



August 25, 1975

75-130

**Children's Home Needs
Help In Viet Orphan Care**

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP)--Even under the best of circumstances, R.C. Campbell occasionally feels like the old woman who lived in the shoe.

Campbell's shoe is bulging right now because last month 95 folks dropped by his place. They are going to stay for a spell.

Campbell is glad to have them, understand. It's just that the budget of Buckner Baptist Benevolences, of which Campbell is president, is getting stretched a bit thin.

The unexpected guests are the 95 former residents of Cam Ranh City Christian Orphanage in South Vietnam. The group--69 children, 13 adults and 13 children who are staff dependents--fled their city in early April just before the Viet Cong takeover.

They made an incredible odyssey across South Vietnam, undergoing firefights from hostile and "friendly" forces, and journeys by bus, boat and on foot as they made their way to the tip of the embattled land.

They pushed off in a tiny, leaky, underpowered boat and spent 9 days on the South China Sea, and in the harbor at Singapore.

Finally, in late May, their journey of privation, fear, hunger and faith ended as two huge jetliners touched down on the runway at Fort Smith Municipal Airport near Fort Chaffee, Ark.

Quickly, the refugees were processed through the huge camp and sent to a ranch under sponsorship of Houston's West Memorial Baptist Church. They rested and recuperated. After a time, arrangements were made to send them on to Buckner's.

Helping in the arrangements from Singapore to Fort Chaffee to Houston to Dallas was Jim Gayle, who served as a Southern Baptist missionary to Vietnam for 10 years and was the orphanage pastor.

Gayle also is an orphan. He grew up at Buckner's Boys Ranch near Burnet. He knows what being an orphan feels like.

Now, the children are under Campbell's sponsorship.

"We did not take these kids out of a zeal for the sensational or as a means to make money," says Campbell.

"We took them as an act of faith."

Although he has been flooded with more than 2,000 requests from prospective parents, Campbell says they are not ready yet for adoption.

It will be a few weeks until they can be made ready.

"Right now, we are making medical and dental evaluations of the children and adults. They are in surprisingly good shape after what they went through," he adds.

"These people were without medical attention for several months. A lot can happen in that time."

"And, they were in privation for a long time before that," Campbell added.

The children and staff are living in one of the red brick dormitories at Buckner's facility on the eastern side of Dallas.

"Our biggest problem right now is language," Campbell said. "None of the children spoke English when they arrived."

He did not say so, but most of the orphanage staff also are not sufficiently conversant in English to get along. The orphanage director, Nguyen Xuan Ha, speaks excellent English.

English classes are going on, as well as briefings on American culture.

"We are trying to teach them our customs--what we do, how we dress, the American life style. Regardless of what their customs are, if they live with us, they have to learn to live with some of our customs," he says.

As the Vietnamese children and staff members wrestle with the problems of Americanization, Campbell and his staff wrestle with the problems of caring for the additional 95 people.

"We took the children by faith," Campbell reiterates. "We are caring for them, and we are going to care for them. We are making every effort to care for their needs and best interests," he says.

In that line, Campbell says it will be a least "some time" before he "feels comfortable" about their adoption.

"These people have lived as a family for a long time. Many of the teenage girls are closer than sisters because of what they have been through together," he says. "Many of them have been together for many years."

Until adoption is feasible, Buckner is caring for the orphans, seeing they are sheltered, fed and educated.

The effort is costing about \$15,000 a month, according to Campbell.

Recently the Dallas Baptist Association (DBA) Executive Board voted to begin an "information campaign" about the needs at Buckner.

"We were sure our churches and people would respond if they know the needs, says J.W. Caldwell, chairman of the DBA Buckner Coordinating Committee.

Letters were sent to the churches telling of the need. Contributions have begun to come in to Buckner Baptist Benevolences here, but it will take the help of many Baptists to ensure funds to properly care for the Vietnamese orphans, Campbell said.

-30-

U. of Richmond Receives
\$200,000 Foundation Grant

Baptist Press
8/25/75

Richmond, Va. (BP)--The University of Richmond, a Baptist School here, has received a \$200,000 Kresge Foundation grant toward construction of a new science building.

University President E. Bruce Heilman said the grant is contingent on raising \$8 million needed for the science building. More than \$5 million has already been raised and University officials are optimistic the total will be reached, Heilman noted.

The building, scheduled for completion in 1978, will house biology, chemistry and physics departments, according to Heilman.

