



August 11, 1976

76-131

Psychiatrist Helps Ministers
Get It Together for Ministry

By Larry Jerden

CARBONDALE, Colo. (BP)--Psychiatrist Louis McBurney for the past three years has focused his professional talents on ministering to ministers through Marble Retreat here.

The retreat, high in the Colorado Rockies, is a place where Christian workers receive intense psychiatric help in solving personal emotional and family problems that may be hampering or destroying their effectiveness in the ministry.

"We have had a broad range of problems represented," the psychiatrist noted, "from depression to infidelity, homosexuality, parent/child relationship problems and a missionary suffering from a psychotic breakdown."

McBurney, a graduate of Baylor University (a Baptist school in Waco, Tex.) and Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, has applied an intensive, short-term form of psychotherapy he learned during his residency at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., to the needs presented by the life-style of Christian ministers.

While at Mayo, McBurney found he had a series of religious patients--pastors, nuns, priests, and others. "I found them more reluctant to seek help than the average patient, not really trusting psychiatry and less able to afford it at the going rates," he said. During that time he noticed a survey among Texas Baptist pastors that indicated almost one-half of them had felt the need for counseling or psychiatric care at one time or another. "I saw the need was there, with my background, within a few months came to the idea of a retreat," McBurney remembered.

"We have the Marble Retreat program set up for a two-week stay," he explained. "Few ministers could be away from their congregations any longer than that." The retreat is set up as a non-profit corporation with a three-man board of directors, he said. "That way we can accept contributions. We don't have a fee structure. We let the patients know how much it costs for them to be here, and then leave it to them to pay as they can or feel led. For my part, I charge \$10 per day per person."

In its three years of operation, the retreat has served about 14 people per year. Most were enthusiastic about the help they received. McBurney is aware, however, that not everyone shares their enthusiasm:

"Some people are threatened by the idea that a pastor would ever have psychological or emotional problems within his family. Some, even in denominational circles, feel it shows a lack of faith if a pastor can't just 'lay his problems before the Lord' and have them solved."

Two Southern Baptist pastors who have used the center to help solve their own problems shared their views. "I think this is a very valid program," one asserted. "Pastors sometimes can go to other pastors with problems, but sometimes they need to go to someone who can help them see their problems in a different way." The other pastor noted, "I don't know where else we could go to get help like this."

McBurney and the pastors agreed that geography is important. "There is a feeling of getting away that's important," said one pastor. McBurney said, "It's important that the pastors feel anonymous in their counseling situations. In a city situation, you aren't quite sure."

Another help in anonymity is the multi-denominational nature of Marble Retreat. "While most of my clients have been Southern Baptists, I want to reach more than just Southern Baptists," McBurney stated. "There's an advantage of having group therapy with, say, a Southern Baptist family and an Episcopalian family, because each will be less 'up tight' about the other knowing them. Besides, it has been a broadening experience to become friends with other Christians. In this atmosphere, the Christians tend to stick together regardless of denominational lines."

More and more, McBurney said, ministers are realizing the role that other helping professions can play in their ministry. But he also feels deeply the role the pastor has to play. "I think the most relevant things a pastor has are his spiritual insights."

-more-

8/11/76

Page 2

Baptist Press

McBurney said he feels secular psychiatry has a role, "because some problems are best treated medically. Sometimes a minister has had a hard time praying through his problems or applying spiritual truths because of serious emotional problems with his wife or children."

One barrier remains to be overcome for the retreat in the Crystal River Valley, and McBurney is convinced it will be.

"When the last Indians were driven out of this valley, the departing chief put a curse on it that anything the white man tried here would fail," he related. "The marble mines eventually failed, and the ski resort failed. But I think our 'Great Spirit' is more powerful than theirs. We will succeed."

-30-

Adapted from the October 1976 issue of World Mission Journal
(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

#

This Pastor More than
Your Average Commuter

Baptist Press
8/11/76

By Nancy Carter

LOUISVILLE (BP)--What do you do when you're pastoring a church in Mississippi and feel led to attend seminary in Kentucky, 450 miles away?

You go to seminary and commute 900 miles each weekend so you can continue serving as the church's pastor--if you've got the stamina of Thomas Bonds.

