



-- FEATURES

produced by Baptist Press

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

August 25, 1978

78-139

Barbara Burkett Finds
A Home in Saskatoon

By Judy Touchton

ATLANTA (BP)--Barbara Burkett went into the Mission Service Corps partially to see if Southern Baptists were willing to "put their money where their mouth is."

Burkett, an outgoing, attractive freckle-faced, red head from Texas, verbalized her reasons for involvement in the Southern Baptist Convention's plan to put 5,000 short-term volunteers alongside 5,000 career missionaries at home and abroad by the year 1982.

"It used to scare me to think that I might be the second Miss Lottie (referring to Southern Baptist missionary Lottie Moon for whom the Foreign Mission Board's annual offering is named)...and that I might starve in a foreign mission field, but then I realized I didn't have to worry," Ms. Burkett said during a visit to Atlanta.

"Mission Service Corps has given me the base of support to go and has given someone in SBC President Jimmy Allen's church in San Antonio the opportunity to extend their ministry without ever doing to the mission field," the 28-year-old woman said.

Barbara arrived in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, on May 15. Two days before she was due to leave, she had no money to travel...and none to show authorities at the Canadian border.

In fact, her visa was not due to arrive for another two weeks. She didn't know where her funding would come from...she knew nothing about the future except that she was to go to Canada.

The summer before her last semester at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, Barbara took a six-week trip as a volunteer in Faith Baptist Church in Saskatoon, where Henry Blackaby serves as pastor.

During that summer visit, while walking down the street of Saskatoon one day, she felt like the Lord was telling her "This is it, Barbara."

"Saskatoon felt like home," she explained. But she didn't want her involvement there on a long-term basis to be determined by an "emotionally high summer."

"One of my friends told me 'if the Lord wants you here it will be an increasing growing feeling...if not, it will fade away' and during my last semester in seminary the feeling grew," she said.

But the biggest factor in her decision to return to Saskatoon was that as she began the process of going "barriers absolutely fell down in front of me."

"I was going to Canada whether or not I got approved by Mission Service Corps, but it seemed to be God's vehicle for me to go," she said, her hazel eyes flashing.

Once in Saskatoon she began the job of working as minister of education at Faith Baptist Church and as an advisor to the faculty of Canadian Baptist Theological College.

"One of the things I was afraid of was my coming in as a Texan--and they've had a lot of Texans--and presuming to tell them everything...I was pleasantly surprised when on my first Sunday there I shared that concern with a Sunday School class and one of the reserved Canadian women spoke up in her quiet way and said, 'Barbara, we just want you to be yourself.'

"Then I relaxed and went ahead being my loud-mouthed self," she said, laughing about her outspokenness. "And from that and my few weeks there I've found that whatever reserve the Canadians have inherited from the British is undergirded by an incredible warm and sensitive spirit."

At first concerned about herself, Barbara has truly come to rely on faith. "I figured that if I had to miss a meal, at least I had no child or family to be concerned about. But every step of the way I've been able to look back over my shoulder and say, 'God's always provided for me...and he's not going to drop me now!'"

-30-

Pastor Reconsiders His
Liquor By Drink Stance

Baptist Press
8/24/78

SANFORD, N. C. (BP)--Bob Shepherd, a pastor and president of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, has changed his mind on the sale of liquor by the drink.

Shepherd, who originally endorsed legislation approving a "local option" for liquor by the drink, now says he will vote against it when Sanford, N.C., votes in September because it would not eliminate brown bagging as he had originally thought.

Brown bagging permits persons to bring bottles of hard liquor into a licensed restaurant and drink at the table.

"I think brown bagging is a thing of the dark ages. It is dangerous and much more conducive to excessive drinking than liquor by the drink," Shepherd had said earlier.

Shepherd, who opposes the use of all alcohol, had said his dilemma was that liquor by the drink would involve more people in alcohol consumption by making it more accessible and attractive. But he thought they would drink less than if the bottle was at their table.

His original stand brought a number of protests from Baptist leaders in North Carolina, but Shepherd's record of thoughtful responses to issues tempered their statements of disappointment on his position.

-30-

Private School Aid
Cut From Senate Bill

Baptist Press
8/25/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--Direct federal aid to private and parochial schools has been removed from an education bill passed by the U. S. Senate.

By a vote of 60-30, the Senate accepted an amendment by U. S. Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D.-S. C., which struck a \$2.5 billion provision of direct grants to private and parochial schools from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act amendments of 1978. This bill amends and extends the ESEA bill first passed in 1965.

The grants deleted from the bill would have been used for textbooks, standardized tests, speech and hearing diagnostic services, diagnostic psychological services, guidance and counseling, instructional equipment and materials, and transportation.

Hollings said during debate that the provision was "unconstitutional, fiscally unsound, and just generally undesirable."

He pointed out three areas of concern in a letter sent to all members of the Senate. He noted that the grants would go only to nonpublic schools, 90 percent of which are parochial. He also said that the grants would be made directly to the schools rather than going to local non-sectarian educational agencies, an action which "patently assists religion." He charged also that the administration, review and auditing of the program would unduly involve the state with the church.

