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November 2, 1967

1012

Alaska US-2er Escapes
Sub-zero Night In Wilds

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By Dallas Lee

US-2 Missionary Michael Brown narrowly escaped freezing to death during an ill-fated trip by boat between the tiny fishing villages of Kobuk and Shungnak, in the barren northwest region of Alaska.

Stumbling through the sub-zero dark after the boat motor froze up in the middle of the 10-mile trip, Brown slipped into the icy water several times before discovering an unoccupied cabin that offered the comfort of a tarpaulin and one solitary match.

In a letter to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here, Brown said he did not find the match until daybreak. He slipped off pants and socks, which were frozen solid, and rolled up in the tarp.

"Moisture from my breath actually froze on the inside of the tarp," he reported.

Brown, of Clyde, N.C., and his wife Virgie, of Statesville, N.C., were assigned to serve two years in Kobuk and Shungnak by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's US-2 ministry, a Peace Corps-type program in which college graduates are assigned for two years of missionary duty.

The missionary work was begun in the villages more than two years ago by another US-2 couple, Norman and Gunita Harrell of Texas, whom the Browns replaced in August 1967.

Brown was returning to Kobuk after unloading lumber for a meat shed in Shungnak when trouble began.

"I needed to get back to Kobuk before nightfall because the river was freezing and I knew it was now or never," Brown wrote. "I had to be there for a new Christians' class the next evening.

On the way, he stopped to cut a pine, out of which he hoped to make new oars for the boat. His power saw was too dull for the job so he worked with an axe, which he says was probably a mistake.

"This took longer than I had planned," Brown said, "and the motor froze up. After exhausting all my energy trying to get it going again, I poled the boat across the river and started walking."

By then the deep Alaskan dark had descended. Feeling his way Brown slid three times into the water where spring floods had washed away the bank.

He already had expended his supply of matches on the frozen, damp wood, so he just kept moving. Once, lying on the ground exhausted, he heard the sound of an electric motor in Kobuk and thought he was near the village. The river was carrying the sound, however. He still was five miles out.

Brown stumbled onto the cabin about 11 p.m., shed his frozen clothing and tried to sleep.

At daybreak, he discovered the one good match in a pile of burnt matches on the floor of the cabin. Outside, he built a fire with old paper bags and held his clothing--and his feet--in the flame to thaw.

"My feet were so cold that when I stuck them in the fire I couldn't feel the heat," he said. "So I stuck them in and out so I wouldn't burn them."

At 9 a.m. he walked into Kobuk and announced that Jack London's story "To Build A Fire" had nothing on him.

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Alabama Students Asked
To Risk Lives For Christ

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TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (BP)--A challenge to "risk your life for Christ" was the highlight of the Alabama Baptist Student Convention here.

More than 1,000 Baptist college students from 14 campuses over the state gathered here where George E. Bagley, recently returned from a world tour of Southern Baptist mission work said, "All eternity hangs on the answer to the question of what you will do with Jesus.

"I see many young people today, trying to hold onto the Lord with one hand, and the world with the other, and finding out that it is not possible," Bagley said. He is executive secretary for Baptist work in Alabama.

"That thin line of Southern Baptist missionaries across the world has some gaps in it," He said, "Have you ever considered being a missionary?"

Floyd Craig, director of public relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville, Tenn., said, "Life is worth nothing unless you risk it for Christ and accept your assignment from Christ."

Craig said, "I want my Christianity to cause me to tingle to my fingertips with an infinite sense of hazard.

"Frankly, I am at the point in my life when I want to quit complaining about my circumstances and do something about it. The time has come to move beyond criticism and attempt the constructive, and courageous.

"There are students in every university and college in the south who reject racialism and extremism and understand that God's Good News includes not only a new life in Christ, but the beginning of the transformation of the whole world."

Craig went on to say, "There are other hopeful signs among Southern Baptist--there are many denominational workers who have decided not to be robots with their minds frozen to the past. They do not hate tradition or their heritage, but are not bound by it."

An earlier speaker, Allen Orr, representing the SBC Foreign Mission Board's journeyman (Peace Corps type) said, "Young people today are looking for flags to rally around. The best place to look is in Christ, not in the crises of life."

The folk musical, "Good News", was featured at the Saturday night session, led by Jim Stanton of Greensboro, Alabama.

A final session concluded with an appeal for commitment of life to vocational Christian service. Students responded as mission volunteers and vocational Christian workers.

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'Preaching' Baptist
Women Predicted

1014

11/2/67

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By Al Morgan
Baptist Press Staff Writer

LUBBOCK, Tex (BP)--A prediction that Baptist women will become more active in proclaiming the gospel from pulpits across the nation was voiced here today by a leading Woman's Missionary Union speaker.

Mrs. J. R. Lobaugh, recording secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Woman's Missionary Union, told messengers attending the Texas women's 87th annual meeting, "Men are going to see women going everywhere to preach."

The Kansas City, Kansas, resident pointed out that "women are now seeing the need" of people around them and not only want to do something, but are doing something by relating their faith to others.

She added, "We live in a world of travail and women are recognizing problems. I often break into tears as I consider the problems of humanity."

She stressed that Christian women, as well as men, must exist, "by living, eating and demonstrating the word of God." She added also that women must go deeper into a knowledge of God and become "prayer-warriors in a terrific battle."

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The keynote speaker told the women gathered in Lubbock's First Baptist Church that "some sow, others cultivate while still others reap."

She related the experiences of many Southern Baptist women who are now responding to an active ministry of witnessing.

Mrs. Lobaugh's address followed earlier appeals to messengers to become more involved in mission action in their own backyards as well as around the world.

Each session started with personal testimonies relating personal instances in the speaker's life when "God's grace was sufficient."

Mrs. Lobaugh was one of five keynote speakers for the two day session which included James Gebhart, missionary, Rio Grande City, Tex.; Charles P. McLaughlin, secretary, Texas Baptist State Missions Commission; Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; and Eva Marie Kennard, missionary, Berkeley, Calif.

All speakers stressed the continued need for involvement in mission action.

In other action, Mrs. C. J. Humphrey of Amarillo was re-elected to a fourth term as president of the state WMU.

Also re-elected as promotional vice presidents were Mrs. C. W. Coy, Houston; Mrs. Louis Hodges, Mesquite, and Mrs. I. E. Lamberth of Tyler.

Elected members-at-large of the WMU executive board were Mrs. Tom Drewett, San Antonio, and Mrs. Rudy Sanchez, Dallas.

Texas Executive Secretary, Miss Eula Mae Henderson, interrupted the closing session to report that through Oct. 31, \$457,499.96 had been given in "the Mary Hill Davis offering" for state missions.

The women had earlier in the year allocated \$250,000 of the special offering for an increased ministry along the Rio Grande River in cooperation with the Texas Baptist missions commission.

Each WMU session highlighted the work already being carried on along the river, and which involves two million Latin Americans.