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Family Grew from 3 to 6  
In One Short Afternoon

By Phil Royce

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (BP)--Caring for others is a family way of life for Sandra McCoy and her husband, David.

Three years ago the couple doubled their family in one afternoon, through adopting three children from a single family.

Sandra has a more than passing interest in social work. Prior to the adoption, a foster daughter lived with the McCoys five years, until the girl married at age 18. Then the couple began talking about adoption.

At first, they wanted to adopt only a girl in the age range of their daughter, Mitzi, who was six at the time. Mitzi approved of the idea and was included in the planning, discussion and given full information, her parents say, throughout the entire adoption process.

The couple applied, filled out the papers, and finally the social worker called. She dropped a "bombshell."

"Would you be willing to adopt three children from the same family?" she asked. The worker said the children, a boy two and girls one and four, should be placed with parents experienced with foster or adopted children. She admitted it was hard to place a family of three children and said a negative decision would not affect their chances for a single child, Sandra recalled.

Sandra called her husband, whose response was, "How many dining room chairs do we have?" The social worker arranged for the McCoys and Mitzi to view the children secretly. She brought them to a Norfolk pet shop where the McCoys and Mitzi were waiting. "We knew we wanted them even before going there," Sandra said.

The next meeting was on the "neutral ground" of the Norfolk City Park, Sandra noted, where the children were introduced to the McCoys. The next day the McCoys visited the children at their foster home, followed by a one-hour visit by the children at the McCoy home.

The following day the children again came for a short visit. But when the time was up, they all wanted to stay. The children were prepared to adopt a mother, father and sister.

With one child crying in the background because he didn't want to leave, Mrs. McCoy called the social worker and asked permission for the children to stay permanently. Permission was given, and the McCoy family doubled with the addition of Steven, Hazel and Carol.

"But the washing tripled," laughed Sandra, explaining two of the children were still in diapers at the time.

Sandra, a graduate of Chowan College, a Baptist school in Murfreesboro, N.C., has a growing interest in the field of child welfare and is working toward a degree and career in social work.

She explained that most adoptions begin with a "honeymoon stage" when everything is "almost perfect." Then the children "attempt to see how far they can go and what they can get away with." After this adjustment is made, she noted, "the family settles down." The McCoys followed the pattern, and now, "We're just like any other family," she said.

Most families, however, do not increase three children at a time. Some adjustments and changes were necessary. The family moved into a larger house.

Emphasis on economy was introduced. "Call it living frugally if you want," said Sandra.

Before the adoption, Sandra and Mitzi bought their clothes at an exclusive fashion shop. Now the family visits shopping centers and discount stores. And Sandra does more sewing. When the food bill shot up, the McCoys turned to gardening, freezing and canning.

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The McCoy's takes "togetherness" seriously, involving themselves in activities that draw them closer to each other. All members share in the gardening and housework.

"They're really a big help around the house," Sandra said.

The family worships together at the nearby Western Branch Baptist Church, where Sandra teaches an 11th grade girls' Sunday School class.

The McCoy's devote ample time to play and travel. On weekends they often take trips to nearby places. Summers they visit Disney World, Gettysburg, and other attractions. They also enjoy fishing and sunning on the family's boat, and visiting both sets of grandparents.

Sandra and David are active in the Council on Advocacy for Children, of which one function is to help educate the public concerning adoption.

"Some people believe you have to be wealthy to adopt children but this isn't true," said Sandra, "Your inward ability to parent a child is much more important than what you have materially."

Whether a child is readily available for adoption usually depends on his age, race, and condition of his health. There are few white children available from infant to age six. These are the children most in demand. It is more difficult to place white children over six. Children with mental, emotional and physical handicaps and minority children of any age are generally hard to place, authorities say.

A foremost consideration behind an adoption is meeting the needs of the child.

"A quiet, withdrawn child would not be placed with a domineering mother, for example. But a more aggressive child might do fine in that situation. It's a matter of matching the right child with the right parents," Sandra said.

