



June 21, 1978

78-101

Ugly Duckling Blossoms
Into Miss Deaf Texas

By Orville Scott

DALLAS (BP)--Soon after Kim Woolridge was born prematurely, her father gazed anxiously through the nursery window, trying to locate his daughter among all the babies.

Someone nearby pointed to an infant and exclaimed, "What an ugly baby!"

When Kim's father discovered the tiny "ugly baby" was his daughter, he wept. Doctors had called her a borderline baby.

A man nearby sought to console him. "Don't worry, later on in life she'll become the most beautiful."

Before he died, Woolridge had a chance to see the man's prophecy being fulfilled through his radiantly beautiful Christian daughter. Unfortunately, he missed the recent chapter when Kim was crowned "Miss Deaf Texas" at a pageant in Houston.

Kim, who never developed hearing because of her premature birth, will represent Texas and Christ in the "Miss Deaf America" pageant July 8 in New York.

Her Texas title carries with it a \$1,000 scholarship which will help the sophomore at Eastfield College, Dallas, achieve her goal of becoming a social worker.

Kim's experience and empathy as a deaf person herself are valuable assets for her role as a teacher of deaf children in the Silent Friends Chapel at the First Baptist Church, Dallas, one of about 70 Texas Baptist churches with ministries to the deaf. She also teaches sign language to hearing children at Eastfield College and works as a file clerk at Sears Roebuck and Co. in Dallas.

A dark-eyed brunette with a ready smile and hands that talk in unison with her pleasantly-cultivated voice, Kim was elected "Most Friendly" student at W. W. Samuell High School, Dallas. She was active in athletics, was secretary of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was in Young Life.

Kim said she accepted Christ as her Savior when she was 13 but didn't really give her life to God until the Christmas her father died. Then she was impressed with his having said to her, "Your life really needs to be given totally to the Lord."

Ironically, Kim's father called her "Little Miss America" when his "ugly duckling" was compelled, as a result of her premature birth, to wear braces while being taught to walk.

But everyone who's heard the children's classic knows that ugly ducklings do grow into lovely swans.

After she was chosen "Miss Deaf Texas," Kim said, "I believe God is going to use my deafness for His purpose."

Before the pageant, she prayed with her chaperone, Vesta Bice, that the girl who was selected would glorify Christ.

Deaf young people don't have many role models to look up to, says Kim. "I would like to be the kind of Christian they can look up to."

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Reach People One At A Time,
Harry Piland Tells Leaders

By Linda Lawson

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--Reaching America for Christ must be done one person at a time, Harry Piland told about 2,000 persons at the second of three Sunday School leadership weeks at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Piland challenged Sunday School workers to "see people through the eyes of Jesus." He said Sunday School teachers should take the initiative to get acquainted with each person in their class.

"Never was a person created that was not loved by Jesus. If we see through his eyes we love each one," said Piland, director of the Sunday School department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

He urged workers to make teaching the Bible a Sunday School priority. "The Bible has power because it is God's word," he said. "When we remember the purpose of the Bible is salvation, then we know why we must teach it."

Sunday School leaders must gain a renewed sense of the purpose of the New Testament church and the Sunday School if Southern Baptists are to change the world by proclaiming the gospel to every person by the year 2000, through the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust, he added.

"We (Sunday School members) are an army of 7.5 million people," Piland said. "I think we're ready to proclaim God's truth to the people in this land. Let's take up the cry, let the Sunday School reach out to each person."

The Sunday School workers from churches across the country are participating in specialized leadership training for various age groups, attempting to meet special needs.

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Missionary Julia Jones
Dies In North CarolinaBaptist Press
6/21/78

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (BP)--Julia Hough (Mrs. Archie V.) Jones, 46, a Southern Baptist missionary for nearly 19 years, died June 20 in Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, N. C. She had been hospitalized with cancer.

Missionaries stationed in Ecuador, the Joneses came home on medical furlough in September 1976. At that time they moved to Mocksville, N.C., near Winston-Salem.

In Ecuador, Mrs. Jones was involved in home and church work in Cuenca, and assisted her husband with his work as a general evangelist. They lived in Cuenca from 1970 until taking medical furlough. Before their Cuenca assignment, they were stationed in Guayaquil, Ecuador, where they both taught at the Baptist Theological Institute. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1959, they took the Guayaquil post following a year of language study in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Mrs. Jones, of Mecklenburg County, N. C., was graduated from Mars Hill (N.C.) College, and Meredith College, Raleigh, N. C. She also attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. She taught in Ellerbe, N.C., schools before missionary appointment.

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The funeral was to be held June 23, in Arlington Baptist Church, near Charlotte, N.C. Besides her husband, who is pastor of Robin Hood Road Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, survivors include three grown children, her father and stepmother.

