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May 28, 1996

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Judge sticks neck out
to help unruly teens

By Terri Lackey

Baptist Press
5/29/96

BAYTOWN, Texas (BP)--A Texas judge's willingness to stick his neck out landed nine of Harris County's unruly teenagers inside a church house.

The junior and senior high students sent to court for fighting, disrupting classrooms, taking drugs, or missing classes were given a choice by Harris County's Justice of the Peace Tony Polumbo -- pay a \$500 fine or attend 10 weeks of "Right Choices" classes at Memorial Baptist Church in Baytown, Texas. Parents of the teens were encouraged to show up for the same number of "Parenting by Grace" classes.

It all started when Polumbo begged for help during a community meeting and Memorial Baptist Pastor Steve James volunteered to lend him a hand.

The two serve together on a committee assigned to attempt to lower the student dropout rate. Members of the committee endeavor to give students with deficient home lives the skills and encouragement to stay in school.

"The judge stood up during one of our meetings, threw up his hands, and said, 'I need some help. This is serious. I've got all these kids coming through my court, and I need some guidance,'" James recalled.

The pastor said it was impossible for him to hear the judge's pleas and do nothing.

"Our church needs to minister to the neighborhood," James said of Memorial Baptist, located less than a mile from Robert E. Lee High School and its body of about 3,000 students. "We can't just sit here and say we are going to minister to our own, and that's all.

"After the meeting, I told the judge we were going through a 'Parenting by Grace' program at our church, and it was meant to give parents some parenting skills," James said. "I suggested we might teach it to some of the parents."

Following Polumbo's appeal, James met with Memorial's minister of education Stan Sullinger and Sunday school director Karen Smithson to find a way to help the court deal with unruly young people.

The three came up with a plan to first teach their young people Josh McDowell's "Right from Wrong: Right Choices" materials and then offer it to a class assembled by Polumbo. They would also offer the parents of the teens the Parenting by Grace course. Both resources are produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division.

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James said the church sent the parenting and Right from Wrong materials for review to Polumbo, who sent them back and said, 'Let's do it. I can send you 50 to 75 kids a week.'

"I told him I thought we should start out smaller and work out some of the kinks," said James.

Presently, Smithson and Mark Berg, a family counselor and church member, teach the teens who choose the classes over the \$500 fine. Sullinger teaches the parents.

The first week of the class, Sullinger said the kids held an "in-your-face" attitude.

"They were saying 'I don't want to be here, and I'm not going to learn anything.' And we were saying, 'Great, then you don't have any expectations, and anything you learn will be better than you thought.'"

Donte Tousant, 15, is one who was determined not to learn anything in the class, Sullinger said. But later the young man had a change of heart.

"On the second week, he stayed after and asked some questions about God."

After a few weeks of attending class, Tousant, who was sent to Judge Polumbo for fighting, decided learning wouldn't hurt him.

"If you come in with the attitude that you can learn, you can," he said. "It just depends on what you make out of it."

Sullinger said many of the parents who attend the classes are just plain ashamed.

"They held the attitude at first that 'This is a church, and we are here because we are evil, sinful people.' But in the class, we have assured them that they are not horrible, terrible parents. They are just here to learn some parenting skills and to find ways to get more involved in their child's life," Sullinger said.

Five weeks into the class, attitudes of the young people seem to be changing, according to Smithson, who acknowledges the success of the class can be measured in "baby steps."

"Still, the kids seem more at ease. They are asking questions and challenging some of our ideas," she said. "It seems like they really want to learn something."

And because the meetings are held at church, each session is concluded with prayer, Smithson said.

"If they think we are going to forget to pray, they remind us," Smithson said. "I think that's just great -- a real accomplishment."

Sullinger said plans are being made to train more church members as leaders and to develop additional, but shorter, classes by fall.

"We haven't got our techniques honed down yet," Sullinger said. "We want to make changes through the summer; to talk about what's been bad and what's been good."

"One thing we know for sure," he said, "the judge could send us plenty of kids."

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(BP) photos (horizontal) are posted in the SBCNet News Room by the Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press. Filenames are Dontel and Donte2.

Judge's creative sentences
include trip to local church

By Terri Lackey

Baptist Press
5/28/96

BAYTOWN, Texas (BP)--Harris County Justice of the Peace Tony Polumbo should consider trading his judge's robe for an artist's frock.

