



# FEATURES

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75-54

**Baptists' Powerline'  
Saved Life, Says Girl**

By Bonita Sparrow

FORT WORTH (BP)--A teenaged girl on the verge of suicide credited a Southern Baptist radio program for young people with saving her life.

The life-saving story was told by Margaret, a teenager who wrote to and received an immediate, empathetic response from the Radio and Television Commission, a Southern Baptist agency supported through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget.

Margaret was 15 and hungry and the future didn't seem to offer much.

Life was coming down too hard so she thought suicide a good solution.

She spent her last dollar on sleeping pills. But before she gulped them down, she opened her mail.

The letter that changed and saved her life was from a "Powerline" counselor she had written a few weeks before--before the bad argument with parents that caused her to run away from home, before the final disillusionment, before the hunger and the suicide plans.

"Powerline" is a music program for teenagers, produced and syndicated by the Radio and Television Commission and heard weekly on 774 stations across the country.

Young people with problems are encouraged to write for help. The commission maintains a staff of trained counselors to answer the thousands of problem letters that pour in yearly.

Margaret's letter, like others, received an answer within a week.

"After reading your letter," she wrote back, "I figured that if anybody could possibly help me, it was God.

"If I had not received your letter when I did," Margaret continued, "I would not be here now because that same day I had gotten some sleeping pills which I was going to use to end my life.

"But I decided to give it one more chance," she wrote.

"That night I tried talking to God in prayer. I prayed and prayed real hard. It's been close to two months now and I'm writing to my parents. I'm still living away from home but only a few miles away.

"I told my boyfriend about the sleeping pills and your letter, and he was really thankful. He visited my parents and had a long conversation with them. They began to understand us.

"I'm going to visit my parents tomorrow but I don't think I can go back and live with them.

"I do want to go back home, but I can't, and I'm having a lot of problems trying to continue with school and keep a job which I need to support myself.

"I feel that since I'm living away from home I must support myself, but I want to continue in school."

Suicide was behind her, but Margaret's letter closed with another plea for help.

"I'm taking pills for my nerves, and the doctor told me I had better relax before I have a nervous breakdown. Please show me how to ask the Lord for help and please pray for me.

"In the meantime, this letter is to thank you for the help you've already given me--my life."

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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Weber Urges President Ford  
 To More Action in S. E. Asia**

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--Jaroy Weber, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), announced at a meeting of the convention's Foreign Mission Board here that he has written to the president of the United States urging the U. S. government to initiate a maximum effort to relieve human suffering in Southeast Asia.

Speaking before a gathering which included leaders of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, Weber also challenged the 12.5-million-member SBC, the nation's largest Protestant-evangelical denomination, to "set aside a day or several days for fasting and praying for God's deliverance of the suffering people of the war-torn world."

Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., said, "Political turmoil in Southeast Asia continues to be a burden on the conscience of thoughtful people everywhere. Bloodshed and destruction torture the Vietnamese and Cambodians in a growing tragedy.

"Even though we are a world away from the battlegrounds, as followers of Jesus, the prince of peace, we cannot go unmoved by all this far away mutilation and death.

"We are concerned also because of our own Southern Baptist missionaries who are still in South Vietnam and because of the dangers to the many Vietnamese people with whom they have worked."

To president Gerald R. Ford, Weber wrote, "Many religious leaders in America join me in calling upon you to issue an executive order which would expedite the wishes expressed in the following:

"For all these reasons and the clear and present danger to the thousands of refugees who are now drifting around, we call on the U. S. government for a maximum effort to relieve the human suffering in South Vietnam and Cambodia. We ask that the emergency flights to the U.S.A. of war orphans be continued. We ask that the U. S. government use its influence to forestall a bloodbath in both countries. We ask, furthermore, that substantial effort be made to relocate and protect the lives of multitudes of displaced persons who are the victims of this tragic conflict. We ask you to consider using your influence to enlarge the emigration quota for the bicentennial year to give these depressed people an opportunity to find life and peace on our shores. We ask you to call our nation to a special day of prayer asking for God's divine mercy upon all suffering humanity."

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**Pickpocket Sends Regrets  
 To Seminary Professor**

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LONDON (BP)--"It is more blessed to give than to receive" could have been on the mind of the pickpocket who recently lifted the wallet of a Southern Baptist seminary professor during a visit here.

Curtis Vaughan, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., was boarding an underground train in London, when a man blocked his way and two men behind him began to push and yell at the man in the entrance.

Then the man in front stepped down from the train and left with the other two men. Vaughan thought their behavior strange and then discovered at the next train stop that his wallet, which contained travelers' checks, credit cards and over \$300 in American, German and English currency, was missing. Although his travelers' checks were refunded, he reasoned that he would never see the rest of the money.

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Vaughan returned from his English vacation to Munich, West Germany, where he is on a one year academic leave from the Fort Worth seminary. He is serving as pastor of the English-speaking Munich Baptist Church and has all of his Fort Worth mail forwarded there.

Not long after he returned, Vaughan received a bulky envelope in the mail which bore his Fort Worth address. Inside was a thick wad of money and a note which read:

"From an apologetic pickpocket.

Dear Rev.

I am returning my share of the wallet.

I apologise for robbing a man of the  
church."

Vaughan assumed that the man got his Fort Worth address from the credit cards and learned of his church connection from the professor's seminary identification card.



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