The family requests memorial tributes take the form of contributions to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, P. O. Box 6597, Richmond, Va. 23230

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Missionary Mildred
Streeter Dies

Baptist Press
6/21/78

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Long-time home missionary, Mildred Streeter, director of Carver Center in New Orleans, died from a heart attack at her home two days before her 64th birthday.

Mrs. Streeter was scheduled to return to her home state of Oklahoma, July 1, to become director of the Women's Center in Oklahoma City. Before her death she fulfilled a special goal of having Herbert Martin, who as a youngster attended Carver Center, appointed director succeeding herself.

Memorial services were held at Carver Center and funeral services at Faith Baptist Church, Claremore, Okla.

Mrs. Streeter also served five years as missionary in Denver, five years as Oklahoma Indian field worker and in many Woman's Missionary Union capacities in Oklahoma. Her husband Lee Streeter of Claremore died in 1959. They had one daughter.

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Houston Pastor Urges
Ministry to Families

By Linda Lawson

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--Supporting the family has become the number one priority of Kenneth Chafin's ministry at South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

Chafin, pastor of the 7,000 member church since 1972, described what he feels must be the role of the church in supporting marriage and the family in his Sunday morning address during Sunday School Leadership Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center and in an interview.

He said he began to feel the need for a greater emphasis on family ministry out of a sense of anger over "what this world is doing to the family and an awareness of the resources we have in Christ and the church."

If marriage is as casual a relationship as society would have us believe, why is divorce such a painful experience? Chafin asked. "Why is the end of marriage like death?"

Contrary to what society would have us believe, Chafin said, "The family is the most durable institution in our society. God does not build things that become obsolete."

Marriage and the family have survived despite inadequate attention and support from many churches, Chafin said. "Often the church has been naive, believing the family will take care of itself."

To survive and prosper the family must have allies, he said.

At South Main, one ally is 100 couples called the "Yokemen." They have designed a marriage enrichment dinner-lecture series called "Family Affair." Every two months, they have dinner together, hear a speaker on a subject they have chosen and then discuss how the speaker's ideas relate to their family.

"Each couple in the Yokemen has 99 allies in support of their marriage," Chafin said. "And this program has been one of our best touches with couples who have no church connection."

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Through the Yokemen, adult Sunday School classes, Parent Effectiveness Training and other seminars and activities, "for the first time we have couples who know they have to work at their marriages," Chafin said.

Despite the slowness of churches to provide direct ministry to families, he said, the best preparation for healthy family relationships is the salvation experience of accepting Christ and of being part of a church family.

Describing his own 24-year marriage to the former Barbara Burke, Chafin said nothing "has contributed more to our marriage than our decisions as children to accept Christ. In the church I tasted community, learned about forgiveness and felt love."

The 51-year-old pastor said he believes an important part of a pastor's role in family support is to become so involved with his people that he is aware "how many church members have family problems, are bleeding inside and don't feel anyone cares."

Also, Chafin said the pastor must take a redemptive stance in helping members bridge the gap between the ideal and the real in their families. "Each of us needs the grace of God in dealing with family problems, not just when marriages fail," he said.

Chafin said that while he has been interested in ministry to the family for several years, his efforts have been scattered. "I felt like I was dipping up the sea with a spoon."

Then in 1977 between Mother's Day and Father's Day he preached nine straight sermons on marriage and family. The positive responses of church members affirmed that he was touching a need. He transcribed the sermons for possible publication.

There the project remained until the spring of 1978 when Chafin, dean of the Billy Graham Schools of Evangelism, learned that the Graham team was looking for a book on the family to offer in their June telecast.

In April, Cliff Barrows asked Chafin if he could complete the manuscript for immediate publication. Chafin agreed.

He checked into the Marriott Hotel near the Houston Astrodome and wrote one chapter a day for 11 days. The result is titled "Is There a Family in the House: A Realistic and Hopeful Look At Marriage and the Family Today," published by Word, Inc. The Graham organization will distribute 300,000 copies in paperback and Word's first printing will include 150,000 in hardback and paperback.

"The discipline of the writing experience had a purifying and healing effect on me," Chafin said. As he wrote, he had to deal with left over pain and anger he had felt toward his parents who divorced when he was a teenager.

"I came out realizing they did pretty well by me," he said.

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CORRECTION

PLEASE INSERT the following in the Baptist Press story of 6/20/78, entitled "White House Conference on Families Postponed." At the end of graph seven, beginning, "He said the resignations..." add: However, reports indicate that Ms. Fleming, a black divorcee, resigned after refusing Califano's directive to share the conference chairmanship with a white, married Roman Catholic male following protests over a divorced person heading a conference on families.

Thanks, Baptist Press Staff



BAPTIST PRESS

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