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78-100

Ballard Whites' Ministry
Earns Sioux Acceptance

By Phyllis Faulkenbury

EAGLE BUTTE, S.D. (BP)--Missionaries Ballard and Bonita White, driving a dusty, battered station wagon, approached a young Sioux Indian on horseback.

As they drove close, the couple could see the youngster was crying. They waved--and drove on by.

The incident occurred about three years into their ministry with the Indians. "If it had happened two years earlier, we would have stopped and tried to help," said White, "and we would have lost that boy. In Sioux tradition, you don't see a man cry. We wanted to honor that tradition."

White, appointed missionary-pastor by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, moved to South Dakota 12 years ago. At first, White, and his wife and two sons, lived 89 miles from the reservation and visited Eagle Butte on weekends. "I think the Home Mission Board was trying to break us in gently," he said. "But the only way to reach people here is on a one-to-one basis, and to do that, you have to live with them to develop bonds of trust."

In the beginning, adjustment was trying. The nearest physician and shopping center were 100 miles away. To the Indians, who were well acquainted with the Catholics and Episcopalians (the established churches on the reservation) Baptists were a breed apart.

White was concerned about his family. "It was hard for me to see my oldest son come home from school every day with his lip swollen, his body bruised from the fights" to prove he was worthy of acceptance. But that was over in a few months. "Still," he said, "It took us six or seven years to feel really accepted."

Pressures occur as the spirit of traditionalism encounters progressive ways on the Cheyenne River Reservation. It may be particularly difficult for the Indians torn between becoming Baptist or remaining loyal to their heritage.

Hospitals and physicians are mistrusted. The tribal medicine man is a respected figure in the community.

The typical eight-member Indian families live in two-room structures with cots, a coffee-pot and a couple of chairs. There is no indoor plumbing. Several froze to death last winter when the chill factor sank to 89 degrees below zero. White's face was frostbitten several times.

There is a high incidence of alcoholism: nine out of ten families have an alcoholic member. Often children become alcoholics before they reach high school.

And although it's an improvement over previous years, unemployment in Eagle Butte is a whopping 26 percent.

White used to try to help Indians financially, he said, but "I've learned that's not always what's best. I have to decide if the need is real or whether it's a ploy to get more alcohol."

Indian tradition hampers them from saving their earnings. They don't store up goods, but give them away. The more you can give away, the wealthier you appear to be. "If you come upon some extra money, you throw a feast for all your friends--you don't buy shoes for the kids," White explained.

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DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

In his work with six congregations, White travels an average of 2,500 miles per month, holding Bible studies, showing films and meeting needs in places he wasn't allowed to enter 12 years ago.

He began his work slowly visiting tribal leaders and handing out tracts. He took toys to the children at Christmas. Now, he is invited into the homes. He takes layettes to each newborn, holds Bible studies at the requests of the Indians. With other missionaries, he holds summer camps for Indian children.

White's message is simple, "God loves you, and he can make your life better." But the message doesn't stop there. White realizes that he must be what he preaches.

White's predecessors at Eagle Butte experienced rapid turnover, lasting from a few months to barely over a year. But White came with a determination to stay.

"I learned a long time ago I can't bring about changes," he explained. "That just isn't my responsibility. I try to remember to just turn it over to the Lord."

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Adapted from Home Mission magazine, April, 1977.

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

White House Conference
On Families Postponed

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
6/20/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Joseph Califano Jr. has announced that the White House Conference on Families, originally scheduled for December 1979, in Washington, D. C., has been postponed until 1981.

The secretary of the U. S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare made the announcement less than one week after the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Atlanta, approved a resolution urging President Carter and conference organizers to see that the meeting "focuses on the strengths of the family rather than so-called alternatives to the family..."

Similar sentiment was expressed earlier in a written statement submitted to Califano by Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville, and David Mace, professor of family sociology at the Bowman-Gray Medical School of Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N. C.

That statement asked that the conference center on the development of a national policy which would support the American family. Endorsed by SBC President Jimmy Allen and national representatives of five other religious faiths, the statement also expressed concern that various groups may try to manipulate the conference into an opportunity to publicize "alternative lifestyles."

"Although the delay is regrettable," Valentine said, "it will give the organizers more time for careful planning and preparation. It will also allow Southern Baptists and other concerned Christians more time for adequate preparation on behalf of a sound national policy in support of family life and strengthened denominational programs in support of families."

Califano cited two reasons for the conference's postponement.

He said the recent resignations of the conference's chairman Wilbur Cohen and executive director Patsy Fleming "means that we have to start anew" in forming a leadership team to plan the event. Cohen, a former secretary of HEW, resigned because of health reasons. No reason was given for the resignation of Ms. Fleming, special assistant to Califano.

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Califano said another reason for delaying the conference is to provide "more lead time" for state and local conferences on family. An HEW spokesman said conferences on family have been held in seven states thus far, with others planned for the remainder of 1978 and 1979.