This peace officer of the third precinct in Baytown, Texas, is the Picasso of judges. He imposes on young people sentences that are bold, colorful, abstractly creative -- and packed with meaning.

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Two hundred kids a week pass through Judge Polumbo's court. And to each, he gruffly, but kindly hands down an encouraging word, followed by a sentence unique to the young person's circumstance.

"Young man, I can tell by looking in your eyes you're a good boy. Now, why would you want to embarrass your mama and daddy like this and drag them down to this courtroom 'cause of your bad behavior?" he asks scoldingly of a sixth-grader sent to him for fighting in school.

When the boy shrugs, Polumbo flings himself menacingly out of his chair, looms across the bench and glares at the boy beneath glasses perched atop his forehead.

"Son, I won't tolerate that kind of answer. You look me in the eyes and answer me."

The boy begins to sob, and the court clerk hands him a tissue. Judge Polumbo looks at his parents and grins. "I think that's all that needs to be done here," he tells them.

This kid got off light. The judge made him apologize to both parents and top the penance off with a hug.

Most of the young people who stand before the judge are given a \$500 fine or 80 hours of community service. Reductions in sentences are available for a price.

To a young man with straggly locks, the judge bargained, "Son, I'll trade you 20 hours of community service if you'll cut your hair today." The boy refused, but 80 percent gladly take him up on it, Polumbo said.

The judge said he attempts to give young people community service sentences related to their problems.

"It doesn't make sense to let a young person do community service by picking up trash somewhere. I would rather he or she pick up knowledge."

For example, one girl who brandished an obscene hand gesture against a teacher was required by Polumbo to learn sign language. Some teens caught speeding while driving are forced to go to the funerals of others who have died as a result of a speeding accident. Recently, the judge sent two girls in trouble for fighting to a local boxing gym for lessons.

"Once a week for six months, they have to learn how to box," Polumbo said. "And while they're at that smelly, old gym, the instructor teaches them anger control."

Many who "act ugly" are required by the judge to take a manners course.

"They learn how to set tables, say 'please' and 'thank-you,' things like that," Polumbo said. "One important message of this court is that other people have a right to have their opinions."

Frequently, the judge issues young people 30 days of washing dishes.

"You gotta dishwasher?" the judge asked a mother who accompanied her son to court recently. To her nod, Polumbo responds, "Well, it just broke. Your son is going to wash dishes for the next 30 days, and I want you to plan the greasiest meals you can think of. Have spaghetti a lot, and ask all your friends over."

Many daughters are told to plan and cook the Sunday dinners for a month. Some sons are required to take their mothers out to dinner at a nice restaurant, and spend at least \$30 on the mom's meal alone.

One girl who pled guilty to fighting was told to work out her community service hours at a local nursing home.

"You're a fine young lady, I can see it," he told the ninth grader. "I believe you're a nurturer, and I believe you could bring a lot of sunlight to these elderly people."

The teen actually walked away from her sentence smiling.

Not long ago, Polumbo added to his list of sentences a 10-week series of values lessons at Baytown's Memorial Baptist Church.

Some of the junior and senior high students sent to his court are given a choice -- pay a \$500 fine or attend 10 weeks of "Right Choices" classes at Memorial. Parents of the teens are encouraged to show up for the same number of "Parenting by Grace" classes. Both resources are produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The judge said he sees many of these sentences he imposes as ways to get the family together. Some are meant to give a kid confidence in himself or herself.

"These kids' problems start with the breakdown of the family unit. That is clear; it is not a debatable issue," he said. "I try to figure out a way to get the family back together, maybe working on a project together -- something that will give them a joint sense of pride."

Sometimes, but not always, it works, Polumbo acknowledged.

The program seemed to work for one young man back in court to recite three words the judge had assigned him on a previous visit.

With his mother beaming proudly beside him, the youngster stood before the courtroom to spell and define 'exonerate -- to clear from accusation or blame,' 'prevaricate -- to deviate from the truth,' and 'exasperate' -- to cause irritation or annoyance.

Vividly relieved as he finished his assignment, the young man welcomed the admiring judge's guffawing approval. To supportive courtroom applause, mother and child smiled broadly. Their sentence was complete.

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(BP) photo (horizontal) is posted in the SBCNet News Room by the Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press. Filename is judge.

