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**'Now Seminary Makes Sense,'
Says Missionary Couple**

By Tim Nicholas

MONTPELIER, Vt. (BP)--David and Becky Waugh dropped out of seminary--temporarily--to see what they were missing.

A year ago, the couple left The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville to staff the only Southern Baptist work in Montpelier.

Now, they are much more aware of the need for seminary courses like clinical pastoral education (CPE) and church administration, among others. The two planned all along to return to Southern Seminary in the fall, 1976, so they were already convinced that a seminary education had worth.

The Waughs were interested in pioneer and volunteer ministries, especially at this stage in their lives "where we could do it at ease," said Mrs. Waugh. So they applied to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's (HMB) US-2 program (two year mission program for college graduates) but found nothing they felt suited them.

So they kept looking and praying. Then they ran into Quentin Lockwood of the HMB's church extension department. Lockwood told them that many ministers have problems in pioneer areas (a term often applied to areas where Southern Baptist work is still relatively young or not real strong), particularly if not well prepared, and many move away after a couple of years. Then he offered the Waughs an internship in a pioneer area.

They ended up in Montpelier for a two-year internship as missionary associates. "It could have been one year, but we requested two years because we figured it would take the first year to discover our mistakes and get our feet on the ground," Waugh said.

Now as staff members of Montpelier Baptist Chapel, they both feel they made a wise decision to become interns. They are getting experience and training they feel will help in determining where they will go after seminary graduation.

"I was unsure of needing CPE, now I see it," said Waugh, "Church administration sounded boring before, but I discovered I need some basics in a church's business operation."

The Waughs replaced a US-2 couple, Bill and Linda Gaddis, who were already graduates of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and are now missionaries in Indonesia.

The Waugh's supervisor, Meryn Borders, veteran Vermont missionary, edged out of the Montpelier work as the couple became more experienced. It is hard work, but they like it.

Their work consists not only of pastoral duties for the 50-member chapel, but there are Bible studies in a Montpelier nursing home and a retirement apartment house in nearby Barre. Waugh also leads home Bible studies in nearby Waterbury and Plainfield,

"We take the church where the people are," says Waugh, a Wake Forest University graduate from Burlington, N.C. The Plainfield work includes about eight adults who meet downstairs in a private residence, while 20-30 youths meet upstairs.

Waugh credits Eddie Smith, a short-term or "semester" missionary here from January to June, 1975 for the youths' turning out in Plainfield. Smith also worked in Stowe, Vt., a ski resort town, in a ski season ministry for which the Waughs are now responsible.

Mrs. Waugh leads a mothers' club in the chapel, an organization that actually "began independently of the church through the local school system. Many teenaged unwed mothers had mothers who felt guilty about their daughters. The school system got these older mothers together for group support but lost state funding," says the young missionary-wife who is a Vanderbilt University, Nashville, graduate from Jackson, Miss.

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"I took it over from Linda Gaddis, but most of those who attend are young mothers--many unwed--who have severe problems...we offer a practical helps series on subjects such as child care, nutrition and consumer education."

Several community groups meet at the chapel, including a Newcomers Club sponsored by Welcome Wagon, and a University of Vermont extension service leadership training series. Several churches in the area coordinate a food closet for needy families, which operates in the chapel. In the last year, Waugh said 280 families each received a week's supply of food.

"I operate a transient lodging and ministry in the chapel," said Waugh. "People hear of it through the government centers and where teens hang out in town. It's a place to get a shower, a bed, maybe a meal and counseling."

The chapel has a Sunday school class for mentally and emotionally disturbed children from Vermont State Hospital. Members pick the children up and take them to the chapel.

"Now we're planning a regional conference on ministry to the mentally and emotionally disturbed," said Waugh, "and inviting any interested minister, layman, or counselor in the area."

When the Waughs came a year ago, he took over as interim pastor of Washington Baptist Church from Borders. The church, which was not convention affiliated, was taking more of Waugh's time than he felt he could afford, so he resigned.

Before he left, however, the church membership voted to affiliate with the Upper New England Baptist Association and is now a Southern Baptist church.

Now the Waughs are already a little older and wiser, with a lot more experience. Their seminary work has taken on new meaning and worth. And they are more confident of making wiser choices careerwise, they say, upon graduation.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers; others on request.

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CBS Chooses Church as
Bicentennial Program Site

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PROVIDENCE, R.I. (BP)--CBS-TV has chosen The First Baptist Church in America as site for a special Bicentennial Christmas Eve Cantata at 12:00 midnight (EST).

The premier performance, written especially for the celebration to open the Bicentennial year, was composed by Ezra Laderman and Joe Darion. "The story relates to the period of our 200-year history and is based on finding a gift worthy to offer God," a church spokesman said.

Principles from the Metropolitan and New York City Opera Companies will perform the leading roles. The chorus will be supplemented by local talent.

