



March 10, 1978

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Fifth In a Series

Biomedical Reproduction:
Questions of Ethics Abound

By Henlee H. Barnette
For Baptist Press

Abraham "laughed in unbelief" at the idea that he at the age of 100 and his wife Sarah at 90 could produce a child (Genesis 17:17). Though an elderly couple having a child is an oddity to us, biological technology is presenting us with even stranger possibilities in human reproduction. Now there are alternative ways of sexual reproduction, either developed or being developed, for human beings: artificial insemination, "in vitro" (test tube babies), and cloning.

Artificial insemination has been used by animal breeders for many centuries. It was practiced by the Arabs to produce high quality horses as early as the 1300s. The procedure consists of using an instrument to deposit sperm into the uterus of the female.

There are different types of artificial insemination: AIH (from the husband), AID (from donor other than husband); and AIHD (from husband and another donor). AIHD has some psychological advantages since there is the possibility of the husband's sperm fertilizing the wife's ovum, or egg.

"In vitro" reproduction is the fertilization of an egg in a test tube. Aldous Huxley, in his "Brave New World" published in 1931, predicted the production of test tube babies.

Time magazine reported that in 1961, an Italian biologist, Daniele Petrucci, fertilized a human egg in a laboratory and kept it alive in a glass tube for 59 days before an accident halted the experiment.

One of the possibilities of "in vitro" reproduction can be seen in the case of a woman married for several years but who could not have a child because she had defective organs which could not supply an ovum the normal way. One of her eggs could be artificially taken from her ovary and fertilized "in vitro" with her husband's sperm and then reimplanted in her womb.

Clone comes from the Greek word "klon" meaning a cutting in the sense of a gardener using a cutting to produce a new plant. Through cloning it is predicted that in the near future a person will be able to produce biological carbon copies of himself. Cloning occurs when a cell of a particular organism is removed from the organism and the nucleus is stimulated in such a way that it begins to reproduce.

Cloning occurs naturally in certain bacteria, plants, and some lower animals. Biologists have already cloned frogs, salamanders, fruit flies, and a few vegetables. No report has appeared that any mammals have been reproduced by cloning but the theoretical know-how is now a fact.

Christians are divided on the subject of biomedical reproduction. Those who reject AID do so on the ground that theologically it violates the monogamic (one man-one woman pattern of marriage) principle of the "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24) relationship. Psychologically AID, it is held, may result in a sense of failure on the part of the husband. Again, there is the danger of incest. A young couple planning to be married were told by their family doctor that both had been conceived by artificial insemination with different mothers but by the same donor sperm. Hence, they were actually half brother and half sister. The marriage was cancelled.

Those who espouse AID and AIH believe that these are legitimate ways for a woman to overcome childlessness. A planned child, it is argued, would be a wanted child and would receive love and care.

Adoption, of course, is an alternative to artificial insemination. But adoption is often a long and frustrating process. And some couples want a child by the wife even though it means taking the AID route.

"In vitro" reproduction poses ethical problems. There is the ethical question of separating procreation from sexual love and marriage. Transferring procreation to the laboratory poses a threat to marriage and the family by destroying a vital personal relationship in an increasingly impersonal world. In short, it may have a dehumanizing effect upon the whole process of reproduction and upon persons.

"In vitro" procreation also poses the problem of commercialization. The "womb renting" business is already emerging. Now that it is possible to fertilize eggs in the test tube, wives who desire children but do not want to go through the natural process of having them because it would interfere with their careers can rent a surrogate mother. Laboratory grown embryos can be implanted in a hired woman who will bear the child.

Cloning likewise involves a bundle of moral questions. There is the identity problem. Does not everyone have a right to his or her own genotype and not to be a carbon copy of someone else? Who wants to have a genetic type of someone who has already lived? Is it not possible that cloning will upset nature's balance of the sexes? More males than females or vice versa may be desired and produced.

Yet some of these new ways of procreation can be a blessing. They bypass the problem of sterility in husband or wife, may avoid passing on genetic diseases, and preserve the family likeness. Cloning from the dead may be possible if done before "cell death" which takes place a few hours after the brain and heart cease to function. Hence, the family line could be carried on in case the deceased had no children.