Czech, Slovak Baptist leaders
face new challenges with energy By Robert Dilday

Baptist Press
5/28/96

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (BP)--As Baptists in the Czech Republic and Slovakia cope with economic and political changes in their region, they are turning to new -- and youthful -- leaders.

Last year Czech Baptists elected Peter Cervinsky, 36, general secretary of their union, or convention. In March, Slovaks named Joseph Kulacik, 37, to the same position in their Baptist union.

Both are old enough to remember the discrimination faced by Christians under the communist regime, but young enough to have benefited from changes since 1989. They are well-educated, speak fluent English and are ready to take on the challenges facing Baptists in their new republics.

"We must first develop our mission strategy," says Cervinsky about Baptists in the Czech Republic. "During communist times we were in some ways hidden in our churches because there was no way to share the gospel with people. The only possible way was to go to church and listen to a sermon. That's why for 40 years we had to live only in our churches."

Cervinsky himself found that life difficult. Raised in Lovosice, north of Prague, his parents were believers and he adopted their faith at an early age. In elementary and high school, he was the only one who believed in God. Despite pressure to conform with his classmates, by the time he was 25, God had called him into the ministry.

"It was not easy to decide to study theology," he recalled. "I was a little bit afraid I would not be allowed to do so. But God took care of me and I gained the possibility and moved to Prague."

He enrolled in the Charles University in Prague, studying with the Protestant theology faculty there. After graduation he was a pastor in Prague for three years, then in Lovosice for two years. He was elected general secretary a year ago.

Cervinsky still lives with his wife and daughters in Lovosice and commutes to his office in Prague.

Ironically, in 1989, when Czechoslovakia embraced the political changes he had wanted all his life, he was abroad. He'd taken advantage of an opportunity to study at the International Baptist Theological Seminary, then in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. He was glued to the radio every night keeping up with the fast-paced events.

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"I was little bit disappointed (to be gone) but I was happy that the changes were taking place."

Now that changes have occurred, Czech Baptists have to face up to them, Cervinsky says.

"We have to try to get people not to think of us as a sect or as strange people. We have to show that we are like they are but that Christ is our leader. It's a little bit difficult. We have to learn how to do that. The only way comes from our tradition of the Czech Reformation -- to serve our people. We have to develop a kind of service to people."

That's no easy task in a country where people are well-educated, well-fed and better off economically than in many former Soviet bloc countries.

"What our people need in this time is to learn English and that's why we've invited missionaries from the States to live with us and teach English as an economic language. We teach it not only to our members but mostly for people outside so that they can meet us and find out what Baptists are."

Sharing the gospel with Czechs presents special challenges, Cervinsky says.

"The Czechs don't like very big meetings or evangelistic crusades," he said. "During the time of communism these kinds of meetings (sponsored by the Party) took place and everyone had to attend. Our people don't like such things."

"Also quite often in our history we have had to defend ourselves against foreign troops and we were occupied; so we don't like such expressions as "crusade" or "to win someone to Christ." The only way to reach our people for Christ is to show them the love we have found in Christ and to serve them and to present the gospel that way."

Service to people is also Joseph Kulacik's aim in Slovakia.

"Some of our pastors are doing very good work at secondary and basic schools with handicapped children," he said. "And some church members are doing a good mission among children. In Bratislava we have a church that is doing work with drug dependent people, helping them to find state financial support."

"We do a lot of charity work, considering we only have 2,000 members in Slovakia," he adds.

Kulacik continues as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Bratislava, where he lives with his wife, even after his election in March as general secretary. The 230-member church is the second largest Baptist congregation in Slovakia.

Raised as a believer in central Slovakia, Kulacik studied art in high school, earned a degree in art history and philosophy at Bratislava University and later received a doctorate in Slovakian folk art. While working at a cultural research institute at the academy of science in Bratislava, his life changed.

"I felt a strong feeling that God was calling me," he remembers. "I finally decided in 1987 to leave everything and enroll a second time in the university," this time in the theological faculty. Two years later he graduated and became a pastor -- just as Czechoslovakia moved away from communism and Soviet domination. At that time he took advantage of an opportunity to study at Ruschlikon and the international seminary.

Changes in Slovakia have been a mixed bag, he says. "Democracy is not only easier, but also harder," he says. "Liberty brought not only the nice side of democracy but also gave criminality more liberty."