The First Baptist Church in America was founded in Providence, R.I., by Roger Williams in 1638. The present Meeting House was built in 1775 and its bicentennial is being celebrated this year.

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**Mercer Names Committee
To Respond to Criticisms**

MACON, Ga. (BP)--Mercer University trustees have named a special committee of Mercer trustees to respond to criticism leveled at the university at the recently completed annual session of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The convention approved a lengthy statement urging trustees of the Baptist school to work toward better communications with Georgia Baptists, recruit more ministerial and missionary students; strengthen the Baptist Student Union program; recognize their responsibility to the Georgia convention as elected trustees; and do other things to stress a more positive Christian climate.

The recommendations passed by the convention grew out of a two-year study made by a Georgia Baptist Convention committee chaired by Edwin L. Cliburn, pastor of First Baptist Church, Thomaston, Ga.

In another action, messengers to the convention also opposed the fact that the student government scheduled and reportedly showed the motion picture, "Carnal Knowledge," on campus and that the student newspaper, Mercer Cluster, carried "advertisements on alcoholic beverages."

The trustees, meeting in semi-annual session on the Mercer Campus, unanimously adopted a resolution reaffirming the code of conduct for students as set out in the 1974-75 Mercer University Bulletin. That provides, among other things, for severe disciplinary action for the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on university premises.

The resolution also requested the university administration "to provide adequate means to prevent the showing of pornographic moving pictures on campus and to prevent advertising of alcoholic beverages in campus publications."

A school spokesman had said earlier the Mercer Cluster carried no direct alcoholic beverage advertisements to his knowledge. He said the paper had advertised, among numerous other businesses, some eating establishments which sell alcoholic beverages--including one whose advertisement mentioned beer.

In an earlier response to the convention's actions, Mercer President Rufus C. Harris said, "We promote no pornography at Mercer, either by display or by advertisement. The Supreme Court has commented on how thin is the line between pornography and realistic portrayal of life. The problem of what to see and what not to see in films is made more difficult by the movie industry, which often chooses titles and other promotional gimmickry which appeal to baser impulses and do not describe accurately the content of the film.

"If occasionally we at Mercer make mistakes and permit a stop over this line by allowing certain films and publications, we try to learn from our mistakes by reasoning together and by personal, one-to-one contact rather than by fiat or edict. We have long known that it is better to correct mistakes in this fashion than by denial of access through too vigilant an effort to guard against what is distasteful or offensive."

In the trustees meeting, Harris's statement, a lengthy one seeking to cover the issues and explain Mercer's concern for providing a healthy Christian environment, was praised as "Speaking in a timely...fair...informed...compassionate way."

H. Tucker Singleton, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hardwick, Ga., was named to chair the seven-person committee to respond to the Georgia Convention.

The special committee, in addition to working with the Georgia Convention committee which studied Mercer over the two-year period, was asked to make an indepth study of religious programs and activities of Mercer and their effect and make recommendations on how to improve them.

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Fires Evict Grants
From Raleigh Home

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RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)--Back-to-back fires over the weekend of Nov. 29-30 extensively damaged the home of J. Marse Grant, editor of the Biblical Recorder, state news publication of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

The first occurred on Saturday afternoon, shortly before 2 p.m. in the basement. Mr. and Mrs. Grant, a daughter and three grandchildren were on the upper level when the fire of undetermined origin broke out. No one was injured in the fire which destroyed three downstairs rooms and badly damaged the remainder of the house with smoke.

Shortly before 1 a.m. on Sunday, fire was discovered again by neighbors, this time in a basement bedroom and extending to the upper level. It destroyed the study, badly damaged another room, and caused more smoke damage.

The Grants hope to rebuild at the same address on 1428 Ridge Road, where they have lived since they moved to Raleigh in 1960.

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BSSB's Jackson
Wishes Pancoast Well

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Neil Jackson, consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board here, is sure glad Fred Pancoast is a successful football coach at Vanderbilt University.

"Boy was I glad to see Vandy have a good year (the Commodores were 7-4) and that game in Knoxville (in which Vanderbilt upset Tennessee 17-14) may be the best thing that's happened to me since Coach Pancoast came to Nashville," Jackson enthused.

You see, Neil Jackson, according to a column by Nashville Tennessean Sports Editor John Bibb, is a Pancoast look-alike. And every time he goes downtown, the way in which people respond to him as a barometer of Vanderbilt football fortunes.

And they just won't believe his denials.

"When Vandy wins, people stop me to invite me to lunch or just pass the time of day in conversation and pat me on the back. Back in October when Vandy lost three out of four games, I didn't make too many new friends," Jackson explains.

All in all, though, Jackson, a consultant in the board's Sunday School department, doesn't mind his identity crisis. But he would like one opportunity--to spot Pancoast somewhere, walk up and say, "Hey, aren't you Neil Jackson?"

And he doesn't mind all that much being called "coach." After all it is a five-letter word.

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