Sunday School Board. It is a great institution whose objectives and goals have long been my own. My commitment to college students and to Christian higher education has been my calling.

"Apparently there has been criticism over the content of a recent issue of "The Student". Editing a magazine for collegians is an exciting challenge, particularly when the magazine seeks to lead students to Christian maturity and to aid them in taking a responsible part in solving the problems of the world.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my editorial responsibilities and will now focus on other aspects of ministry as I did before assuming this post."

The August issue of the magazine has received criticism for an article on "political religion." Earlier this year, the publication was criticized for an article on women's ordination.

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Reagan: Family Values
At Heart Of Tax Reform

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)—President Reagan told a group of religious broadcasters and pastors at the White House Aug. 1 concern for the family and its future is the central motivating force behind his proposed tax reform package.

"We were concerned about the family and so we created a tax reform proposal that puts the family first," the president declared. "Why? Because there is nothing more important to all of us and nothing more important to our society and our nation and our future."

Among Reagan's proposals is one to raise the personal exemption to \$2,000, up from the current \$1,040. When Reagan took office five and one-half years ago, the exemption was \$800. Noting the exemption was \$600 in 1948, he said it would have to be \$2,700 today to have kept pace with inflation.

Such figures, he said, prove past administrations were "more interested in finding new ways to spend each family's earnings" than in meeting families' needs. "I am tired of that kind of behavior," he declared. "And I'm sick and tired of governments that put the family at the end of the line."

Reagan concluded his brief address to the group with an appeal to support tax reform in the same manner religious broadcasters have supported his proposed constitutional amendments on school prayer and abortion.

"I need your help," he said. "I'm not embarrassed to ask for it, and I have faith that you'll come through because you always have."

The president's 15-minute appearance—the first such meeting with an outside group since his recent cancer surgery—came at the end of a morning-long briefing on tax-related matters with other administration officials, including Vice-President George Bush and White House Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan.

According to one broadcaster who attended, only a handful of religious broadcasters accepted the invitation to the briefing, arranged by White House office of public liaison officials Carl A. Anderson and Carolyn Sundseth. When none of the country's more prominent religious broadcasters accepted, invitations were issued to other religious journalists and to pastors and their wives.

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Gardner-Webb Reports
Record Gift Income

Baptist Press
8/2/85

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. (BP)—Gardner-Webb College received a record \$2,252,525 in gift income during the 1984-85 fiscal year as both the Endowment Fund and the Bulldog Club had their largest support ever.

This marks only the third time in G-W's history that over two million in cash gifts has been given.

The college raised \$119,465 through the Endowment Fund this year while an additional \$68,023 came from Bulldog Club members. These totals compare to figures recorded during the 1983-84 fiscal year of \$44,171 and \$63,471 respectively.

The Endowment Fund has been an organized effort for only two years. Max Padgett, director of endowed development said: "Our long range goal is to have endowment sufficient enough to provide 20 percent of the current budget. If we don't generate it through endowment, we have to increase tuition. We want to keep the cost of attending Gardner-Webb within the reach of everybody who wants their education here."

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