

**--- FEATURES**
produced by Baptist PressSBC Executive Committee
480 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
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July 11, 1975

75-104

**'Rags to Riches': Story
Of Children's Home Alumnus**

By Charles Hodges

THOMASVILLE, N.C. (BP)--The story of Charles Carroll, one of the nation's largest land developers, reads like an account of the American dream come true: to wit, any person can make good, regardless of his circumstance, if he has it in him.

At the age of three, Charles, along with his brother and two sisters, arrived on the doorstep of the Mills Home campus of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. They had come from Shelby, N.C., to find a home in Thomasville.

It was the only home Carroll would know until 15 years later.

Today, at the age of 34, he is a wealthy investor-developer, headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., with significant real estate holdings in Phoenix, Houston, Dallas, New York, Florida and North Carolina.

With all his financial success, he says, he's learned there are more important things than making money. He wants to make a life and help others as he was helped.

Carroll, graduated from Mills Home and Thomasville High School in 1958, could have had a scholarship at any Baptist college in the state, children's home officials say.

Instead, even though known then for his timidity, he chose to work his way through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He wanted to work his way through school selling Bibles, but children's home administrators, aware of his timidity, debated about whether to let him do it the first year because they feared a failure would damage his confidence.

But they decided to let him go ahead. He ended up as part owner of the company.

He began selling Bibles, dictionaries and other books for Southwestern Publishing Company in Nashville. That was too slow, however, so he recruited students at the University of North Carolina and other schools to sell for him.

By his junior year, Carroll had more than 500 other people selling for him and was earning \$50,000 per year while maintaining a high academic average.

After college, Carroll moved to Nashville to become vice president in charge of national sales for Southwestern. Within a short time the company was doing \$20 million in annual sales under his leadership.

Seven years later, the company, of which he'd become a partner, was sold to a large firm on the New York Stock Exchange. Carroll decided to retire at age 29, with personal wealth and new challenges.

Seeing a boom in real estate, Carroll invested his own funds in real estate across the country. An air of quiet excitement prevails as he talks about those investments, such as a \$30 million land transaction in Phoenix. Said to be among the most knowledgeable in the field of real estate development, he jets to any area of the country to look after investment interests. The investor's pace is hectic, but he sees no sign of letting up.

The same kind of drive--in a different direction--exhibited itself in his brother and sisters, also Mills Home graduates. His older brother, Allen, holds a doctor of philosophy degree in English and teaches at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. His sister, Charlotte, holds a master's degree in education, and her husband is superintendent of a mental health institution in Massachusetts. Another sister, Marjorie, lives in Washington, D.C.

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With all his business involvements, however, Carroll sees himself as just an average man. He and his wife, Paula, with their two children, enjoy skiing in Colorado, canoeing and other outdoor adventures.

Their close friends include Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach and well known entertainers such as singers Jerry Reed and Bobby Goldsboro.

Asked what in his past contributed to his present circumstances, Carroll says he learned to work hard while he was young.

He wrote sports during his high school days for the High Point (N.C.) Enterprise, wrote for the statewide publication of the Baptist Children's Homes, Charity and Children, and was a member of the Thomasville High School state championship debating team.

Carroll speaks proudly of his days spent with the Baptist Children's Homes.

Today, a member of the Mills Home Board of Visitors, he donates time and money to help others as he was helped. He recently financed the production of a 30-minute documentary film about the agency's work, "The Mountain Within," which has won international awards for excellence.

Despite his other successes, Carroll says, "... Helping other youngsters get started in life is the most thrilling story of all."

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Charles Hodges is editor of Charity and Children, publication of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina.

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Byard Picked for Seminary
Administrative Post

Baptist Press
7/11/75

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Rodney V. Byard has been elected assistant to the president for institutional development at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, one of six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries.

Byard, current associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., will direct the seminary's program of public relations, publications and communications, financial development and institutional research and planning.

He will become a member of the "new administrative model" of President W. Randall Lolley, joining three other persons on the seminary's new administrative council, a seminary spokesman said.

Besides Lolley and Byard, the council will consist of Albert L. Meiburg, the seminary's new dean of the faculty; O.L. Cross, business manager; and Jerry L. Niswonger, current director of development, who will become assistant to the president for student development.

A native of Columbus, Ga., Byard was responsible for religious education, administration, public relations, office management, publications and budget management at the Winston-Salem church. He joined the staff there in 1963, serving under Lolley, who left the church's pastorate last year to accept the presidency of Southeastern Seminary.

Before joining First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, Byard served as minister of education at Swope Park Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.

