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96-81

NEW ORLEANS--FMB appointment service to break 4,200 mark.  
MARYLAND--'Advangelism' campaign yields new attitude toward Baptists.  
ATLANTA--Outfielder Brett Butler facing battle with cancer.  
WASHINGTON--Changed Christians needed first, Colson says on Day of Prayer.  
NORTH CAROLINA--First-Person: Tears stir dads to see the value of 'presence.'  
SOUTH CAROLINA--Tattered flip-flops adorned evangelist's 'beautiful feet.'  
LOUISIANA--Pastor uses cable access, parade to promote Vacation Bible School.  
TEXAS--Radio-TV web site honored by religious broadcasters.  
BRAZIL--Missionaries 'story' the gospel in Brasilia's modern 'jungle.'  
TENNESSEE--First-Person: Pass the meat & veggies to build family ties.  
TENNESSEE--Editors' note.

FMB appointment service  
to break 4,200 mark

Baptist Press  
5/10/96

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Southern Baptists' overseas missions force will reach the 4,200 mark for the first time when their Foreign Mission Board appoints about 50 new missionaries June 12 during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

The appointments are projected to bring the total number of Southern Baptist missionaries to 4,219.

Focusing on the theme, "A World of Need," the appointment service will highlight urgent needs for Christian witness across the world. Baptists from around the world will describe the need for missionaries in their areas. In return, new missionaries will tell how they are responding to a needy world's cry to "come over and help us."

The appointment service will crown the Wednesday evening session of the June 11-13 convention, which is expected to draw 19,000 people to the Louisiana Superdome. The evening session will begin at 6 p.m. with music by the choir and orchestra of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss. Reports from the Home Mission Board and Baptist World Alliance will precede the foreign board report at 7:20 p.m. The appointment service will conclude the evening.

"It's appropriate to appoint missionaries at the annual meeting since sending out missionaries is what the Southern Baptist Convention is all about," said Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, himself a former missionary in southern Asia and the Pacific. "These new missionaries were called out of our churches. They'll be supported by the cooperative giving and sustained by the prayers of SBC churches.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for messengers to the convention and churches from the area to participate in the most exciting thing Southern Baptists do."

The parade of brightly colored flags -- an appointment service tradition -- will include somber gray banners representing 2,161 "Last Frontier" people groups that have little or no access to the gospel.

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The service also will feature Rwanda missionary Marlene Lee and a drama presentation by members of The Company from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

The contingent of new overseas workers includes Erin Thomas, a teacher who survived an October 1990 plane crash in Guangzhou, China, that claimed the life of her colleague, Mary Anna Gilbert. The pair had been teaching English at a university in Meixan, China, for one month when the airliner they were aboard was hijacked and crash-landed.

Thomas returned five months later to complete her two-year assignment through Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist relief and development organization. After appointment, she will be assigned again to East Asia, where she will teach English through Cooperative Services International.

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'Advangelism' campaign yields  
new attitude toward Baptists

By Vivian Phillips

Baptist Press  
5/10/96

COLUMBIA, Md. (BP)--"Someone Still Cares. God Cares ... and so do we!" was the message.

The logo, meanwhile, of men, women and children joining hands included the name of the sponsor, a toll-free telephone number and an Internet address.

The people of suburban Howard County in the Baltimore/Washington area read the message as they turned the pages of their local newspaper. They saw it as they switched cable TV channels or "surfed" the Internet via computer. Some reached in their mailbox to find the message or arrived home to find it hanging on their front door.

The message was an effort by Howard County Baptist Association called "Advangelism." The media campaign, designed to increase awareness of Baptists, lasted from October to December 1995.

The campaign made a difference in the attitudes of Howard County residents, according to a survey conducted by an independent research company. Survey results showed that after the campaign an astounding 20 percent of the adults in the county had changed their attitudes toward Baptists -- for the better. However, attitudes toward other Christian denominations had not changed appreciably, according to prior and post-campaign surveys.

In addition, Turner Research, Inc., Jacksonville, Fla., discovered 55 percent of the county's adults remembered seeing a religious advertisement during the three-month period. One in four people reported seeing a Baptist advertisement. More than 7 percent of those surveyed could recall without prompting the ad they had seen was from Howard Baptist Association and/or Southern Baptists.