During the past school year, Tom attended classes at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here during the week. On Friday evenings, after his wife, Jeannie, got home from her teaching job, the couple would pack the car. Eight hours later--around 11 p.m.--they'd be at their church, Sardis Lake Baptist Church, Sardis, Miss.

Following the Sunday evening service, Tom and Jeannie would head back to Louisville arriving on campus about 3 a.m. By 8 a.m., Jeannie would be at school teaching her class.

For Tom, 24, this is his first experience as pastor. He and Jeannie went there not long after graduating from Mississippi College, Clinton. The Roxie, Miss., native explained he felt it was the Lord's will for him to continue his ministry at Sardis. The 20-year-old church would lose its pastors after about two years, when most decided to attend seminary or Bible school, he said. Each time this happened attendance would drop to about 35-40 people.

Tom was there about a year and a half before beginning seminary, but he was determined not to cause the church to shrink again. And it hasn't; the church has gradually grown to about 70 people.

"I don't think many preachers going into their first church have found people as willing to work with you as the people there have been with me."

Tom said his seminary experience has helped him grow intellectually, with sermon preparation and his church experience has helped him put his learning into practice.

"It's been definitely worth it all," he reflected. "I've grown as a Christian...My wife and I would have given out a long time ago if it hadn't been for the Lord strengthening us."

"Our church has gained from it in the sense that the men have 'come out.' They're the leaders now. They took the Wednesday night service. They've grown spiritually. I think it's the greatest church in the world."

-30-



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
480 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 Richard M. Styles, Acting 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 11, 1976

76-131

'Don't Forget Us!'
Dam Victims Urge

By Dan Martin

ST. ANTHONY, Idaho (BP)--"Don't forget about us up here," George Eichler said.

As he spoke, a pickup camper pulling a fancy travel trailer pulled up alongside Eichler's dusty car.

"Hey," hollered the tourist. "What happened here?"

Eichler looked at the debris of homes, mobile homes and farm implements scattered across the once productive potato farming land.

"This is where the Teton Dam broke June 5," Eichler said.

"Wow," said the tourist, gazing around. Soon he pulled out and headed for nearby Yellowstone National Park leaving the wreckage and tragedy behind.

Eichler, pastor of Upper Valley Baptist Chapel in St. Anthony, shook his head and reflected: "It doesn't take long for this to be long ago and far away."

Eichler has lived with the Teton disaster since the 305-foot high earthen dam gave way about noon that sunshiny June day, gushing 80-billion gallons of water across the land.

Only 11 people were killed in the flood, a relatively light toll as disasters go. Officials have estimated the flood causes \$1-billion in damage, and left some 6,000 people homeless. Because it was a government dam, and not quite completed, federal officers have agreed to make 100 percent restitution.

The Teton Valley now is dotted with mobile homes, some brought from as far away as Texas and Mississippi to provide housing.

"The government said they are going to put the property and belongings back just like it was before the flood. That is impossible because some of the farms are just washed away. It will be impossible, Eichler said.

In the immediate aftermath of the dam burst, Eichler offered use of Upper Valley Baptist Chapel. He had no takers, however, in the heavily Mormon area.

Later, he attempted to match up donations of clothing, food and other items with persons needing such help.

"There didn't prove to be a need," he said.

Southern Baptists are a decided minority in the area of eastern Idaho. Eichler estimates 65 or 70 percent of the people are Mormons (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).

"When this first happened, the LDS (Mormons) didn't seem to want any outsiders even to help them. They wanted to be on their own, self dependent. But this was just too big a thing for them," he explained.

-more-

After the first efforts, Southern Baptists in the area became involved in an organization called the Teton Interfaith Disaster Task Force.

"The base was the Idaho Falls Ministerial Association, and a Presbyterian minister from Xenia, Ohio, Rod Trout, came out to help us. He just volunteered because he had experience in the tornado in Xenia," Eichler said.

There are two Southern Baptist churches in the area. Calvary Church in Idaho Falls is the largest and strongest. The other is Emmanuel in Blackfoot, and it has only 45 members. Of the two missions, Upper Valley Chapel is the strongest, with 44 members. Fort Hall Indian Mission has only a handful of participants.

