

September 6, 1974

Child Care Services Help  
Mend Broken Families

By Bill Boatwright  
For Baptist Press

Carl and Sharon, two kids in the cavity prone years, are the kind of children who might live in your neighborhood.

Carl plays baseball on the sixth grade team, and Sharon, his older sister, has one great desire in life: to be elected school cheerleader.

But Carl and Sharon are different.

They are residents of the Mills Home campus of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina in Thomasville. The two children are not orphans, however. Both parents are alive and visit at least once a month.

Carl and Sharon are victims of the Great American Tragedy: separated parents. Only in their case the state of North Carolina has determined neither parent is fit to bring up children. Both parents are controlled by the disease of alcoholism.

The children lived with their parents, or with an aunt in Charlotte, up until 18 months ago. Then the parents formally separated with child custody given to the county's Department of Social Services.

At this point the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina was contacted for possible child care services. The parents, although no longer legal guardians, were consulted by the Baptist agency and involved in the procedure.

Application begins with the assignment of a children's home social worker who determines the family's need for service, develops a total program, and finds out how the child feels about the situation.

Finally, after seven stages of application, the child becomes one of 1,672 children related to the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina.

To understand modern children's homes--and their relationship to families--almost means discarding every popular notion about orphanages.

"We're not really an 'orphanage' since nine out of ten of our children have at least one parent living," explained J. Parker McLendon, Baptist Children's Homes area administrator for central North Carolina.

Seven out of ten of the children have both parents living.

The agency may not even be properly called a "children's home." A better designation might be "family service center" or "recycling unit for families in trouble."

The agency serves the whole family, not just children. Besides that, it is only a "home" for most of the children for a little more than two years. The average stay in child care is only 27 months.

"The philosophy is that whenever possible it is best for the child to restore him to his family. The purpose of the whole program is to put broken families back together again," said McLendon.

Another popular notion, also untrue, is the Charles Dickens image of an orphanage: a cluster of red-brick buildings, complete with high walls and drab uniforms.

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There are no ragged kids or armed guards. In fact, there are no dormitories or cavern-like dining halls. The cottage approach, as opposed to the dormitory approach, is the trend in child care services.

In this respect, the North Carolina Baptist Childrens Homes are regarded nationally as among the best in child care institutions. The homes have a reputation for providing quality services and for keeping pace with the times.

The children, ranging from grades one through twelve, live in family type accommodations. A typical family cottage includes eight to twelve children (two to a bedroom), houseparents and their children, and in most cases, a dietician.

The houseparents' "father" usually has a job outside the home, often employed on campus by the children's homes.

The "mother" does exactly what most other mothers do: clean the house, do the laundry, help with the homework, put on band-aids, and make the kids go to bed at night.

All the houseparents have one essential characteristic: flexibility. Most are parents themselves. Other essential qualities are emotional stability, Christian character and compassion.

The cottage dietician cooks one main meal a day--supper during the school year and lunch in the summer months. Some cottages are given a food allowance with houseparents and children shopping together at the grocery store.

The younger children, below high school, get an allowance. The amount is earned by helping out around the house.

Ninth and tenth graders may also have an after school and weekend job.

The eleventh and twelfth graders work for their support. That is, they make enough money to buy their own clothes and other essentials. Some of them make enough to save for college or a car.

The children go to church as a "family" from each cottage. Since very few have church backgrounds, denominationalism is not a problem. They all go to the Baptist church and some of the children join the church.

The seven children's homes scattered across the state include a care and treatment center for emotionally disturbed children.

A home for unwed mothers is in Asheville, with services ranging from basic medical care to counseling with the unwed father.

Besides on-campus services, there are 102 children in 46 foster homes, an in-family service for children not removed from home but in need of counseling, and emergency care of "crisis intervention" in two locations.

The kids in the children's homes, although far better off than dependent children 30 years ago, are still a long way from the ideal. Nothing takes the place of a well functioning, caring and loving family.

Communities and nations are built on good families. Child by child--not brick by brick--civilizations are held together. (BP)

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September 6, 1974

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### SBC Cooperative Program Continues to Rise in August

**NASHVILLE (BP)**--With one month to go in the 1973-74 fiscal year, the national Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget continues to run more than 13 per cent ahead of last year.

The \$35,002,040 contributed from SBC churches through August 30 meets the basic allocation for operating and capital funds for SBC agencies for the entire fiscal year, according to Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee. The SBC budget for operating and capital needs for the current fiscal year is \$35 million.