Ken White was one member of a small group of businessmen who prayed for and originated the outreach effort. From a business perspective, he said, the results are "incredible." He went on to explain "no businessman (with a similar advertising campaign) would expect such positive increased awareness."

"If we can change people's attitudes about Baptists, just think how their attitudes could change toward Jesus," exclaimed William O. Crowe, the association's director of missions.

At least 64 contacts to the association office or its churches are attributed to the Advangelism media campaign. The campaign was an influencing factor in two people making decisions for Christ and three others joining one church.

Crowe cited research statistics in noting the great need for outreach in the suburban county.

About 40 percent of those polled in the county were career professionals or managers, and 53.3 percent had completed college and/or advanced degrees. Yet only 17 percent could explain how to become a Christian. A majority -- 61 percent -- went on to say they would be open to being contacted by a church.

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The association office in Columbia, Md., provides information through a printed directory of churches and their "home pages" on the Internet. Those who call the toll-free telephone number on the God Cares logo are offered an information package. The package includes the directory, a gospel tract and other items.

The innovation of the Advangelism campaign won the association a Baptist Mission Foundation grant. The grant has enabled the association to purchase 20 computers. Valued at nearly \$2,000 each, a computer was purchased by each participating association church for a nominal cost of \$300. The updated equipment allows churches to access the Internet. Crowe estimated the association's home pages are now getting up to 2,000 "hits" per week.

"A member of one of our churches has already led two people to Christ on the Internet," Crowe reported.

In addition, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board is funding a grant to provide Internet access for each participating church.

Internet access will allow each church to design its own web page and receive messages from those who visit the page. "With e-mail, we can send out instant messages and get them directly to every church," Crowe said.

The Foreign Mission Board is pursuing a pilot project with the association to assign a missionary to each association church via e-mail. The purpose of the project would be to enhance local church relations with Southern Baptist missionaries, Crowe said.

Other associations have expressed interest in the Advangelism campaign. Phil Mercer, an Advangelism team member and owner and chief executive officer of Thulman Eastern Corporation, taught a conference on the concept at the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware's Visionary Leadership Conference.

"We truly attribute the results of the campaign to our God," Crowe said, "and believe he is going to do great things in the future."

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Outfielder Brett Butler  
facing battle with cancer

Baptist Press  
5/10/96

ATLANTA (BP)--Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Brett Butler has been diagnosed with throat cancer, after being placed on the disabled list May 2 for a tonsillectomy.

Butler, 38, is a member of Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta. Larry Wynn, the church's pastor, is first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Butler and his wife, Eveline, also have hosted a Bible study for ballplayers led by Atlanta-based Tim Cash who leads evangelistic baseball clinics throughout the United States and overseas.

"We have many friends in and out of baseball and this will come as a shock," Butler said in a statement carried by Associated Press nationally. "It is impossible to speak to all of them personally. My wife and I would ask for your prayers for us and our children at this difficult time."

Butler is scheduled for surgery May 21 to remove lymph nodes and some muscle tissue where the tonsils were; six weeks of radiation treatments will follow. During the tonsillectomy earlier this month, doctors found a cancerous tumor the size of a plum and removed it. The survival rate for the type of cancer Butler has, called Squamous Cell Carcinoma, is said to be 70 percent -- or perhaps better for Butler because of his physical conditioning.

Butler was a 1991 All-Star, setting a National League season record for most games without an error by an outfielder, 161. He has recorded a 307-game errorless streak in his career and, in 14 seasons, had committed just 38 errors. He was the first player in National League history to lead the league in singles four straight seasons, 1990-93.

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"It's a shock, a total shock," Dodgers General Manager Fred Claire was quoted as saying. "Brett is such an important part of our organization. He's very much an inspiration as a player and as a person."

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Compiled by Art Toalston.

Changed Christians needed first,  
Colson says on Day of Prayer

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press  
5/10/96

WASHINGTON (BP)--If American Christians desire spiritual awakening, they should cry out for God to change them first, Charles Colson said during a National Day of Prayer service on Capitol Hill.

