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CALENDAR

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**World Changers build, renovate
homes on Catawba reservation**

By Allison Taylor

**Baptist Press
8/9/96**

ROCK HILL, S.C. (BP)--Eighty-two years of memories hang on the walls of Elsie Blue Gregory's tiny house

She now has added a picture of the World Changers, an organization of Southern Baptist students who build and renovate houses.

The photograph holds a prized place among the pencil sketch of George's father in traditional Catawba costume, yellowing snapshots of long-dead brothers and sister, airbrushed color photos of young relatives.

The students are special to George, a member of the Catawba Nation, because they spent a week building seven new houses -- one of them for her -- and renovating 27 others for members of the tribe.

Through the living room window of her sagging, 45-year-old house, George can see her new home just five feet away. The sparkling white, two-bedroom house will be ready for her to move into in mid-August.

"I'm just tickled to death about the new one. It's beautiful," George said. "The old one means a lot ... but it's about to fall in on me."

Lendrum George, Elsie George's husband for 63 years until he died last year, built their house in 1951. Paint has long since peeled away; window screens are held up with duct tape.

Enter the World Changers, an organization created by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission to give teenagers a chance to serve people in need, said Cliff Satterwhite of Columbia, S.C., coordinator for the Catawba project.

"They come to do World Changers because they want to share their faith, not necessarily preaching it, but living it," Satterwhite said. "They want to do work in the name of Jesus Christ."

The 409 World Changers, from as far away as Oregon, paid \$275 each to participate in the program. They received training in construction work and how to present their faith to others.

"We estimated that they saved us about \$160,000 (in labor costs)," said Karen Gregory, a Catawba spokeswoman. "We've had an inspector come in behind them and their work is just super."

World Changers have similar week-long summer projects all over the country. They have never returned to a site for a second year, but will come back to the Catawba Reservation in 1997 to continue renovating old homes and building new ones, Satterwhite said.

Catawba Chief Gilbert Blue was impressed with the students' commitment and accomplishments. And the benefits, he added, were mutual.

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"I think there's always a mystique about Indians and reservations, and we responded by performing our dances for them, speaking our language to them, serving some of the tribal foods for them," Blue said. "I think they have a better understanding (that) Indians are the same as other people except for heritage and culture."

Satterwhite said the World Changers have left their legacy with Rock Hill, too. More than 20 local churches that fed the group during their stay have vowed to donate materials to the tribe to help finish the World Changers' work on the reservation.

Some locals, however, were reluctant to offer help, he said. The Catawbas had planned to sue 67,000 landowners before their \$50 million land-claim settlement with the government in 1993.

"We had some people locally who said, 'They won the settlement; they got \$50 million and all that land. What do they need us for?'" Satterwhite said. "Hopefully the barrier we broke was the hate between the Catawbas and the locals."

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**Nearly one in five abortions
to evangelicals, study says**

By Tom Strode

**Baptist Press
8/9/96**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Women who claim no religious identification apparently are about four times as likely to have an abortion as those who identify with a religion, according to a recent study, but nearly one in five women who have an abortion describes herself as a "born-again" or "evangelical" Christian.

The 1994-95 national survey, released Aug. 7, also revealed an increasing number of women are using abortion as a back-up for contraceptive failure. The study showed about 58 percent of women used a form of contraception the month they became pregnant, as compared to 51 percent in a similar survey in 1987.

Other findings in the study were:

- Abortion rates among Catholics are 29 percent higher than among Protestants.
- For 45 percent of women having abortions, it was at least their second, compared to 43 percent in 1987. It was at least the third abortion for 7 percent of these women.
- Nearly 26 percent of women having abortions are married, with 7 percent of this total for wives who are separated.
- The age group with the highest rate of abortions is 20 to 24 years, with nearly 33 percent of all abortions from this category. Teenagers have nearly 22 percent of all abortions.
- White women have 61 percent of the abortions, while black women have 31 percent, even though they make up only 14 percent of the female population between 15 and 44 years of age.
- Nearly 56 percent of women having abortions already have delivered at least one child.
- Non-whites, women aged 18 to 24, Hispanics, separated and never-married women, and those who have an income of less than \$15,000 or have Medicaid are twice as likely as women in the general population to have abortions.

