



April 6, 1977

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Family Education--Like A
Preventative Inoculation

By Liz Skillen

THOMASVILLE, N.C. (BP)--Should American families go to school?

We spend years educating ourselves and preparing for jobs.

How much time is spent learning to deal with a major assignment in life--being part of a family?

Most Americans are surrounded by family from birth, and some roles and instincts come naturally.

But today's problems come hard and fast, and families desperately need to learn how to deal with them.

Divorce rates, child abuse rates, teenage runaway rates have doubled and tripled in the last decade. Many families are not passing the tests.

Part of the answer to failure has always been education. Knowledge equips and prepares. And those who have done their homework generally do not panic easily when testing day arrives.

"But my family," some object, "does just fine. We have no desire to learn how to be the perfect model family."

"There is no single model family," says Elizabeth Wagoner, a consultant in child development for Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc. "Each group is put together differently, and no two families are alike."

What education can do, she explains, is make a family aware of how they function and provide the group with techniques to enhance their family life.

Does it work? "Family education is like a preventative inoculation," Wagoner says. "We give everyone the shot, so we don't know who would have come down with the disease if we hadn't."

Many pastors are becoming increasingly aware that the time for their congregation's booster is long past. Children and parents clamor for ways to deal with daily-life problems, ways to put Christian principles into practice, notes Wagoner, who works with family education programs for North Carolina Baptist churches:

"The course I teach is similar to other family life seminars, but I have my own emphasis. I think it's important for each family to learn active/reflective listening, family sculpturing, positive communication and behavior management, as well as techniques for conflict resolution and decision-making skills."

Difficult sounding activities, perhaps, but the concepts are simple, she says. According to Wagoner, active/reflective listening is the conscious decision to concentrate on what the other person is saying.

"With practice," she notes, "you can learn to leave the door wide open for communication."

For example, if a teenage boy asks what time dinner will be served, a mother can answer with a fact, six o'clock, or she can say, "Hmmm, you must be really hungry; dinner will be ready at six."

The statement about his hunger, Wagoner explains, lets the boy know his mother is listening closely. It also encourages him to explain why he asked about dinner time.

"In reality, he may not be hungry," the consultant said. "He may have a date in 15 minutes and wants something before he goes, but the mother's comment encourages communication."

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This type of positive talking requires practice. In Wagoner's seminars this is accomplished through role playing and plenty of homework.

Family sculpturing helps a family determine how they function. Each member is allowed to draw or act out how they see their role in the group. For instance, a father may throw his arms around his family if he sees his role as protector.

Or he may draw himself lying on the ground with his whole family on his back--if he sees his family as a burden he alone must bear.

As each member portrays his or her role in the group, other members learn about themselves as individuals in a family.

Role playing, sculpturing and homework are designed to help families improve their own individual methods of communication and living together. Then when problems do arise, techniques for solving them will already be established.

A pressing need exists for this kind of education, says Wagoner.

Every day the tests are getting harder. Are you sure your family will pass?

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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Handouts to Young Beggars
Not Enough for Missionary

Baptist Press
4/6/77

SANTIAGO, Chile (BP)--For months whenever Southern Baptist missionary Doris (Mrs. O.D.) Dyches answered her door here to find beggar children asking for bread, she would frantically search her kitchen for food.

Finally, from weariness of answering the door and frustration of not doing more than simply giving handouts to the children, Mrs. Dyches realized she had to come up with something better or different.

She began a special Bible class with a hot lunch each Wednesday afternoon for the 20 children who regularly came to her door. Now, the hot lunch of vegetable soup with meat, bread and milk or juice, replaces the handouts. And it's not unusual for a 12-year-old boy to eat five bowls of soup, she notes.

The class meets first for the Bible study and music and then they eat their lunch. At times, Mrs. Dyches says, "They are not anxious to stop the class in order to eat."

As all Chileans, she continues, "These children love to sing and have learned many Christian choruses. Some have read from the Bible for the first time and seem interested in learning of Jesus."