Christians often claim God's promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14 to heal their land in response to certain conditions, Colson said, then have "these great cosmic dreams" the Lord will move in as in response to a "celestial 911 call" to sweep away "injustices, sin and moral rotteness" and produce a great awakening.

There is an "essential prerequisite," said Colson, the president of Prison Fellowship and a well-known evangelical author.

Like Nehemiah's prayer when the people had forgotten God, Christians need to "ask God to change us first," Colson said. "And if we have changed lives, perhaps this nation will see the truth which is eternal" and turn to God.

Colson spoke at a prayer service attended by several hundred people in a House of Representatives office building May 2. Prayer services were held at an estimated 12,000 sites throughout the country on the same day. President Bill Clinton had issued a proclamation encouraging the American people "to pray, each in his or her own manner, seeking strength from God to face the challenges of today, requesting guidance for the uncertainties of tomorrow, and giving thanks for the rich blessings that our Nation has enjoyed throughout our history."

It was the 45th consecutive year National Day of Prayer has been observed. This year's theme was based on 1 Samuel 2:30b: "Those who honor me, I will honor." Americans have forgotten God, Colson said.

He used the reaction to a recent speech by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia to undergird his contention. In a speech at Jackson, Miss., Scalia said Christians must be willing to be "fools for Christ" and to bear the scorn of the sophisticated.

"He was pilloried from columnist to columnist ... he still is the butt of jokes because he had the audacity to say that he believes in God," Colson said.

He contrasted this reaction to an opinion which Justice William Douglas wrote in 1952 in which he said Americans "are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a supreme being."

Colson said, "We have gone in 44 years from saying that this nation presupposes a supreme being by a liberal civil libertarian on the Supreme Court to pillorying a man" because he says he believes in God.

Colson also decried abortion.

"No nation can honor God which kills its own children," he said. "Shame on us. Shame on the church."

On the eve of the Day of Prayer, more than 300 people gathered in Lafayette Park in front of the White House to pray for the president and his administration.

National Prayer Committee chairman David Bryant directed participants, asking them to pray in small groups for God to:

-- make Clinton a "man who honors God;"

-- establish the Clintons as "a God-honoring family in every way;"

-- provide the president and his administration with "a God-honoring vision for America;"

-- enable the president to "make God-honoring decisions and to give God-honoring leadership;"

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-- give Clinton a "God-honoring people to lead."

Several times during the guided prayer time, participants prayed in unison with Bryant for God to honor those who honor him.

Shirley Dobson, who chaired the National Day of Prayer task force and is the wife of Focus on the Family President James Dobson, said at the start of the hour-long service people of faith are "too quick to criticize without balancing that with prayer" for government leaders.

"And we know that prayer is far more powerful and significant and can do what we can't do," she said.

Speaking before the guided prayer time, Daniel Lapin, a Jewish rabbi, said he was "very moved."

"This is the most American activity I can imagine," he said. "We are a crowd of Americans, and we're not in the church, not in the synagogue; we're in a park opposite the White House, and we've been doing this for over 220 years."

Also speaking before the prayer time, E.V. Hill, well-known Los Angeles Baptist pastor, said the president should be prayed for because he is a human being with "automatic frailties," he is a husband and father, he is leader of the most powerful government in history and the country has enemies on the inside and outside.

During the Day of Prayer service on Capitol Hill, 15-minute segments were allotted for participants to pray for the executive branch, Congress, the judiciary, the military and the family, as well as the fields of entertainment, medicine and education. Among those who spoke at these times were Small Business Administration Director Phil Lader; Rep. Frank Wolf, R.-Va.; singer/actor Pat Boone; and Family Research Council President Gary Bauer.

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EDITORS' NOTE: The following story can be used for Father's Day, June 16.

#### FIRST-PERSON

Tears stir dads to see  
the value of 'presence'

By Norman Jameson

Baptist Press  
5/10/96

THOMASVILLE, N.C. (BP)--Daddys work hard to keep wolves at bay who lurk howling and snapping at their families' doors.

Responsible dads pay the mortgage or rent to keep their families warm and dry. They find a way to keep the children fed and clothed and scrape up an extra dollar for a special treat now and then.

