



September 3, 1976

76-146

'Love Bug' Star Discovers
Life, Love in Jesus Christ

By Barbara Hunting

TAMPA, FLA. (BP)--Film and television star, Dean Jones, at 45, has a wide boyish grin, a svelte manly figure, a fat pocketbook, a beautiful wife, three normal children, a private plane and a career taking him to Paris to make another "Love Bug" movie.

He had all this going for him three years ago but will tell you quite frankly it didn't mean a thing until he found Jesus Christ.

"There's been a miracle--and the difference is delicious," he said during an interview here.

Jones was touring with the "If my people..." group, performing across the United States before going to Paris. Movies are still a big part of his career, along with TV and church work. He and his wife, Lori, reside in Tarzana, Calif.

Jones believes an actor has a great responsibility in the roles he plays. "I approach each script with a prayer. I couldn't perform in a picture that I couldn't be proud of or one that I wouldn't want my family to see," he added.

"I have just finished a picture," the actor noted, "for (Walt) Disney (Productions) to be released at Christmas called, 'The Shaggy D.A.' It's about a man who runs for district attorney and turns into a dog," he laughed.

"Many actors believe their first thought should be with the director, the producer or the writers, but I don't believe that. I feel an actor has a responsibility to the people. Thank heavens for the Disney films. I can do those, and I love them," Jones said.

"I was confused when I gave my life to the Lord," because, "I thought at first maybe I would be sent off to some remote spot and just preach to four people. But it has worked out so that my acting and faith can work together for some good," he said.

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Barbara Hunting is a staff writer for the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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Mother of Illinois State
Executive Dies at Age 93

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DECATUR, Ala. (BP)--Funeral services were held here August 31, for Mrs. Louanna Smith, 93, mother of James H. Smith, executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association, Springfield. She had been ill several months.

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**Church Expells 23 For
'Shepherding,' Not 'Tongues'**

SHREVEPORT, La. (BP)--Twenty-three members of Lakeshore Baptist Church here were voted out of its membership during a business meeting for what the pastor called "shepherding," apparently not directly for the charismatic practice of speaking in tongues as news media reports have indicated.

The 23 included six people, who voted against a motion to expell 17 others, and thereby, the pastor said, "voted themselves out of the membership."

In an interview with the Baptist Message, Louisiana Baptist state newspaper, H. D. Smith, the pastor, said "shepherding," is practiced by a group within a church, which will rally around a person sometimes called an "elder," and this causes a leadership problem, with some members following one leader and others following the pastor.

Apparently it is a practice associated with the charismatic movement, which includes an emphasis on spiritual gifts other than just glossalalia (speaking in tongues).

Smith told the Baptist Message that tongues speaking was not directly involved in the action. Mrs. Morris Smith, wife of one of the expelled members who's husband (no relation to the pastor) was identified by the pastor as the "elder," agreed with the pastor.

She said that although they have attended charismatic conferences they are "not actively involved in the charismatic movement" and have "never practiced or taught speaking in tongues in the church." She added that she and her husband had not practiced tongues-speaking in or out of the church but that she couldn't say that every member of the group had never privately engaged in the practice of tongues.

Mrs. Smith said each member of the church received a letter from the pastor, who has served the 1,000-member church for about three years, saying that a "recommendation would be brought to the church that eight families (17 people) be removed because of their attitudes toward the pastor and Lakeshore Baptist Church and anyone who voted against the motion would also be removed."

And she said the letter read: "Either the church unite and remove these people or I will resign."

The pastor told the Baptist Message the names of eight families were listed in the letter and when the vote was taken, six members voted against the motion to remove and thus voted themselves out of the church.

Baptist historians interviewed by Baptist Press expressed amazement at that type of procedure, noting that it is not the usual democratic procedure followed in business meetings conducted by Baptists "who have always prided themselves in the right to disagree."

A source in the church said the six persons in question "were on the fringe" between the church view and the view of the 17 others and had not been listed in the letter in hopes of preserving their church membership.

Mrs. Smith said since about 1970 a group in the church has met on Friday nights for Bible study and prayer because "we were hungry for God's Word." She said at first they met in the church but later 50 or so members changed to meeting in homes. "We are Southern Baptists and have been members of Lakeshore for 15 years," Mrs. Smith said. She added, they have no intentions of dropping affiliation with Southern Baptists.