Her strongest argument in favor of adoption springs, Sandra believes, from her own inmost feelings.

"You think of your adopted children just like you do of those children given you by natural birth. We don't feel any different toward them because they were adopted. They're our children and that's the important thing."

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Illinois Pastor Makes  
Waves on 'Sex-Pot' Study

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By Robert J. Hastings

CARBONDALE, Ill. (BP)--A Southern Baptist pastor here has captured national attention for his stand on a proposed experiment at Southern Illinois University involving the use of marijuana and erotic, or "stag," films.

Ben E. Glinn, pastor of the Lantana Baptist Church here, was interviewed on NBC Nightly News, and also quoted in a front-page story in the January 26 Midwest edition of the Chicago Tribune.

"Some say I'm just doing this to get my picture on television and my name in the papers," the 45-year-old minister told the Illinois Baptist in an interview. "But I believe ministers and churches should get involved. We should let our political leaders know how we feel."

The issue at Southern Illinois University here is whether Harris B. Rubin, 43, an associate professor in the school of medicine, should conduct research using paid, adult volunteer males to determine if they respond better to erotic films while smoking marijuana or not smoking marijuana.

Rubin, who applied to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) in 1974 for a \$155,508 grant for the project, thinks he should. Rubin, who says he has conducted similar research on the effects of alcohol on human sexual response, stated in his grant application that there are differences of opinion as to the effect of marijuana smoking on sexual arousal, and that scientific research is needed to find the facts.

Glinn, who accepted Jesus Christ at the age of 26 after a four-year bout with alcoholism himself, is an outspoken critic of the proposed research, feeling it is morally wrong to use public tax monies on a project that involves the use of illegal drugs and the showing of erotic films.

"The S I U board of trustees gave me two minutes to state my objections at one of their meetings," Glinn said. "They were very courteous, and all that, but after it was over, I felt as if I were being told, in effect, that I was to tuck my tail between my legs like a scared puppy dog and go home and quietly mind my own business."

"Some people think I'm a snotty-nosed preacher," Glinn continued, "but I feel I've got a right to my opinion. I've been told that since I don't have a Ph.D. degree, and have never had papers published in professional journals, that I'm not qualified to sit in judgment on what is true scientific research. Also, that since I'm not a scientist, I can't judge scientists."

"I know I'm not a scientist," Glinn added, "but the feelings and sensitivities and moral standards of the citizens deserve some consideration. Just because everyone doesn't have a doctor's degree doesn't mean we don't know anything."

"I believe in academic freedom, but I also believe in academic responsibility. And when people in education and government are using the people's money, the people have some right to say how that money is to be spent."

According to the campus newspaper, The Daily Egyptian, Rubin obtained a \$121,000 grant last spring from the federal National Institute of Drug Abuse. However, Rubin is still waiting on the Justice Department for a grant of immunity from prosecution for distribution of the drug. The Justice Department postponed its ruling and asked F. David Matthews, secretary of HEW, to furnish more information on the merit of the research, and the competency of Rubin as a researcher. Matthews is a Southern Baptist layman.

Glinn reportedly hosted a luncheon for S I U president Warren W. Brandt and Dr. Rubin. "I wanted a chance to sit down with these men and get acquainted on a personal basis, and let them know that although I disagree with them, I have nothing against them as individuals."

Brandt has repeatedly said that the films to be shown during the proposed research do not even approach, in comparison, some of the movies now available to the general public in Carbondale.

Leonard A. DeClue Jr., secretary of the Christian Citizens' Lobby here, said at least two U.S. senators on the Senate Appropriations Committee have spoken out against the proposed research at S I U. They are Sen. William Proxmire of Wisconsin and Sen. Thomas Eagleton of Missouri.

DeClue, a graduate student here in political science, disclosed the contents of a letter from Illinois Gov. Dan Walker, who wrote, "I would not permit the use of state funds for such an experiment. I think it is a waste of money."