Parents wear the wheels off their cars to haul kids to dance, soccer and church functions, school play practices and athletic events. They try to jump start their children's careers by enrolling them in preschool and then buying the recommended books, tapes and toys to help them do the best job of parenting.

If the children are threatened, dad takes action. He'll march into school to confront a teacher or principal who doesn't realize the man's child is the best student ever to grace the halls of that school; he'll patrol the playground on foot and watch over the neighborhood from his window. He'll storm out the door to turn away a bully or to kiss a skinned knee when the mean old bicycle falls down, taking his daughter to the sidewalk with it.

Though it's his least-favorite thing in the world, he'll spend an evening looking for a "first date" dress in every store in the mall. The shopping kills, but some wonderful daughter-dad secrets are revealed that could not be discovered through the foliage of any other hunt. When they learn together there's not a mutually acceptable dress in the entire mall, they share the disappointment.

When she learns to drive, he'll wrap on a neck support device and take her in the car for hours, teaching her to drive defensively and to avoid the roadway crazies.

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Sometimes the hardest thing for a dad to do is set the limits. Dad knows his "no's" will unleash an immediate reaction that ranges from foot stompings to anger and harsh words about his inability to grasp how absolutely essential it is to say "yes." Dads, who are "too old" to understand, don't know "everybody is going to be there" and that his own daughter will be cast into the depths of "nerdness" if she doesn't show.

But, dads do know and understand. And they know the right answers aren't often the easy answers. They can handle the hard task, the anger, the bully, the driving lessons, the saying "no."

What they can't handle is the tears.

And, of course, daughters know that. They learn it from their mothers.

What course can an action-oriented father take when his daughter, surely the loveliest and brightest child in her school, sobs on the bed and declares she is ugly and dumb?

What course can he take when, through those tears, she declares the only boy she could ever love has jilted her for another? What action befits when those tears fall upon a letter of rejection from a college, or from a committee that declared she did not win an award?

Although he sits on the bed where she lays sobbing, and holds her in his arms, what wrench can he apply on her faucet of tears to erase the names she was called in school? Or how can pliers crack the clique she desperately wants to join?

Falling tears and wrenching sobs, runny noses and quivering lips paralyze a dad accustomed to finding solutions to make things right for his children. He feels helpless, vulnerable. What action will make it better? Who can he call? Who can he hit? Who can he beg?

Logic will not prevail, only presence. She can be comforted, not by his answers where there are none, but by his presence when there is no one else.

Then he understands. Presence is what she needs most.

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Jameson is director of communications for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc., based in Thomasville, and editor of its periodical, *Charity & Children*.

Tattered flip-flops adorned  
evangelist's 'beautiful feet'

By Don Kirkland

Baptist Press  
5/10/96

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)--"Let me tell you a story," he said.

It could have been Richard Steele's own story -- the inspiring account of a one-time South Carolina teacher who lost his sight to a degenerative eye disorder, but who gained a vision for ministry among others who were sightless in Togo, Africa.

Richard and his wife Carolyn, members of Covenant Baptist Church in Lancaster, have been missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc., since 1977. From their base in Togo, the couple ministered to the large number of blind Africans there for more than a decade before health problems led to their reassignment to Wycliffe's technical training center in Waxhaw, N.C.

But Richard wasn't interested in recounting his family's eventful life as missionaries. "This story," he said, "is about a little man named Nangma, who is only four feet, eight inches tall, and weighs only about 75 pounds. He is about 28 years old and the only son of the village chief, who also is a voodoo witch doctor."

Nangma was an early student at the school for the blind that Richard and Carolyn established in the Bassar area of Togo -- and one of the first Christians.

Though he left Togo in 1989, Richard goes back periodically to keep the work with the blind going. In 1993, he returned to Togo with an engineer friend to help construct a storage building and dorm on the 200-acre farm owned by the school for the blind.

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One day a co-worker directed a young African evangelist to the construction site where Richard was hard at work. "I recognized the voice of my little friend, Nangma," he said.

The little, blind African had walked a distance of five miles -- all alone -- from his village, and he was on his way to another village also five miles away.

"Nangma had a cloth book bag containing two Braille editions of the Gospel of John in the Bassar language," Richard recounted. "He said that he would spend a few days there preaching and maybe start a little church."

