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Senior DBU Religion Prof
Captures Gold Medals

DALLAS (BP)—Seventy-two-year-old Fred White runs a 400-meter lap in 70 seconds, spends almost eight hours a week "working out," and not too long ago, could do chin-ups with just one arm.

The Dallas Baptist University senior Bible professor is also a world-class participant in the Masters Track and Field Program—an athletic competition designed exclusively for adults who are 40 years old or older. Since White's first MIFP competition in 1972, he has captured more than 150 medals. At least two-thirds of the medals in his showcase are gold.

At each of the last eight national MIFP meets, White has captured first place in the 100 meter, 200 meter and 400 meter dashes, as well as in the long jump and triple jump. In 1979, White broke the U.S. record in the 200 meter dash during the Atlanta national meet. The next year, he captured five gold medals at the national meet, also held in Atlanta.

This year, White will participate in eight MIFP meets, including the national meet at the University of Indiana and the world meet in Rome.

"I have high hopes for one or two gold medals in the June world meet in Rome," White said. "There are five of us competing who can virtually win anything we enter. It will just depend on whose turn it is to win!"

White has always loved sports. During his high school days in Tenaha, Texas, he was quarterback on the football team, played shortstop and third base on the baseball team, ran distance for the track team and boxed for three years in the Golden Glove competition.

From 1935 to 1937, White pursued distance running on the Baylor University track team while working toward his ministerial degree. He managed to stay in shape during his Southwestern Baptist Theological days by "playing ball" with classmates. White graduated from Southwestern with a master of theology degree in 1940 and with a Th.D. in 1954.

During his years as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Duncanville and the First Baptist Church of Carrollton, White participated in church softball and basketball leagues while also doing "a lot of jogging on my own."

In 1965, White left the pulpit to take the podium at Dallas Baptist College as the school's first religion department dean. He was dean of the school of religion for 19 years (until 1984) and continues to teach Bible courses. This semester he is teaching "baby" Greek and Old Testament.

White has continued to keep his body in excellent condition by using the DBU track and field for his workouts. A typical workout includes a series of stretch exercises, 20 push ups, 25 knee bends, five minutes of shadow boxing, walking one mile and running two or three miles.

"My wife also helps to keep me in shape by making sure I run things around the house like the vacuum cleaner, the mop and lawn mower," White grinned.

White, who has been monitored by Dr. Kenneth Cooper of the Dallas Aerobics Center for the past twelve years, said, "Keeping physically fit has been a way of life for me, perhaps because I've always been small in stature and I've had to compete a little harder to win.

"I also have a strong Christian conviction that it is right and pleasing in the sight of God to keep your body—his temple—healthy," he said. "SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL COMMISSION LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES gave me a sound body, so I do my best to keep it that way." Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Staying in shape has had a lot of advantages. "It creates self-confidence and a positive attitude toward life...and I can eat just about anything I want to! I'm seldom ever sick...and it makes me feel enthusiastic since it gives me energy to do things," he explained. "I am also convinced that I can do just about anything, except play professional basketball!"

White's vigorous lifestyle also has had an impact on his teaching. "Staying in shape helps preserve your young spirit so that you can deal with young students. It helps them accept you and respond to you as an instructor," he said.

Success in MIFP meets also had opened doors to his Christian witness. "In Whit Plains, N.Y., I won the 200 meter dash when Ray Edwards, a New Jersey native and very wealthy man, asked for my advice in connection with a management problem he was having in one of his businesses," he said. "I sat on a wheelbarrow and he sat on the grass inside the track, and I began to tell him what I thought Jesus would do in a similar situation. He asked me about 'this Jesus.' He began to weep as I shared more with him about Christ and accepted the Lord."

"I've seen a lot of athletes cry...but not for that reason. I thank God for that opportunity that day."

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Mary Cheatham Left
Legacy Of Courage

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
3/27/85

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Although 17-year-old Mary Cheatham lost her battle for life following a second heart and liver transplant, the shy, courageous Texas Baptist shook the nation and the world, according to her pastor and former pastor.

Mary's death on the operating table in a Pittsburgh hospital March 1 ended her life-long struggle against a genetic disorder which caused high levels of cholesterol to develop in her body, gradually damaging her liver and heart. But she gave the world something wonderful, according to those who knew her.

"There's no doubt in my mind where she is today," said Jesse R. Leonard, pastor of First Lakeside Baptist Church, Fort Worth, who led Mary to accept Jesus as Savior last December. "She was never able to be baptized, but she told her mother she knew she wasn't alone anymore."

Mary's parents, Russell and Joan Cheatham, transferred their membership to the Lakeside Church last fall from First Baptist, Sidney, where they had lived for several years. Russell had to be accepted into the church by proxy because he suffers from a disorder similar to Mary's, said Leonard.

