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77-78

Former Bartender Now
'Plants' Churches in Ill.

By Robert J. Hastings

WOODRIDGE, Ill. (BP)--Twelve years ago, Franklin Radcliff was tending bar in Webb Air Force Base officers' club near Big Spring, Tex.

Now he is a "church planter" in northern Illinois, where he has helped organize two new Baptist congregations in less than two years.

"When I was saved," Radcliff said, "I was smoking about four packs of cigarettes a day, and drinking as much as 12 cans of beer and a fifth of whiskey. I was already a problem drinker, and on the road to becoming an alcoholic.

"As a boy growing up in Morgantown, W. Va., I guess I was in church a total of three times," Radcliff continued. "But even as a grade school boy, I had a feeling inside me that someday I would be a preacher."

Radcliff became a Christian in 1965 as a result of the changes he saw in the lives of his wife and a good friend who had become Christians. He had been in the Air Force 12 1/2 years, set on a military career. But he decided not to reenlist and about a year later began preaching.

A series of three Texas pastorates followed, including the 2,000 member Hillcrest Baptist Church in Amarillo.

"Although I was comfortably situated in a good Texas church, I could never get the idea out of my mind that someday I would do pioneer missions work," Radcliff recalled.

"So in early 1975, I wrote to the state mission directors in a number of northern states. The warmest response came from the missions director in Illinois, Harold E. Cameron, who not only wrote but called me on the telephone. He told me about the church-planter program there," Radcliff said.

This is a strategy that involves paying the salary of a qualified, full-time pastor so he can give all his time to a new work.

When Radcliff shared his dreams with the Hillcrest Church, he discovered that five local families, plus two single young men, wanted to move to Illinois with him.

So they resigned their jobs, sold their houses, and struck out on faith for northern Illinois.

"The First Baptist Church in Pasadena, Tex., took up a \$2,000 offering to pay our moving expenses, and the Hillcrest Church donated chairs, hymnals, office equipment, and a friend even gave us a bus," Radcliff said.

"Sixteen of us made the move in the bus," Radcliff said. "Coming through Missouri, we lost a lifter rod in the engine. It was a Saturday and we couldn't find anyone to work on it.

"Out in the country, we stopped at a house on impulse. We found an invalid man, who said there was a junk car in his back yard which we could have. Believe it or not, we pulled the rod out of it and repaired the bus."

Frank Radcliff's first assignment was Oak Park, a 65,000-population satellite community of Chicago, about eight miles from the downtown Loop.

By August 1975, Radcliff--plus the other families--had relocated in Oak Park, where there had never been a Southern Baptist church. They began in a Seventh Day Adventist building and later moved to a mortuary that was offered them rent-free.

In spite of the 1975 recession, all of the transplanted Texans found work--as a Greyhound expediter, welder, heating contractor, and fuel injection mechanic.

In Oak Park, they soon organized the Berea Baptist Church, which enjoyed such rapid growth that by Easter of 1976, Radcliff and his family were ready to "plant" another church in northern Illinois.

The Berea church turned to one of its laymen, Virgil "Bud" Kidwell, to serve as the new pastor. Kidwell was one of the members from Hillcrest Baptist Church in Amarillo who moved to northern Illinois to help Radcliff in starting the new work. After moving to Illinois, Kidwell felt a call to the ministry.

Radcliff and his family moved a little further out from Chicago to Woodridge, Ill., about 30 miles from the Loop. There they bought a 7.9 acre site including a 12-room house which they use for worship services.

The Radcliff family moved to Illinois just as Southern Baptists' North Central Mission Thrust was getting underway. The "Thrust" --a cooperative effort of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan--seeks to double Southern Baptist work in those states by 1990.

Although there is unified promotion--as well as unified financial help from the denominations Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board--each of the seven states maps its own plans for expansion.

Right now the church planter idea is getting vigorous promotion in Illinois.

"We have eight other planters in Illinois like Frank Radcliff," Cameron said: "Frankly, we think it's the best idea we've hit on in a long time."

"And to undergird this, we're launching a special drive for \$1 million over and above the Cooperative Program (unified budget) funds to finance these planters," explained Charles L. Chaney, director of the church extension division in Illinois:

"We'll approach individuals, churches, foundations, or anyone who wants a hand in this ambitious project."

Occasionally, a church in another state becomes interested in the planter program in Illinois

Illinois executive secretary James H. Smith said, for example, First Baptist Church in Raytown, Mo., has budgeted \$17,500 in 1977 for direct missions in Illinois.

"The congregation in Raytown is very interested in continuing this investment in Illinois, say for the next five years," Smith said: "They want to invest in qualified personnel, rather than bricks or land."