The Alan Guttmacher Institute, a special affiliate of the abortion advocacy organization Planned Parenthood Federation of America, surveyed nearly 10,000 women in 13 hospitals and 87 non-hospital facilities. The institute also did a study of nearly 10,000 abortion customers in 1987.

The figure on professing evangelical Christians reflects a slight increase from the '87 survey. The '94-95 study showed 18 percent of women having abortions describe themselves as "born-again" or "evangelical," while 16 percent did so in '87.

If the survey approaches accuracy, the results on evangelical women "should motivate us to persevere for the long haul," said Ben Mitchell, a Southern Baptist biomedical issues specialist. "This study demonstrates that we must not only function as the conscience of a culture gone mad, but we must do so for our own households as well. The church must use her prophetic voice more effectively even within her own walls to prevent the senseless killing of the unborn."

Christians also must continue providing alternatives to abortion, said Mitchell, visiting professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and consultant for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"We must make having a baby more attractive than destroying him or her," he said. "Churches must hold the biblical tension between decrying promiscuous sex and being a community of protection for those who make bad decisions. This is not easy, but it never has been."

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The higher rates of abortion among Catholics, whose church doctrine is strongly pro-life, may say more about how faithful such women are in their religious practice, said a spokeswoman for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"We, as a church, have less opportunity for reaching those" who are not regular in their religious practice, said Helen Alvare, according to The Washington Post.

The survey's results on contraceptive failure also confirm something pro-lifers have frequently observed, Mitchell said.

"Abortions are sought as a means of contraception -- so that individuals can continue their promiscuous lifestyle or avoid the consequences of bad decisions," he said.

"Killing a baby is a pretty lousy remedy for a broken condom," Mitchell said. "Even if there were no other biblical reason for sexual abstinence before marriage, the failure rate of contraceptives is reason enough. Indeed, true love waits."

More than 32 percent of women who have abortions indicated their partners had used condoms the month they became pregnant, the survey showed.

AGI announced last year abortions had fallen from a high of about 1.6 million during much of the 1980s to 1.52 million in 1992.

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**Midwestern, Chicago association
team up for theological education**

By James A. Smith Sr.

**Baptist Press
8/9/96**

CHICAGO (BP)--Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will undertake its first movement north this fall by offering graduate theological education in the Chicago area.

At the invitation of the Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association (CMBA) and with the approval of the Midwestern's trustees, courses will be offered leading toward the master of divinity degree.

Midwestern President Mark Coppenger, with ties to Chicago as a former professor at Wheaton College for six years, said he sees God's hand in the establishment of the program.

"I think my connection with Chicago is no accident; it's in the providence of God," said Coppenger. While at Wheaton, Coppenger was heavily involved in the CMBA. Later, as a pastor in Arkansas, Coppenger led three mission trips to Chicago.

"Not only is there great excitement in our association," said Jim Queen, CMBA executive director, "but also in the larger evangelical community in Chicago. There is a niche for us to train urban pastors which hasn't been met yet, particularly in Southern Baptist life."

The Chicago program permits the seminary, based in Kansas City, Mo., to begin directing its efforts to the Midwest/Great Plains region, the area the Southern Baptist Convention intended to be Midwestern's focus.

"It is our first effort to the north and signals our great seriousness of being a missionary seminary outside the Bible Belt," Coppenger said. "We are not just in the Midwest, we are for the Midwest. It's our dream that the Great Lakes/Midwest/Great Plains region would become the next Bible Belt in America. Chicago is going to be critical to that happening."