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Con Artists Claim
BWA Connection

By Don McGregor

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6/20/78

INDIANOLA, Miss. (BP)--A Mississippi chief of police, Ken Boutwell of Indianola, has warned that a person or persons falsely claiming to be employed by the Baptist World Alliance may be gaining information from Mississippi city directories to use to set up home robberies.

Recently, a woman appeared at the city library in Indianola, identifying herself as Charlene Hill of the BWA with offices in Atlanta, and asked for a copy of the names and addresses of everyone in Indianola, who works, and what the working hours are.

Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the BWA, said the effort is apparently a con game exploiting the name of the BWA. He urged widespread publicity to warn potential victims in Mississippi and other states.

The librarian in Indianola described the woman as belligerent. She wanted to use the library's copying machine without cost but was told she could not use it and copies would cost her 15 cents each. She demanded a discount because of the alleged BWA connection. She didn't get it and was required to sign a receipt for the names and addresses and the payment. When she did, she used the name of Betty Smith.

Later the librarian became suspicious and called Dan Morton, pastor of First Baptist Church. Morton told her that a BWA representative would not likely need such information. In any event, he pointed out, the BWA would have cleared the action beforehand, and the representative would have behaved in a more becoming manner.

Morton called Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and Kelly called Denny at his Washington, D. C., headquarters. Denny said no Charlene Hill works for the BWA, and that the BWA has no office in Atlanta. He said a Betty Smith does work for the BWA but she was in Washington on the day in question. Additionally, Denny said the BWA had no part in the activities described.

Denny suggested turning the matter over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, so Morton called Boutwell. The chief of police said the FBI can do nothing yet because no law has been violated but that areas where this sort of thing has happened can expect a rash of home burglaries. The woman, who came to Indianola in early June, had said she got the same information in Cleveland, Miss.

Boutwell said the persons who operate these schemes usually go to the smaller cities. They get the names of the residents and their addresses, read the personals columns in the newspapers to find who will be out of town when, and move in with the robbery, he declared. He suggested that persons asked to give city directory information be cautious, though there's no law violation in obtaining such information.

Additionally, the chief suggested that those families which will be away from their homes over a number of days should get the neighbors to gather the mail and pick up the newspapers as well as keep an eye on the house. He suggested that vacationers leave a light on in the house and see that all windows and doors are securely locked. He added that they should notify the local police department, which will maintain a particular vigilance on that house while the family is away.

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**Baptist Hospital Launches
Battle Against Rising Cost**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--East Tennessee Baptist Hospital has launched the first stage of its effort to make good on a pledge to area business leaders to battle the rising cost of hospital care.

Earl Skogman, hospital president, said the hospital's 1,200 employees have responded to an employee contest with suggestions which will result in thousands of dollars of savings.

Ruby Caughron, a worker in the hospital's dietary department, won the top award for observing that over 30 different menu forms purchased outside the hospital could be printed in the hospital's own print shop at far less cost.

Barbara Bateman, RN, found that the hospital spent thousands of dollars annually on pre-moistened towelettes for patients to use after meals. However, Mrs. Bateman also noticed that almost invariably each patient using the towelettes also asked for a washcloth afterwards to wash off the towelette solution.

The third place award went to Clara Norton of the hospital's personnel department, who suggested that considerable savings could be made by a more widespread use of bulk mail by all hospital departments.

Skogman, chairman-elect of the Tennessee Hospital Association, said area hospitals are cooperating in a voluntary effort to reduce the soaring costs as much as possible. He urged other hospitals and even local business and industry leaders to join in the fight against rising hospital costs.

"Because more than nine dollars of every person's earnings go to pay the health care costs of someone in this country, either in higher taxes or higher insurance rates, it's up to everyone to contain the rising spiral of medical costs in America," he said. "It's easy to be led into the belief that the only thing hospitals are doing is raising charges. This is far from the truth. In fact, the average cost for a patient's stay in the Knoxville area is far below the national average."

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Baptist Colleges Get
\$475,074 in Grants

Baptist Press
6/20/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Two Baptist schools have received grants totalling over \$475,000.

Stetson University, Deland, Fla., has received grants of \$349,074 from the Jessie Ball duPont Religious, Charitable and Educational Fund to go into a special fund for faculty salaries.

Faculty members at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, will study teaching methods and procedures under a new three-year faculty program beginning in August funded by a \$126,000 Lilly Endowment, Inc., grant and matching funds from the university.

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1st Senior Adult Day
Set May 6, 1979

Baptist Press
6/20/78

ATLANTA (BP) --The first Senior Adult Day on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar will be May 6, 1979, instead of May 4, 1980, as originally reported during the SBC annual meeting here. Messengers approved Senior Adult Day during the meeting.

Southern Baptists will observe the special day on May 4, 1980; May 3, 1981; May 2, 1982; and May 1, 1983, according to action at the convention.

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460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

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HISTORICAL COMMISSION RO
127 9TH AVE NO
NASHVILLE TN 37203