

**FEATURES**
produced by Baptist PressSBC Executive Committee
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September 8, 1975

75-139

Doctor Tells Patients:
'God Changed My Life'

By Jim Newton

ALTA VISTA, Va. (BP)--Cursing every other word, a big burly man walked in to the office of Optometrist Lee Satterfield in Alta Vista, Va., and sat down to have his eyes examined.

"When he walked in, cursing like he did, I told myself that I was not going to witness to this man," Dr. Satterfield recalled.

He simply did not have enough courage to tell the cursing man about Christ.

But the experience was a turning point in Lee Satterfield's life. From that day on, he made a vow to make some sort of verbal witness to every patient who comes into this office.

Two years later, the same man came back for another checkup. Mustering up his nerve, this time Dr. Satterfield tried to tell the man about Christ.

It wasn't easy, but Dr. Satterfield told his own testimony of what Jesus Christ had done in his life.

Twenty years ago, Dr. Satterfield left his wife and his church for a life of drunkenness. "For five years, I lived in literally hell on earth."

But Christ helped him overcome the problem of drinking, mended his broken home, and led him to become an active Christian witness.

When he left, the man was no longer cursing, for he had heard not only a moving testimony, but the clear message of salvation. The man responded by accepting Christ as his personal saviour.

The experience was a turning point in Lee Satterfield's efforts to share Christ with everyone he meets.

"Up until then, I was just taking care of half of the patient--the physical need for sight; not the spiritual.

"It took me two years to get over the fear of witnessing to people in my office. I was afraid that people would think I was some kind of religious nut or something," he confessed.

Today, Lee Satterfield travels all over the world, training laymen how to share their faith in Jesus Christ in effective witnessing. And he still seeks to share Christ with each patient who comes to his office for an eye examination.

Dr. Satterfield has been involved in more than 100 Witness Involvement Now (W.I.N.) schools in 60 different countries through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Baptist World Alliance.

He spends three to six months out of every year leading W.I.N. schools not only overseas, but throughout the United States through the SBC Home Mission Board's evangelism program.

He explained that even though he is gone much of the time, his practice has continued to increase.

And his fears that people would think he is "some kind of religious nut" were unfounded, he admitted. In fact, he said his business had increased because of it.

To handle the patient load, Satterfield works 15-16 hours a day when he is home. His appointments are booked solid at least three months in advance.

But he is in excellent condition, withstanding the physical pressures of his work load by running four miles a day and doing 40 minutes of calisthenics daily. "I feel better than I ever did," he said.

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"Lee is 52, going on 21," his wife Ora laughed.

Often he will work all day, and drive 100 miles to lead a lay evangelism school at night.

Whenever a patient sits behind the phoropter, which measures the patient's eye correction needs, Dr. Satterfield projects a slide showing the aisle of a beautiful Catholic church on the screen as he looks into the patient's eyes.

"Many times, the patient will comment on the beauty of the church and it gives me a perfect opening to ask about their involvement in the church and share about Christ," he said.

Later, in his office during consultation with the patient, Dr. Satterfield will usually give the patient some Christian leaflets and booklets that tell how to be a Christian.

"I tell almost every patient, 'I'm not only interested in your physical vision, but in your spiritual vision as well.'"

Then he will share his testimony and urge the patient to commit his life to Christ.

One of 19 children, his mother died when he was only three and his father died shortly afterwards. He and the other three youngest children were reared in the Masonic orphanage in Oxford, N.C.

At the age of 11, he accepted Christ during a revival meeting at a Methodist church. "But I really didn't receive enough instruction to grow, spiritually."

He served in the British, Canadian, and American armies during World War II and fought all over Europe, including France, Holland and Germany.

After the war, he worked in the composing room for Bynum Printing Co., in Raleigh, N.C., the company that then printed the Biblical Recorder, North Carolina Baptists' state paper. It was there he met his future wife, Ora, who was secretary to W.C. Carpenter, then editor. They were married in 1946.