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"When I became pastor here three years ago," H. D. Smith told the Baptist Message, "this group was in the church. After working with them a while they seemed to be cooperating and the problem lessened.

"However, last year several of the group asked me to attend charismatic shepherd conference at Kansas City, but I couldn't go. When they returned their attitude was different. They were right and everyone else was wrong."

Mrs. Morris Smith said no one has ever come to them and told them they had done anything unscriptural. The pastor said during his time there he has had several conferences with the various members of the group to secure cooperation from them in the ministry of the church.

She said that after the action was taken they received a letter from the pastor, which said, "pursuant to action of the Lakeshore Baptist Church last night, this is to share with you the knowledge that you were removed from the membership role of the church and also from the Sunday School class rolls. It was regrettable that such action had to be taken, but there seemed no other way the harmony could be restored to the fellowship. We wish you well wherever you may go and do not expect you to return to the Lakeshore Baptist Church."

Mrs. Smith said they have not decided what to do. An Associated Press story quoted her husband as saying, "I haven't decided to leave Lakeshore. I feel the Lord led me there and I haven't felt him leading me anywhere else." He had been removed as a deacon and Sunday School teacher last January.

The pastor said, "We have followed a New Testament practice of discipline that has not been used for a long time, voting out members."

Mrs. Smith said they have received many calls from all over the country, including Baptist pastors, with words of encouragement and "standing for the Lord."

The pastor said, "except for four nasty calls, I have received many calls commending us for 'the guts to stand up' to the problem."

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16 U. S. Baptists Lead
Rhodesian Stewardship Drive

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SALISBURG, Rhodesia (BP)--Sixteen pastors and other Southern Baptist leaders--dispersing to such places as butcher shops, corn fields and churches--spent a month here conducting a series of stewardship campaigns to help Rhodesian Baptist nationals more effectively use all their resources in their Christian lives and ministry.

The 16 men from five states visited most of the country's 66 Baptist churches, said James W. Cecil, Southern Baptist missionary on special assignment with the evangelism and church development office of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board (FMB).

The U. S. Baptists talked with Rhodesians in corn fields, butcher shops--anywhere possibilities were presented, Cecil noted.

Preparation for the campaigns began with enlisting specialists in 1975. The Rhodesian Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist missionaries serving there have worked with Joseph B. Underwood, the FMB's consultant in evangelism and church development.

Studies on the best approach for teaching Stewardship in Rhodesia were made. The book, "Living the Responsible Life," by Cecil Ray was translated into Shona, the most widely spoken African dialect in Rhodesia, and adapted for the local setting.

During the campaigns, the stewardship specialists taught in as many as five churches each. In each church the leader and church members studied for a minimum of seven hours over a three-day period, and the leader visited the homes of church members each day and often visited members where they worked.

"The present series of studies comes at a very appropriate time in the life of Rhodesian Baptist churches," said Able Mziramasanga, president of the Rhodesian Baptist Convention.

"Rhodesia's Baptist churches must become self-supporting very soon. Leading Baptist church members to recognize their stewardship privilege and responsibility is a great move toward that end," he said.

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"The lessons learned in the Rhodesian stewardship emphasis," said Underwood, "will help Southern Baptist missionaries around the world develop strong indigenous churches."

Ralph L. Rummage, Southern Baptist missionary to Rhodesia who was local director for the emphasis, said the studies have had a "very positive effect on all areas of (Rhodesian Baptist) church life."

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(BP) Photos will be mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Georgia Denominations
Fight Bingo Bill

Baptist Press
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ATLANTA (BP)--About 60 prominent Georgians of all denominations have joined in sponsorship of a statewide movement to defeat a proposed Georgia constitutional change which would legalize bingo-gambling for non-profit groups.

The bingo-gambling amendment was passed by the Georgia General Assembly last winter and will be on the general election ballot Nov. 2.

The Georgia Council on Moral and Civic Concerns has been a leader in arousing opposition to the suggested amendment. W. Lowry Anderson, Methodist minister, is executive director of the council.

The Georgia Council on Moral and Civic Concerns held public rallies against the bingo-gambling amendment at Norman Baptist Assembly and at the Baptist Center in Atlanta.

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