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Korean Christian martyrs  
buried in Virginia Beach

By David Williard

Baptist Press  
4/17/95

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (BP)--The bodies of Chu Hon and Kei Wol Yi finally were buried in Virginia Beach April 15, nearly three weeks after the couple was found murdered in their small apartment in Khabarovsk, Russia.

For the world, it was a chance to ponder the kind of faithfulness that leads to Christian martyrdom. For families and friends, it was a chance to let healing begin.

The Yis were found murdered on March 28 by authorities in the Siberian city. They served at Khabarovsk Medical Institute there through Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

Chu Hon Yi, 60, a cardiologist, reportedly received several blows to the head. Kei Wol Yi, 59, a registered nurse, was strangled. Official investigation by Russian authorities into their deaths remains ongoing.

At their memorial service in the small sanctuary of Tidewater Korean Baptist Church, Southern Baptist leaders hailed the Korean couple for making the ultimate Christian sacrifice.

Daniel Moon, director of Asian-American church growth for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, cast them as successors to Southern Baptist missionary Bill Wallace. He died a martyr's death in China some 50 years before.

"They went as human sacrifices" for the cause of Christ, Moon told the approximately 500 people gathered before the pair of dark wooden coffins.

Moon said the example of their lives should be a challenge to the Korean Southern Baptist community to take the yoke of reaching into corners of the world, like Khabarovsk, where Christ's gospel is heard "small and dim. ... As we face the year 2000, we need to ... mobilize Southern Baptists for the cause of his kingdom, and (for) evangelizing the entire world in our time.

"The Yis' bodies were brought here. ... We see them. They earned eternal life, and they're encouraging us to follow in their pathway," Moon said.

Other speakers included Michael Stroope, head of Cooperative Services International, and Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Stroope, speaking about the Christlike legacy the Yis left both in Russia and locally, called the couple "God's gift to the people of Khabarovsk" as well as God's gift to the Virginia Beach Korean community.

Rankin said, "A multitude of people will have the privilege of knowing the glory of God's salvation because Dr. and Mrs. Yi were willing to bear their cross and be obedient to God's call."

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Th Yis left a definite impact in Khabarovsk, where people honored them for their service. "I've come to a new appreciation and perspective of Dr. and Mrs. Yi's Christian faith through this terrible incident," one of their medical colleagues, who is not a Christian, said earlier in a eulogy in Khabarovsk. "It's my hope that there will be a change in the entire city of Khabarovsk, and that through this tragedy many will come to know their God."

While testimonies of such leaders emphasized the symbolic significance to people around the world of the Yis' martyrdom, grief back home in Virginia Beach was expressed on a much more personal level.

Not that fellow members of Tidewater Korean Baptist Church, which the Yis helped establish, do not share in the Yis' vision for the world. Many lived vicariously through the couple, a church member explained. They knew the gravity with which the Yis struggled to prepare themselves, spending "every Sunday night until midnight" in the church in prayer about their call to serve overseas for three years before their departure in June 1993.

But the local community was preparing to bury not martyrs but close friends who had "touched virtually every church member in one way or another."

Their impact went beyond their roles as founding members of Tidewater Korean Baptist Church, Sook Ja Paik, a friend and fellow church member, said at the service. The Yis had no children, but they "adopted" all the children of the church as their own, she said. He spent many nights visiting and counseling ill church members. She visited the sick with meals she prepared.

"Dr. Chu Hon and Mrs. Kei Wol Yi have left us," she continued. "Our true friends, Christian teachers and model Christians have left. We're overwhelmed by the sorrow of their sudden departure."

"Yet our loss is their greatest gift in disguise. Their true love, their healing care, their sense of justice and dedication to the Lord live with us, touch us and change us forever."

Following the service, church members spoke of their own recollections of the Yis and their frustration about the unanswered questions surrounding their deaths. One observed that the Yis had been "too humble to give their own testimonies," concerned that it would draw attention to themselves. Several spoke of feeling cheated out of the Yis long-awaited return in September, when they had promised to return to help celebrate their church's 20th anniversary.

Johnny Farmer, English pastor at the church, said the sense of loss was equal to what the Yis meant to the community. "We're not talking about peripheral people. They were main members of the church, right-arm members," he said.

Farmer said the local community felt a lot of frustration while waiting for the bodies to return and the burial arrangements to be secured. On the one hand, they were unable to process their sense of loss while the bodies were being transported from Russia. On the other hand, they had to deal with questions concerning what actually motivated someone to kill the couple.