It's also affected church life.

"Sunday night attendance is less than before 1989," he says. "People are more busy. They do not have time even though they are now free to come to church. It seems to me that before the Velvet Revolution as a flock we were fighting together and we had a common enemy, which was the regime. Now we do not have a common enemy. We have freedom but people simply don't attend church as often as before."

Kulacik still paints, despite pressure of time. "I have a small studio in my flat in Bratislava," he says. "I was painting last year and this year, but now I am preparing to do some big pieces, abstract pieces," says the pastor, who admires the American painter Jackson Pollock.

A recently-initiated mission partnership between Baptists in Virginia and those in Slovakia and the Czech Republic will be beneficial, Kulacik believes. "We would like contact with brothers and sisters abroad because we have to know what it is all about, what Baptists look like in the west."

Cervinsky agrees. "We are grateful that Virginia Baptists are open and sensitive to our culture and they really want to help us. That's why we are looking forward to cooperation."

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**Slovakian Baptists find ministry
through mineral spring**

By Robert Dilday

**Baptist Press
5/28/96**

LUCENEC, Slovakia (BP)--The water of life flows in front of a church in Lucenec, Slovakia.

That, at least is how Pastor Tomas Kriska describes the artesian spring of mineral water outside the gate of Lucenec Baptist Church, which he serves as pastor. And that spring may be the key to sharing God's love in Christ with this town of about 30,000 people near the Hungarian border.

Lucenec's spring attracts a steady stream of people -- some driving as much as two hours -- to fill plastic soft drink bottles with the sulphurous water running from a tap in the middle of a small plaza.

That's not unusual in Central Europe where mineral springs abound and are regarded as healthy. For centuries spas like Karlsbad and Marienbad have drawn travelers seeking "the cure" by imbibing vast amounts of mineral water and bathing in the springs.

Members of Lucenec Baptist Church hope to capitalize on the spring's popularity to expand their church's ministries. Placed strategically in the town center, the church sits between the spring and the marketplace, which fills several times a week with farmers selling produce grown in nearby gardens and in fields outside town.

The church plans to build a landscaped walkway, or "allee," between the spring in front of the church and the marketplace behind it. This short cut from the plaza to the market will run just alongside the church's sanctuary.

Lucenec's municipal government is preparing to cover the spring with a canopy and is encouraging the church to pursue its ambitious plans.

But Lucenec Baptist Church is going beyond the walkway. Targeting Slovaks' sports mania, a tennis court and volleyball court will be built on the opposite side of the church, where anyone in town can play. Tennis especially is a popular sport in a region that has produced world class players like Peter Kordu and Martina Navratolova -- both Czechs, not Slovaks, but highly regarded nonetheless.

"I believe we are in God's place for Lucenec," says Kriska. "We are in the heart of the town. It is advantageous to us to have this valuable property."

Increased activity around the church may put strains on its small sanctuary and Kriska wants to remodel the church itself, expanding the platform to accommodate a larger choir and enlarging the baptistry.

Virginia Baptists have initiated a mission partnership with Slovakia and volunteers from the Old Dominion will participate in each of these projects, said John Upton, director of the Virginia Baptist General Board's office of partnership missions.

Construction skills won't be the only abilities volunteers will need in Lucenec. Also being sought are:

-- sports teams, to demonstrate game strategy in Lucenec's public schools. Skills in basketball, baseball and soccer will be especially useful.

-- music teams. A bluegrass band from Winchester Baptist Church in Winchester, Va., led by pastor Drexel Rayford, will visit in late September.

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-- English teachers. Lucenec Baptist Church will offer two-week English camps for children and adults this summer. "This is very helpful for unemployed people," said Kriska. "Ability to speak English could be the key to getting a job."

Successful English camps could lead to an International Service Corps worker filling an open English teacher position in a Lucenec public school.

Work in Lucenec will begin by tearing down the fence that separates the church from people filling water bottles at the spring.

That, says Kriska, symbolizes the ministry of the church, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

"We are tearing down walls in our hearts that were built by communism," he says.

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**Orchestras draw players
to dust off old horns**

By Julie Nall

**Baptist Press
5/28/96**

FARMINGTON, Mo. (BP)--Barbara Couch hadn't played a note on a woodwind in 40 years. But while playing the synthesizer for the orchestra at First Baptist Church, Farmington, Mo., it simply occurred to her one day to pick up the bass clarinet and learn again.

