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Easter egg hunt replaced
by church's 'soul hunt'

By Karen L. Willoughby

Baptist Press
3/5/96

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (BP)--Nicole Coffman doesn't remember much about last Easter, except it was fun.

"We had to pick up the men and say, 'He is risen,'" the third-grader said. "It was fun because we got to pick up a lot of them."

Nicole and about 20 of her friends participated in a "soul hunt" at Lakota Baptist Church, a growing congregation in northwest Sioux Falls, S.D., which meets in a small building on a run-down trailer park.

"Easter is all about fun," Nicole said with a wide grin just before Sunday school one recent week. "It was fun because I was looking and looking so I could get a whole bunch of the little men, and then I got one and my mother said it was my brother's, so I gave it to him."

Early last Easter morning, church leaders set out in the church yard about 100 brightly-colored, flour-and-water figures molded into gingerbread shapes and glued to Popsicle sticks.

When the children arrived for Sunday school with Easter baskets in hand, they lined up at the edge of the church property -- there is no fence and not much grass -- and listened to the instructions even as their eyes searched for the "souls" that weren't hard to find. The gingerbread shapes were sticking up everywhere.

Easter is all about the resurrection of Jesus, the children were told. The people who love Jesus need to tell everyone he is alive, and those who do so will receive a reward in heaven.

At the "Go ye" signal, the children squealed as they raced to pick up what their eyes had spotted. "He's alive!" they shouted as they waved each soul they found. "He is risen!"

Parents and trailer park residents attracted by the unusual commotion watched.

The children -- ranging in age between "barely walking" and 11 -- turned over all the little souls in their baskets to the pastor, who rewarded them with sweet treats.

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"Our goal is to teach them about the resurrection of Christ," said children's leader and present pastor's wife Jennie Constant. "We feel when they grow up that's what they're going to remember about Easter. When they think of church they think of God; when they think of Easter, they think of God.

"We're trying to not take away the joy of Easter but just to redirect the purpose," she continued. "We want to teach them about Easter and not about bunnies and chickens."

The idea for a soul hunt came from a former pastor, Randy Rhodes. He's gone now, but Lakota church and its ministries continue to thrive with bivocational carpet installer Nick Constant in the pastoral role.

Lakota church meets in a wooden building that, from the outside except for its sign, looks like a neatly painted white house at the back of the trailer park.

"It's the smallest church in town," Jennie Constant said. "We're getting very full sometimes. It's barely standing room only in the kitchen with the children."

The word "kitchen" is an exaggeration. There's a stove, but no sink. There's a counter, but it doubles as a stove. And in this environment, the children eat a hot meal while they listen to a Bible story. For some, it's their only hot meal of the day.

"Hot meal" also is an exaggeration. It's usually something from a can, such as Beefaroni. "We had hamburgers recently, and that was a bit of a mistake," Jennie Constant said with a wry grin. "I had to make 25 of them. The fried grease smell and the heat was overwhelming in that small space."

Lakota church buys from the local food bank at 14 cents a pound to provide the children's meals and to take food to a missionary at Crow Creek Indian reservation, a five-hour drive west of Sioux Falls.

Church members also have a Bible study and friendship evangelism ministry with inmates at the South Dakota State Penitentiary, which is directly across the street from the trailer park.

Lakota church itself is a young congregation -- it constituted as a church just last summer, and the oldest members are in their mid-50s. It was begun about 10 years ago by a Conservative Baptist retired pastor as a mission for Native Americans. Before he moved into a nursing home in Michigan at age 84, he connected with Southern Baptists and gave them the property so the ministry would continue.

"Now we are a multicultural church," Jennie Constant said. "The true gospel message is for everyone."

This is why the gingerbread-shaped men this year will be colored in people tones, from very light to very dark, rather than in last year's bright colors, she explained.

"Our target group is mainly Native American but whoever walks through that door we do everything we can to make them feel comfortable," pastor Nick Constant said. "As the church grows, we're expanding but not forsaking the original purpose."

About 30 people from a variety of racial backgrounds attend Sunday morning worship, where they sing to the accompaniment of prerecorded cassette tapes. The full-service church also provides a choice of Sunday school or discipleship training on Sunday mornings, Bible study and prayer on Sunday evenings and Bible study on Wednesdays.