A few minutes later, Nangma was on his way down a narrow, dusty road to preach the gospel.

"After he was gone, a friend told me about Nangma's feet," Richard said. "He was wearing a pair of flip-flops. Half of one was missing and half of the other had split into three strips. When I heard this, my tears ran over. God brought to my mind that verse where Paul says, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel.'"

"I thought about my own feet and the feet of my American Christian brothers and sisters," he said, pondering the question, "Do we have beautiful feet?"

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Pastor uses cable access, parade  
to promote Vacation Bible School By Chip Alford

Baptist Press  
5/10/96

OBERLIN, La. (BP)--Vacation Bible School is a big deal at the only Southern Baptist church in Oberlin, La., a small, rural town with less than 2,000 residents about an hour north of Lake Charles.

Last year, Oberlin Baptist Church enrolled 120 people in VBS, about double its average Sunday school attendance. So, it's no surprise pastor John Guillot is going the extra mile to promote this year's June 24-28 program in his community. What is a little surprising is the medium he's using to get out the message -- television.

"We're running some promotional spots on our local cable system before, during and after our VBS. I think it's a really good way to get the word out," said Guillot, who came to the church a year and a half ago after serving a church in Casper, Wyo.

The promotional spots will appear on the Video Design cable system which reaches Oberlin and several surrounding communities. They will be carried on channel 6, a "leased access" cable channel whose content is produced by the Oberlin-based Home Video Network (HVN).

"We carry everything from football games and school board meetings to church services and sheep dippings," HVN spokesman Danny Taylor said. "It's really 'local interest' television."

"Leased access" cable differs from "public access" cable, he explained, in that a fee is charged for airing programming -- though much less than commercial stations -- and promotional spots are allowed.

All the spots the Oberlin church plans to air are being drawn from the video, "Introducing 1996 VBS: Go for the Goal," part of the church VBS materials produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board. This year's materials are built around an Olympics theme.

According to Sharon Roberts, an editor in the board's Bible teaching-reaching division, the video contains two promotional spots, missions vignettes provided by the Home and Foreign Mission boards and theme interpretations built around the "Go for the Goal" theme.

Guillot said he plans to air the two promotional spots -- with a trailer of details about when and where his church's VBS will be held -- for three consecutive weeks before the Bible school begins. In addition, HVN will air the mission vignettes during the week of the VBS and the theme interpretations with trailers of church-related information while the Summer Olympics is under way in Atlanta.

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"It's a great way to promote VBS and our church to our community," Guillot said, adding "lots of people in this area watch channel 6, even if they just stop for a little bit while they're channel surfing."

He said VBS is the church's most effective evangelistic tool, adding: "We could stack up all our special events and revivals and they wouldn't touch what we can do with one week of VBS."

Television isn't the only way Oberlin Baptist is getting the word out about VBS. They continue to practice one of the oldest Bible school traditions -- the VBS parade.

"A lot of people who aren't even church members get involved. Our police chief, who is Roman Catholic, leads it. And this year, to tie in to the Olympics theme, we're having the kids carry a torch through town and make flags to carry."

Apparently, the parade is a successful marketing tool, Guillot said.

"Last year, one local resident stopped me and said, 'Y'all are having VBS this week aren't you? I heard the siren Saturday.'"

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Radio-TV web site honored  
by religious broadcasters

By C.C. Risenhoover

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5/10/96

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, which recently went on the Internet, has received an NRB (National Religious Broadcasters) Web Site Award.

David Keith, web administrator for the NRB, said the award is given to sites that "show creativity in design, richness in content and usefulness to the intended audience."

The RTVC's web provider is GOSHEN (Global On-Line Service Helping Evangelize Nations), a cooperative effort between Media Management and Religion Today, Inc., both based in Roanoke, Va.

John McGlothlin, multimedia specialist at the RTVC, said, "This award from the NRB was an unsolicited recognition. People from a number of organizations have told us we have an outstanding site, but it's only going to get better. We're improving it all the time."

The RTVC currently has 230 pages on the web, 160 of which are information by topic from its counseling department. This information is under the name "Helplink."

"A user is able to e-mail right from a web page to receive spiritual help," McGlothlin said. "On the Internet you can read our quarterly magazine, Beam International, or check the latest program information for FamilyNet and ACTS."