"During September, the final month of the fiscal year, Southern Baptists will have an opportunity to help SBC agencies meet some of the problems created by double-digit inflation," Routh said.

"Since the basic budgets were adopted by the agencies nearly a year ago there has been about 12 per cent inflation, which it is hoped can be matched during September to prevent an actual loss in purchasing power," Routh said. "We are grateful to God for the continued good stewardship of Southern Baptists. We look forward to September with real faith."

Southern Baptists contributed \$3,287,094 through the Cooperative Program in August--\$453,049 or 15.99 per cent ahead of the same month last year, according to John H. Williams, the Executive Committee's director of financial planning and assistant to the treasurer. The year-to-date figure of more than \$35 million exceeds last year's contributions at the same point by nearly \$5 million, or 13.26 per cent.

Funds designated for specific causes in August showed a .45 per cent--or \$1,861--decline over last August, totaling \$408,177. However, designated funds for the year to date stand at \$32,347,924. That's an increase of \$3,718,100--or 12.99 per cent--over last year's figure.

Total contributions, Cooperative Program and designated, total \$67,349,965 for the year to date--a 13.13 per cent increase over the \$59,532,939 collected at the same point last year.

For August, total contributions were \$3,695,271. That figure is up 13.91 per cent above the August total of \$3,244,083 collected in 1973.

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### St. Louis Pastors Raise Funds to Keep School Afloat

9/6/74

**ST. LOUIS, Mo. (BP)**--More than one-half million dollars in cash and pledges, raised by churches of the St. Louis Baptist Association, has staved off the imminent closure of debt-plagued Missouri Baptist College here.

Trustees of the school, one of four operated by the Missouri Baptist Convention, had voted not to open the school this fall after failure of efforts to merge with William Jewell College or secure financial backing from the Missouri convention.

"We're going to make an effort to keep the school going permanently," said J. Edwin Hewlett, chairman of an ad hoc committee which raised the funds.

Hewlett, pastor of Southwest Baptist Church, St. Louis, said the fund raising campaign has collected \$157,000 in one year pledges from individuals and churches, more than \$356,000 in three-year pledges and \$120,000 in immediate cash and pledges, which made opening

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possible, Sept. 4.

The trustees had asked the Missouri convention's executive board on two occasions to co-sign a note for interim financing so the school could open in September. The board declined to do so in April and in August.

In its August meeting the board declined to co-sign a \$125,000 note. "The board confirmed action taken in April not to co-sign any more loans for any Missouri Baptist institutions until the convention's financial situation is clearer," said Thomas Nelson, the Missouri convention's interim executive secretary.

The board voted 26-4 not to guarantee the college's debts beyond the present amount of indebtedness.

In between visits to the executive board asking for assistance, the Missouri Baptist College trustees asked trustees of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., to consider merger.

William Jewell, however, declined. A resolution of the Baptist school's trustees noted: ". . . it is not financially feasible for William Jewell to help. We have been hampered by lack of time and information to fully consider the question."

The trustees of Missouri Baptist College voted in mid-August "to suspend educational operation until a satisfactory plan for resumption could be developed," said Wallace Jones, the college's trustee chairman.

During the school's efforts to regain its financial footing, President Frank Kellogg, Dean of the College Larry Powers and Public Relations Director David Kellogg offered their resignations which Jones said "the board accepted with regret."

He said they resigned "in light of the William Jewell merger talks to give William Jewell more flexibility" but that the resignations have not been withdrawn. Robert Sutherland, head of the school's behavioral science department has been elected dean of the college and president pro tem.

Although Jones said enrollment had increased each year since its opening in 1968, financial problems had multiplied for the school, which started out operating as a two-year school and has graduated two classes since it became a four-year institution.

"Basically it's been a problem of a new institution trying to get new development income," Jones said. "One year ago we had only \$26,000 in development funds. In the current year, we raised over \$90,000. But we need to raise over \$300,000 a year to survive."

Jones said the influx of funds from the St. Louis Baptist Association churches will get the school over the hump for the coming year. He expressed optimism for the future, although the school opened with 300 students, 178 less than last year. He said he expects some, who had enrolled in other schools, to return in January now that the school is open again.

Hewlett said he has been asked to chair a committee of the St. Louis Baptist Association to map long-range plans to keep the college alive.

He said pastors and church members of the association were "shocked awake when they heard the school would close."

A number of churches in the association, he said, have made three-year pledges to the school and that he believes support is growing from surrounding Baptist associations. He said 34 churches have pledged between three and four per cent of their annual budgets for the next three years.