-30-



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

August 25, 1975

75-130

Good Marriages
Obtainable, Not Given

By Mike Chute

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--People simply do not get married and "live happily ever after." Southern Baptist churches must acknowledge this and then help families cope with the conflict in their lives, a family life official of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board said here.

Joseph W. Hinkle of Nashville told conferees in the family enrichment conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center that it is clear the marriages recorded in the Bible reflect conflict and difficulty, as well as happiness and fulfillment.

"If the Bible tells us anything about marriage, it says that a couple's will and ability to resolve conflict are among the great tests of love and affection," said Hinkle, secretary of the board's new family ministry department.

"It is unrealistic to think love prevents conflict in marriage. Conflict is part of living together; resolving conflict is necessary for couples to stay together. Bible truths reflect this over and over again."

As an example, Hinkle observed that the Bible reports conflicts experienced by a couple unable to have children; disciplinary problems with children; and the lack of love in a marriage relationship.

"The Bible does not gloss over or sugar-coat problems families faced. Neither should Christians today," he stated.

Hinkle challenged churches to study biblical marriages because "they help us to strengthen our own marriages. Marriage, according to the Bible, is still the best way for persons to live out of all the possible human systems.

"One of the greatest blessings parents can bestow on their children at marriage is freedom and separation from parenting in order for the couple to establish and maintain their own home. One of the greatest curses which parents place upon a married child is to forbid his separation and freedom to establish his own home," Hinkle concluded.

The family ministry section of the board's church administration department was elevated to department status at the July meeting of the Sunday School Board trustees. Hinkle supervised the section and was named to head the new department.

-30-

Accident Claims Life
Of Missionaries' Son

Baptist Press
8/25/75

FAIRFAX, Va. (BP)--Robert J. Williams, five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Williams, Southern Baptist missionaries to Honduras, died here Aug. 22, when he fell out of the car in which he was riding and was run over by one of the rear wheels.

The accident happened near King David Boulevard intersection two miles east of Fairfax. The family in the U.S. on furlough was visiting Mrs. Williams' sister, Mrs. J.L. Pinson of Annandale, Va.

The funeral was held Aug. 25 at Mount Harmony Baptist Church, Mableton, Ga., with burial following in the gardens adjacent to the church.

-more-

Mr. and Mrs. Williams were stationed in Tegucigalpa, Honduras before furlough. He teaches music there at the Honduran Baptist Theological Institute, helps Baptist churches in the city with their music programs and conducts music clinics. Mrs. Williams assists in the music ministry--playing the piano for choirs, teaching in music clinics and singing for worship services and music programs.

Mr^s. Williams' father is A. Judson Burrell, stewardship secretary for the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be designated to the Robert J. Williams Memorial Fund at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., for missionary children's education.

-30-

Evidences of Creator
Overwhelming; Von Braun

Baptist Press
8/25/75

FORT WORTH (BP)--Werner Von Braun, father of the U.S. space and rocket program which put men on the moon, feels it is futile to look for God through a telescope.

"You find God in yourself, in your soul, in your convictions, in your faith," he told Rosser McDonald of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. McDonald conducted the interview for "Listen...", a program he is producing for the Radio-TV Commission.

Von Braun, who left NASA in 1972 to join Fairchild industries in Maryland, said God is "right in us, all embracing and all present.

"The evidences of a creator are so overwhelming to me. I just can't envision this whole universe to come into being without something like a divine will," he said. "I cannot envision the creation without the concept of a creator."

Discussing the apparent conflicts between science and religion, Von Braun told McDonald science is "searching for the laws of the creation and faith. Religion is searching for the intent of the creator."

He said science and religion are really "sisters" in an effort to understand ultimate truth.

Von Braun cited the orbit the earth makes around the sun, the orbit the moon makes around the earth, as example of physical laws which are a part of creation.

"Prediction of solar eclipses, for instance, were made several hundred years ago with tremendous precision, and reproducibility of celestial motions have always inspired man greatly and made him marvel at the precision of the laws of nature.

"These laws are so precise that we have no difficulty building a space ship to fly to the moon and can time it with the precision of a fraction of a second. The laws are there. These laws must have been laid down by somebody."

Questioned about the remarks of a Russian cosmonaut who said he did not see God in space, Von Braun referred to the comments of American astronaut Frank Borman of Apollo 8.

"Borman said he didn't see God either," Von Braun said, "but Borman said he saw God's evidence there."

Von Braun discussed the reality of his own faith. "I think you can have a very personal relationship with God, with the Savior. You can be on first name terms with him, you know, to tell him what your troubles are and ask for help.

"I think it works very effectively and I surely do it all the time. It works in my case."

-30-