The Cheatham's former pastor, Raymond Jones, of First Church, Sidney, who helped conduct the funeral services, said through her positive attitude Mary challenged others to live. "She had a very sweet attitude," said Jones. "She kept sickness and troubles to herself. She always had a smile on her face. She didn't fear death."

He said the family kept their problem to themselves until it became too big to handle.

An article about the Cheathams in the Baptist Standard (newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas) last December, said Leonard, triggered tremendous response and helped raise \$250,000 needed for Mary's heart and liver transplant.

Leonard said contributions came from as far away as California and Chicago.

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Baptist College At Charleston
Benefits From Unusual Aid Package

Baptist Press
3/27/85

WHITE OAK, S.C. (BP)—Financially beleaguered Baptist College at Charleston will receive immediate and long-range benefits from an aid package approved March 12 by the general board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

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One striking aspect of the plan is other institutions who receive funds from the state convention—including Furman University, Anderson College and North Greenville College—agreed to give up their share of all contingent reserve excess and unencumbered daily interest from the 1985 state budget so Baptist College can get the entire amount of approximately \$400,000.

Another unusual feature requires the calling of a special meeting of messengers from the convention's more than 1,750 churches on May 9 to consider permitting Baptist College to go directly to churches to ask for budget help. It will be the only item on the agenda of the meeting, believed to be the first such called session in the convention's history.

Convention guidelines forbid convention institutions from raising funds directly from local churches. If approved, Baptist College representatives will be allowed to visit with churches, "on an invited basis."

The general board also provided additional collateral from the contingent reserve to enable Baptist College to secure a 15-year, \$1.8 million consolidating refinancing loan. The money will refinance a current \$1 million, five-year loan, cover a \$500,000 debt on the college chapel and provide \$300,000 for several short-term loans.

That would raise the collateral provided by the state convention from its current level of \$1 million to \$1.3 million. The college will provide land for \$500,000 of the collateral.

The arrangements will improve cash flow at the college next fiscal year by about \$800,000, according to Jairy Hunter, college president.

College trustees are studying the possibility of selling about 200 acres of land, appraised at \$7,500 an acre, which the college purchased from the city of Charleston for \$500 an acre in 1964. The college campus is 500 acres.

David Thiem, a Charleston accountant and a member of the general board of the state convention, said the action of the other institutions in releasing their share of interest income to Baptist College was based on fellowship and Christian concern.

"Sure, they'd like to have it," he said, "but if one is in trouble, all are in trouble."

Baptist College, which has an enrollment of 1,585, has been in financial straits for some time. A late 1983 audit showed it had \$11 million in debts but only \$643,000 in endowment.

The school's founding president, John Hamrick, was asked to resign and three top administrators were fired by the trustees in November 1983 in a dispute over financial policy. In February 1984 Oliver Barnes, vice-president for business affairs, was fired for "conduct unbecoming a member of the college family," after being accused of sexual harassment.

Hunter, 42, became president last May.

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Eules Center Steers
Girls From Abortions

By Toby Druin

Baptist Press
3/27/85

EULESS, Texas (BP)—Since December, when the "Crisis Pregnancy Center," operated by First Baptist Church, Eules, Texas, in a Eules shopping area, placed an advertisement in the Yellow Pages, activity on the phone line—and at the center—has doubled.

About 450 girls had been in the clinic through February, which marked seven months of operation and director Betty Crumpler expects the number to increase.

The "Crisis Pregnancy Center" offers free pregnancy testing and its goal is to steer women away from abortions. Thus far, Crumpler said, their success is "excellent."

Of the 450 who had come to the center for testing, 60 to 70 percent were pregnant and 85 percent of them were convinced to carry their babies to birth.

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Women who come to the center are tested to determine if they are pregnant and while awaiting results are shown an audiovisual presentation depicting fetal development and what occurs when a fetus is aborted.

Many who come to the center are unmarried teenagers. Crumpler said the first attempt is to get the teenagers reconciled with her family. Failing that, a half dozen homes of members of the church are available as "shepharding" homes where the girls can stay while awaiting the birth of the baby.

The girls are steered to the Family Health Clinic at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth where they are treated by doctors in their last year of residency training for specialties in obstetrics and gynecology, said Crumpler.

If the girls choose to place their babies for adoption, they are encouraged to work through the adoption service operated by Texas Baptists' Buckner Baptist Benevolences.

If interested in private adoption, they're urged to consult a qualified attorney.

The teenagers or women are offered free counseling through the church and some participate in a Bible study group. Some have made professions of faith, said Crumpler.

