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December 7, 1992

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TENNESSEE -- Tennessee church dedicates room to history of missionary Bill Wallace; photo.
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Tennessee church dedicates room
to history of missionary Bill Wallace

Baptist Press
12/7/92

By Connie J. Umstead

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A Knoxville, Tenn., church is extending the memory of famed Southern Baptist medical missionary William L. "Bill" Wallace who was killed in China in 1951.

Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, founded in 1953, was named in honor of Wallace. Thirty-nine years later, members and friends of the church met again to remember Wallace by dedicating The Bill Wallace Room, a room that serves as a museum/research center of information about his life and ministry.

Wallace, who was called to be a medical missionary at age 17, left for South China in September 1935, to answer his call at Stout Memorial Baptist Hospital in Wuchow.

While there, he dealt with malnutrition, poverty, cholera epidemics, malaria, lack of running water, a faulty generator, and bombings by the Japanese. His areas of expertise included surgery, constructing artificial limbs, and repairing the faulty generator.

When the communists took control of Wuchow in 1949, Wallace hoped to coexist with them if he provided medical help to the community. However, communist officers eventually arrested Wallace as an American spy. They later claimed he hanged himself in his cell. Two Catholic priests who were later released said Wallace did not commit suicide.

The Christian martyr's remains were returned to his home state in 1985. He is buried in Knoxville beside his parents.

The idea for The Bill Wallace Room was born seven years ago when Wallace Memorial Church Pastor James McCluskey realized very little was known about the doctor for whom Wallace Memorial Church was named. He also realized people from the generation who knew Wallace were still alive, but getting older.

He approached retired librarian Jane Powell, who was recently widowed, to gather and organize all the information she could about Wallace.

Powell said when she began she had no idea where to start, but the project mushroomed after she talked with Wallace's sister, Ruth Lynn Stegall, of Knoxville.

Although Wallace wrote letters to his sister, he did not give information about his work. Even when he was home on two furloughs, he preferred to visit his family and be updated on their activities, and continue his medical training.

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However, Stegall saved every letter, card, article, and memento she received from and regarding her brother. She offered to let Powell copy each item. Powell set up the church copier on Stegall's dining room table, and worked for two days.

"We didn't know then what we were copying, but we realized that was the beginning," Powell said. After she finished and went through the material, she had the names of Wallace's friends, many of whom she later interviewed.

Powell's research took her across the United States and to Wuchow, China. She spent two weeks at the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., during which time she talked with Eugene Hill, who was a missionary professor in Canton and close friend of Wallace. She later visited Lucy Wright Parker, a nurse for Wallace, in St. Petersburg, Fla., for ten days.

Powell also conducted an interview with Cornelia Leavell in Mississippi. Leavell was born in Wuchow, and her father, George Leavell, supervised the construction of Stout Memorial Baptist Hospital.

"One lead led to another, and one interview led to someone else," Powell said. She eventually interviewed Mary Lucille Saunders; Mildred Lovegren; Carter Morgan; and Eloise Cauthen, wife of Baker James Cauthen, all missionaries during Wallace's time.

Another interview occurred in Saulsbury, Md., with Everley Hayes, Wallace's surgical nurse and director of the school of nursing in Wuchow from 1947-1951. Although not imprisoned, Hayes was placed under house arrest after Wallace was killed. Also a missionary, Hayes later served in Indonesia, a plan she and Wallace had discussed when it appeared they would have to leave China.

The Bill Wallace Room, specially designed for Wallace Memorial Church's new facilities which were completed last year, presents a picture of China during the time Wallace served before communist rule. The oriental design includes curio cabinets from Taiwan, Peking rugs, a Chinese screen, oriental benches, and an oriental game table and chairs.

Slides, video and cassette tapes, interview transcripts, articles, letters, memorabilia, and photographs are available; as well as books regarding Wallace, the history of the time period, and missionaries connected to Wallace.

Many of the Chinese items displayed were donated to the church by Hayes. Her collection includes a set of handcarved emperor's horses and decorative pieces of ivory and cloisonne. Other artifacts were donated by Leavell and Parker.