"All of the churches--Lutherans, Catholics, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, American and Southern Baptists--worked in the Interfaith group to see how we could meet the needs of the people," Eichler said.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) immediately made \$20,000 available. Paul Adkins, coordinator of disaster relief for the HMB, visited the flood area and made the funds available to the churches and Red Cross to aid victims.

"I think we probably missed an opportunity by not having a disaster task force like the Mennonites or the Christian Reformed groups who came immediately to the flood area to help," Eichler said.

With many disasters, some resources are missed because no one asks. That was the case in the Teton Dam break. Eichler said no one put out the call for Southern Baptist volunteers until late July.

The call was sounded through Baptist Press and appeared in several Baptist state papers; by mid August, some work groups were in the Idaho Falls area ready to work.

"The opportunity is still here," Eichler said. "Probably the farmers are the ones we can do the most for. We can build fences and buildings for the cattle."

Another great need is for workers to participate in the interfaith "advocate" program, a "census-like thing, where workers go out and talk to flood victims to find out what their needs are," Eichler explained.

The advocates check back and see if response has been made, and if the victims have what they need, the minister added, also noting that advocates assist victims fill out applications for aid, and refer people to service agencies which can provide help.

"The advocate program takes tremendous manpower, and we just don't have the local people for that," Eichler said.

The advocates also are trained to look for "after disaster shock" which is beginning to set in. Many of the survivors are dazed, and don't know what to do next.

"We hope the advocates can take care of a lot of the shock, but I don't believe we have begun to see the kinds of problems we are going to have," Eichler said.

"I think with the coming of winter and when the people find out what they are and what they are not going to get from the government, we will have much more need for this type of thing," Eichler said.

Lying across the recovery program is the specter of winter. "The first frost won't come until October, and the ground won't freeze until November. When Thanksgiving comes, all outside work will have to shut down until Spring," he said.

After the news story calling for volunteers appeared, several church groups called Norman Godfrey, director of the ministries section for the SBC Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, offering to help.

"Where the story has run, we have gotten good response," Godfrey said. "When Southern Baptists knew of the need, they have responded."

A couple took part of their vacation to work in the advocate program. They were contacted through the Christian Service Corps of the Home Mission Board.

Volunteers are asked to contact Godfrey at the Brotherhood Commission, state Baptist Men directors, or Eichler in St. Anthony, Idaho.

"It looks like some of the relief will have to be done next Spring and Summer," Eichler says. "It will be a long, long time before we have recovered from this thing."

FMB Sets Budget Total;
Appoints 13 Missionaries

RICHMOND (BP)--During its August meeting, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed 13 missionaries and approved a \$57,198,044 figure within which the 1977 budget will be prepared.

The board also appropriated \$95,000 for world relief and heard a report cautioning against a possible misunderstanding in the interpretation of the board's "Bold New Plans" for the next 25 years.

The budget of more than \$57 million, which represents an increase of more than 12 percent over the 1976 budget, will be prepared and presented to the board for approval in October. The bulk of the budget comes from funds from the national Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget and from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive director, did not attend the meeting due to recuperation from recent surgery. The board was told that Cauthen is at home recovering normally and is expected to return to his office soon.

Winston Crawley, director of the overseas division, expressed concern that Southern Baptists would misunderstand some of the highlights of the board's 25 year plan.

"I have feared that many may not understand the nature of our mission effort as being a comprehensive and a balanced effort," Crawley said.

He said Baptists must realize the board's major, overarching objective to preach the gospel to every living person on earth by 2000 A.D. is just a part of the whole picture.

"If we think only of preaching the gospel to all people in the world, that would be primarily a 'seed-sowing' endeavor," Crawley said. "Seed-sowing is important, but it's only a part of the total mission effort. Our efforts also include cultivating, nurturing and harvesting.

"If we took only the overarching objective to preach the gospel to all the people in the world, this would focus our attention mainly on the neglected areas of the world. That is important, but what about those areas that have already been so cultivated that they are now the ripest areas of the world?" Crawley continued. "There needs to be balance."

Crawley also expressed concern for the victims of the recent earthquake in China and for the fact that no relief efforts by the Foreign Mission Board are possible in that country.

