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December 3, 1973

**Missionary Kids Face  
Trauma of Adjustment**

By Mary Ann Ward

**RICHMOND (BP)**--Over Thanksgiving weekend, while many Americans were with their families, almost 100 members of another "family" gathered here to discuss various aspects of adjustment to the American culture in the absence of friends and loved ones.

This "family," made up of college freshmen who are children of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries, came from 50 campuses across the United States for the annual MK (missionary kid) weekend sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

For many students, it was the first holiday they had spent away from their families. Some had been born overseas and most had lived in the United States only a total of four years during furloughs.

Because of the limited time spent in the U. S., "home" to most MKs is Brazil, Zambia, Indonesia, Japan, Spain or another of the 77 countries where Southern Baptists have missionaries.

Bringing with them a part of a foreign culture, some sang in Spanish, others mimicked a broken African-style "Pigeon English," but they all talked for hours about friends and family "back home."

During small group sessions, the MKs were free to discuss the problems and frustrations as well as pleasant surprises of adjusting to America, separation from family and college life.

The last furlough for most of the parents occurred while the MK was in junior or senior high school. One student said that, unfortunately, most MKs prejudge what it will be like at college by high school experiences during this furlough.

She explained that at college, with all freshmen new on campus, everyone has to adjust, but attending an unfamiliar high school during furlough can be a traumatic experience. The MK is thrown into a school where everyone knows each other already. Cliques are already formed and many high school students don't bother to get to know someone who will stay only one year.

Several students said their last furlough was difficult because school integration was a major controversy in the United States. Having been part of a minority group most of their lives, MKs don't understand stateside racial prejudice.

Many MKs, influenced by strong anti-American feelings prevalent overseas and news reports that emphasize U. S. problems, come to the States with misconceptions. One girl had been told that most Americans were rich hippies.

Re-entry in the States is further complicated because they and their parents are stereotyped.

"Most people think my parents live in a little grass hut without running water and go around stalking the bush country looking for people to convert," said one girl from Africa. Another agreed that Americans don't realize that the rest of the world is civilized too.

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Alita Garrett, an MK from Rhodesia and student at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., said most people always think of missionaries as "the epitome of religion." People don't realize that missionaries also have problems and hangups, she said.

Some reported that people tend to see their "MK" label rather than their value as a person. Others reported that they feel pressure to be active in a church because it's expected of them. Still others have problems with English classes because they have previously spoken another language at school.

Despite difficulties expressed by the MKs, most felt they were "privileged," and resent the frequently-asked question, "What have you given up because your parents were missionaries?"

Lynn Moss, a Mars Hill (N. C.) College student from Zambia, remarked, "We have to keep explaining that we don't give up anything. I've gained so much--more than I would have in the States."

Bill Hatton, an MK from Brazil, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and a resource person for the weekend, said that U. S. residents are not well-informed about other parts of the world.

"They view me as coming from a very disadvantaged corner of the world," said Hatton. "How could I tell them, that in coming from the city of Rio de Janeiro, a metropolis of 4.5 million people and a major cultural and economic center of the Western Hemisphere, I come from an area far superior to many places in the United States."

"It's frustrating for 'everyone' to think you're from the jungle, when you've come from a larger urban area than the vast majority of Southern Baptists."

Some of the MKs present for the weekend may return overseas someday as missionaries, others will take secular jobs in a foreign country, while the majority will adopt the United States and have families of their own. But, without exception, they have been shaped by their heritage as a part of the missionary "family."

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Banks Named Executive  
At Brotherhood Agency

12/3/73

DALLAS (BP)--Bob Banks, director of the Brotherhood department for Oklahoma Baptists, was elected an executive assistant at the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a special meeting here, the board of directors of the Memphis-based agency selected Banks, 42, of Oklahoma City, to direct Brotherhood planning and promotion efforts in the United States, effective January 1.

Agency Executive Director Glendon McCullough said Banks, a professional Brotherhood field worker for 23 years, will concentrate on working with state Brotherhood leaders to start Brotherhood units in Southern Baptist churches.

Currently more than 454,000 men and boys are enrolled in Baptist Men and Royal Ambassador boys units in 14,000 Southern Baptist churches.

The commission has the Southern Baptist denominational assignment of providing for Baptist men and boys a program of mission education, including supporting curriculum.