With the Bible class and hot lunch started, the school year was approaching rapidly, and Mrs. Dyches became concerned about the number of these children who would not be able to go to school.

Discovering that one of their greatest needs would be school shoes, Mrs. Dyches got the word out that she would buy the children's shoes if the parents would assume the matriculation fees and see that their children attended classes.

She required that the fees be paid before she would provide the shoes. She felt if parents made this effort, they would probably see to it the children went to school.

The children or their parents brought the matriculation receipts to Mrs. Dyches to verify that they were enrolled in school. Then for two weeks, she went shopping.

For many of the children, like 9-year-old Marco, this was their first pair of shoes. He "smiled from ear to ear and bounced about as if he owned the shoe store and the whole city block," according to Mrs. Dyches: "It was worth every effort just to see the expression of joy on his face."

Mrs. Dyches also told the parents she would help the children with supplies or other school needs, as long as they stayed in school.

And the children came to her with special needs. For example, twelve-year-old Maria needed a pair of gym shorts, which the missionary quickly made for her.

She plans to continue to hold her hot lunch and Bible class for the children, although the time has been changed to allow for school.

Still, she says, work with the children only "scratches the surface of the needs of the people here."

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Brigham Young University
 Refuses Sunday Bowl Game

PROVO, Utah (BP)--If the Brigham Young University football team wins the 1977 Western Athletic Conference championship, it will not play in the Fiesta Bowl, scheduled on Sunday, Dec. 25, according to Dallin H. Oaks, president of the Mormon school.

"Because of our beliefs about the sacredness of the Sabbath, our athletic teams have never competed on Sunday, and never will," Oaks stressed.

He noted that despite the strong protest of Brigham Young, the Western Athletic Conference President's Council voted to accept the 1977 Fiesta Bowl date of Christmas Sunday because of television scheduling.

The conference agreed, however, that if Brigham Young wins the championship it will not be bound by a contractual commitment to represent the conference, and will be free to accept an invitation to play in a bowl game not played on Sunday.

"BYU is not unique in its unwillingness to compete on Sunday," Oaks said. "The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) numbers over 700 colleges and universities, more than 180 (about one-fourth) of which are church-related. Many of these refuse to have their teams compete on Sunday.

"In view of the religious commitments of many of the NCAA's membership, we regret the fact that the NCAA is increasingly scheduling its competition for championships on Sunday, and that it is apparently willing to certify collegiate bowl games on Sunday. We believe it is wrong to disqualify some teams from competition because they adhere to a religious principle," Oaks said.

"We also resent the fact that television networks set up their scheduling in such a way that professional teams, who obviously have no scruples about playing on Sunday, are allowed to preempt dates that force college and university scheduling into Sundays," he declared.

"The Western Athletic Conference presidents were informed that all of the other acceptable dates for the 1977 season had been taken up by other bowls or by professional games," he continued. "I cannot believe there was no other alternative, and therefore favored turning down the Sunday, December 25th date, which will be unacceptable to many players and spectators within our conference because it is on Sunday and to many others because it is on Christmas . . .

"I deeply regret the financial power the networks have gained over the scheduling of collegiate athletic events, which make a network preference of a Christmas Sunday bowl date irresistible even to the Western Athletic Conference," he declared, noting that the conference "had earlier committed itself that 'no games will be scheduled on a Sunday and only for compelling reasons on Christmas irrespective of the day of the week on which it might fall.'"

Americans United Decries
 Tennessee Clergy Ruling

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Baptist Press
 4/6/77

SILVER SPRING, Md. (BP)--An Americans United for Separation of Church and State spokesman declared here that the national religious liberty organization will support Paul McDaniel, a Baptist minister from Chattanooga, Tenn., who was denied a seat in Tennessee's upcoming Constitutional Convention because he is a member of the clergy.