"It was just inconceivable why someone would kill them," Farmer said. "These were people who were liked by everyone."

Although laying the bodies to rest removes some of the sting from these unanswered questions for family and friends, they await a fuller accounting. Some of it may come when Russian authorities release a report on their investigation, due in about six weeks, although it could be delayed.

Kai Rim Park, a sister of Kei Wol Yi, told those gathered to pay tribute to the Yis, "Now we are the proud household of the martyred. From this day on we will try harder to glorify our God."

During a meeting the previous evening of 14 family members, two questions emerged, she said. "First, how could this incident have occurred? And second, how could this be avoided in the future to prevent any further loss" of Christian workers abroad?

She expressed hope to Southern Baptist leaders that they and the U.S. State Department will pursue "finding the real cause of the incident."

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(BP) photos are being processed and will be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press as soon as possible.

**FMB takes a byte  
out of job searching**

**By Debbie Moore**

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Lottie Moon would have been proud.

Always one to do whatever possible to reach people, Lottie Moon surely would have been among those gathered around new touch-sensitive computers displayed during Global Missions Emphasis Week at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

While the seminary campus was alive with the sights and sounds of international cultures, a cluster of new computers buzzed along with the steady flow of people curious about where their talents could be used on a foreign mission field.

Knowing that few, if any, people can resist touching a computer -- especially one with a four-color screen, real-life pictures and real-life sounds -- the management information office of the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board launched at New Orleans Seminary the latest in a series of computer crafts: a touch-screen computer providing personalized data on service opportunities with the Foreign Mission Board.

Created as a joint effort by the FMB's computer specialists, this new computer function allows people with even the smallest bit of curiosity about FMB service possibilities to investigate options without pressure, said Bill Nance, director of the office.

"It's not intimidating and it's absolutely user-friendly," Nance said. "No appointment is necessary. You just walk up to the computer, touch the graphic boxes (on the monitor) that interest you, and spend as little or as much time as you want with it."

The new computer program allows people of all ages and backgrounds to see where, when and how their specific talents can be used in foreign missions. The computer will tell them everything currently available concerning place and time of service.

All aspects of FMB service, from two-week trips to career service, are included. The interested person also can walk away with a print-out in hand for future reference. The print-out has all of the information sorted from the computer for that person's interests, plus the name and phone number of exactly who should be contacted at the FMB for more information.

"I saw one student standing here just playing with it," said Wendy Norville, director of the FMB's international service department. "Just on a whim he entered his wife's skills," she said. He was stunned as he watched the computer flash up two places her talents are needed now. "He was absolutely amazed. He knew he could be used anywhere as a preacher, but her, that was a different story," Norville said. "He started with the computer search just sure there would be nothing. He just kept saying, 'I had no idea. I had no idea.'"

"Those few minutes on the computer were a confirmation to that couple for the Lord's leading in foreign mission service," Nance said. "They are now seriously looking at foreign mission service in the near future."

The computer system also contains programs to let people locate friends who are missionaries. The monitors display pictures of locations around the world and plays an audio of the missionary speaking. Missionary addresses and phone numbers are available in seconds and can be printed out immediately.

Another feature sure to be of interest to many Southern Baptists is "Find Your Birthday Missionary." "You just tell the computer when your birthday is, then the computer pulls up a list of all FMB missionaries who share that birthday, along with their addresses so a card can be sent," Nance said. Since some missionaries are located "in the boondocks," he said, "or in places quite far from friends and loved ones, they really appreciate a note or card from someone who is praying for them."

The new system should be on display at the FMB exhibit at the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, June 19-22, as well as other times when the FMB has displays at conferences around the country. The FMB also is looking into access on the Internet.

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(BP) photo available upon request from NOBTS' office of public relations.

**Missionary sees 'miracles'  
during Pan American Games**

**By Betty Poor**

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina (BP)--"We've seen God do miracles."

That's how Southern Baptist missionary Annetta Marie Snowden describes Baptist outreach during the recent Pan American Games in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

Snowden, from Kansas City, Mo., and her husband, Gary, from Alice, Texas, both played key coordinating roles in the sports evangelism project led by missionaries and Baptists from Argentina and the United States.

They saw many results in the lives of athletes, including at least eight spiritual decisions by members of the Cuban delegation.

But they experienced an even more touching moment in their own family.

"It's been a blessing for my husband and me and for our whole family," says Snowden, tears coming to her eyes as she thought of her 6-year-old son, Joshua.