Under Banks' leadership, Oklahoma Baptists showed a 14.5 per cent increase in Brotherhood enrollment during the last survey. It was the largest increase among states in the SBC.

Born and reared in Griffin, Ga., Banks holds a bachelor of arts degree from Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

In other action, the commission directors changed agency bylaws to permit the election of directors between annual sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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BP PHOTO mailed to state Baptist paper editors.

FCC Grants Radio Permit  
To William Jewell College

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)--William Jewell College has been granted a permit by the Federal Communications Commission in Washington to begin construction of a 10-watt non-commercial FM educational radio station.

The schedule calls for broadcasts from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., beginning Jan. 28, with daily sportscasts, campus news, the broadcast of an academic course each semester and a wide variety of music.

Last year's radio class prepared model programs used as a basis for the schedule submitted to the FCC. The second semester radio class will study for the FCC's third class broadcasters' licenses, because a licensed operator must be on duty at all times when the station is on the air. The station will need at least 24 licensed student engineers.

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Alabama Baptists Elect  
Church Training Director

12/3/73

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--John Sawyer, a consultant in the Sunday School department of the Alabama Baptist Convention executive board here has been named director-elect of the board's church training department.

Sawyer, 37, came to the Sunday School department two years ago after serving 12 years as pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Vincennes, Ind.

A native of New Brockton, Ala., Sawyer earned a bachelor of arts degree from Baylor University, Waco, Tex.; a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., and a master's degree in adult education from Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

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Martin Joins Texas Baptist  
Public Relations Staff

12/3/73

DALLAS (BP)--Dan Martin, 35, a veteran newspaper reporter, has joined the public relations staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas to fill a vacancy as press relations director and associate chief of the Dallas Bureau of Baptist Press.

Martin succeeds Robert O'Brien, 34, who joined the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in August as news editor of Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, according to Orville L. Scott, Texas Baptist public relations director and Dallas Bureau chief.

A native of Wichita Falls, Tex., Martin was graduated from Midwestern University in that city and studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Martin comes to the post from the Odessa (Tex.) American. He has also served on newspapers in Dallas, Fort Worth and Denver.

In 1970, Martin wrote an eight page tabloid for the Fort Worth Star Telegram on marijuana and youth which netted several press awards.

Also an ordained minister, Martin has served as pastor of several Texas Baptist churches.

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Church Administers Lord's  
Supper via Television

12/3/73

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Some 200 persons in the television audience of Walnut Street Baptist Church here participated in the church's Lord's Supper observance the first Sunday in December after receiving the elements by mail from the church.

The pastor, Wayne Dehoney, a former Southern Baptist Convention president, announced the communion during two preceding telecasts. The church's Lord's Supper committee prepared "small sealed glasses of juice and pieces of unleavened bread and mailed them to those who asked for it," Dehoney said.

Dehoney said the 6,200-member church has televised its communion service previously but

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had never before sent out the elements for TV audience participation.

"We plan to do one or two a year from now on," Dehoney said, "because we got such outstanding response."

The church's service is telecast in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio and has drawn as high as 600 letters in one week from viewers. Dehoney also sends transcripts of sermons to those who request it.

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Church Volunteers Needed  
To Seek Out the Needy

12/3/73

BALTIMORE, Md. (BP)--The Social Security Administration has invited churches to assist in locating elderly, blind and disabled persons on their membership rolls and in their communities who may be eligible for financial assistance in the form of Supplemental Security Income payments.

The supplemental income payments, separate from Social Security, constitute a new program financed by federal taxes to insure that the aged, blind or disabled have a basic cash income of at least \$130 a month for one person and \$195 a month for a married couple. Payments begin in January.

It is believed that thousands of persons have not yet signed up because they don't know they are entitled to the benefits, said Charles McDaniel, information specialist in the office of public affairs of the Social Security Administration.

Those who don't apply before January 1 will miss out on one or more checks since no retroactive payments can be made to those who sign up late, McDaniel said.

Churches are being asked first to alert their own elderly, blind or disabled persons to the financial assistance program. Volunteer workers are also being sought from the churches to help find other eligible persons in their community because of the known concern of church people for the needy, said McDaniel.

McDaniel said persons willing to help should contact the nearest chapter of the American Red Cross, which is correlating efforts to find eligible persons in each community.

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