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James W. Respass, the organization's general counsel, said Americans United will file an "amicus curiae" ("friend of the court") brief on McDaniel's behalf if the U. S. Supreme Court accepts his application for a stay of a Tennessee Supreme Court ruling, which upheld denial of his seat.

Earlier, the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs took a similar stand, decrying the Tennessee ruling as unconstitutional and authorizing its staff to file an "amicus" brief supporting McDaniel if the high court accepts his case. The Baptist Joint Committee represents nine national Baptist groups in the U. S. and Canada, including the 12.9-million-member Southern Baptist Convention.

Voters elected McDaniel on Nov. 2, 1976, as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention from the 29th legislative district in Tennessee. He was denied the seat because the Tennessee constitution prohibits ministers from serving in either house of the legislature.

In March, the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled McDaniel ineligible because of the ban, which has been part of the Tennessee constitution since 1796. McDaniel filed an application for stay of the ruling on March 18 before U. S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart.

Respass said: "Rev. McDaniel was duly elected to serve in the Constitutional Convention which convenes on August 1, 1977; however, he has been denied the right to sit in that Convention because of the Tennessee prohibition of members of the clergy from holding public office."

He called the action "a clear violation of the Constitution of the United States, which in Article VI prohibits any religious test for the holding of public office. It also violates the free exercise clause of the First Amendment of the U. S. Constitution."

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Romanians Arrest Pastor
Protesting Human Rights

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4/6/77

WASHINGTON (BP)--Josif Ton, a Romanian Baptist pastor, was arrested Sunday night, April 3, during a church service in his country because the outspoken minister distributed a document protesting violations of human rights in Romania, according to reports received here.

The reports, received by the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) here, indicate that Ton, an Oxford University-educated pastor of a church in Ploesti, was arrested along with two other unidentified persons. The arrest is believed to have occurred in Bucharest.

A BWA spokesman said the arrest reportedly resulted not because Ton wrote the document but that he distributed it outside of Romania.

Ed Plowman, news editor of Christianity Today, who just returned to the United States from a trip through Romania following devastating earthquakes there, said Ton gave him a copy of the document, written in Romanian.

Plowman said he will soon have a complete translation but that verbal translations given him by Ton and another Romanian reveal that Ton does not blame Romania's central authorities for the violations but called for ceasing of violations on the local level.

"Ton basically urged action to prevent human rights violations in three areas," Plowman told Baptist Press: "1. Fining of a number of Christians, under Romania's hooliganism law, who meet in small groups, even though they belong to recognized churches; 2. Harrassment of a number of Christian youth in high schools and universities by teachers and administrators, including flunking of tests, expelling, denying of entry to universities, and barring of Christians from the youth group to which all belong; and 3. Demotion and firing of a number of Christians."

Plowman, who reported on the earthquake disaster scene in Christianity Today's April 1 issue, will write a detailed first person account of the Christian scene in Romania in a forthcoming issue of the Christian fortnightly publication.

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New Professorships Set At Seminaries

NASHVILLE (BP)--New professorships to interpret Southern Baptist educational programs and materials to seminary students will be implemented this fall by the six Southern Baptist seminaries and the denomination's Sunday School Board.

Each seminary will employ a professor to keep students and faculty informed about the facilities, programs, literature and services of the Sunday School Board.

The professors will carry full-time teaching loads assigned by the seminaries. Regular consultation between the professors at each institution and the Sunday School Board will be maintained to keep all graduates and faculty members supplied with information pertaining to the latest educational processes and materials.

All professors will be employed by the seminaries, assigned responsibilities and supervised by the seminaries, with the Sunday School Board reimbursing them with a sum equal to the salary and fringe benefits on the same scale as other faculty members.

Grady C. Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board, said the seminaries and the board were interested in beginning the professorship program to help keep pastors and religious education and music ministers better informed about the operation of the board and its relationships to churches and Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions.

The seminary and board presidents believe that the professorships program could begin a new awareness of the operation and goals of the Sunday School Board by sharing information with future denominational leaders while they receive seminary training.