The Bill Wallace Room even has a hammer displayed. Wallace gave the hammer to his friend Frank Woodward after Woodward's hammer was stolen by the Japanese. Woodward felt it should be displayed in the room dedicated to Wallace.

McCluskey's foresight in gathering information about Wallace while people were alive who knew him was well-timed. Several people Powell interviewed have since either died or are now seriously ill. Those who have died include Parker and Woodward. Hayes now lives in a nursing home.

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(BP) photo available upon request from the Baptist and Reflector, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Umstead is news assistant for the Baptist and Reflector.

Student ministry not devalued
by reorganization, directors told By Chip Alford

Baptist Press
12/7/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--The name and divisional affiliation of the student ministry organization at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board may have changed, but the agency's commitment to student work remains firm, state student directors were told at their annual planning meeting Dec. 1-4 in Nashville.

As part of the current reorganization of the Sunday School Board, the name of the student ministry department was changed to National Student Ministry and it was placed as a section under the new discipleship and family development division.

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Several state student directors present at the meeting expressed concern about the new divisional affiliation and section status for the student ministry program.

"I don't feel comfortable being placed in a position that only addresses part of our work. Discipleship is only one part of (what we do)," Jerry Merriman, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's student work department, said.

John Tadlock, director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia's campus ministry division, said the problem state student directors face "is the perception that student ministry has been devalued" by the reorganization.

Several BSSB leaders assured the directors that is not the case, including Gene Mims, vice-president for church growth and programs; Roy Edgemon, director of the discipleship and family development division; and National Student Ministry Director Charlie Johnson.

"In no sense do we feel a diminishing of (student ministry) work ... I see it enlarging," Edgemon said, adding his division will promote student ministry products and services at all of its events and special meetings.

He also said he realizes discipleship is only part of student ministry, adding he will support the total work of the program.

While admitting the reorganization had produced both "trials and triumphs," Johnson said National Student Ministry wound up in an excellent organizational position.

"I have received a note of support for this program. You will not find anyone on our staff dragging around or moping around. We're in great shape and we are anxious to work with you and for you," he said.

During the planning meeting, state student directors and NSM staff members broke into work groups to find ways to improve their working relationship. Suggestions made during the meeting will be shaped into a working document to help both groups better define expectations and responsibilities.

In other business, state directors:

-- received copies of the 1992 Student Ministry report which showed 954 campuses had student ministry programs, down slightly from last year's total of 1,009. However, increases were reported in the number of student conversions (7,372); students preparing for church vocations (18,005); and the number of churches, Sunday schools, and missions students helped start (198). More black, ethnic, and international students also were involved in student ministry programs in 1992 than the previous year, the report stated.

-- learned more than \$35,000 has been given to date to the "East/West Challenge," an effort to extend the gospel outreach to three newer work areas -- Boston, Chicago, and the state of California.

-- heard a report on the International Student Ministry "Teams Overseas Orientations." This program involves teams of student workers from the U.S. traveling to foreign countries for two weeks in the summer to learn about students in those countries. The student workers then develop an international ministry on their campus, targeting international students from the country they visited. Baptist missions in Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Nigeria are planning to host teams of student workers this summer.

-- previewed copies of an "International Student Ministry Manual," prepared by the International Student Ministry inter-agency workgroup. The manual, scheduled for release by National Student Ministry in April 1993, is designed to provide guidelines for and specific models of ministry to international students and scholars.

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BWA appeals for U.N. force
to make peace for Liberia

By Wendy Ryan

Baptist Press
12/7/92

WASHINGTON (BP)--Now that the United Nations, prompted by the United States, has voted to send a U.S. led military force to Somalia, the Baptist World Alliance has appealed to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, President George Bush and President-elect Bill Clinton to consider a peace-keeping force for Liberia.

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"In the name of God, we appeal to you, Mr. President, to please consider seriously some type of peace force immediately," said Denton Lotz, general secretary of the BWA, the worldwide Baptist organization that represents a community of more than 70 million Baptists.

"Too long the people of Liberia have suffered," Lotz wrote the president. "Too long have we turned our attention to other areas of the world which might prove more profitable economically, such as the oil-producing countries, but have not tried to send peace forces to Liberia."