Sen. Jacob Javits, R.-N. Y., argued unsuccessfully that there was no need to remove the provision from the Senate measure since the House version did not include a similar section. He said that a conference committee on the bill would probably remove that section anyway.

-30-

Jimmy Carter Phones
McCullough's Family

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--President Jimmy Carter telephoned the family of Glendon McCullough, Friday morning, Aug. 25, to express sympathy following the death of the executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission.

A close friend of McCullough, who died Aug. 23 in an automobile accident in Memphis, Tenn., Carter heard of the death while on a raft trip with his family down the Salmon River in Idaho. His call came from the travelling White House in Jackson, Wyo.

The accident also killed Mrs. Frances "Buckie" Sheffe, wife of the president of a Memphis investment firm, whose car swerved into the center lane on Poplar Avenue in Memphis, hitting McCullough's car head-on. The driver of a third car, Leonard Capas, 30, was slightly injured when the impact knocked McCullough's car into his vehicle.

Carter, a former trustee of the Brotherhood Commission, asked to talk to each member of the family privately--McCullough's wife, Marjorie, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, and his four children, Kathy, 21, Ken, 19, Beth, 17, and Debbie, 15. The children were born to McCullough's first wife, who died of cancer in 1969.

The president talked to the family for about 10 minutes, telling the children what a fine contribution their father had made to the cause of Christianity and why they should be proud of him. He said he and Mrs. Carter were very distraught when the news of McCullough's death reached them.

He told the children that McCullough was "a loyal and true friend." Carter was McCullough's best man at his second marriage to the former Marjorie Jones, which took place in the Georgia governor's mansion in 1974 when Carter was governor of the state.

The White House issued a formal statement from the president concerning the death of the 56-year-old executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, the Southern Baptist national agency which involves men and boys in missions through Baptist Men and Royal Ambassador organizations.

It said: "Both Rosalyn and I were deeply saddened to learn of the untimely death of our good friend, the Rev. Glendon McCullough. He was a wise and charitable man whose life and career exemplified the finest qualities of a man of God. For all of us whose lives he touched, Glendon McCullough cannot be replaced. We extend our deepest sympathies to Marjorie and other members of the family."

Funeral services were scheduled at 1 p.m., Aug. 26, at Union Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., with graveside services and burial at 11 a.m., Aug. 28, at Arlington Cemetery, Atlanta.

-30-

Child Quickly Becomes
Defender of New Friend

By Debbie Baird Bule

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Buddy is seven years old, and until recently had never been to church nor heard of Jesus. He had never heard of "Big A Club" either, but when he did he quickly became a theological debater.

Buddy was among scores of children seen romping around apartments and trailer courts near the First Baptist Church of Pinson, near Birmingham. Many of the children lived in make-shift families. Sunday was a play day for them--until the Woman's Missionary Union of the church went into action.

Baptist Women of the church decided to introduce the youngsters to Jesus and church through Big A Club, a new concept of teaching the Bible to unchurched children or children in transitional communities.

The manager of a large apartment complex was thrilled with the idea of a weekly Bible club for kids and offered the use of any vacant apartment for club meetings. He posted a sign in the office window, pointing children to the Big A Club meeting each week. Many children from age 6 to 12 came. Buddy was one of them.

The first topic in the Big A Club is "Jesus Loves People," a basic introduction to Jesus. For four weeks, Buddy heard a living man named Jesus loves him. That love was reinforced by love from his teachers. Buddy began loving Jesus back.

Buddy asked one of his teachers, Pamela Watts, pastor Wayne Watts' daughter, to take him to church. The next Sunday Pamela sat with a squirming and fidgeting Buddy in his first worship service.

Watts was making a point in his sermon when he caught Buddy's attention. His voice raised, his arm extended toward the audience, Watts exclaimed, "and Jesus died!"

Buddy sat up. His mouth dropped open. He began crying. He was visibly shaken by the pastor's comment. After the invitation Buddy asked if he could "talk to that man"-- the pastor.

He tore away from Pamela's hand and went directly to the front of the auditorium. Pulling on Watts' pants leg he said commandingly, "I want to talk to you. You're gonna get fired. Jesus is not dead!" Watts took Buddy aside to explain.

Although Buddy's four week crash course had not covered all the details of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, he had learned and felt enough to defend his best friend to an adult.

-30-

Turner Will Retire
From Virginia Intermont

Baptist Press
8/25/78

BRISTOL, Va. (BP)--Floyd V. Turner, president of Virginia Intermont College, has announced his retirement from the Baptist college, effective June 30, 1979.

Turner, who will be 63 in November, has been president of the school in Bristol, Va., since 1956. It was a two-year college for women when he assumed the presidency and is now a four-year, coeducational college.

Before joining Virginia Intermont, Turner was academic dean at Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn., 1954-56. Previously he headed the department of education at Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Texas; taught at New Mexico A & M College, and taught high school in Las Cruces, N. M.

Turner spent seven years in business in Kansas City and four years as a U. S. Navy paymaster before going into education.

He is a graduate of Kansas City Junior College and holds bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from the University of Kansas and a doctorate in education from George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville.

Trustees will name a search committee to seek Turner's successor.

-30-



BAPTIST PRESS

**460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219**

Jm
AUG. 28 1978

LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE NO
NASHVILLE TN 37203