Coppenger added: "We are turning our faces to what Southern Baptists call new work areas and are launching out, not reluctantly, but convinced that this is central to our mission of educating God's servants to biblically evangelize and congregationalize the Midwest/Great Plains region. That is squarely in the middle of who we are."

Preliminary surveys taken by the association this spring revealed significant interest among area churches, Queen reported. Since the program has been announced, early registration figures confirm interest -- with one student registering from as far away as South Bend, Ind.

The program will begin as a traditional master's program, with the CMBA offices in Oak Park on the near west side of Chicago serving as the host. The structure of the program may result in completion of the master of divinity degree in five years.

Demonstrating the importance Midwestern places on the program, both Coppenger and Lamar Cooper, Midwestern's vice president for academic affairs, will be teaching courses in the first semester this fall. Coppenger will teach basic evangelism and Cooper will teach an Old Testament course.

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The class schedule also will include Don Whitney, assistant professor for spiritual formation, teaching personal spiritual disciplines in the second term of the fall semester. Whitney, former pastor of Glenfield Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, Ill., is the author of the best-selling book, "Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life."

Plans also call for Ron Rogers, associate professor of missions, to teach a New Testament course this fall.

Two courses in each of the two terms of the fall semester will be offered. Classes will meet on Saturdays, one from 8:30 a.m.-noon and the other from 1-4 p.m. at the CMBA offices in Oak Park. The cost will be \$180 per course.

More information, including applications and the process of enrollment, may be obtained from the CMBA office at (708) 848-9120. The first day of class for the fall semester will be Aug. 31.

Both Queen and Coppenger expressed hope that if there is significant interest, a unique "urban studies program" might be developed later.

"The uniqueness of Chicago ... and the unique urban context gives this partnership between CMBA and Midwestern a whole new thrust in the emerging urban world," Queen commented. "We hope to provide, in the context of the Chicago urban area, biblical and theological education for our pastors and lay leaders who are desiring to see the kingdom grow."

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Channel carrying ACTS to change name in fall

By C.C. Risenhoover

**Baptist Press
8/9/96**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The name of The Faith & Values Channel, which carries ACTS programming, will be changed to ODYSSEY beginning Sept. 29.

ACTS is the cable television program service of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Garry E. Hill, president and CEO of F&V, said ODYSSEY will feature a new logo and on-air look.

"We believe our new name, ODYSSEY, and our new tag line, 'Exploring Life's Journey,' better convey the breadth of our program offerings and better meet the ever-increasing demands for programming that both inspires and entertains," he said. "In addition to offering new programs, the network will also begin a channel promotion campaign to fully explain our offerings."

Hill said the changes are designed to assure the continued growth of the channel by making it attractive to the broadest audience possible, while maintaining its core audience.

"The planned changes will enhance the channel's longstanding commitment to bring viewers the most diverse range of religious, faith and values-based programs on television," he said.

F&V carries programming from 65 religious groups.

"The name change doesn't affect our programming in any way," said Jack Johnson, RTVC president.

"The channel will continue to carry our regularly scheduled programming."

The channel's new name, on-air look and positioning were developed by Lee Hunt Associates, an award-winning creative services and production company that has been involved in the launch or repositioning of more than 25 television networks.

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RTVC names 3 stations as year's top affiliates

By C.C. Risenhoover

**Baptist Press
8/9/96**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Two local television stations and one cable channel affiliate received "Affiliate of the Year" awards Aug. 2 during the annual FamilyNet and ACTS affiliates meeting at the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, Texas.

FamilyNet is the RTVC's broadcast television service and ACTS is its cable television service via the Faith & Values Channel.

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The two stations receiving awards were WTGL TV-52 of Orlando, Fla., which received the FamilyNet full-power affiliate award, and W52BJ of Cullman, Ala., which received the FamilyNet low-power affiliate award. FBC TV-16 of Paris, Texas, received the ACTS affiliate award.