In his letter to Bush, Lotz quoted a recent appeal from the Liberian Baptist Missionary and Education Convention in which Emile D.E. Sam-Peale, LBMEC general secretary appealed to the BWA "to turn the attention of the world" to Liberia, "to see the plight of already fallen humanity."

"Liberia too needs prayers, attention and support as the countries of Eastern Europe," wrote Sam-Peale. "We need help badly or else we will soon self-destruct. We are displaced and refugees in our own home."

Appealing to Boutros-Ghali as "a son of Africa," Lotz asked him, "on behalf of Baptists believers around the world to do all that you can to actively seek to institute a peace force for the peace of Liberia."

"The many matters concerning your new presidency, of course, take all of your time," Lotz wrote to President-elect Clinton, "however, any type of word to encourage peace in Liberia would be a sign of hope to the suffering people there."

These letters from the BWA to world leaders are an attempt to focus world attention on Liberia, since civil war broke out in 1990.

The BWA has historic ties to Liberian Baptists. President William Tolbert, toppled and assassinated by Samuel K. Doe in 1980, was BWA president from 1965-1970. Also, some of the first slave settlers of Liberia were Baptists, who in 1821 organized themselves as a church in Richmond, Va., and founded the Providence Baptist Church on arrival in Liberia.

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Southern Baptist Foundation
assets show large increase

Baptist Press
12/7/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--Assets managed by the Southern Baptist Foundation in fiscal year 1992 grew 22.2 percent over the previous year, trustees of the SBC agency were told in annual meeting in Nashville Dec. 1-2.

According to reports given by President Hollis E. Johnson III the principal assets total grew to \$156,550,710, an increase of \$28,468,506 over fiscal year 1991. Johnson said assets have grown at a compound annual rate of 20.5 percent during the past five years.

Income produced for Baptist institutions, agencies, foundations and individuals increased \$702,058 over the previous year to a record \$9,218,147. The 8.2 percent increase, Johnson told trustees, was due to the "substantial increase in assets under management."

The SBC agency, chartered in 1947, was established to "motivate and encourage the making of gifts, donations and benefactions by deed, will, gift annuity, or otherwise for the advancement, extension and maintenance of the various causes and objects fostered by the SBC." Trustees are representatives of each SBC board, agency, institution and commission, plus 15 members-at-large.

In action by the trustees, William C. Lovell Jr. of Brentwood, Tenn., was re-elected chairman. Also re-elected were Robert F. Wilhite of Hendersonville, Tenn., vice chairman and Roy L. DePue of Gallatin, Tenn., recording secretary.

Responding to referrals from the SBC annual meeting this year in Indianapolis, trustees reported the "Foundation presently has no employee earning \$100,000 per year." The response was to a motion at the SBC on limiting salaries of the SBC employees.

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Also, trustees responded to a motion from the SBC seeking to limit severance benefits of agency employees by noting the SBF, throughout its history, has not used Cooperative Program funds to provide a retirement supplement to any employee above that which is provided through the SBC Annuity Plan. The Foundation has never paid for travel or related expenses of persons to any meeting or convention after retirement, according to the trustees' response.

Johnson said the phenomenal growth in the Foundation's assets "is even more dramatic with the realization that 53.7 percent more assets are being managed (by the Foundation) now than two years ago." Some of the increase in assets is the result of the dramatic decline in interest rates over the past year, Johnson said.

In addition, Johnson told the trustees, the Foundation did not cost Southern Baptists any amount but rather was a net provider to the SBC for the Cooperative Program. He cited CP gifts of \$294,998 in 1992 while \$318,660 was disbursed by the Foundation through the CP from undesignated trusts administered by the Foundation.

During the 1992 fiscal year, operating expenses exceeded income by \$64,467 leaving the current fund balance at \$320,778, compared to \$385,245 for fiscal year 1991. An unexpected, one-time expenditure contributed to the deficit, Johnson said.

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**BWA youth leaders call for
Zimbabwe prayer and fasting**

By Wendy Ryan

**Baptist Press
12/7/92**

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP)--Leaders of the International Program Committee, planning for the 12th Baptist Youth World Conference next year, have called on Baptists worldwide, especially young people, to pray and fast for Zimbabwe, currently in the throes of what has been described as "the worst drought of the century."