U.S. Sen. Charles H. Percy of Illinois wrote DeClue, "I agree...there are far more important things to study and to spend government research monies on."

And U.S. Congressman Paul Simon of Carbondale wrote DeClue, "There are many worthy projects that need support, rather than projects of a questionable nature."

Both DeClue and Glinn praised U.S. Congressman Robert Michel of Peoria for his stand against the S I U research project. Michel, who is on the House Appropriations Committee, appeared on the same NBC Nightly News with Glinn. Brandt and Rubin were also interviewed on the same program.

Henry A. Schwarz, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Illinois, said his office had written a letter to the Department of Justice "voicing our strong opposition to the granting of Dr. Rubin's request."

U.S. Congressman Paul Findley said, "Surely there are more urgent problems in American society today than such studies as this. While there are still Americans here without food, housing or fuel, how can we possibly justify spending one cent on a 'sex-pot' study?"

Glinn said the book, "The Greening of the Church," challenged him to speak out on community issues. "You know, we as Baptists are strong on evangelism--getting sinners out of hell into heaven--but we also need to get involved with problems right here on earth," Glinn noted.

At its annual meeting in Springfield last November, the Illinois Baptist State Association adopted the following resolution: "...for years the trend in public education has led to the almost total abandonment of character development--with the current experiment at SIU-Carbondale

on the effects of marijuana on the human sexual responses being but one of the extreme results. . . . the convention encourage(s) its messengers to use their ingenuity in finding ways to express their convictions and exert their influence on local, state and national leaders in education."

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Mission Board Offers 'Quake  
Relief in Guatemala City

Baptist Press  
2/4/76

GUATEMALA CITY (BP)--Southern Baptist mission officials have volunteered to respond to emergency relief requests following a pre-dawn earthquake of major proportions which hit here Feb. 4.

The 'quake reportedly claimed hundreds of lives, crumbling buildings and leaving thousands homeless, according to early news reports.

Southern Baptist mission representative, A. Clark Scanlon, reporting by telephone from his Guatemala City home base, said Southern Baptist missionaries in the city are safe. He said the 3 a.m. earthquake was the "most intense" he had ever experienced. It registered at least 7.5 on the Richter Scale.

"We're prepared to respond to a request from Guatemala for emergency relief," said Charles W. Bryan, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean. "Dr. Scanlon and the disaster response coordinator for Guatemala are making a survey of needs and will be reporting to Foreign Mission Board headquarters in Richmond."

Bryan also reported that the board was communicating with the disaster desk of the U.S. State Department for additional information about the extent of the damage suffered by the people of Guatemala.

Although four Southern Baptist missionary couples assigned to Guatemala City are safe, all felt tremors, according to Scanlon, the board's field representative for Middle America. Scanlon said various objects in his home fell and that pictures dropped off the walls. He said, however, that he didn't detect any major structural damage.

Missionary Ted Yarbrough, driving through the city, reported a hospital on fire, a church building destroyed, and other walls and buildings which had collapsed.

Early news reports indicated at least 300 bodies had been found in the rubble and that other casualties were likely.

The Foreign Mission Board has 23 people assigned to Guatemala. Besides the four families in Guatemala City, two families and two missionary journeymen live in Coban (about 75 miles north of Guatemala City), one family lives in Quezaltenango (about 75 miles west of the capital), a family and a single missionary are currently in language school in Costa Rica, and two families are on furlough in the States.

In Guatemala City are the Yarbroughs, the Scanlons, the Herbert D. Billings and the William W. Stennetts. Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Byrd, stationed in the capital city, are on medical leave in the States.

In Coban are the Richard R. Greenwoods, the Donnell N. Courtneys, and journeymen Susan Clark and Jacquelyn Madon. The John E. Laramores are in Quezaltenango.

The George W. Hardemans and the Wendall C. Parkers are on furlough, and the H. Michael Owens and Yvonne E. Helton are in language school in Costa Rica.

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