



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

---FEATURES
produced by Baptist Press

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

August 17, 1973

Alvin's Life Among
All Those Palefaces

By Tim Nicholas

ATLANTA (BP)--When Navajo Indian Alvin Cly came to live with Don and Lucy Rutledge a year ago, he would hardly speak. Now he'll hardly keep quiet.

From a shy, stoic 10 year-old who answered most questions with an "I don't know," or a shrug, Alvin has changed into a whooping, typically rambunctious 11 year-old.

Of course, the metamorphosis can be attributed partially to the fact that Rutledge, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board photographer, has two boys of his own for Alvin to learn from.

Craig is Alvin's age and Mark is 15; despite a modicum of competition for attention and grades, the three boys have grown close.

"I guess we're better than close friends, maybe brothers," says Mark. "Blood brothers," adds Craig.

Alvin came to the Rutledges after Don heard of the plight of many Navajo Indian children who must live in boarding schools, away from the influence of any family life, for the school year because their reservation homes are so scattered and distant.

A veteran Indian missionary in Utah, Calvin Sandlin, put Don in touch with Alvin's mother who approved of Don's taking Alvin into the Rutledge home during the school year. This was Alvin's second year of boarding with an Anglo family. He lived with a family in Las Vegas, Nev., last year.

"They wouldn't let me drink Cokes or listen to rock music," he says. "I'm supposed to be a Mormon," he adds.

While living at the Rutledge house, Alvin attended Baptist church with the family, but religion was not the only contrast with which Alvin had to deal.

The shaded green lawns, homes with more rooms than people, and the generally un-Indian attitude toward possession of material goods were frilly differences for Alvin, whose home on the Arizona reservation has no electricity, telephone or hot water facilities. On the reservation, Alvin says, there are "some trees, but they die in about 10 years."

But Alvin was only slightly affected by the materialistic aspects of Anglo-America--like Christmas: "I don't know what to ask for this Christmas, I got all I wanted last year," he says.

One of the biggest changes for Alvin took place inside his stomach--it was exposed to all sorts of new foods. At home food consisted mostly of frybread and meat--he says his mother cooks great goat--and Lucy Rutledge introduced him to fish, a host of vegetables and salads and hushpuppies.

Though he was in the second grade before he learned English, Alvin did fairly well in his Atlanta school: in science, he went from an F the first quarter to A the second.

Other changes Alvin couldn't help--like his weight rising from 80 to 104 pounds in nine months--and the way he outgrew all of his clothes between August and October last year. No fat, just a typically growing boy.

But perhaps the most significant change came during Alvin's identity crisis.

-more-

During the winter most of the neighborhood kids had watched a TV western movie where the Indians scalped some settlers. While playing the next day, a friend asked Alvin, "since you're an Indian, you gonna scalp me?"

"This really affected Alvin," says Don. "And later during lunch he started crying--in a way he had never turned his emotions loose before. I let him go to his room and in a few minutes I went in. He was still in tears and not speaking."

After Don learned what had happened, he told Alvin that he should have accepted the boy's apology, and that he should "never be ashamed of being an Indian." Don talked to Alvin about Indian pride and heritage; after a long discussion, Rutledge remembers that "he perked up and seemed to have a new sense of dignity."

This dignity kept shining through. Once Alvin saw a color slide Don had taken in Wyoming of a statue of Buffalo Bill Cody. "He killed all our buffalo," said Alvin.

"He did his share, but there were others too," responded Don.

"They did it for money and for fun," said Alvin. "You know what we call these people?"

Don was expecting a strong invective from the boy whose anger was rising.

"A bunch of palefaces!"

Current Indian affairs haven't interested Alvin. He shrugged off the Wounded Knee episodes with "they're not our tribe."

Tribal unity runs strong in Alvin. After he finishes his schooling, he plans to return to the reservation where his family raises sheep. "I have lots of brothers--we can't break up the reservation," he says.