Byard is a graduate of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

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(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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July 11, 1975

75-104

Baptists in Thailand Aid
Cambodia, Vietnam Refugees

RAYONG, Thailand (BP)--Baptists and other Christians in Thailand are helping to heal the leftover hurt of Vietnam and Cambodia, according to reports from Southern Baptist missionaries.

In Rayong, Chanthaburi and Songkhla, missionaries are ministering to the refugees who fled to Thailand after Communists took over the two neighboring countries.

The Thai government has not been able to provide shelter or food, except for some rice, for the 10,000 refugees along her Eastern border and in boats in the coastal ports. Therefore, Baptists, the International YMCA, the Christian and Missionary Alliance, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Catholic Relief Service and other volunteer agencies have had to respond quickly to meet basic human needs.

Thailand Baptist churches, the Baptist women's organization and Thai Baptist youth have gathered funds and clothing. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board supplied \$10,000 in emergency relief funds. Missionaries in the area have served as a channel for aid--buying food, blankets and tin (for shelter) locally and taking them to the camps.

Missionary Ronald C. Hill said much cooperation exists between Christian groups and the local Thai officials, as well as among the Christian groups themselves.

In the midst of unloading a week's supply of fish, vegetables and clothing at Pong Nam Ron recently, a former Buddhist priest insisted that everyone stop to "thank God for all these things he has sent through his people." He asked the Christians to sing and called upon the pastor of the Cambodian Christian group to speak briefly over the loud speaker about God's goodness.

A Vietnamese Southern Baptist was found among the refugees in Kong Yai, Trad Province. Lt. Col. Do Duc Tien proudly showed his baptismal certificate from Stithton Baptist Church, Radcliff, Ky., signed by the pastor, Gene B. Waggoner.

Do Duc Tien had taped the certificate to his body so it would not be found as he left Vietnam. He and his family of five had come by boat to Trad and hope to emigrate to the United States.

Thailand, which has had over 50,000 North Vietnamese refugees since World War II, is not allowing the additional thousands from South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos to remain. The new Thai policy is that all recent refugees must eventually return to their homes or go to other countries.

Baptist missionary children Bruce Cobb (son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Cobb) and Jon Hill (son of Dr. and Mrs. Ronald C. Hill) helped survey the camp at Pong Nam Ron in late June at the request of the U.S. Embassy to locate those eligible for emigration to the United States.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to state Baptist papers.

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Resort Area Employers Clamor for Christian Workers

GRAND CANYON, Ariz. (BP)--A group of Christian young people set such a good example here last year as employees of a resort area corporation--and got such astounding results--that resort employers from all over the Southwest want some more just like them.

Paul Milton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Grand Canyon, last year recruited some 40 young people, most of them from Arizona and Texas Baptist colleges and Baptist Student Unions, for summer jobs with the Fred Harvey Corporation, concession operator at Grand Canyon shops, lodges and cafeterias.

The pastor had an ulterior motive, of course. He knew the students would be in prime positions to share their Christian faith with the more than two million tourists who visit the canyon each year.

But he was also confident they would be good employees. He was right on both counts, as the young people reported numerous opportunities for witness and the Harvey company reported some amazing results.

The company had suffered a 60 percent turnover in summer help in June, 1973. Milton told Harvey manager Bill Maxwell the problem would be solved if he recruited his summer employees at church-related colleges.

A pilot, Milton even flew the Harvey recruiters to several colleges, spoke to several Baptist student retreats and conventions in the recruitment effort and received assistance from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

About 40 Baptists students took summer jobs at the canyon in 1974. The turnover rate dropped to 16 percent. Some 50 more Baptists are working there this summer.

Milton says the Harvey people estimate the improved quality of work, plus the more stable work force, has saved them "hundreds of thousands of dollars."

As that kind of news has spread among other resort areas in the Southwest, the pastor says, other employers have begun writing and telephoning him about providing the same kind of service for them.

"One man called and said if what he had been hearing was true, he wanted all his supervisory personnel to be Christians," Milton said.

"Right now I have jobs for a head chef, executive housekeepers, desk clerks--almost everything in the resort field. Many are seasonal openings, but some are permanent, too."

Milton said he sees a "revival in evangelism at work--on the job." He is planning with clinics to better prepare people for Christian witnessing and counseling in their areas of work.

According to the Home Mission Board, Milton is also considering establishing something like an employment agency through which to channel the requests and the job assignments and already has selected "management services" as the name of the facility.

He is interested in having the names of persons "even remotely interested" in the opportunities. The address is Box 277, Grand Canyon, Ariz., 86023.