One miracle at the games involved Joshua directly. The Snowdens came to evangelize others. But they were "evangelized" themselves. Joshua accepted Christ at a child evangelism meeting conducted by the Argentine children's evangelism league.

"Joshua was so thrilled when he came out of the meeting," his mother says. "There was no question about it that his decision was real."

The next day Joshua was handing out gospel tracts to passing children in front of an evangelistic tent staffed by Baptists in the sports complex.

"Yesterday was a very special day for me," he said while being photographed. "It was the day I received Jesus as my Savior."

Not only did he distribute tracts, he encouraged people to draw near and pay attention to evangelistic events in the tent.

When a handbell choir was playing, he urged people to go look at the bells.

"You gotta go listen," he said to others when vocal groups performed.

Joshua's mother also remembers the "miracle" of street kid Daniel Cardozo, who accepted Christ in front of the Baptist tent while Argentine Baptist volunteers witnessed to him.

Daniel immediately became a "volunteer" himself, working from the tent to share his newfound faith with others.

Then there was a woman, burdened with problems, who inquired in some area churches, looking for spiritual help. Someone told her go to the sports complex, because some Christians were there in a tent, Snowden said.

The woman came to the tent and asked, "Are you a Christian? Can you help me?" Snowden recounts.

Foreign Mission Board missionary Tim Randolph, coordinator for activities from the tent, shared the gospel with her.

With tears in her eyes, the woman accepted Christ. Randolph, from Colorado Springs, Colo., then referred her to First Baptist Church of Mar del Plata for follow-up.

Meanwhile, a coach, the Olympic committee chairman and a boxer from the Dominican Republic saw a sign on the front of the Baptist tent. It read: "More than Conquerors."

The trio came inside to see what it meant. When they saw the Christian literature display, they asked for a Bible. When they received one from a Baptist volunteer, one athlete hugged it gratefully to his heart.

Some say the age of miracles has passed.

That's not the way Baptists who served at the Pan American Games see it.

**Golden Gate trustees approve  
budget, elect new officers**

By Mark A. Wyatt & Cameron Crabtree

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Amid reports of "significant belt-tightening" in administrative operations, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved a \$5.6 million budget during their regular meeting April 10-12.

Trustees of the Southern Baptist institution also elected new officers and reviewed plans for the seminary's new center in Arizona.

Despite overall increases in Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts during the 1994-95 fiscal year -- the period on which the seminary's 1995-96 denominational funding is based -- the new budget reflects a drop in CP support.

Seminary President William O. Crews told trustees Golden Gate is the only Southern Baptist institution whose CP allocation is being reduced for 1995-96.

Crews noted that although Golden Gate operates campuses in California, the Pacific Northwest and Arizona, the SBC seminary funding formula only fully counts work done at so-called "main" seminary campuses, such as Mill Valley, Calif. Consequently, Golden Gate will receive a \$171,000 reduction in denominational support this next fiscal year.

To make up the difference, Jim Stephenson, vice president for business affairs, told trustees the seminary spending plan anticipates a 5 percent growth in student enrollment and maintains instructional programs while cutting back in other areas.

"Developing the 1995-96 operating budget presented a particularly special challenge -- how to absorb a significant reduction in our Cooperative Program allocation while continuing to implement our strategic plan," Stephenson said. "We have absorbed that by cutting expenses in areas that are not academic."

For example, Stephenson said, no salary or wage increases are included in the budget. "That's a tradeoff that we're making" to maintain academic programs, he explained.

The new budget also increases student matriculation fees by 10 percent, from \$800 to \$880 per semester for students from Southern Baptist churches. Non-Southern Baptists will pay \$2,200 per semester, up from \$2,000 during the current year.

While the new budget is just 1 percent higher than the current year's spending plan, it includes costs for the new center in Arizona and addition of a continuing education program.

Golden Gate also operates a teaching site in New Mexico and nearly 60 Ethnic Leadership Development centers across the western United States. Golden Gate and the Baptist General Convention of Colorado are negotiating to open jointly a campus in the Rocky Mountain region in 1996.

Trustees reaffirmed their executive committee's March 10 vote electing David McCormick as director of the new Arizona campus. McCormick, a Southern Baptist missionary to Hong Kong since 1975, should be on site in late summer or early fall.

The Arizona campus, based at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, officially opens in mid-April, offering master of divinity and master of arts in Christian education degrees.