The center's services are free. It is supported by donations and the church budget, which provides Crumpler's salary and rent of the space the center occupies in the Town Center. A "rockathon" by the church's teenagers, with sponsors paying the teens for hours in a rocking chair, will provide additional funds.

The center's phone number is 817-267-3375.

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Living Christ Lifted Her From
Banana Crate To Mission Field

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press
3/27/85

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP)—When Berta Sosa was a baby, she spent her days lying on shredded paper inside a banana crate in the back of a flatbed truck while her migrant-worker parents tended the fields.

"That truck was sort of like a home for me as a child," the newly appointed Southern Baptist missionary said during a recent break in orientation at the Cauthen Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

Migrant work was about all Sosa knew until Christ began leading her on another journey.

Soon she, her husband, Manuel, and their three children will be moving to Colombia as missionaries. He'll direct a seminary extension program and she'll work among Baptist churches and at the Baptist seminary in the city of Cali.

Born into a Catholic family, Sosa was 10 years old when she became intrigued by the color and shape of the Mexican Baptist Church in Muleshoe, Texas. "The church I went to was white, and this church was more like a big office building. It was lime colored, and I word red, 'Why does it look so funny?'"

Curiosity pushed her inside, though her mother and grandmother had warned her against it. "The thing that caught my eye when I went in was the preacher was standing in front and I could understand what he was saying."

For the first time she heard that Jesus Christ lived, died for her sins and rose from the dead to offer her abundant life. But she said to herself, "That can't be. He (the preacher) doesn't know what he's talking about. This Jesus is dead. He hasn't seen what I've seen. I saw him (on a crucifix), and he looked dead to me."

She and her mother began to attend the Baptist church together. Soon they accepted Christ as their living Savior. Sosa saw her mother happy for the first time.

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Though her family—all of whom became Christians—remained migrant workers, Sosa began believing and praying for things in her life to change. "There were many questions in my mind," she said. "But I knew that Jesus was living in my heart."

Born Berta Acevedo in a Spanish-speaking section of Elsa, Texas, Sosa was the second of nine children. She spent most of her younger years in or near her Mexican grandfather's truck, a flatbed with wood and canvas covering the back. Her grandfather used it to transport migrant families from the camps where they stayed to the fields, then on to new jobs.

The young girl never felt like a child. "I guess you could say I was second mother to seven others," she said. "I was a baby and then I was an adult. I can only remember having one doll in my whole life, and that was when I was 10 years old. It was given to another child because she wanted it, and my mother always said, 'You are too mature, anyway.'"

At 16 Sosa attended a Christian youth congress in San Antonio, Texas, when she believes God deposited a sense of the world's needs into her heart. She responded to a call for Christian workers. But when she found out what a missionary was, she backed off. "I knew I could never be a missionary to another country. I didn't even have the education," she said.

"I thought if I didn't think about it at all, the call to be a missionary would go away and disappear somewhere," she said. But, instead, she found herself praying, "asking the Lord to help me understand this feeling I couldn't shake."

With only a sixth-grade education and no funds, Sosa began to prepare for a better life. At 19, with her parents' help, she attended the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio. Later she attended a business school in Corpus Christi. While working as a volunteer youth minister in 1971 in Alto Frio, Texas, she met Manuel. They married four months later, two days before Christmas. She figured starting a family would end the missionary thoughts once and for all.

But after five years of marriage her husband, a high school band director, told Sosa he knew God was asking him to change direction. He came home one evening and told Sosa he had resigned. "I said, 'What do you mean? What are you going to do? I'm about to have my third child,'" Sosa remembers. "The Lord's got to be kidding about this."

Yet in 1978 the couple moved to attend Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. She found a good-paying job while he went to school. In 1982 he graduated with a master of divinity degree and began working as minister of music at Nashua Baptist Church in Kansas City. She began studies at Midwestern and earned an associate degree in religious education last May.

"I feel like everything that's happened in my life, the Lord has led," Sosa said.

Now he is leading her to Colombia.

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

'Heart' Recipient
Is Southern Baptist

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Murray P. Haydon, the world's third recipient of a permanent artificial heart, has ties to two Southern Baptist congregations. Haydon and his wife, Juanita, attend Beechwood Baptist Church, where prayers were offered in Sunday school and the morning service.

Parishioners at nearby Clifton Baptist Church also were praying for Haydon. His daughter, Anita, was active there for a number of years before accepting mission work in California.

Clifton Church's pastor, Robert O. Williams, told the congregation the Jarvik-7 artificial heart is an ecumenical device. Williams quoted heart implant doctor William C. DeVries as saying he has implanted the device in a Mormon (Dr. Barney Clark) and a Catholic (William Schroeder) and now he was happy to implant one in a Baptist.

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