Meantime Alvin has gone home to the reservation for the summer. Excited about seeing his family again, he won't concede any plans for next year. The Rutledges want him back, but Alvin will only say, "I'll make up my mind when the time comes."

Mark Rutledge puts the family's sentiments into his own terms when he says, "It'd be cool to be an Indian."

-30-

BP PHOTO mailed to state Baptist paper editors

FMB Hears Uganda Report;
Appoints 16 Missionaries

8/17/73

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--A report that two missionary couples will remain and continue serving in the troubled East African nation of Uganda and the appointment of 16 new missionaries highlighted the meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here.

The two couples remaining in Uganda, the G. Webster Carrolls and the Jimmy D. Hootens, initiated Southern Baptist foreign mission work in Uganda. Four younger couples who had been living in outlying areas of the country will leave Uganda for reassignment in other parts of Africa.

Uganda's recent government ban on a number of Protestant groups did not include the Baptist mission or associated churches in the country, reported Davis L. Saunders, area secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa. However, a number of rural Baptist congregations were mistakenly included by local officials and refused permission to worship, Saunders said.

"The missionaries in Uganda have set a high standard of dedication through their recent troubled times," said Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive secretary.

"They have been aware of strong, consistent prayer support by Southern Baptists. In the days ahead their need for this support will continue to be crucial," he said.

-more-

The 16 new missionaries, along with two reappointments, bring the total appointments during 1973 to 176, already five more than the total appointed last year.

These appointments, coupled with a 10 per cent increase in income from Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings, represent a strong flow of missionary support among Southern Baptists according to Jesse C. Fletcher, director of the board's mission support division.

Saunders also reported that the C. Ernest Harveys, who had been awaiting visas to enter Mozambique since 1970, have now been granted resident visas. They moved to the Portuguese state, August 1, to begin work with the Baptist Bible Institute in Lourenzo Marques.

Among the new appointees are seven couples and two single women. They will serve in six countries.

Appointed as career missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Marcus L. (Mark) Driggers of Trent, Tex., to Columbia; Mr. and Mrs. Gary D. Linebarger of Flint, Mich. to Taiwan; Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. (Bob) McEachern Jr., of Riverton, Wyo., to Korea; Mr. and Mrs. Winston W. McNeil of Tunnel Springs, Ala., to Columbia; Mr. and Mrs. James E. McPherson of Hearne, Tex., to Lebanon; Mr. and Mrs. David H. Roberts of Bradenton, Fla., to Zambia; Mr. and Mrs. Roy N. Tucker of Waco., Tex., to Mexico, and Miss Diana L. Hall of Fort Worth, Tex., to Colombia.

Miss Lounelle Selle of Decatur, Ga., was employed as a missionary associate to Taiwan.

Of the more than 2,500 persons attending the foreign missions conference, 340 made decisions at Sunday services and during the Tuesday appointment service. Included was a decision for mission service by a member of the Foreign Mission Board and his wife.

-30-

Wrapup

RAs Storm Gateway Arch;
Challenged to Commitment

8/17/73

By Lee Hollaway

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Almost 3,000 teenage Pioneer Royal Ambassador (RAs) and their counselors pledged themselves to serve others in Christ's name with a traffic-stopping, 16-block, downtown march to the Gateway Arch during the Fifth National Royal Ambassador Congress here.

"Commitment" and "involvement" were recurring themes throughout the three-day meeting of 2,967 Southern Baptist boys and their counselors from 25 states. They echoed throughout the lyrics of a new mission musical which premiered at the opening congress session and in challenges delivered by Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Apollo 15 astronaut James Irwin, country comedian Jerry Clower and Baptist entertainer Grady Nutt.

A fast pace, marked by extensive use of multi-media techniques and numerous musical groups, was tailor-made for boys who tire quickly of long speeches and traditional approaches. The entire floor of the massive Keel Auditorium, as well as the large exhibit hall, were used in telling the story of missions.