The campus is a cooperative effort of Golden Gate and Grand Canyon University. The Arizona Southern Baptist Convention executive board and Baptist Foundation of Arizona are participating in start-up costs.

Course offerings at the Arizona campus will be scheduled so that a master of divinity degree can be completed in four years and a master of arts in Christian education degree can be completed in three years.

In addition, with accreditation of the Arizona campus and following a prescribed course of study, a student could complete both a bachelor of arts or science degree from Grand Canyon and a master of divinity degree from Golden Gate in six years, rather than the normal seven years.

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George Mullinax, pastor of Western Branch Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Va., was elected trustee chairman, replacing California pastor Rob Zinn, who was ineligible for re-election.

Darrell Gabbard, pastor of Dublin (Ohio) Baptist Church, was elected vice chairman and Barrett Duke, pastor of First Baptist Church, Highland Ranch, Littleton, Colo., was elected recording secretary.

In faculty-related matters, trustees:

- advanced 11 professors in salary steps;
- elected to the faculty ranks Clint Ashley, director of the seminary's Northwest Campus in Portland, Ore.; Sam Simmons, director of the seminary's Southern California Campus in Brea; and David McCormick, director of the new Arizona campus;
- approved half-sabbaticals for Jerry Stubblefield, the J.M. Frost Baptist Sunday School Board professor of professor of Christian education, and Ron Hornecker, associate professor of ministry and director of the seminary's doctor of ministry program;
- granted promotions to Mike Thompson, associate professor, and Rodrick Durst, vice president for academic affairs and associate professor;
- conferred senior professor status on Morgan Patterson, former academic dean and regular visiting church history professor.

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**Stuart Briscoe shares  
his 3 golden rules**

**By Debbie Moore**

**Baptist Press  
4/17/95**

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--"Think in terms of freshness," Stuart Briscoe challenged students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Take time to think and to be creative with such churchly items as the pastoral prayer, the order of the worship service, days and times for worship and types of sermons, he said.

And to be successful, a minister must be able to "manage people well and effect change," he said. "If you don't get their attention you won't get far," said Briscoe, pastor of Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, Wis., since 1970. Through his leadership, Elmbrook has grown to more than 6,000 in attendance each week, with members branching off to launch five sister churches.

"Boredom and inattention are the kiss of death" with a congregation, Briscoe said, sharing from his 36 years of ministry experience in his address at the New Orleans campus in late March.

"Predictability breeds boredom; unpredictability breeds discomfort," he said. "There has to be a happy medium."

His advice on the perfect sermon included the following three questions concerning a passage of Scripture:

"What?" (What does the passage say?)

"So what?" (Explain what the passage says.)

"Now what?" (Apply what the passage says.)

Briscoe also listed three "Golden Rules" for preaching, "pointers I try to bear in mind all the time."

First, "explanation involves clarification," he said. The basic meaning of the entire sermon should be simple enough to be boiled down to one sentence. "But remember that even though it's clear to you, it may not be so clear to your congregation," he said. "I'll never forget what one member told me: 'Stewart, I thought I understood what you were trying to say, until you clarified it!'"

And don't assume people don't want to hear the details, he said. "When people are really interested, they do want to know all the details. We just have to get them interested.

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"Engage in clarification," he said. "Be meticulous because communication is tricky business. Assume you will be misunderstood. If you can be misunderstood, you will."

Urging ministers toward clear thinking, he said "cliches are not particularly helpful. They are evidence of lack of thought" on the minister's part.

His second rule: "Clarification requires illustration." One of his favorite quotations is from Charles Haddon Spurgeon, who once taught his students to "open a window and let in the pleasant light of analogy."

"An illustration should be designed to let in light" on the sermon topic, Briscoe said. "An illustration should be pleasantly profitable."

The perfect illustration will be "intelligible, interesting, intriguing, illuminating and inviting."

Briscoe's third rule is that "illustrations demand perspiration." Good illustrations don't just happen, he said; "you have to work on them."

"Dig them out," he said. "Be interested in your world, ... be alert, ... be a reader, ... keep a notebook" were a few suggestions he left with students for gathering good illustrations.

Briscoe told students to work on the structure of their sermons first, "then fit in the illustrations like windows" to let light shine on the topic.

"But make sure they fit," he said. "Don't just tell stories for the sake of telling stories."

"There's no excuse for not having a lot of fresh air in the pulpit," Briscoe concluded.

In answer to a student's question on how long it takes him to prepare a sermon, he said, "a lifetime."

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