Love, the willing and working for the well-being of all of God's creatures and creation, is the ethical principle of moral decision making. The means of human procreation must be in harmony with agapaic-love as revealed in the words and works of Jesus Christ. This means that moral and humane methods of procreation must be employed. Experimentation must proceed in terms of guidelines to avoid inhumane use of these new ways of producing people. In short, these new technologies must be used to achieve the positive values and consequences of biomedical reproduction for improving the quality of life. (BP)

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This is the last in a series on Christians and biomedical issues, written by Henlee H. Barnette, Ph.D., Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Louisville School of Medicine. Barnette prepared these articles in consultation with the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Missionary Hopes
For Easier Year

Baptist Press
3/10/78

JAKARTA, Indonesia (BP)--Clarence Griffin, Southern Baptist missionary to Indonesia, hopes 1978 will turn out better than 1977.

His problems actually started one day late in 1976 when he stopped at a traffic light in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital. An Indonesian army half-track ran into him from behind and crumpled his mission van. He was not injured, but that accident was a foreshadowing of things to come.

In early 1977, while leading a youth retreat, Griffin accidentally walked through a glass door and had to have 13 stitches. In successive months he suffered dengue fever, malaria and typhoid. And finally, while playing catcher on a missionary team, Griffin caught a bad-bounce softball squarely in the eye.

That eight-stitch eye injury and a broken bone below the eyeball were successfully treated early this year.

With eyesight repaired and enthusiasm unimpaired, Griffin continues to serve as urban evangelist in Jakarta, a metropolis of seven million.

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BAPTIST PRESS

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

June 11-12, 1978

Peachtree Plaza Hotel
Battle/Dunwoodie Ballroom

Atlanta, Georgia

Theme: "The Church Reaching Out -- Through Religious Education"

Sunday Afternoon, June 11

2:00 - 5:00 Registration and exhibits open

Sunday Evening, June 11

Elmer F. Bailey, Memphis, Tenn., presiding

Theme: "A Church Reaching Out in Discipleship Development"

- 7:00 Music--Roy Lee Williams, leader, church services director, Union Baptist Association, Houston, Texas
William M. Carmichael, pianist, adult consultant, church training department, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 7:10 Scripture and Prayer
- 7:15 Welcome--Searcy Garrison, executive secretary-treasurer, Georgia Baptists, Atlanta, Ga
- 7:30 Let's Just Praise the Lord--A Testimony of Religious Education in Our Church--
Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor, Frances Hendricks, education director for church training, and Gulnell Freeman, education director for Sunday School, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 7:50 Special Music
- 7:55 My Dream for Discipleship Development--Roy Edgemon, secretary, church training department, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
Reception--hosted by Atlanta Religious Education Association

Monday Morning, June 12

Charles Lowrey, Alexandria, La., presiding

Theme: "A Church Reaching Out by Caring"

- 8:50 Music--Roy Lee Williams, Houston, Texas, and William Carmichael, Jacksonville, Fla..
- 9:00 Let's Just Praise the Lord--A Testimony of Religious Education in Our Church--
Adrian Rogers, pastor, and Elmer F. Bailey, associate pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
- 9:20 Caring for One Another as Religious Educators--C. Winfield Rich, minister of administration and education, Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn.
- 9:45 Break
- 10:15 Special Music
- 10:20 Caring for New Religious Education People--Russell H. Dilday, president-elect, Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas
- 10:45 Special Presentation--Broadman Press
- 11:00 Caring for Families of Religious Educators--J. Allan Petersen, president, Family Concern, Inc., Wheaton, Ill., (formerly of Omaha, Neb.)

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- 12:15 Luncheon, Lawrence R. Klemphauer, Fort Worth, Texas, presiding
 1:00 Music--The Centurymen
 1:30 Let's Just Praise the Lord--A Testimony of Religious Education in our Church--
 John Bisagno, pastor, and Harry Piland, former minister of education, First
 Baptist Church, Houston, Texas
 1:55 A Church Reaching Out Through Mission Strategy--William G. Tanner, executive
 director-treasurer, Home Mission Board, Atlanta
 2:30 Adjourn

Monday Evening, June 12

Bill Caldwell, Fort Worth, Texas, presiding

- 6:45 Music--Roy Lee Williams, Houston, Texas, and William M. Carmichael,
 Jacksonville, Fla.
 7:00 Let's Just Praise the Lord--A Testimony of Religious Education in Our Church--
 Billy Crosby, pastor, and John Griffin, minister of education, Summer Grove
 Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.
 7:20 A Church Reaching Out Through Vistas of Leadership Development--Reggie
 McDonough, secretary, church administration department, Sunday School
 Board, Nashville, Tenn.
 7:55 Business Session
 Committee Reports (Findings, Nominating)
 Financial Report
 Miscellaneous Report
 8:25 Special Music
 8:30 A Church Reaching Out Through Bible Study--Harry Piland, secretary, Sunday
 School department, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