"Pray and fast for the drought situation in Zimbabwe that God may have mercy on the country and give rain, and, in the meantime, in his miraculous ways, provide food for those individuals and families who are starving," says Mbzibui Emmanuel Cheng of Cameroon, vice-president of the youth department and prayer coordinator for the conference.

Cheng, who made the plea on behalf of the IPC which met in Harare, Nov. 3-6, proposed, starting January all Baptists, but especially youth, have a weekly prayer emphasis every Saturday for the drought and the conference.

During the conference, individual and corporate prayer for the drought and conference will be emphasized. There will be a prayer room where a chain of prayer will be held during the conference.

The drought is a major concern for the IPC which listened to the advice of African Baptist leaders to keep the conference in Zimbabwe in spite of it.

African Baptist leaders see the conference as a great help to the people and economy of Zimbabwe and an opportunity for Baptist young people around the world to learn more about Africa. This is also the first time Africa will host a Baptist Youth World Conference.

However the drought and its effect, and the whole issue of food aid and development are now a bigger part of the focus of the conference.

The IPC was encouraged to learn that Baptists have already given over \$2 million in food aid to southern Africa.

Baptist World Aid has already given \$10,000 of a requested \$50,000 to the National Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe for a nine-month emergency feeding project for families in the Bulawayo, Gweru and Gokwe areas.

Food aid is also being supplied by Southern, Canadian and Australian Baptists.

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Misconceptions of Africa addressed
at 12th Baptist Youth Conference By Wendy Ryan

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP)--An African village will be constructed at the site of the 12th Baptist Youth Conference in Harare, Zimbabwe, Aug. 12-15 to introduce worldwide Baptist youth to Africa and its many different cultures and to challenge the stereotypes of Africa held by most Western and European young people.

"It is my experience that most North American and European young people get their knowledge of Africa through the mass media," said Samson Mathangani of Kenya, a member of the International Program Committee (IPC) for the Conference.

"The only news given by the media about Africa is news of hunger, famine, starvation, refugees, civil strife, misery, poverty, lack of medicine and health care units, poor living conditions, despair, hopelessness, orphans and death by the millions each year," Mathangani said.

"I hope that in this conference, people will be brought face to face with what God is doing in Africa," Mathangani said.

As well as the focus on Africa, the conference, expected to draw more than 4,000 delegates worldwide, will feature music and programming for Baptist young people to challenge them on the conference theme, "Risking All For Christ-Our Only Hope."

Led by international Baptist speakers Tony Campolo of the United States, and Steve Chalke of Great Britain, Baptist young people will be challenged on such topics as "Christian lifestyles in the midst of poverty," "Sexuality and Spirituality" and "Christianity in a changing Africa."

Seminars on these and other topics and "hands-on" projects are being arranged by Southern Baptist youth leader Russell Griffin who with his team have put together a challenging program of "Application" issues.

British Baptist leader John Passmore is working with European Baptist youth leaders to arrange Bible study programs that will start with about 300 young people in each group and then break down into smaller groups of 12 people for 90 minutes of family Bible study.

Music will be led by Liz Pass, a Zimbabwean-born Christian musician and resident in South Africa, and Cassandra Jones, youth leader for the National Baptist Convention, USA.

South African leader Jonathan Mills heads a committee planning the celebration sessions at the end of each conference day. "There will be a clear ministry goal with a call to Christian commitment and ministry," said Mills of the sessions.

Chamunorwa Chiromo of Zimbabwe, president of the BWA youth department, wants Baptist young people to know how much Zimbabwean Baptists want them to come.

"I have dreamt of this multi-national conference with young people and leaders from around the world gathered to share their commitment of 'Risking All For Christ-Our Only Hope,'" says Chiromo. "We are expecting more than 4,000 young people and now is the time when leaders and young people, 16-35 should be registering for the event," Regina Claas, associate youth director, said.

The BWA youth department is appealing to Baptists worldwide to support the Youth Scholarship Fund to help young people who will not be able to attend without the support of the fund.

The fund gives travel and conference scholarships to selected participants. Donations to the BWA Youth Scholarship Fund should be sent to the Baptist World Alliance, 6733 Curran Street, McLean, VA 22101.