"You've got to get them when you've got them," pastor Constant said. "We have lots and lots of baby Christians."

About 30 children are expected to participate in this year's soul hunt, including Nicole, who is one of just a few children still at the church who took part in last year's hunt.

Like many families, hers moved away from poverty-stricken northwest Sioux Falls. Most of the others moved out of town, however. Nicole and her brother and sister continue to attend Lakota church because an adult church member goes by to pick them up.

"It's fun, and I help the little kids sing," Nicole said of her Sunday mornings.

Does a 9-year-old remember why she was playing the soul hunt game last year? Not exactly, but preacher's kid Crystal Constant does.

"Jesus was risen I think on Easter and it's supposed to be about Jesus," 10-and-a-half-year-old Crystal said. "I get to learn about Jesus and it's fun."

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**SBC ministers' wives luncheon
to feature Jeanette Henry**

By Debbie Moore

**Baptist Press
3/5/96**

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The 1996 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference will feature Jeanette Henry and Gwen "Miss Chocolate" Williams during the annual June meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

With the theme "Stepping in the Light," the 41st annual luncheon will be at noon Tuesday, June 11, at the Hyatt Regency (convention hotel), 500 Poydras Plaza, according to Betty Baggott, president of the SBC Ministers' Wives Conference for 1995-96.

Henry, wife of the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Jim Henry, has been a minister's wife 35 years. She will tell of her role as "preacher's wife" and as the mother of three "preacher's kids" during their experiences in SBC churches of every size, from Mt. Pisgah Baptist in Melvin, Ala., and Hollywood Baptist in Sledge, Miss., to Two Rivers Baptist in Nashville, Tenn., and First Baptist in Orlando, where the Henrys have been since 1977.

Williams, who calls herself a music messenger, has been ministering through music in New Orleans and now around the country since the 1970s. She developed the first inner-city children's choir while she was a missionary with the SBC Home Mission Board in New Orleans. A gifted soloist and composer, she also developed music curriculum to equip African Americans in the development of functional music ministries.

Husbands are welcome to attend the luncheon. All who attend will receive a complimentary copy of "There's a Missionary Loose in the Kitchen" by Laurie Ingram, recently released by New Hope Publishing of the Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.

Tickets ordered by May 20 are \$18 per person and may be obtained by sending a check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the group's recording secretary, Betty Jean Billingsley at Sheridan Hills Baptist Church, 3751 Sheridan Street, Hollywood, FL 33021. After May 20, tickets will be \$20 per person and may be purchased at the Southern Baptist Convention near the messenger registration site through Monday night, June 10.

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**SBC child care registration
under way for New Orleans**

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Registration is being accepted for on-site care of preschool children of out-of-town messengers to the June 11-13 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting 11-13 in New Orleans.

Registration forms may be obtained by writing to Kim Craig, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126. Included in the return mailing will be a list of sessions when child care will be available and a medical form.

Child-care fees will be \$12 per session. Each registration form must be accompanied by a nonrefundable deposit of 50 percent of the anticipated cost.

Parents are advised to register promptly; registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The convention meetings and preschool child care will be in the Superdome in New Orleans.

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**Land: Growth of evangelicalism
fails to stem moral decline** **By Dwayne Hastings**

WASHINGTON (BP)--While the last 50 years has seen a surge of growth in evangelicalism, the same period of history has recorded a social and ethical collapse in America, Richard Land said in opening the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's 29th annual national seminar March 4.

There is little evidence that faith has penetrated the public square of ideas and public policy, the CLC president said. "There is a decay that is not only outside the church but has invaded the church and the families of the church as well."

Citing Carl F.H. Henry's newest book, "Has Democracy Had Its Day?" published by the CLC, Land said: "After at least a half century of evangelical Christians being at least as impacted by the culture as they have impacted the culture, it is not only the society that needs to be transformed; it is the church that also needs to be transformed."

The entrance of Christians into the public square does not guarantee that others will see "faith in practice," Land said.

"If we are going to have Christians in the public square and have faith in practice, we have to have the faith right first," Land said at the Washington conference, titled, "Christians in the Public Square: Faith in Practice?" Christians should not place their faith in a political party or political solution, he added, but in Jesus Christ and Scripture alone.

