



FEATURES
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God Works
Through Memories

By Kay Moore

HOUSTON (BP)--The pediatrician wrapped the tape measure like a headband around my baby's forehead and frowned.

"Your son at three months has the head size of a six-month-old," he said. "I'm afraid he may have fluid on the brain. You'd better see a neurosurgeon."

I gaped in disbelief. My Matthew--so alert, so happy, so bright for his young age. Could his tiny body actually be harboring a condition that spelled potential retardation or death?

The neurosurgeon echoed the pediatrician's suspicions. He ordered a test to insert a needle into Matthew's skull to see if hydrocephalus, the collection of fluid on the brain, existed. If the test was positive, he would operate immediately, installing a permanent tube to divert the fluid into Matthew's stomach. The surgery would take care of the problem if performed in time.

The two-day interval before Matthew was hospitalized was a mixture of nightmares and numbness. I could picture with horror my baby's soft skin and downy head permanently scarred by deep incisions. I could envision months of sleepless nights as he recovered from the pain and trauma of surgery.

And what about life once he was well? The doctor said Matthew could live normally once the tube was in place. But could I ever allow Matthew to climb a tree or ride a bicycle, fearing the injury of some bump or bruise?

There would have to be other surgeries to lengthen the tube as Matthew grew. All this was certainly a far cry from the blissful dreams about parenthood my husband, Louis, and I had before Matthew's birth. I felt disillusioned, but most of all, scared.

Suddenly a group of recollections from my own family legacy flashed through my mind like slides in a projector. I could see my grandfather comforting my father, as a frightened child of five, on a 250-mile train trip to get rabies shots for my father who had been bitten by a rabid dog.

In another scene, my maternal grandparents stood over the bed of my mother at 18 after her surgery to remove a tumor. In still another scene were my own parents, their eyes brimming with tears as I underwent a tonsillectomy at four and a leg operation at eight.

And now it is my turn, I thought. Then peace filled me for the first time in days. There was a curious calm in remembering that these stalwart forbears of mine once were frightened and helpless parents, too. And I knew that their unquenchable faith in God that sustained them in those dark moments would also see me through Matthew's ordeal.

The day came for Matthew's crucial test. My husband and I watched as our tiny son was rolled down the hospital corridor on an adult-size stretcher with his toys and stuffed pets surrounding him for consolation. After what seemed like an eternity, the neurosurgeon emerged with the most joyful news of our lives.

"The tests were negative," he said. "Your son is normal. He must just have a big head to hold all those brains." We thanked God for his grace.

Matthew is now a sturdy 19-month-old, his head now in proportion to his growing frame. I know he likely will run the gamut of childhood lumps and bumps, though we pray nothing will be more serious than an occasional broken arm or leg.

But I feel I can accept more confidently whatever comes after that first dark lesson about the trials of parenthood. And through those trials, I know God will always be at work, even through memories, bringing calm and offering hope.

**Bryant Named Secretary For
Eastern South America Area**

RICHMOND (BP)--Thurmon E. Bryant was elected secretary for Eastern South America for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at the board's annual meeting here.

Bryant, a Southern Baptist missionary stationed in Sao Paulo, Brazil, will replace Frank K. Means, who retires Dec. 31.

As secretary for Eastern South America, Bryant will administer the work of missionaries assigned to Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. He will interpret the board's objectives, policies and limitations to the missionaries and keep the board informed of progress, needs and emergencies in the mission program.

Bryant, currently in the United States on furlough, has been guest professor of Old Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., this semester.

In Brazil, he has served as president of the South Brazil Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) and also as chairman of the department of practical ministries of the Faculdade de Teologia, the Baptist Seminary in Sao Paulo.

Appointed as missionaries in 1958, Bryant and his wife, the former Doris Morris, a native of Sudan, Tex., served primarily in Sao Paulo, where he directed the theology faculty of the Baptist college. Bryant was also vice president of the Sao Paulo State Baptist Convention and served as pastor-evangelist and writer for Baptist publications. The Bryants resigned in 1972 and were reappointed as missionaries at the beginning of 1975.

Prior to their first appointment, he had been pastor of several Texas churches. Between 1972 and 1974, he was professor of religion at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.

Born in Claud, Okla., Bryant moved to Sudan, Tex., as a boy. He attended Texas Technological College (now University), Lubbock, and was graduated from Baylor University, Waco, Tex., with the bachelor of arts degree and from Southwestern Seminary with the bachelor of divinity and the doctor of theology degrees.

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(BP) Photo to be mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Board Elects Covington
As Personnel Associate

Baptist Press
10/12/77

RICHMOND (BP)--Robert C. Covington, a regional representative for missionary personnel for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has been elected an associate secretary for missionary personnel at the board, effective Jan. 1.

Covington's election came during the Board's Oct. 12 meeting here at the Foreign Mission Board. He succeeds Dwight A. Honeycutt, who was appointed as a missionary to Colombia at an Oct. 11 missionary appointment service.

As the New Orleans regional representative since January 1970, Covington has counseled persons interested in foreign missions and channeled qualified volunteers into screening procedures leading to missionary appointment. His territory has included Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Southern Arkansas.

In his new position, Covington will be one of four associate secretaries for missionary personnel at the home office. He will interview and counsel those interested in overseas service and assist them in completing applications.

His territory will include the northwestern states and Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Illinois. Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary are in his area.

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Covington and his wife, the former Gerry Smith, are former Southern Baptist missionaries to Malaysia. Appointed in 1960, the Alabama natives lived three years in Singapore while studying Mandarin Chinese and working in a Mandarin-language church. Until they resigned in 1967, the Covingtons lived in Penang, where he was president of Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary. He holds various degrees, including the doctor of theology from New Orleans Seminary.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers by the Foreign Mission Board.