Religious Education Association Officers

Elmer F. Bailey, president, associate pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
 Charles Lowrey, vice president and president elect, director of church program services
 division, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, La.
 Lawrence R. Klemphauer, vice president, minister of education and administration, Travis
 Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas
 William Caldwell, vice president, associate professor of education administration,
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 Melva Cook, secretary/treasurer, program consultant, family ministry department,
 Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
 Marjorie Perkins, assistant secretary/treasurer, director, pre-school and children's work,
 church development department, Maryland Baptist Convention, Lutherville, Md.

Pinson Inauguration
 Planned For April 4

Baptist Press
 3/10/78

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--William M. Pinson Jr., will be installed as the fourth
 president of Golden Gate Seminary during inauguration ceremonies April 4.

Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will speak on the value
 of theological education at the event. Charles A. Carter, Jackson, Miss., attorney
 and chairman of the seminary's board of trustees will install Pinson. A number of
 denominational leaders will participate.

Religious Educators
Set Atlanta Meeting

ATLANTA (BP)--Religious educators from across the Southern Baptist Convention will explore ways the church can reach out through missions, evangelism, discipleship, leadership and personal development, and church growth methods when the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association meets at the Peachtree Plaza Hotel, June 11-12.

The association's meeting is one of a number of pre and post convention sessions surrounding the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 13-15, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

The educators from Southern Baptist churches and institutions will convene under a theme, "The Church Reaching Out--Through Religious Education," in support of the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust goal to evangelize the world by the year 2000.

The program will feature presentations from pastors and ministers of education from churches showing significant growth and other representatives of agencies and churches, according to association president, Elmer F. Bailey, associate pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

Teams from the growing churches are Homer F. Lindsay, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., and two education directors, Frances Hendricks (church training) and Guinell Freeman (Sunday School); Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, and Bailey; Billy Crosby, pastor, Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., and John Griffin, minister of education; and John Bisagno, pastor, First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, and his former minister of education, Harry Piland, now secretary, Sunday School department, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

Other program features include Roy Edgemon, secretary, church training department, Sunday School Board, with a presentation on discipleship development; William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, on the church reaching out through mission strategy; Reggie McDonough, secretary, church administration department, Sunday School Board, on leadership development; and Piland, on a church reaching out through Bible Study.

A special segment of the program, on Monday morning, June 12, will feature speakers dealing with how religious educators should minister to their own needs. C. Winfield Rich, minister of administration and education, Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, will speak on "Caring for One Another as Religious Educators;" Russell H. Dilday, president-elect, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, "Caring for New Religious Education People;" and Allan Petersen, executive director of Family Concern, Inc., Wheaton, Ill. (formerly of Omaha, Neb.), "Caring for Families of Religious Educators."

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Bi-Vocational Pastors
Need Seminary Extension

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)--Bi-vocational pastors want more help from the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department, James Nelson told a group of state Seminary Extension representatives here.

Citing a recent survey by the research services department of the Sunday School Board, Nelson noted that a higher percentage of bi-vocational pastors expressed an interest in receiving help from Seminary Extension than from any other agency, including even their local Baptist association.

"I would say that if there is any group in our denomination that has got a big job, it is this group right here," Nelson told the state representatives. "We are not talking about fantastic opportunities tomorrow. This is where we are now!"

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Nelson directs the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's department of rural-urban missions, which has major responsibility for working with bi-vocational pastors. He addressed the annual workshop for state representatives sponsored by the Seminary Extension Department of the six Southern Baptist seminaries. J. T. Burdine, recently named by the Home Mission Board as consultant on bi-vocational pastors, and Wendell Belew, director of the board's division of ministries, also participated in the three-day workshop.

Raymond M. Rigdon, Seminary Extension director, expressed both delight and dismay over the survey results. "We're very pleased to see the high level of interest in Seminary Extension among these men, but we're concerned about the large number of them who said they were getting little or no help from Seminary Extension at present. Hundreds of bi-vocational pastors are enrolled in Seminary Extension centers and our home study program, but we need to be doing much more."

During the workshop, the Seminary Extension Department's staff unveiled plans for a series of state-level conferences for bi-vocational pastors as part of next year's annual emphasis. Each conference will give opportunity for dialogue among the participants as well as an introduction to the ministry training programs offered through Seminary Extension.