"We must never sell the birthright of our second birth to any political leader, any human movement, to any political party," Land said. "Our loyalty and allegiance belongs to Jesus Christ."

Borrowing from Henry's book, Land said democracy is inextricably tied to the basic fundamental values of a Judeo-Christian worldview. The democratic system will work only when the vast majority of citizens share a common value system that understands it is accountable to a higher power than mere government, he said.

There is a means by which believers can test that which is debated within the public square, Land insisted. "Our participation in the public square must be as we hold the issues of the day to the litmus test of Scripture," he said. "We need to be asking: How does this square with Scripture?"

When Christians bring their moral and religious convictions and faith affirmations into the public forum of ideas and involve themselves in the social and political arena, Land said believers can expect to meet resistance.

"There are those guarding the public square who attack with venomous attacks anyone who would dare to question them," explained Land, citing an account in The New York Times which suggested public policy advocacy by evangelical Christians was "a far greater threat to democracy than was presented by communism."

Yet the people of God need to see themselves as watchmen and watchwomen on the wall, to sound the alarm that righteousness does exalt a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people, Land said, echoing Proverbs 14:34.

"The hour is late but not hopeless," Land said. Without a great awakening in America led by people of faith who will then bring that awakening into the public square, there really is no hope for America, he said. "The goal being changed people, changing the society and changing the world," he said.

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**Elisabeth Elliot addresses
'S' word at Southeastern**

By Lee Weeks

**Baptist Press
3/5/96**

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--"Be submissive."

Just mentioning the "S" word provokes feelings of inadequacy, dependence, inequality and helplessness in the minds of many.

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Make "men" the object of the verb and most women wince at the idea.

Refer to a Scripture reference for support and watch the conversation take a quick detour.

But that was not the case for nearly 300 women attending the Women's Leadership Consultation VI Feb. 22-24 at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. The consultation was organized by an informal seminary women's network started about six years ago.

"The Bible says the husband is the head of the wife," said the conference's keynote speaker, Elisabeth Elliot, evangelical author and host of the weekday "Gateway to Joy" radio program on about 200 radio stations across the country.

"It (Bible) doesn't say the husband ought to try to be the head of the wife or the wife should allow him to be her head or she should confer upon him this honor," Elliot said.

"Some of you (men) have wimped out because you don't really want that position. And you know what? Adam did the same thing. Adam just wimped out when Eve came along and suggested this dreadful sin," Elliot said, referring to the couple's sin of eating the forbidden fruit.

Society's protest for equality of the sexes, Elliot said, has "corrupted" the world's thinking.

"We have to refuse to be infected by secular thinking," Elliot said. "Measure what the world says by the straight edge of Scripture.

"We have to be treated in terms of equality in the political realm, but what business has political terminology to do with the church and the home and with an individual Christian's following of his Master, Jesus Christ. Absolutely nothing whatsoever. If our Lord and Master did not consider equality with his Father a thing to be grasped, who do we think we are?"

The Bible, Elliot said, does not inhibit women's economic, social and intellectual development.

"God has liberated us women," she said. "This is the truest women's liberation, by making us subordinate, not stupid, not zeroes. We are to be helpers to our husbands."

Mary, the mother of Jesus, Elliot said, is one of the clearest biblical examples of feminine leadership with a submissive spirit.

"The assignment given her as a young girl was not only accepted but it was embraced. And she becomes for us the pattern of feminine leadership -- a woman willing to be known for the rest of her life as somebody's mother, a woman who put her life on the line."

Dorothy Patterson, who chaired the conference's steering committee, said society's standard for equality seems to be based on likeness.

"There's a big difference in equality as being equal, having the same rights and privileges, and equality as being the same," she said.

The woman's role in the church, Patterson said, has been skewed by the world's definition of equality.

"There are only two boundaries given to women for their ministry in the church. They will not teach or have authority over a man."

Alluding to the apostle Paul's admonition to the Corinthians that women remain silent in church, she noted, "It is not to be silent in the sense of the absence of sound but in quietness -- a respectful attitude that involves coming under the authority which is in place in God's church."

The next consultation is scheduled to be held in 1998 at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

Needy world, urgent mandate
stressed at Southern emphasis

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--A world in need of the gospel and a biblical mandate in need of fulfillment were key themes sounded during Global Missions Week at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Feb. 26-March 1.