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Adapted from the May 1977, issue of World Mission Journal

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Baptist Leaders Don't Ask
For Enough, Ray Declares

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4/28/77

RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)--A state Baptist executive said here that Baptist leaders do not ask enough of their people--and that the people may be doing all the leaders have asked them to do.

Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, addressed the annual meeting of the Association of Baptist Foundation Executives.

"We must learn to ask for more, to expect our people to be on 'Bold Missions,'" he said in reference to the Southern Baptist Bold Mission plan to evangelize the world by close of the Twentieth Century.

"A Christian, by definition, is a giver. This is his nature. Our job is to help him discover this fact--that the joy of living is in giving," Ray said.

"Baptists today can be characterized by two words--opportunity and expectancy--and now we must add a third word--boldness--to our vocabulary," he said, concluding his message with a call for Christian stewardship and a biblical understanding of ownership.

Participants also heard A. Rudolph Fagan of Nashville, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, and elected Charles C. Duncan, executive secretary of the Georgia Baptist Foundation, as president.

Other officers are Lynn Craft, president of the Baptist Foundation of Texas, vice president and William G. Kersch, vice president in estate planning and personal trustee services for the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma, secretary-treasurer.

Fagan also stressed the importance of the denomination's Bold Mission effort and pointed to achievements of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget giving since 1974, and record enrollments in Southern Baptist seminaries.

-30-

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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77-78

President Sets May 30 As Day of Prayer For Peace

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Jimmy Carter has designated Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, as a Day of Prayer for Permanent Peace. He has asked that at 11:00 a.m. on that day the people in every locality in the nation unite in prayer.

The action comes in response to an act of Congress in 1950 asking the President to proclaim Memorial Day in memory of the men and women who have died in battle in defense of the ideals of the American nation.

President Carter asked that both government and private persons fly the flag at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day.

"The greatest honor we can pay those who have given their lives in our nation's defense is to serve the ideals for which they died," Carter said.

The proclamation continued: "We properly honor these men and women on Memorial Day--as we honor those who fought and lived, to continue the struggle for peace, freedom, justice, and human rights.

"Those of us who have survived the battle, or who never had to bear it, must work to assure that no American will ever be asked to offer up his or her life in war unless the survival of our nation or of democracy itself is at stake.

"Let us remember on Memorial Day those who have lived and died in pursuit of a just peace. Let us pray that, like them, we will leave behind us a stronger nation and a better world."

-30-

Foreign Board Assists
Philippine Fire Victims

Baptist Press
4/28/77

OZAMIS CITY, Philippines (BP)--To aid victims of an 11-hour fire which destroyed 7,000 homes here on March 31, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has made available \$7,000 from relief funds.

Forty-two Baptist families lost possessions in the 21-block area, according to William T. Roberson, Southern Baptist missionary press representative.

Robert N. (Bob) Nash, administrator of the Philippine Baptist Mission, requested the money for housing, medicine, food, clothing and miscellaneous expenses.

Southern Baptist missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Waldron, have helped to supply food for the estimated 35,000 left homeless.

Ninety-seven percent of the congregation of the Ozamis City Baptist Church lost homes in the fire. Of the request, \$3,400 will go to help in housing reconstruction.

-30-

Andrew Young Confirms
Appearance on SBC Program

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young has confirmed acceptance of an invitation from the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) committee on order of business to address the denomination's annual meeting here in June.

The former Georgia congressman, a minister of the United Church of Christ, will address the afternoon session of the SBC at 4 p.m., Thursday, June 16, following an address by William Pinson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., who will speak at 3:25.

In other developments, SBC President James L. Sullivan of Nashville said that after consultation with SBC first vice president, Dotson M. Nelson Jr. of Birmingham he has asked Arthur L. Walker Jr., a dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, to serve as convention parliamentarian.

After auxiliary meetings, which get underway June 12, the SBC's three-day national meeting runs June 14-16 in the H. Roe Bartle Hall in the Kansas City Convention Center complex.

The convention will focus on the SBC goal to evangelize the entire world by the close of the Twentieth Century. It will close Thursday evening with a challenge to mobilization of denominational resources to win the world, culminated by a message by Evangelist Billy Graham.

Other speakers include Sullivan, who will deliver the president's address; William L. Self, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board and pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, who will preach the convention sermon and several other speakers.

They are W. A. Criswell, former SBC president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas; Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.; William E. Hull, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.; and Richard A. Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church.