Nationwide there are more than 100 FamilyNet affiliates and more than 100 ACTS affiliates.

"An 'Affiliate of the Year' award is based on promotional efforts, community service, local programming and conveying the message of Jesus Christ to as many people as possible in a viewing area," said Deborah Key, RTVC vice president of network operations and general manager of FamilyNet and ACTS. "The affiliates that received awards this year did all those things. Each affiliate is extremely versatile and industrious, and each produces a variety of programs with a limited staff and financial resources."

Ken Mikesell, general manager of WTGL TV-52, received the award on behalf of his station.

About TV-52, Key said, "This affiliate has a rare opportunity to broadcast programs to a unique community. The station, which is active and supportive of its community through several community service projects, also creates imaginative local programming and does an excellent job of promoting FamilyNet programs."

Mike Whipple, general manager of W52BJ, accepted the award for the low-power station.

About the Alabama affiliate, Key said, "It (W52BJ) is the only broadcast television station in its community. The station provides local coverage of special events and original productions in addition to an ample amount of FamilyNet programming."

Jon McFadden, director of media and public relations, received the award for FBC TV-16.

"Cable Channel 16 in Paris, Texas, operated by the First Baptist Church, has exhibited a cooperative spirit, has been involved in its community and has provided its community with outstanding local programming," Key said. "But, most important, the church has never forgotten the mission of its television ministry, which is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ."

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Bilingual church thrives by its heart for missions

By Karen L. Willoughby

**Baptist Press
8/9/96**

PICO RIVERA, Calif. (BP)--Years before Fermin Whittaker became the California Southern Baptist Convention's executive director-treasurer, he was called as pastor of a small Hispanic mission in the Los Angeles area.

Like many Hispanic congregations in California today, it consisted of many adults who spoke only Spanish and many youth who were more familiar with the English they heard in school every day.

Out of a heart for the youth, Whittaker began repeating in English the sentence he had just spoken in Spanish. His innovation was not well received by some adults, but he continued.

The practice continued when Joe De Leon became pastor. De Leon provided bilingual leadership and helped strengthen the church's reputation as a missions-minded congregation. De Leon and his wife, Gloria, currently are Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Today, the mission church has become First Bilingual Baptist Church in Pico Rivera, or Primera Iglesia Bautista del Sur. It is one of a handful of California Baptist congregations making a conscious effort to minister in both Spanish and English.

The present pastor, Roger Bowers, whose heart is akin to his two predecessors, is a storyteller by nature.

Relating how the congregation has continued to grow in missions involvement, Bowers was slated to give the invocation at a city council meeting, but because his office clock was wrong, he was five minutes late and a council member already had spoken a prayer.

"But since you're here, is there anything you'd like to say to the council?" asked the mayor.

"That never happens," Bowers said during an interview. "The minister is supposed to go there, say a prayer and be gone. But I wasn't about to let the opportunity pass me by."

He told the council First Bilingual wanted to be useful to the city. "Tell us what we can do for you," Bowers said to the council members.

Later in the week he received a telephone call from the city's community development director.

"Did you mean what you said?"

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Bowers said yes, and the city staffer explained there were some homes in the city that were to be condemned because the elderly and/or poor homeowners couldn't afford to make needed repairs. Would First Bilingual be interested in helping?

A letter soon went out on city stationery stating First Bilingual would help people with code violations.

The first family to ask for assistance backed out at the last minute, Bowers said, probably because they did not trust there were no strings attached. So it was not until February that 17 men, women and older children from First Bilingual went into action.

Their target: the home of an elderly Hispanic couple. Calling themselves "Helping Hands," the team chipped, sanded and painted the exterior of the modest home.

"I'm absolutely convinced this is what we're supposed to do," Bowers said. "The Bible says Jesus went about doing good and the church needs to do Jesus' work in the community."

Helping Hands will renovate homes as often as possible, the pastor said.