Now she and other Missouri Baptists are finding an attraction to church orchestras 10 years or more after laying down their instruments from high school band.

Couch began her second-round attempt at the instrument by borrowing a horn from the local high school and buying a music book. She practiced for two hours each day and discovered she really enjoyed playing.

After many hours of practice, she was able to play beyond the level she had attained in the Marathon Central High School band in Marathon, N.Y. In fact, six months after she started playing again she bought her own bass clarinet -- a good investment despite a steep price, she said.

"It just seemed the Lord was in it and he seemed to keep saying, You ought to pick up that instrument," Couch said. "So I tried it and He gave me some real pleasure in it."

Bobby Jones, a member of the Missouri Baptist Convention worship development team, contends that any player can achieve and even surpass the technical proficiency he or she had when they set the instrument down -- even if it was 40 years ago. The player needs to be willing to commit to daily practice and must be willing to get involved in a group setting to play, Jones said.

Tuba player Bud Adams, a member of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, Mo., remembers his first solo back in fourth grade when he played "In the Hall of the Mountain King." His mother was so surprised at his solo performance that "she nearly fell out of her chair," he said.

Adams played through grade school and was a member of the Springford High School band in Royers Ford, Pa. It was an accomplished marching band and sometimes was invited to play at Philadelphia Eagles professional football games.

But Adams laid the horn down at age 17 and didn't pick it up again until age 31 to join a community band on the East Coast. Moving to Missouri, he was a member of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, for only a few weeks when he was recruited by a baritone player to join the church group. Actually, he admits, he let it be known that he once played the tuba.

"It took about three months for it to come back," Adams said. To re-learn his music, he practiced scales three times a week. "I really didn't think I could do it. The only thing I've played in the past 10 years were Sousa marches, which for tubas are pretty easy."

Adams works as a computer programmer for the State of Missouri on the automated child support system.

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"Playing the tuba is very different from what I do at work or school, and I need that change," he said. "Work is somewhat oppressive and this is uplifting."

Getting to play again is like a homecoming for some people, said Ray Wampler, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Park Hills, Mo. "Hearing the instruments, they want to come back and play.

"There are so many instrumentalists who have had no place to play. It is an added incentive for them to be in church.

"They will play at the drop of a hat if there is just some place to play. It is definitely an outreach tool."

Wampler said church orchestras especially could reach out to young people -- many of whom don't seem to want to be in church unless there is something for them to do.

For drummer Lindy LaChance, the opportunity to play drums in church was new. It didn't happen in the church where he grew up, a church that eventually split and left him not desiring to even attend. Wampler asked LaChance to come play the drums in Park Hills.

Today LaChance, an accountant in Viburnum, Mo., attributes the fact he and his wife Teri regularly attend church to the orchestra.

While touring for three years with the gospel band Crimson Gold, based in Fredericktown, Mo., LaChance discovered that his drums were a conversation starter. "Back when I was learning to play, other people would let me play their set," he explained. After concerts, young people would come up and ask him about playing, and ask to play his drums. "It's an outreach because it opens the door to talk to people."

Besides building relationships, participating in church orchestras has helped enhance a personal tie for Couch. Her husband, Paul, plays the trumpet in the First Baptist Church, Farmington, group. The Couches work nearly 100 miles apart each day, so the orchestra is a good opportunity to spend time together doing something they both enjoy.

Couch said he finds playing in worship a privilege. It recently led him to join the Missouri Music Men -- an ensemble of Missouri Baptist church music leaders -- in a concert tour in Belarus. "I never thought trumpet playing would take me halfway around the world," he acknowledged. "I'm constantly amazed how God is working in my life."

An orchestra leading in worship in the local church is exciting for the congregation, too, said John Jackson, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Farmington. When the group doesn't play, the church seems disappointed, he said. The 20-plus-piece ensemble that practices regularly at the church plays for weekly worship services, accompanies large choral works, plays with other churches in the association and participates in events like the recent Foreign Mission Board appointment service in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

To others who sometimes toss around the idea of pulling the old instrument out of the attic, blowing the dust off and giving it another try, Adams said: "Don't even think about it -- just do it. It does a lot for you. You use your mind in a different way.

