



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 4, 1985

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***** NOTICE *****

During the move of Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee offices, Jan. 9-10-11, 1985, Baptist Press will not publish on its regular schedule. However, arrangements have been made to receive and circulate any news of great importance.

During moving days, if you need to contact Baptist Press personnel, you may telephone:

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or Linda Lawson, news and information coordinator, Baptist Sunday School Board, 1-615-251-2798.

Baptist Press will be back in operation Monday, Jan. 14. The telephone number will remain the same, 1-615-244-2355, but the address will be changed to 901 Commerce, Nashville, TN 37203.

Thanks,
BP

Maryland Congregation
Revokes Gay's Ordination

Baptist Press
1/4/85

BEL AIR, Md. (BP)--Calvary Baptist Church, Bel Air, Md., has revoked the ordination of Brian Scott, 29, after the self-professed homosexual refused to return ordination papers.

Scott, now a minister at the Gay-Lesbian Christian Fellowship in Waldorf, Md., was ordained by the congregation in January of 1981, shortly after his December 1980 graduation from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., with a master of divinity degree.

The congregation voted to revoke the ordination Dec. 16, 1984, after it twice had requested Scott to return the papers. The first request was made in November 1982, and another was sent in October 1984, according to church records.

James R. Cole, who has been pastor at Calvary since April 1984, stressed the church "did not knowingly ordain a homosexual. All we want to do is to cooperate with our sister Southern Baptist churches by revoking this ordination. He (Scott) has not directly harmed us, but the churches in the Waldorf area are embarrassed Scott continues to call himself a Southern Baptist minister.

"We do not approve of homosexuality," Cole added.

Cole told Fletcher Allen, editor of the Maryland Baptist, newsjournal of the Baptist Convention of Maryland, the church first learned of Scott's homosexuality because of his connection with the Gay-Lesbian Christian Fellowship.

With Scott's failure to return the ordination papers after the two requests, deacons met in early December to recommend revocation of the ordination. The church took action Dec. 16, discussing the matter for nearly an hour.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Nashville, Tennessee

Cole said members of the Gay-Lesbian Christian Fellowship attended the church business meeting and Scott was allowed to speak and answer questions.

The vote to revoke the ordination was by secret ballot, with members of the GLCF observing the vote counting. After the count, it was announced the congregation favored the revocation by a vote of 112-2.

Results of the vote were sent to all bodies who were notified of Scott's ordination in 1981. In addition, a letter was sent to Southern seminary and to the Circuit Court of Maryland. Cole said the congregation "wants everyone to know" Scott is not a minister of Calvary church and that he is not ordained by the congregation.

Scott, in a letter to Allen, said he joined Calvary Baptist Church in 1976, and added he transferred his membership to another congregation late in 1981.

Scott said in the letter he "repressed my feelings prior to ordination in 1981" but "finally accepted myself" in January of 1982. Scott said in March of 1982, he helped found the Gay-Lesbian Christian Fellowship "as a result of God's call to me to minister and to spread the gospel to the gay community and other outcasts."

According to a spokesman at Southern seminary, the Cooperative Program-supported institution accepts as students those who are recommended by the churches. In order to enter Southern, Scott was required to be recommended by his home church. Apparently Calvary Baptist Church endorsed him as a student, since he was a member of that congregation at the time.

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Fear Apathy, Not Guns,
Uganda Missionary Warns

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
1/4/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Christians in today's world should fear apathy and greed, not guns, foreign invaders or governmental chaos, a missionary to the trouble-plagued African nation of Uganda told college students attending MISSION 85 at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

"The trouble with American Christians today is they don't know what to be afraid of," said Richard Goodgame, a medical missionary to Uganda. "The things that can kill your spiritual life are apathy, greed, selfishness and security."

In an address on the costs and benefits of missions, Goodgame urged the more than 4,000 students attending the conference to choose wealth in the kingdom of God over worldly values. Dozens responded at the close of the session.

"In 1979, my wife and I tried to add up the costs and benefits of missions to see if the positives outweighed the negatives. We ended up on our knees saying we couldn't make the calculations, but we wanted to be missionaries more than anything else in the world," Goodgame said.

Goodgame, who went to Uganda in 1980 with his wife and five children to practice medicine and teach in a government medical school, said he and his family have found treasures on the mission field which outweigh the sometimes life-threatening difficulties.

Temporary restrictions which forced his family into their home each day at 6 p.m. resulted in an enriched family life, Goodgame noted. "We told a lot of stories, played a lot of games and planned our lives," he reflected.

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Goodgame also cited progress in presenting a Christian witness at the medical school, progress he called a spiritual treasure.

"Our main hope in being in Uganda was our presence would count for the kingdom of God," he said. An evangelistic rally followed by a film series and other events have involved a large percentage of the medical students. Many have become Christians.

Goodgame warned service to God frequently doesn't look like much on the surface but underneath is a treasure of incalculable value.

"Kingdom service costs everything you have," said Goodgame. "It sounds expensive, but Jesus knew it was something everybody could afford. It doesn't look like much, but you sell everything and go for the gold."