Besides business sessions, reports from SBC agencies and the SBC Executive Committee, and introduction of resolutions, messengers will elect new officers. That includes a new president, since Sullivan, 67, retired chief executive of the SBC Sunday School Board, has declined to allow his name to be placed in nomination for a traditional second term.

-30-

SBC Directors of Missions
To Meet In Overland Park

Baptist Press
4/28/77

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Directors of Missions Conference, confronting a theme of "Creative Relationships," will be held here, June 12-13, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, June 14-16, Kansas City, Mo.

Speakers include William C. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Harper Shannon, pastor of Huffman Baptist Church, Birmingham; Robert D. Dale, a career guidance specialist from the SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville;

Also, Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, Raleigh; William J. Cumbie, director of missions for the Mt. Vernon Baptist Association, Alexandria, Va.; and Don Hammer of the Home Mission Board.

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m., June 12, in the Glenwood Manor Motel, U. S. Highway 69 and 92nd St., and closes with a 12:30 p.m. address, June 13, according to John Brown, president of the Directors of Missions Conference and executive secretary of the Norfolk (Va.) Baptist Association.

-30-

Board Appropriations
Meet World Relief Needs

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board approved in April expenditures of \$368,492 in relief funds for 11 countries. The allocations will come from special funds designated by Southern Baptists for world relief needs.

The latest expenditures, made by the board at its April meeting in Atlanta, left a balance in world relief and hunger funds of slightly less than \$100,000, approximately the monthly amount coming to the board for those needs. Hunger and relief funds had totaled \$466,583 on March 31.

The largest single appropriation by the board in April, \$110,000, was made for flood relief in the South Brazil state of Mato Grosso and will help supply food, seed, medication, housing and refurbishing of housing for 125 of the 500 families who live on an island in the Parana River.

Initially, water rose about 30 inches on the island and then receded. Flood water rose again at a rate of 10 inches daily until it was more than five feet deep and then remained for three weeks.

Although some families returned to the island, others have had to remain on the mainland because their homes were destroyed. The appropriation will buy supplies for 75 new homes built to withstand flooding which occurs about every 10 years. Rice and beans to plant for the next harvest will be purchased with \$6,000 of the appropriation. This year's flood was the worst since flooding in 1964, which had been the most damaging in 49 years.

The board made a separate appropriation totaling \$72,392, to continue for another year the "food for work" project in Corrente, Piaui, North Brazil. These funds will be used to pay refugees from drought stricken areas to clear land owned by the Corrente institute which includes an elementary, secondary and normal school.

The refugees are given rice, beans and corn to plant with the hope they will be self sufficient the next year. The cleared land will be used by the institute for cattle grazing.

The second largest appropriation, \$75,000, went for aid to Baptist earthquake victims in Romania, in addition to \$25,000 sent by the board in March. The funds will be used in rebuilding of churches and repairing a building at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Bucharest damaged in a March 4 quake.

Reports indicate that nine Baptist churches, four of them in Bucharest, and one of the two buildings at the seminary suffered severe damage. Eight members of the Baptist community, including two seminary students, were killed.

Although World War II and the establishment afterwards of a communist government have precluded Southern Baptist missions work in Romania, they had earlier established the Bucharest seminary and a girls' training school. In recent years, Romanian Baptists have taken full advantage of their limited freedoms, reports indicate, at least doubling almost every congregation in the country. A board spokesman called them the fastest growing Baptist group in Europe.

The board earmarked \$50,000 for refugee work in Thailand, largely for work with persons in border areas who have had to flee from the communists.

One-half of the appropriation will be used in the Chantaburi area in self-help food projects where United Nations involvement is being cut back; another \$15,000 in Bangkok to furnish warm clothing and other needs for Vietnamese who have obtained passports for third countries; \$2,000 in Songkhla for food and the provision of educational needs; and \$8,000 in Thai refugee work as communist incursions uproot them.

In West Africa, \$15,000 will be used to meet the cost of the transportation and distribution of available grains to villages in the province where the Nalerigu Baptist Medical Centre is located. Too much rain in a short period of time has resulted in shortages of grains in some areas. The mission will make village-by-village distribution of the grains.

The Foreign Mission Board appropriated \$10,000 for a windmill, tank and pipes related to deep fresh water wells being drilled in drought-stricken areas of northern Tanzania.

Victims of a prolonged drought in Nicaragua will get further aid from the board. Last fall, \$5,000 was appropriated, and now another \$8,100 will help carry out earlier programs designed to meet needs during the remainder of the dry season, through initial planting and until an anticipated harvest in September.

The drought in Nicaragua has lasted for two years. Normally, the rainy season extends May through October, but last year the rains did not begin until September. Relief money will cover basic food needs.