"It's a team effort. You work together with other Christians who are doing their best to raise a joyful noise to the Lord. I know it's not the best music ever played, but that's not the point. We're not performing for entertainment, we're worship leaders for God's honor."

**Retired pastor, wife
celebrate 70-year bond**

By Stacey Hamby

BOLIVAR, Mo. (BP)--When Claud Mustain and Ruth Keeling first met more than 70 years ago, the Roaring Twenties were in full swing, Calvin Coolidge was president, Prohibition was the law of the land and Black Monday was still five years away.

"There were a couple of new boys in class, and one was Claud," Ruth said.

Claud recalled, "She was the prettiest red-headed girl in Bolivar."

Ruth continued, "We dated the last two years of high school and graduated May 14, 1926. Three weeks later we got married."

Claud and Ruth Mustain of Bolivar, Mo., will celebrate 70 years of wedded bliss June 5.

"A lot of people thought we were crazy, and we were crazy -- crazy about each other," Ruth said. "We took our vows seriously. It never occurred to us that it wouldn't work."

They didn't have a big wedding. No parents or family were there. They didn't even know the name of the preacher who pronounced them husband and wife.

"We married in Eldon on our way to Jefferson City with a friend," Ruth said. "It was at a Congregational minister's house. We couldn't find a Baptist church, so we asked a boy on the street where a minister lived, and we went there to marry."

Claud worked at the Bolivar Herald as a printer until 1936, when he made the decision to go into the ministry. He went back to school at Southwest Baptist College (University) in Bolivar for two years, then finished up his undergraduate work at William Jewell College, Liberty, in 1940. He went on to Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Kan.

During this time, Claud served as pastor of country churches and managed to keep food on the table for his family, which now included three children.

"We eked it out," he said of their days during the Great Depression. They launched their 60-year career in ministry at Brownington Baptist Church near Deepwater in Henry County. "I had several little Baptist churches in the country," Claud said. "Quarter-time and half-time -- either preach once or twice a month at a church."

The Mustains survived turbulent days for America -- the Depression, World War II, the introduction of rock n' roll. They survived turbulent personal days, too. One son died as a small child and another died in 1969. Their daughter, Carolyn Mott, lives in Bolivar.

When World War II broke out, Claud volunteered to serve as a chaplain in the Army. He spent three and a half years in the service -- two of that overseas. When he came home in 1945, the Mustains moved to Fort Worth, Texas, so he could finish seminary at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

After graduation, they moved to Mountain Grove, where Claud was pastor of First Baptist Church. The Mustains have served in churches in Benton, Clay, Henry, Jackson, Polk, St. Clair and Wright counties in Missouri. They also spent some time in Kansas, Texas and Puerto Rico.

They moved back to Bolivar in 1973 when Claud retired. He served as associate pastor of First Baptist Church, where they are members.

"We had no idea we'd still be together 70 years later," Ruth said. "We didn't think that far ahead. But I never saw a man I'd trade him for."

Claud observed, "We never had any intentions for it to be otherwise. We've been fortunate to live this long. It's not been a bed of roses, but there are no regrets. We've always been a team; we work together."

"A man can build a house," he concluded, "but a wife makes it a home. Our home has been our haven."

Well-wishers can send cards to the Mustains at 310 W. Olive, Bolivar, MO 65613.

**Seventh-day Adventist musicians
turn down Olympics performance**

MARCELLUS, Mich. (BP)--Two Seventh-day Adventist musicians have turned down an opportunity to perform the U.S. National Anthem during the summer Olympics games in Atlanta because it falls on the Sabbath, according to the Adventist News Network.

Jack Hoebeke and Rick Labate with J&P Music Ministries, based in Marcellus, Mich., were invited to open the July 20 soccer match. Because of the popularity of soccer in many countries, the match would be broadcast by satellite around the world.

However, the match was scheduled on Saturday, which is the "Sabbath" of the Bible.

"It was a great honor to be asked to perform for that event and for an audience that large," Hoebeke said. But when they learned they were scheduled to sing on a Saturday, Hoebeke, a life-long Adventist, said "there was no question that we could not and would not perform."

Hoebeke says, "There is no question that the Sabbath means more to me than any rewards that might have come from those activities." Labate said "I want to dedicate my pastoral work and music to the Lord for his glory, and if any good results, I will praise him for it."

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