He went to Campbellsville College, to Wake Forest University, earned the doctor of optometry; then set up his practice in Pulaski, Va.

Through his wife's influence Dr. Satterfield became active in church work. However, he also became active in civic club work and began to mingle with people who were social drinkers.

"Within a year, I was a drunk," he confessed. Dr. Satterfield left not only the church, but his family including his wife, Ora, and two sons, ages three and five.

"Then one night, when I was perfectly sober (which was unusual), God in His still, small voice said to me, 'Get back in the church where you belong.'"

An hour later, Dr. Satterfield said, the pastor of a small country congregation, Piney Grove Baptist Church near Alta Vista, drove up to visit someone else and asked for directions.

Dr. Satterfield greeted Gerald Buckley, the pastor, by saying, "You're just the man I wanted to see." Then he told him of his experience the previous night, and Buckley invited him to the revival meeting that was in progress at the Piney Grove church that night. "This is the answer to our prayers," the pastor said.

That night, for the first time, Dr. Satterfield gave his testimony. That was 15 years ago, and Dr. Satterfield has been doing it ever since.

He and Ora were reunited after their five-year separation and their life together was changed. But there were still doubts. "Now I realize that there was too much of Lee Satterfield in my church work then, and not enough of Christ," he confessed.

For a while Dr. Satterfield considered moving away from Alta Vista, because "all the people there knew I was a drunk." Instead, he and Ora joined Central Baptist Church, which is located just across from his former office.

Now, whenever he sees someone who knew him during those days of drunkenness, Dr. Satterfield will ask them if they remembered him when he was a drunk and then tell them what Christ has done to change his life.

Because of the depth of his own experience, Dr. Satterfield felt for a while that God might have been calling him as a pastor or as a missionary.

But he was too old for appointment as a career missionary by the SBC Foreign Mission Board. So he contacted the Africa Evangelical Fellowship who said they just did not have a place for him to serve. Instead, Dr. Satterfield has gone all across the world and nation, training other laymen to be effective in sharing their Christian faith.

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers. Adapted from October 1975 World Mission Journal.

Wong Granted Visa to
Enter Mainland China

WASHINGTON (BP)--David Wong, president of the Baptist World Alliance, has been granted a visa by the People's Republic of China for a three-week visit in his homeland, beginning Sept. 10, according to a report from the BWA office here.

Wong, an architect and layman from Hong Kong, will enter Mainland China as an individual, not as an official representative of the BWA. However, he is the first Baptist church official to visit the mainland since the late 1940s, according to the BWA.

A native of Wuchow, China, Wong lived in Canton before the Communist occupation. He has lived in Hong Kong since 1949.

-30-

Pastor Dies After Heart
Attack in the Pulpit

Baptist Press
9/8/75

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--Frederick Douglass Haynes Jr., pastor of Third Baptist Church and a student at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, died September 3 following a pulpit heart attack the preceding Sunday. He was 46 years old.

Haynes, who was to have been graduated from the Southern Baptist seminary next June, collapsed while giving announcements to his congregation, the largest black Baptist church west of the Mississippi and the oldest church founded by blacks in the same area. He never regained consciousness.

Although Haynes spent most of his life serving as an assistant to his father, the late Frederick Douglass Haynes Sr., he became pastor when his father died in 1972. He was pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church, Palo Alto, from 1967-72.

He was treasurer for the Home and Foreign Missions District Association and first vice president of the California State Baptist Sunday School and Baptist Training Union (American Baptist Churches). He was also a member of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of San Francisco.

Harold K. Graves, president of Golden Gate Seminary, participated in the funeral services, Sept. 8.

Haynes is survived by his wife, Lynetta; a son, F. D. Haynes III; daughters, Michelle, Helena, and Francine, all of San Francisco; his mother, Mrs. Annette Jordan; and stepmother, Charlie Mae Haynes; two brothers; and a sister.

-30-