FamilyNet is the broadcast television service of the RTVC that reaches into 33 million homes through more than 115 affiliated stations nationwide. ACTS is the RTVC cable television service that reaches into more than 25 million homes through the Faith and Values (F&V) Channel.

McGlothlin said by simply typing in a zip code, a user can find the radio station and time when an RTVC-produced radio program is being aired in his or her particular zip code.

"Ministry is our reason for being on the Internet," he said. "It's a tool for spreading the gospel. With it we can educate people about our ministry, promote our programs and encourage people to use their computers to interact with us. With our presence on the Internet, we're giving users easy access to a tremendous amount of information in one place."

Internet users who want to visit RTVC web sites must first type in "www.," then the site address. Those addresses are as follows:

rtvc.org (the home page of the Radio and Television Commission); actstv.org (information about the RTVC cable television service); familynet.org (information about the RTVC broadcast television service); homelife.org ("Home Life" is a daily 30-minute television program produced by the RTVC);

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copetv.org ("COPE" is a daily one-hour program produced by the RTVC); familyenrichment.org (the "Family Enrichment Series" is a weekly program carried by ACTS and FamilyNet); covenantmedia.org (Covenant is an RTVC ministry that produces, acquires and promotes Christian family values programming);

countrycrossroads.org (home page for the weekly radio and television versions of "Country Crossroads" produced by the RTVC); mastercontrol.org ("MasterControl" is a weekly radio program produced by the RTVC); powerline.org ("Powerline" is a weekly radio program produced by the RTVC); ontrack.org ("On Track" is a weekly radio program produced by the RTVC);

baptisthour.org ("The Baptist Hour" is a weekly radio and TV program that features the preaching of Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.); rtvc.org/helplink/ (information from the RTVC counseling department); and timerite.com (information from the sales arm of the RTVC).

"Receiving awards is not our primary purpose in being on the Internet," said Jack Johnson, RTVC president. "The recognition is appreciated, but whether through television, radio, the Internet or other electronic technologies, our purpose is proclaiming the gospel and seeing lives changed by using the tools of technology. That's the reason we're on the Internet."

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**Missionaries 'story' the gospel  
in Brasilia's modern 'jungle'**

By Betty Poor

Baptist Press  
5/10/96

BRASILIA, Brazil (BP)--Missionaries Jack and Doris Day will tell you the "chronological storying" method for teaching biblical truth isn't just for non-readers in jungles anymore.

At least not just rural jungles.

Jack, from Alabama, and Doris, from California, have pioneered this versatile method in the "jungle" of high-rise apartments and parabolic antennas of Brazil's futuristic capital -- Brasilia -- to teach doctors, educators and other sophisticates.

It's "spread like wildfire," they say, penetrating both Baptist and public school curricula and helping plant churches, train preachers and change lives.

The Days, appointed to Brazil in 1970, believe they're the first Southern Baptist missionaries to use "storying" in Brazil. They began about 20 years ago while working with theological education by extension in Bahia.

"As I trained lay preachers, I found they had difficulty preparing a sermon using Galatians or Romans," Jack recounts. "I heard a student preach (poorly) one night. Then I realized it was the first time I'd heard him preach when he didn't tell a Bible story. So I began developing material to train lay preachers to use Bible stories."

The Days moved to Brasilia in 1988 and began a church in their high-rise apartment block using the storying method. The group organized as the Asa Sul (South Wing) Baptist Church and now meets in a sports academy.

"We used storying with college graduates," Jack says, adding, "We won a colonel and his wife to Christ and disciplined an architect who coordinates high school education in private schools."

Then they used storying to start another mission congregation, now Lago Sul (South Lake) Baptist Church.

"Storying helped people (organize) all that takes place as they study the Bible," Doris says. "As we went through the Bible, from creation to Paul's missionary journeys, they began to understand the Bible and spiritual truth." Many started out with little or no knowledge of Bible books or doctrine.

While starting churches themselves, the Days have constantly taught others to use the storying method. When they moved to Brasilia, Jack taught it in the seminary. Last year he was asked to develop an extension program to train lay preachers. They expected no more than 30 and got 80, he says.