MISSION 85 was sponsored by National Student Ministries of the Sunday School Board, the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission and the six seminaries.

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

Students End Conference
With Mission Celebration

By Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press
1/4/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--About 350 students made commitments to involvement in missions during a New Year's Eve celebration in the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tenn.

The New Year's Eve decisions came during the final session of MISSION 85 and brought to more than 450 the total for the missions awareness conference.

MISSION 85 was sponsored by National Student Ministries of the Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission and the six seminaries.

Students filled the aisles and counselors were too few to deal with the responses after R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, challenged the students to prove to God they are concerned about a lost world.

More than 4,000 students attended the four-day missions conference at the Opryland Hotel which included opportunities to talk in person with more than 100 home and foreign missionaries. In Global Village, a unique exhibit hall, students could talk by special telephone hookup with missionaries around the world and learn about missions needs through data from a bank of 12 computers. In daily encounter groups, students attempted to solve problems encountered on the mission field.

Parks charged Southern Baptists' lack of concern for reaching the world for Christ is obvious because only five percent of the graduates from Southern Baptists seminaries choose to go into Baptist work outside the United States.

"It takes 5,000 of us (Southern Baptists) to send one foreign missionary," he pointed out.

Parks said barriers which stand in the way of a commitment to foreign missions include prejudice, self-will and self-seeking.

"Indifferent neglect is the most insulting kind of prejudice," Parks said. "I cannot understand how we read in the Bible about blessings to all nations and filter it to mean just for us."

"We don't believe a starving, bloated, fly-infested Ethiopian baby is as precious to God as we are. Do we?" he queried the students.

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Parks told the students it is dangerous to ignore the will of God or try to force an individual's will as God's will.

"There are scores of students here who know that God wants them and still are refusing to say 'yes' to God," he said.

Self-seeking leads to angry frustration because "what you want doesn't bring what you thought it would," Parks said.

A commitment to foreign missions is a commitment to suffering, not a tourist junket around the world or a trip on the Love Boat, Parks pointed out.

During the praise celebration following Parks' address, students clapped, sang and swayed to the music of Jubilation Brass, an orchestra from Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, and the chorale of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

The celebration service which was to end at midnight was delayed more than 30 minutes because of the continued response to the invitation during the commitment service.

The new year came as Ken Lyle, executive director of the Maryland/Delaware Baptist Convention, told the students an encounter with missions is an encounter with God.

"God is a missionary. When we encounter God, it is a time of celebration and praise," Lyle said. "A celebration of praise is when people see you, they see Jesus in you.

"You have today to share the love of Jesus Christ. You can do it, but you must do it now because now is all you have," Lyle said.

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Nine Florida Youth
Injured In Accident

Baptist Press
1/4/85

ATLANTA (BP)--Nine people from a Tallahassee, Fla., church enroute to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board were injured when their bus collided with a postal truck on an Atlanta freeway.

They were among a 29-member youth group from East Hill Baptist Church of Tallahassee on their way to tour Home Mission Board offices.

Some of the nine left the Clayton General Hospital emergency room on crutches and "everybody's kind of sore," said youth minister Brant Calloway. However, no one suffered broken bones or serious injuries.

The East Hill bus driver, with approximately 30 stitches in his face and leg, was the most seriously injured.

An unidentified driver had stopped suddenly amid interstate traffic and caused the postal truck behind it to jackknife, said Calloway, who was sitting at the front of the bus. The impact of the collision caused the bus to ram against a concrete median.

In addition to touring the Home Mission Board, the youth group had planned to deliver food and clothing to the Techwood Baptist Center in Atlanta and go ice skating and shopping before their return.

Cleason Melton, South Metro Baptist Association director of missions, made arrangements for the group to return to Tallahassee on a bus loaned from Emmanuel Baptist Church.

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Golden Gate Seminary
To Honor Gene England

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., has honored one of its top administrators for outstanding service to the institution in a long and distinguished career.

Eugene V. England, who retired Dec. 31 after more than 16 years as head of the seminary's business operations, and his wife, Beth, were honored at an evening dinner at the Clarion Hotel Marin in San Rafael by fellow administrators and faculty and staff members.

The seminary's board of trustees honored England in October by giving him a cash bonus and presenting him with a resolution of appreciation.

England, a native of Claiborne County, came to Golden Gate in 1968 as business manager. He was advanced to vice-president for business affairs in 1976.

During his tenure he led in the expansion of the seminary's physical plant by directing the construction and acquisition of several major buildings including a new 37,000 square-foot library, the Tichenor Village apartment complex and the Marin Garden apartments.

Since coming to Golden Gate, England has served under three of the seminary's five presidents--Harold K. Graves from 1968 to 1977, William M. Pinson Jr. from 1977 to 1982 and Franklin D. Pollard since 1983.

England, a retired lieutenant-colonel in the United States Marine Corps, holds the master of religious education degree from Golden Gate. He also attended Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.; Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, and the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

He has been minister of education in a number of California Baptist churches, including Clinton Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond, Calvary Baptist Church in Hawthorne and the First Southern Baptist churches in Compton and Costa Mesa.

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