Belew said Seminary Extension is "essential in order for us to plan a national strategy." "We're in the process of engaging in Mission Service Corps," he said, referring to the Southern Baptist program which seeks to put 5,000 volunteers on home and foreign mission fields by 1982. "We hope there are going to be thousands of untrained people going out to mission fields. We're going to be in an awful mess if somebody doesn't train them when they get there. I hope you (Seminary Extension) will be sensitive to the importance of establishing centers in these areas, particularly with Mission Service Corps people who are going to come."

"We don't see ourselves as an educational agency," Belew explained. "Seminary Extension is our greatest assistant in getting training to persons, particularly those who are not of seminary background."

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Baptist Relief Continues,
Expands In Zambia Flood

Baptist Press
3/10/78

LUSAKA, Zambia (BP)--An emergency allocation of \$25,000 has been sent by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for missionaries to use in relief projects related primarily to flooding in the Kanyama Township section of Lusaka.

The money is the first relief funding for this ministry, but missionaries and national Baptists have been working from regular benevolent funds. The president of Zambia, Kenneth David Kaunda, has declared Kanyama a disaster area.

Unusually heavy rains ended the long dry season and the mud brick houses of the residents of Kanyama collapsed from the subsequent flooding. At least six lives were lost and hundreds were left homeless. The floods affected several Baptist families and one Baptist pastor.

Kanyama Township of Lusaka is one of several unauthorized housing areas which have sprung up as thousands of people have left the rural areas and come to the cities to seek jobs. Because the townships are unofficial, proper drainage is not provided to help protect against flooding. Improper drainage, poorly built mud brick houses and unusually heavy rains combined to create the property loss.

Besides aiding flood victims, Southern Baptist missionaries will also begin other relief projects with the special emergency allocation. These programs have not yet been fully outlined, but will immediately involve some famine relief.

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Cross Leads Family
To Refugee Camp

By Irma Duke

LAEM SING, Thailand (BP)--The Hung Thai family was literally "led by the cross" when they fled from Vietnam to a refugee camp on the shore of the Gulf of Siam.

After traveling 400 miles by night, the Chinese family thought they were close to the refugee camp in Laem Sing, Thailand. When they approached this island village they saw a small cross atop a church and knew they were safe. Hung Thai, knowing that Thailand is predominantly Buddhist, said the cross assured him they had finally found the other refugees.

The four adults and two children came from Ha-Tien, Vietnam, in a boat not much larger than a canoe. Other refugees could hardly believe they attempted the trip in such a boat. One man called Thai a "very brave man," even though he and other refugees had risked their own lives in much the same way. Many refugees don't make it to the camps.

The family traveled by night. As day approached, they sank the boat near shore by loading it with heavy rocks. When darkness returned they came out of hiding, unloaded the rocks, and prepared for another night's journey. This continued for six days.

The cross that meant refuge for this family is atop the Baptist church in the refugee camp. The church, about 100 feet off shore, had just been built by Christian refugees when the Thai family arrived. Since Southern Baptists began their refugee ministries in Thailand, more than 1,600 displaced Indochinese have been baptized. About 370 of those have been from the Laem Sing camp.

That cross meant not only physical refuge for this family but it also came to mean something spiritually too. Within two weeks of their arrival at the camp, two members of the family became Christians. They said they knew that God had kept them safe during their journey.

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(BP) Photos to be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

Baptists Respond
To India Disaster

Baptist Press
3/10/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptists from around the world have contributed over \$300,000 to relief efforts in India following November's devastating tidal wave that left thousands dead and hundreds of thousands homeless.

A first hand report from D. Krupa Rao, secretary of the Convention of Baptist Churches of the Northern Circars, indicates whole villages were annihilated without survivors. He told of fathers who watched helplessly as loved ones were snatched from their hands by rushing waters that reached a 20-foot height.

In the city of Bapla more than 100 people were buried when the church building they sought shelter in collapsed. But in Koduru, a pastor, his family and 100 others perched on beams and rafters of a church saw the water rise to within inches of their feet--and the mud walls held.

Government reports put the number of dead at about 20,000, while BBC radio put the figure at 100,000. Volunteers disposed of bodies by burning them in large heaps, using petrol or coal or by burying them in shallow graves.

Now the real work of rescue and rehabilitation goes on, according to a report from the Baptist World Alliance Relief and Development Division. Orphaned children, widows and the aged must be cared for, homes, hospitals and schools must be rebuilt. Estimated cost for building concrete block houses is \$103 each.

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