A diesel pump to help boost food production will be purchased with the \$8,000 in relief funds designated for Antigua. The pump will be used in an irrigation system at the Bethesda vegetable project, a demonstration farm designed to help nationals increase production of foodstuffs under less than ideal conditions.

Additional appropriations were made of \$5,000 each to Peru, Colombia and Korea and for Ugandan refugees in Kenya. In Peru, the money will help buy food, seeds for replanting and some housing for victims of flooding in the Bagu-Chachapoyas area, still inundated with floodwaters at the end of March.

In Colombia, residents of Old Providence Island have suffered hunger and huge losses of dairy cattle due to a three-year drought. Farmers cannot give milk to children because they must make efforts to save small calves; some cattle have been slaughtered for lack of feed. Relief money will go to purchase an immediate supply of five tons of feed for the animals and food for the people.

In Korea, the allocation has been earmarked for a revolving fund and for benevolent needs in that country. And, in Kenya, the funds, for resettlement, food and medical needs for Ugandan refugees, will be administered by the Ugandan mission (organization of Southern Baptist Missionaries to Uganda).

(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state papers.

-30-

New Urban Priorities Needed
In Ministry, Professor Says

Baptist Press
4/28/77

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Southern Baptists must develop new structures for services and provide greater opportunities for minority leaders if they are to meet urban America's challenges, an urban specialist said here.

Larry McSwain, associate professor of church and community at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., discussed "The Priorities of Urban Ministry" on Lecture/Dialogue Day at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Citing statistics showing that 86.5 percent of Southern Baptist churches are in non-metropolitan areas, McSwain said the 12.9 million-member denomination is missing great opportunities for ministry in the largest cities.

"Urban diversity is creating a sense of spiritual fragmentation," he said, adding that studies show 69 percent of the Bay Area population hasn't found a satisfactory answer to the meaning of life.

McSwain called for increased election and employment of minority leaders in all areas of denominational work and not in minority activities only.

Also, he suggested a "sector ministry approach" and "ecumenical clusters" as new methods for providing services in urban areas. In using this approach to ministry, several churches in an area could pool their community ministries, such as day care for children, he said.

"The Baptist association ought to be the strongest organization," McSwain said. "However, it is too often the weakest link in our Baptist life. No single congregation can serve all of the diversity of needs in the community."

Inner-city churches should not be considered failures if they depend on outside sources for dollars and for personnel, he said, since spiritual needs would go unmet if church doors were closed for lack of resources.

Finally, McSwain suggested that urban ministers must be equipped to interpret theological meanings in the framework of a secular environment, to understand how society works, to put effective programs to work and to motivate people.

McSwain has taught at Southern Seminary since 1970, when he received the doctor of sacred theology degree. He has also studied at the Urban Training Center in Chicago. From 1968 to 1970 he was senior research associate at the Urban Studies Center, University of Louisville, and in 1969 he also was executive director of the Neighborhood Development Corp., an ecumenical cluster ministry in Louisville.

Lula Tardy, 92, Is Still A
Royal Ambassador Counselor

LEXINGTON, Va. (BP)--Are you ready for this?

Lula B. Tardy is a 92-year-old Royal Ambassador (RA) boys counselor at Manley Memorial Baptist Church here.

Moreover, she has worked with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood organization for boys (first grade through high school) some 50 years, including some 36 years when Woman's Missionary Union had the responsibility. The Brotherhood took over RAs in the 1950s.

She presently is counselor for seven boys at Manley Memorial Church, but in times past it was common for some 45 boys to meet six times monthly in her home:

"In those days I had boys and food spread out all over the house," she recalls.

Talk about active--four afternooneach week the RAs still come to her house to do their ranking work. And, occasionally, she has the boys bring their sleeping bags to spend the night at her house. But she thinks she may have to stop that.

"I had them over one night and they were still talking and carrying on at 3:15 a.m....," she laughs.

Mrs. Tardy, a member of Manley Memorial 83 years, was 18 when she started her own private school, launching a career as a teacher and tutor that was to last 75 years--so far.

"I began learning the Bible when I was five-years-old, she says and is "sometimes surprised" by how little the Bible is taught in homes today. "That's not the kind of home I grew up in," she notes.

Not surprisingly, she has numerous stories about boys:

"I had one boy who was so full of mischief, I couldn't close my eyes during prayer."

She doesn't see many of her former RAs now, but some of them are still around.

The man who is now RA leader at Manley, like several other leaders in the church were led as RAs by Mrs. Tardy.

"The boy who comes by and takes me to Sunday School is a grandpapa now himself. He was one of my RAs," she cites proudly.

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