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Since the Days will furlough in Ashville, Ala., in December, he agreed to teach only if Brazilian pastors would learn to teach others. "I prepared lesson plans, and we now have four centers with Brazilians teaching," he says. Students study the Old Testament, Christ's life, Acts and doctrine over three semesters and learn to tell stories and develop them into sermons.

Once again, the Days are pioneers. "I haven't found anyone who's written about teaching doctrine with a Bible story. But I have biblical examples." Hebrews 11, for instance, tells about a series of people who experienced faith. Stephen's sermon starts with the Jews rejecting Christ. "He develops in chronological order their rejection of Joseph, Moses and the prophets," Jack says.

Jack has left the churches he planted with Brazilian pastors and now spends weekends working with extension center students to start new churches. He writes adult storying material, and Doris prepares material for children with art work, lesson plans, games, puppets and handwork.

The Days designed the material for use in starting churches where there aren't enough teachers to divide into Sunday school classes. With their storying material, a Brazilian pastor and his wife, working alone, can divide up their congregation and teach adults, young people and children.

The material, which the Days hope to develop in book form, has gained wide acceptance. The Brazilian home and foreign mission boards now teach storying to new missionaries and send them out with the material. It's also used for ministries with street children and for Vacation Bible School.

Brazil requires religion courses in its public schools -- and at least three public schools now use the storying material Doris wrote for children.

New requests for their materials come in weekly -- a remarkable achievement for modern-day pioneers using a method as old as the Bible itself in an ultramodern capital.

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#### FIRST-PERSON

Pass the meat & veggies  
to build family ties

By Jeffery Warren Scott

Baptist Press  
5/10/96

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Work schedules, baseball practice, piano lessons and church activities keep most families on the run. Dinner has all of the ambiance of a microwaved entree, or a high-fat selection from a fast food menu, hastily consumed in the car between activities.

The hope for today's family is a return to the old-fashioned concept of a family meal. Whether it is breakfast, lunch or dinner, there is an awesome power in this daily tradition. The more you learn about today's family life, the more you will observe most often it is the family that eats together that stays together.

Families who make mealtime together a priority reap many benefits:

1. Children who feel secure. Time-honored traditions give us a sense of order to our lives. A set family meal gives children a sense of security.
2. Children with healthy self-esteem. Children should be encouraged to tell about their day and to discuss what is on their minds. They learn they're important members of the family as well as from the experiences of older siblings.
3. Children with a sense of roots and values. Hearing oral history at mealtime gives children a sense of identity and shared values. Over the course of time, mealtime develops a strong sense of moral, ethical, and spiritual values. Mealtime is when values are transmitted.
4. Children who experience academic success. A recent survey found that students who shared mealtimes with their families tested better than those who did not.
5. Children who are better nourished. Children are more likely to eat a balanced, nutritious meal at the dinner table and have fewer dietary problems.

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6. Children with a sense of acceptance. The family meal offers families a time to love, forgive and offer a sense of unconditional acceptance of each other.

7. Children who can communicate with their parents. Children who can speak freely to their parents are less likely to become involved in drug or alcohol abuse or become pregnant as a teen.

Given the list of benefits, it is clear to see the power of the family meal. Here are some tips to help you get started:

-- Set a time. It doesn't matter if it is breakfast, lunch or dinner. Just set a time when all of the family can sit down at the table for a meal. The most important thing is to begin. Start with one day and stick with it.

-- Make it a priority. Christian homes must make family life a priority! Let it be known that outside activities won't be permitted during family time.

-- Make it fun. The family meal is not lecture or discipline time. This is time to build memories and build lives. Eating together should be fun, spontaneous and enjoyable.

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Scott is pastor of Union Baptist Church, Carbondale, Ill. Reprinted by permission of ParentLife, monthly Christian magazine for parents of children, birth to age 12.

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EDITORS' NOTE: The full text of an interview upon which Baptist Press based the story, "Elliff lists standards for key SBC appointments," dated 5/7/96, is posted in the Indiana state paper section of SBCNet. The interview of Tom Elliff, Oklahoma pastor to be nominated for Southern Baptist Convention president, was conducted by John Yeats, Indiana Baptist editor.

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