Other responsibilities of the new professors will be to work with the six seminaries to maintain curriculum libraries, lead annual curriculum interpretation clinics for students and faculty and participate in leadership training at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Gorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers during the summer months.

Each professor also will be asked to participate in an annual orientation conference at the Sunday School Board.

Student Drive Saves Sports
At Dallas Baptist College

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Baptist Press
4/6/77

By David A. Risinger

DALLAS (BP)--The sounding of a death knoll for the entire athletic program at Dallas Baptist College has turned into peals of victory as students have raised the funds to reinstate the program.

Any doubt about the students' ability to raise the necessary \$100,000 for participation in intercollegiate basketball, baseball and soccer quickly dissipated with the collection of over \$50,000 in cash and pledges in the first month of the drive to save athletics.

Dallas Baptist College's board of trustees voted in late February to terminate the school's athletic program beginning June 1 to "stay within a balanced budget for the 1977-78 fiscal year." The school has a 1977-78 operating budget of \$3.5 million.

"We are committed to a balanced budget," college president William Thorn told students at the announcement of the decision.

Students argued that since 75 to 80 percent of the school's 1,150-member student body commute and the campus is 13 miles from downtown Dallas, an athletic program is necessary to maintain activity and morale for on-campus students.

Thorn and other school administrators gave permission for a student-led drive to raise the money to keep the athletic program.

In fact, Thorn personally pledged \$10,000 toward the drive. In the first 24-hour period, students raised another \$11,000.

Now, with the total exceeding \$50,000, the board of trustees has voted to reinstate the athletic program through a restricted auxiliary fund.

"The athletic fund is still not part of next year's operating budget. It will be channeled through this special fund," said one school official.

But more has occurred than just the raising of money to maintain an athletic program, both students and administrators agree.

"The students have gotten into see people we have not been able to reach in our 11 years in this area," said Jim O'Dell, academic dean. "Through student contacts and wide publicity gained from it, the Dallas-Fort Worth community is now more aware of a four-year liberal arts Baptist college in their midst."

"The enthusiasm of our students over this fund drive has been tremendous. Never before at this college have students, faculty and administration been united in a common effort," said Thorn.

He continued, "I believe this proves that students are the most valuable asset in our Baptist schools. We have now begun monthly open forums between administration and students to keep the communication lines open."

The Dallas Baptist College baseball team is ranked number five in the nation by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

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Funeral Held For Child
Care Leader in Greenwood

Baptist Press
4/6/77

GREENWOOD, S. C. (BP)--Funeral services were held for John C. Murdoch, executive director of Connie Maxwell Children's Home here. Murdoch, 61, died unexpectedly, March 30, in Savannah, Ga., where he was attending a meeting of Southeastern Child Care Conference of which he was a former president.

One of South Carolina's best known Baptist leaders, Murdoch is also a former president of the Southern Baptist Child Care Executives Association and former president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

A staff member of Connie Maxwell for more than 30 years, he was pastor for Connie Maxwell Church until 1975 and served for many years as assistant executive director and treasurer of the Baptist children's home. He became executive director upon the retirement of Sam M. Smith last July 1.

George K. Teasley, home life director for the children's home, has been named acting director. He has been a staff member for 20 years. Wallace W. Rogers, pastor, Westside Baptist Church, West Columbia, S. C., and chairman of the children's home trustees, said the board meeting in early May will elect a committee to find a successor to Murdoch.

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Floyd Looney Named To
CAP Chaplaincy Post

Baptist Press
4-6-77

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--Floyd Looney, 70-year-old retired editor of the "California Southern Baptist" news publication, has been appointed group chaplain by Group 12 of the Civil Air Patrol.

Looney served as editor in California, 1944-61, and also served as western representative of the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board.

The Civil Air Patrol, which appointed Looney to the rank of captain, is an auxiliary organization of the U. S. Air Force. A volunteer, non-military group, it participates in search and rescue, aerospace education and civil defense.

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