The board also heard a report from William R. Wakefield, area secretary for Southeast Asia, who recently returned from a trip to that area.

He reported an overall responsiveness to the gospel throughout Southeast Asia and a sense of urgency on the part of missionaries to reach the area while there is such keen opportunity.

"After the fall of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, there was generally a sense of panic in the countries of Southeast Asia, especially Thailand," Wakefield commented. "The domino theory is scorned by many people in the United States, but for people living in Southeast Asia, the danger of Communist takeover and escalated Communist aggression was a very real threat."

Wakefield said he was encouraged during his recent trip to notice there is now no sense of panic among Baptist nationals and missionaries.

"In Thailand, the country immediately surrounded by countries that have recently become Communist, there is a focus on the part of both nationals and missionaries on the opportunity afforded by the threat to the country by Communist aggression," Wakefield said. "There is a realization that the very uncertainty is an opportunity."

The missionaries in Thailand have requested 50 new missionaries for the next four years, according to Wakefield. "Their desire is to reach this country while it is still possible to do so," he commented.

The \$95,000 appropriated for relief includes \$75,000 for "food for work" projects to assist drought relief efforts in North Brazil, \$10,000 to provide temporary housing for victims of an earthquake in Indonesia, \$5,000 for work with Lebanese refugees in Israel, and \$5,000 to help rebuild 50 houses and a small chapel in a village near San Martin, Guatemala.

Thirteen missionaries were appointed to serve in seven countries.

Appointed were Mr. and Mrs. Michael (Mike) A. Gonzales, from Texas, assigned to Spain; Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Rick) W. McDade, Tennessee, to Colombia; Mr. and Mrs. Donald (Don) G. Overstreet, California and Texas, to the Windward Islands; Anna R. Pennington, Virginia, to North Brazil; and Edith N. Potter, Tennessee, to Colombia.

Employed as missionary associates were Mr. and Mrs. Lester C. Boyd, North Carolina and West Virginia, to the Leeward Islands; Mr. and Mrs. W. Harold Thomaston, Alabama and Georgia, to Nigeria; and Betty (Mrs. Homer Wilbert) Wickes, Indiana, to Gaza.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene O. Wilson, missionaries to South Brazil for more than 10 years before they resigned in 1975, were reappointed to South Brazil.

-30-

OBU Gets Kresge
Grant of \$50,000

Baptist Press
8/11/76

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--The Kresge Foundation of Troy, Mich., has announced a \$50,000 incentive grant to be used toward construction of student housing at Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU).

In accepting the Kresge challenge grant, OBU President William G. Tanner said, "With more than \$5 million given by OBU alumni and friends toward capital projects over the last seven years, we are especially grateful for this strategically-timed challenge grant. These funds will provide the incentive for all of us to do our best to meet the total goal on the student housing project."

Approximately one-half of the \$500,000 goal has been raised already, according to Tanner, and plans are being finalized to raise the remainder of the funds. OBU administrators and trustees have identified student housing as the top capital priority for the OBU campus.

The grant is dependent on (1) OBU's ability to raise the remainder of the funds for construction by March 15, 1977, and (2) notification that the actual contract price is within available resources of the university.

-30-

Georgia Baptist Center
Dedication Set Sept. 14

Baptist Press
8/11/76

ATLANTA (BP)--Georgia Baptists will observe an historic occasion September 14 when their new, \$6-million Baptist Center, which was occupied, in Nov. 1975, will be dedicated.

Several hundred Baptist leaders from across the state are expected to attend the formal dedication service planned for 2:30 p.m., Sept. 14 on the Plaza level, according to Searcy S. Garrison of Atlanta, Georgia Baptist Convention Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

The 200,000 square-foot, five-story center is the first building Georgia Baptists have constructed for denominational offices and meetings since the Convention was organized in 1822.

The modern Baptist Center, 2930 Flowers Road, South, houses the executive offices for the executive committee and the convention's state missions program, as well as offices for Baptist agencies and institutions.

The center also has an auditorium which seats 250, a reception room, and a cafeteria. The Baptist Book Store is located also on the ground floor of the center. The mail order center for the book store is scheduled to be expanded to serve the Southeastern United States in 1977.

-30-