At the time of the city's invitation, however, it wasn't like the church was just sitting around waiting for something to do.

First Bilingual averages about 400 people from perhaps 13 nations during Sunday morning services. Several musical instruments add to upbeat worship services which are punctuated by Bowers' humor-filled messages. Humor, he explained, helps people remember the sermons.

"We've tried to get the church to the point where the members are not embarrassed to bring their friends," Bowers said. "We have to do all these eternal things in a contemporary way."

On Sunday evenings, church members meet in a dozen or more home groups.

First Bilingual has a well-established deaf ministry, including a Sunday school class, instruction in sign language and all services signed.

Each week, a dozen or more church members bag food for 30 needy families bought for 12 cents a pound at the local food bank.

The youth ministry is among the best in Southern California, Bowers said. Three couples lead it and it is structured so that for every fun activity, there is a ministry.

And First Bilingual is known in the community as a place to go when there are family problems.

Bowers, a former foreign missionary who returned to the United States because of his daughter's health, specializes in family counseling. He taught psychology and family counseling at Southern Baptist's International Baptist Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and continues to use his skill in this area as an evangelistic tool.

"People aren't going to come (to church) because of our buildings or doctrines," Bowers said. "But when their family is in trouble or they have physical needs, this is where they're responsive to what we have to offer."

Families sometimes drop out of church when the English-speaking youth object to hearing only Spanish, Bowers explained.

To counter that, he said, "What we do here is missions, and God is blessing that."

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**RTVC, video company produce
'In Your Face' youth series**

By C.C. Risenhoover

**Baptist Press
8/9/96**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has teamed with Dallas Christian Video of Richardson, Texas, to produce a youth video series called "In Your Face."

Ken Davis, one of the most sought-after youth speakers in America, is host of the program initially being offered on six VHS tapes. The set features 13 topical music/teaching segments.

"Dallas Christian Video is marketing the series to churches for youth groups," said Deborah Key, vice president of network operations for the RTVC. "We plan to add music videos to each segment and telecast the series on FamilyNet beginning in October and on ACTS, tentatively scheduled to launch in January."

FamilyNet is the RTVC's broadcast television service and ACTS, carried on the Faith & Values Channel, is RTVC's cable television service.

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"Ken Davis is just an incredibly powerful communicator," Key said. "He has an amazing gift in that he can communicate with all age groups. These videos have a high energy level, are entertaining and humorous, but pack a punch at the end."

The "In Your Face" topics include "Sharing Your Faith," "Learning to Wait on the Lord," "God's Unconditional Love," "Biblical Help for Dating," "Knowing God in a Personal Way," "Absolute Truth," "Facing Temptation," "Finding God's Will," "Being a Real Friend," "Trusting God in Tough Times" and "Understanding Salvation."

Contemporary Christian music artists featured on the videos include Margaret Becker, Petra, John Schlitt, Twila Paris, Newsboys, Big Tent Revival, Geoff Moore & the Distance and Audio Adrenaline.

"This is a video series designed to hit teens where they live," said "In Your Face" producer David Benware. "It tackles real-life problems, questions and ideas that teens face on their road trip to adulthood. It also breaks the barriers that separate the generations by using humor, examples and side-splitting stories that serve as a springboard for further discussion. If you've been looking for the right tool to get connected to your teens, this is it."

Davis, president of Dynamic Communications, does seminars and video series that teach speaking skills to ministry personnel and corporate executives. Born and raised in Minnesota and educated at Oak Hills Bible Institute, he and his wife, Diane, now live in Colorado with their 16-year-old daughter, Taryn. Davis spent 15 years working in the Youth for Christ interdenominational ministry.

He has written seven books, including "How to Live with Your Parents Without Losing Your Mind" and "How to Live with Your Kids When You've Already Lost Your Mind."

For further information about the series, call 1-800-89 VIDEO.

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