In a series of chapel addresses, speakers emphasized the priority of Christ's command to preach the gospel to every person on earth.

Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board, told seminarians the Great Commission applies to all Christians. However, Southern Baptists are sending only one missionary for every 2.8 million people who have not heard the gospel, he said.

"If we had just one Southern Baptist out of a thousand, just one tenth of 1 percent who would take seriously that mandate (to share the gospel with the world), we would not be talking about 5,000 missionaries but 15,000 missionaries," he said.

Rankin said he was first convicted of the need for world evangelization during a geography class in college. "As we were studying the peoples of Asia, suddenly I began to comprehend the masses of people, their religions, their philosophies and the reality of the fact that they were living a lifetime and by the millions were dying and going to hell, not because they had rejected Jesus Christ, not because they did not want the salvation that he died to give them, but simply because no one ever told them the message of salvation."

Rankin said he immediately began to wonder why there were not more missionaries to share the gospel. "And God reflected that thought back into my heart to recognize there was the potential in my life of going."

Another speaker, John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston, said the nearness of the end of time accentuates the need for spreading the gospel. "These are the times that believers for 2,000 years have looked forward to," Bisagno said. "The coming of Christ is very, very near. Every biblical sign of prophecy has been or is being fulfilled as we sit here this moment"

God is giving the world "one great last chance at revival harvest," he said.

God will open doors for those called to the mission field, Bisagno said.

"There is only one secret to the Christian life and that's obedience," he said.

"When he says go, you go and then watch him start knocking down the barriers. God will make a way for you."

Lewis Myers, FMB vice president for World A strategies, described the challenges of reaching the 1.7 billion people who live in World A, the portion of the globe which has limited or no access to the gospel.

World A peoples are suffering from overpopulation, hunger and poverty, Myers said. "Christians number 33 percent of the world population, yet we control 62 percent of the world's wealth and we spend 97 percent of that on ourselves."

Amid the economic problems are spiritual needs that "run rampant," he said.

"There is one thing that characterizes the people of World A over and above everything else, and that is they do not currently have reasonable access to the gospel."

Of the 2,466 people groups in World A, only 66 have the Bible in their own language, he said. Among the 193 World A people groups with a population of more than 1 million, only 50 have the Bible in their language.

Nevertheless, Myers said God is doing "a wonderful thing in our generation."

In 1994, 4,000 people in World A became believers in Christ, and in 1995 conversions totalled nearly 8,000, he said. Those figures stand in contrast to the 12 new believers who were reached during the first year of FMB efforts in World A, said Myers.

Thurmon Bryant, FMB vice president for mission personnel, concluded the week's chapel services with a call for boldness in bearing witness to Christ.

"We will never be the kind of bold witnesses for God that God wants and needs and that the world is clamoring for until we have a conviction as to the singularity of the message which is ours in Jesus Christ," he said. "There is no other way of salvation."

Bryant also underscored the need for a consistent devotion to God and absolute dependence on God's power. "When we become aware of our own inadequacies, that's the point we are obligated to fall upon the mercy, power and strength of God," he said.

In addition to special chapel services, the week's activities included lectures by missionaries to seminary classes and informational sessions for seminarians interested in missions. Approximately 35 Foreign Mission Board personnel visited the campus.

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Eat some buffalo or alligator,
hear a life-changing message

By Josh Jackson

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DULUTH, Ga. (BP)--About 3,500 brave souls sampled meats not normally on their dinner tables -- such as alligator, buffalo and rattlesnake -- at a recent "wild game dinner" at the Gwinnett Civic Center in suburban Atlanta.

The massive dinner has been a great tool for outreach into the community, said Thomas Hammond, minister of evangelism at the sponsoring church, Hebron Baptist.

"It's a means to reach men who wouldn't normally come to a worship service."

Former Atlanta Braves first baseman Sid Bream shared with the crowd of mostly hunters his own hunting stories and his testimony of a life with Christ.

Afterward, attendees were invited to pray to receive Christ and asked to fill out an information card. Hammond said 201 people indicated they had prayed to receive Christ that evening.

"We had one guy who marked on his card that he had prayed to receive Christ," Hammond said, recounting the 36-year-old Atlanta man died in his sleep the following night.