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Church Child Care Center  
Wins Colorado License Battle

9/6/74

GREELY, Colo. (BP)--Hillside Baptist Church here has won a two-year separation of church and state battle against licensing of its Child Development Center.

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District Judge Hugh Arnold ruled that the center is exempt from the licensing law because it is operated by the Southern Baptist congregation for religious purposes. He denied a petition of the state for an order requiring the center either to obtain a state license or cease operation. The state has the right to file for a new trial.

In ruling for the church, Judge Arnold said, "There is clear evidence that the school is operated for religious instruction, and it is a special school because of its religious thrust."

The church had maintained the center did not need to be licensed because Colorado law says the state's child care act "shall not apply to special schools or classes operated primarily for religious instruction."

The church's Child Care Development Center was established in 1972 and it operated solely as an extension of its religious education ministry. Mrs. LaVonne Trenary, center director, said the center complied with all health and safety regulations of the city and state and regulations of the Social Services Department regarding the ratio of number of children to space and to number of teachers.

At one point in the negotiations over the injunction, Hillside offered to apply for a license on physical facilities as long as the state would agree that jurisdiction over curriculum and personnel matters would belong only to the church. The state refused.

Mrs. Trenary and Pastor Jim Rich said, "We felt we had a responsibility not only to our community but also to Baptists and other Christians everywhere. The (state's) injunction violated our religious freedom and was contrary to what Baptists believe about separation of church and state."

One of the witnesses testifying for the church was a parent, Mrs. Sharon Genzianelli, who told how four of the five members of her family have become Christians through the influence of the center on her four-year-old daughter.

Steve Alles testified he chose Hillside Baptist Church's center because he wanted a Christian school for his children, and Dr. Sandra Boland testified she chose the center for two reasons--its Christian atmosphere and scholastic excellence.

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Illinois Baptists Top  
\$1 Million Giving Mark

9/6/74

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--Statewide Cooperative Program unified budget receipts from Southern Baptist churches in Illinois have reached \$1 million at the earliest point ever in the Illinois Baptist State Association's history.

As of August 29, contributions to the state's Cooperative Program totaled \$1,002,622. The budget year closes December 31, and contributions must reach \$1,650,000 to meet the state's budget. Illinois contributions have topped \$1 million for the fifth consecutive year.

Of each Cooperative Program dollar received in the Springfield offices, 61 per cent is used for mission work in Illinois and 39 per cent is sent to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville for distribution to SBC-wide causes. In 1975, the division will be 60 per cent for Illinois and 40 per cent for SBC-wide causes.

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Women Commissioned First to  
Tell of Resurrected Christ

9/6/74

By Kathie Chute

NASHVILLE (BP)--The first persons commissioned to tell others about the resurrected Christ were women living in a part of the world where they were "not worth more than a donkey," the president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union said here.

"Now, I'm not a woman's libber, but I want to remind you that Jesus liberated women in his day," Mrs. R.L. Mathis told the Woman's Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention of America.

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"On resurrection morning, women were the first to go to the tomb. They were the first to hear the angel of the Lord say, 'He is not here. He has risen. Go and tell the disciples.' And so it was to women that the first great message was given--to go and tell others that he had risen," she told 200 black Baptists.

"We need to be aware of the potential of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and what we can do for women all over the world for Christ," Mrs. Mathis said. She reminded the participants of the burdens women bear in remote, isolated places around the world.

Challenging the women to become more involved in world missions, Mrs. Mathis told them, "We ought to remember that we may be timid; we may be filled with fear; we may not be able to talk; and we may not be able to preach, but the angel of the Lord told those timid women, who lived in a part of the world where even today a woman is not worth more than a donkey. . .to go and tell."

Also president of the women's department of the BWA, which includes more than 16 million women in 75 countries, Mrs. Mathis warmly greeted Mrs. Fannie Thompson of Tucson, president of the black Baptist Woman's Auxiliary.

Mrs. Mathis told the women attending the meeting, "Your president stands tall in the Baptist world." Mrs. Thompson played a major role in easing racial relations during the tense times following the assassination of Martin Luther King. She has also been a key figure on the advisory committee of the BWA's World Mission on Reconciliation through Jesus Christ, a program seeking to reconcile persons to God and each other.

"It wouldn't be too hard to win the world to Christ in our day," the Southern Baptist leader continued. "In every jungle and in every village and in every place on earth today, almost every man has a transistor.

"In 1968, as some of our boys flew around the back of the moon, we heard a young voice speak back to earth and say "In the beginning God. . ."

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(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist papers.

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