The dramatic march to the arch, which fell in the middle of the congress program, was led by McCullough, National RA Director Jay Chance and Pioneer Department Director Charles Doggett.

Kept off the sidewalks and in the street most of the time by parade marshalls from South Carolina, boys sometimes broke ranks to give sidewalk spectators and curious office workers a tract or a booklet containing the gospel of John.

Other boys hoisted a variety of signs which told St. Louis citizens that "our mission is to tell of Jesus' love for you" or advised them to "try Jesus; you'll like him."

-more-

At the arch, The Messengers, an 18-member musical group from Memphis, played and sang "When the Saints Go Marching In" while the boys knelt in small groups for prayers of commitment. After a brief lunch the boys and their leaders fanned out across the city to conduct evangelistic meetings in parks, take surveys for the Key '73 evangelistic campaign and to witness door-to-door.

"To the Ends of the Earth," the new musical, used 20-foot high color slides and dialogue mixed with nine songs. Two of the songs, "Not Some Day but Now," and the title song, "To the Ends of the Earth," have recently been published by Broadman Press.

The lyrics to the musical were written by Bill O'Brien, Southern Baptist missionary to Indonesia, Ed Seabough of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Rob Sellers, minister of youth, St. John's Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

The musical tells the story of Marc, a teenage boy who discovers that missions is more than giving to a Christmas offering. Marc was portrayed at different spots around the auditorium by Darrell, Gerald and Harold Ware, identical triplets from Oklahoma Baptist University. O'Brien also was a featured soloist.

McCullough urged the boys to stay in the church, but chided church leaders for "setting standards they aren't willing to meet themselves.

"The real need," he said, "is for us to get in the fight but get in the right fight. The church needs those who are going to stay inside and fight."

He noted that in some instances this might mean enduring the opposition of family, neighbors, or even church leaders, but he called on the boys to "have the kind of courage to do what God's pioneers have always been called on to do."

Former astronaut Irwin, who received a standing, cheering welcome from the Royal Ambassadors, told of his trip to the moon and of feeling the presence of God there. He also described the work of High Flight, a non-profit organization for sharing Christ which he started a year ago when he retired from the U.S. Air Force and the space program.

In the final congress session, Baptist preacher-turned-entertainer Grady Nutt reminded the boys of the depth of Christ's commitment. "What you want to reap you had better sow. The kind of maturity you see in Gethsemane, Golgotha and on the road to Emmaus--all the places our Lord gave of himself--must be resident in others too. If you want to be that mature, you should begin now to do what you need to do to get there."

Final registration figures showed the Georgia delegation in the lead, with 281, followed by South Carolina, 271; Missouri, 268; Illinois, 223; Kentucky 219; Texas, 216; Tennessee, 205; Louisiana 185; Oklahoma, 179; Alabama, 158; North Carolina, 136; Florida, 126; Virginia, 129; and Mississippi, 105. Registration was scattered among 11 other states.

The national RA Congress, sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission, is held only every five years.

-30-

BWA Sends \$1,000 to Baptists
In Louisiana for Flood Relief

8/17/73

WASHINGTON (BP)--When the Baptists of the world provide disaster relief through the Baptist World Alliance, announcement of that fact usually conjures up visions of distant land

But that's not always the case.

The BWA has sent a \$1,000 check to Robert L. Lee, executive secretary of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, to aid victims of flooding in Louisiana last spring.

Carl W. Tiller, BWA associate secretary, told the Southern Baptist executive in a letter, "The money comes from the Baptists of the world, and we hope that you will let your people know that this is an expression of brotherly concern from colleagues in distant places."

CORRECTION--Baptist Press story mailed 8-17-73, headlined McCullough Hurls; Musical Premiered at RA Congress, graph three should read "national Royal Ambassador director Jay Chance..." (not Jay Change). Thanks.

--Baptist Press