Members of Hebron's Sunday school classes have begun following up on people who attended the Feb. 1 dinner and inviting them to their Sunday school classes and church.

Many other athletes also were on hand, including another former Braves player and Hebron member, Brett Butler, and Harper Le Bel of the Atlanta Falcons.

The line for the unusual fare began growing an hour before the dinner began, but there was plenty of elk, venison, alligator and buffalo to go around. There was even chicken, turkey and pork for the less-adventurous palate.

The rattlesnake gets the most attention of the dishes served, Hammond said, "but not many people want to eat it."

This year for the first time most of the meat was imported from Colorado and California, but part of it was contributed by local hunters. Some of them are members of the Christian Sportsmen's Fellowship, part of a growing national movement to reach men through a shared interest in the outdoors.

CSF was just getting its start during Hebron Baptist's wild game dinner last year; it has since grown to 1,000 members in Georgia and almost 10,000 worldwide.

"We're reaching a niche that's not normally touched," said co-founder Kenneth Pettay, who attended the Hebron dinner. "You can go through this (meal) line and find men who would have never gone to church."

The CSF uses workshops and hunting and fishing events, as well as wild game dinners, to expose men in the community to Christian men in the church.

The Hebron chapter of CSF has grown to 80 members. Chapter president Mark Brown started Hebron's wild game dinner seven years ago.

Brown got the idea for a wild game dinner from Nelson Price, who as pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., had been leading a similar event for several years.

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"We wanted to do some type of men's ministry, and we thought (the dinner) would be a good thing to do," Brown said. "Men that won't otherwise come to church will come to something like that, so you can reach a lot of people."

The attendance has grown exponentially since the first year, when 300 people showed up for the dinner, held in the basement of the church.

"Every year we try to expand, to try to figure out a way to accommodate the numbers of people," he said. They already are looking for a larger site for the 1997 dinner.

This year, a team of about a dozen men began preparing food 48 hours before the dinner. Almost 200 volunteers helped set up, cook and serve the food.

Those who attended also could get a look at a live rattlesnake, tour boats and campers or get fishing advice from a local bass pro shop.

Leftovers from the feast, which also included a regular fare of vegetables, bread and Brunswick stew, were donated to the Quinn House, a homeless shelter in Lawrenceville, Ga.

Although Hebron's dinner remains one of the largest, the idea of using a wild game dinner to reach out to unchurched men has become popular throughout the country. "A lot of churches are picking up on this idea," Brown said.

Georgia's Rehoboth Baptist Association, for example, held a wild game dinner Feb. 8 with Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden as the keynote speaker. Rehoboth sold approximately 2,000 tickets to its dinner, whose menu included squirrel, rabbit and emu.

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Jackson is a staff writer for The Christian Index, Georgia Baptists' newsjournal.

Teens' pro-marriage views
reported in Gallup poll

By Rebecca Day

Baptist Press
3/5/96

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Leigh Dorough, a 19-year-old university student, is not planning to be married anytime soon. However, she expects someday to "find the right one."

"I hope to be married someday and to have children, too," said Dorough, who attends Hunter Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. "I'd like to bring them up in a Christian home, to give them everything that my parents gave me."

A recent Gallup poll found, like Dorough, the majority of U.S. teenagers want very traditional marriages and child-rearing situations. In fact, 94 percent of all Protestant and 96 percent of all Catholic teens surveyed plan to be married at some point.

The survey also indicated teens hope to see their marriages last rather than end in divorce.

"God didn't mean for us to take marriage on a trial basis, 'If I like you it will work and if not we'll get a divorce,'" said Felicia Wallace, a member of First Baptist Church, Phil Campbell, Ala., and a student at Phil Campbell High School. "Divorce is not an option for me."

Seventy-two percent of all church-going teens surveyed said divorce is not something they plan to consider.

"Some people get married just because they think it's fun, and then they find out it's not all it's cracked up to be," said Kellie Brown, a senior at Cleburne County (Ala.) High School and attends Beulah Baptist Church, Muscadine. "I don't see myself just going out and marrying somebody," she said. "I want it to last."

Andi Wood, a 19-year-old from Dothan, Ala., agreed. "I think it takes time to fall in love. I don't think there's any such thing as love at first sight."