Board Sets Budget, Appoints
24, Extends Cauthen's Service

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Baptist Press
10/12/77

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted at its annual meeting here to adopt a \$63,414,537 budget for 1978 as it moved ahead with plans to send increased numbers of both career missionaries and volunteers overseas.

Convening here in its major meeting of the year, the board appointed 24 missionaries to serve in 14 countries and began setting up procedures to expedite the applications of persons wanting to serve abroad under the new Mission Service Corps, the plan to recruit and place 5,000 volunteers for one or two years service at home or abroad by 1982.

The board also elected Thurmon E. Bryant, missionary to Brazil, as its new area secretary for Eastern South America and Robert C. Covington, one of its regional personnel representatives, as an associate secretary for missionary personnel. Both will assume their duties Jan. 1.

By a unanimous standing vote, the board voted to ask Baker J. Cauthen, its executive director, to continue serving for the year 1978. Board approval is required each year for missionaries or staff members of the board to serve past the age of 65. Cauthen will be 68 on Dec. 20.

Cauthen, recovering from a heart attack suffered Sept. 18 while preaching at the Jackson Way Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., was flown back to Richmond, Oct. 10. He was admitted to a hospital here for tests but was expected to be released in a few days to return to his home for continued recuperation. In his anticipated two-month absence from the board, the staff executive council is carrying administrative responsibilities.

The board presented a plaque of appreciation to Pastor Dan L. Ireland of Jackson Way Church and Mrs. Ireland for care which the Irelands, members of their church, Madison County Baptists and other Baptists in Alabama extended to the Cauthens during his illness and hospital stay in Huntsville. Ireland is also president of the Alabama Baptist Convention.

In moves related to the Mission Service Corps, the board joined with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in designating Ralph L. West, its liaison representative to the Home Mission Board, as process coordinator for all inquiries and applications from Corps volunteers. It named Lewis I. Myers Jr., associate to the director of the board's overseas division, as the Foreign Mission Board coordinator to work specifically with those who want to serve the Mission Service Corps in an overseas capacity. The Home Mission Board will name someone to work with volunteers for service at home.

The 1978 budget approved by the board represents an increase of \$8,073,619 over the \$55,340,918 budget for 1977. This year's total includes \$55,259,090 in operating funds, \$6,764,000 for capital expenditures, and \$1,391,446 for special contingency funds, to be used only by action of the board. This contingency fund serves as a margin of safety for the operating budget, according to Everett L. Deane, the board treasurer.

The majority of budget increase will go for increased operating expenses both at home and abroad, for which an additional \$6,314,775 is being set up. Part of this is a special \$1 million fund which has been earmarked primarily for field expenses that may be incurred in implementing the new Mission Service Corps.

The other major area of increase is an additional \$1,564,000 which has been designated for capital needs overseas. This includes both missionary housing and capital needs for evangelism and church development, schools, publication work, medical facilities and benevolent ministries.

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The 24 new missionaries were commissioned in a special service Oct. 11 at the First Baptist Church in Richmond. They included the president of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, Doy L. Jones, and his wife, Betty, who will serve an English-language church in Ecuador, and one of the Foreign Mission Board's own missionary personnel associates, Dwight A. Honeycutt, and his wife, Patricia, who will serve at a seminary in Colombia.

Others appointed were:

Dr. Lynne Abney of Washington, assigned to Gaza; Mr. and Mrs. W. Hayward Armstrong of Alabama, to Peru; Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Cawthon of California, to Senegal; Patsy Davis of North Carolina, to Venezuela.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Walter R. Dildy of Texas, to Taiwan; Linda Dillworth of Kentucky, to the Philippines; and Mr. and Mrs. Jack W. Ford of Texas and Florida, to Gaza.

Others are Jo Anne Foreman of Ohio, to French West Indies; Dr. Kenneth C. Hinton of Alabama, to Indonesia; Mr. and Mrs. I. Daniel Messer of South Carolina, to Uruguay; Mr. and Mrs. William J. Mosby of Missouri and Kansas, to Yemen; Sharon Peddicord of Washington, D. C., to North Brazil; and Mr. and Mrs. A. Gene Smith of Texas to Ghana.

All were appointed as career missionaries, except Mr. and Mrs. Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Mosby, who were employed as missionary associates.

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Pastor Urges Forgiveness
For Youth's Slaying

Baptist Press
10/12/77

LOUISVILLE (BP)--The pastor of a 15-year-old boy shot and killed in front of his church here has urged forgiveness for those involved in the tragic incident.

Douglas Edward Flynn was with a group of young people in front Ralph Avenue Baptist Church, preparing for a revival visitation project, Oct. 6, when he was struck by one of two shots from a passing car. A Louisville man, Marion R. Caldwell, 26, has been indicted for Flynn's murder.

The church's pastor, Jim Smith, said, "You really can't fully explain theologically why this kind of thing happens. But there is something to learn about God's love and about forgiveness."

Smith, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, expresses a desire for people to remember Flynn's Christian commitment. "Doug was a very faithful member of our church. He came to all the worship services and activities. If there was anything happening at our church, Doug was a part of it. He had a real commitment."

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INSERT FOR "Board Sets Budget..."

Insert the following at the top of the page, before the graph beginning: "The 24 missionaries..."

In another action, the board approved a resolution asking the order of business committee of the Southern Baptist Convention to designate one hour of the Wednesday evening service, June 14, 1978, at the annual convention as a "time of inspiration and reporting" concerning the activity of the Foreign Mission Board during this convention year. At the Kansas City Convention this year a joint challenge program was presented by the Foreign and Home Mission Boards and the Radio and Television Commission.