Wood hopes to fall in love someday, though.

"I want my husband to be a strong Christian ... a real leader in our relationship," she said. Ideally, "we would have a really open, very communicative relationship where we build each other up and bring each other closer to God."

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She also hopes to be a mother. "I hope that I'll be able to stay home with my children, to be happy doing that," she said.

Like Wood, 93 percent of the teens in the Gallup survey plan to have children at some point in the future.

However, most do not consider having children outside of wedlock an option.

More than 50 percent of the teens surveyed consider it important for children and parents to worship together in church. They also say they will attend church with their children when they are parents.

"I will take my children to church," Dorough said. "I believe strong marriages and strong families must be built on faith in God."

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Day is an intern at The Alabama Baptist newsjournal.

Witness of youth who died at 16
lives on through Shawn Switzer By C.C. Risenhoover

Baptist Press
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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--In 1992 Shawn Switzer was a seminary student's wife seeking not just a job but a ministry. She found both at the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Switzer is currently public relations associate and managing editor of "BEAM International," the commission's quarterly magazine. Her husband, Blake, is singles minister at First Baptist Church, Garland, Texas, and will graduate in May from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and begin work on a Ph.D there.

However, had it not been for the Christian witness and death of a 16-year-old boy when Switzer was 9, she said her life today might be altogether different.

"Duane Klunder was my sister's boyfriend and was like a brother to me," she said. "He was responsible for getting my family back into church. Until he and Donna (her sister) started dating, we weren't attending church regularly."

The family became involved in First Baptist Church, Missouri City, Texas, a five-minute drive from their home in Stafford, a suburb of Houston.

"Duane was riding a bicycle to work early one morning, earning money to go on a mission trip, when he was struck by a car and killed," Switzer said. "That was my first real experience with the death of someone I knew well. His family and my family were close. And, being so involved in his funeral, I became fearful of dying and going to hell.

"When we viewed Duane's body at the funeral home, I'll never forget my father saying, 'That's Duane's earth suit.' That's when I really began to comprehend eternal life."

Switzer said that when her sister went on the mission trip Duane had planned to go on, she talked to her mother about the assurance that comes with salvation in Jesus Christ.

"I trusted Christ, became very involved in the church and have reaped the benefits of knowing Christ as Savior and Lord," she said. "He's my best friend."

Switzer said she felt the call to some type of ministry when 13 years old, but did not know what all it entailed.

"Now I know that my first ministry is to Blake, and that as a team we can minister to others," she said. "Blake wouldn't be happy being anything other than a minister. And I wouldn't be happy being anything other than a minister's wife."

When it came time for Switzer to choose a college, she chose Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She said she was influenced by her church's youth minister, Bill Skaar, and his wife, both of whom were Baylor graduates.

"It was important to me to go to a Christian university," she said. "Of course, then my parents had to worry about paying for what was important to me."

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Switzer said the Scripture she has used as a guide for life through college and now is Jeremiah 29:11-13: "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.'"

"Since becoming a Christian, I've always known that if I seek God's heart, he will find a place for me," she said.

A communications major at Baylor, Switzer did the 5 a.m. news on KWBU radio and also worked for the Public Broadcasting System TV affiliate in Waco.

"One semester I did the news, interned at the PBS affiliate, took 21 hours of classes and dated Blake," she said. "Strangely, that was the semester I had my highest grade point average."

About her husband, Switzer said, laughing, "It was love at first sight. I think I was attracted to Blake because he is such a devout Christian. He was my Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church in Waco, which is where we met."

The couple married the evening of May 16, 1992, the same day they both graduated from Baylor. She began a new job at the RTVC a week after their honeymoon.

"One of the most satisfying things I've been involved with at the RTVC has been reviving BEAM International," Switzer said. "I'm very pleased with the looks of the magazine and its content. We don't just focus on in-house ventures but also spotlight how many pulpit giants use media for their ministry."

She said it is easier for her to see God by looking back, to see and understand how he has proven himself in her life time and time again.

"Being a minister's wife in this ever-changing world, my faith in God and the realization of what he has already done for me enables me to walk out on a limb without fear," Switzer said.

She said she often thinks of Duane Klunder, how his Christian witness continues to live through her and others he touched in his short life.

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