



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

-- FEATURES

produced by Baptist Press

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July 3, 1980

80-110

Lone Doctor Leads
Solitary Parade

By David R. Wilkinson

RESERVE, N.M. (BP)—If, as Thoreau philosophized, some men step to the beat of a different drummer, then Lloyd G. Foster has marched through life in his own parade.

Known to everyone but a stranger as "Doc" Foster, the 71-year-old Southern Baptist layman is the only physician in the largest county in New Mexico—an area encompassing more than 6,800 square miles.

For 42 years he has been the healer of Catoron County, caring for people who often paid him in firewood, venison or eggs.

He has set their bones, stitched their cuts, delivered their babies. And because there was often no one else to do it, he has treated their eyes, pulled their teeth and cared for their dogs, cats, cows and horses.

At the Catoron County Clinic, a stone's throw from his modest, cinder block house, Doc Foster supplements standard medical treatment with hypnosis and acupuncture.

When he isn't working, he is practicing the holistic approach to medicine that he preaches to his patients. Every day he walks, jogs or rides his bicycle five or six miles. Each spring, "for fun," he pedals his 10-speed over the mountains some 300 miles northeast to Albuquerque or west to Phoenix.

He watches his diet, disdaining junk food and preparing his own health food concoctions in the blender at home. Once a week, he fasts for 24 hours.

Three times a week, Doc Foster slips into a pew at Reserve Baptist Church—a practice easily understood by anyone whose life has been touched by the gentle country doctor.

Despite a reputation that attracts patients 400-500 miles away, Doc Foster never claims personal credit for medical success. "I'm only a tool," he says. "Without the Lord, I could do nothing. Only the Lord can heal."

Such simple but genuine humility easily fits his personality. At peace with himself and his world, he lives modestly and works selflessly.

Although he has never pocketed more than \$11,000 or \$12,000 a year from his practice in New Mexico, Doc Foster has no concerns about money. Until a few years ago, he didn't even send bills.

In an era of soaring prices, an office call at the Catoron County Clinic costs \$7.80. An acupuncture treatment runs about \$15. And house calls, a term that has practically dropped out of the modern medical vocabulary, cost \$15.60.

Whatever the treatment, the purpose is always the same—alleviating or easing the pain. And despite Reserve's small size—400-700 residents, "depending on who's counting"—there is plenty of pain to go around.

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Sawmill accidents and chain saw injuries are gory but regular occurrences. So are automobile accidents. As the doctor or county coroner, Doc Foster has helped retrieve numerous bodies from cars that have plunged off Highway 180.

"I guess I've treated all kinds of people through the years—beat up, cut up and blown up," he says.

Doc Foster developed skills in acupuncture because he kept discovering pain that standard medical treatment couldn't cure. He and his wife, Norma, an active partner in his medical ministry, received training in Hawaii from Chinese physicians.

He doesn't use acupuncture often, but he does use it successfully. Patients with crippling arthritis have been freed from pain.

In other circumstances, such as obesity, smoking, alcoholism, acute anxiety or suicide attempts, Doc Foster may use hypnosis. He has used "suggestive treatment," a combination of psychotherapeutic analysis and "some of my own ideas," in 50 suicide attempt cases, and not one of the patients has "repeated."

Doc Foster's versatility has always been a trademark. As a medical rookie, he set up practice in 1937 in Mogollon (pronounced Mug-a-yone), a booming silver and gold mining town.

Between their work and play, the miners kept the new doctor busy. Repairing broken, twisted bodies from vicious mining accidents became almost routine. And what the men didn't suffer in the mines, they inflicted on each other in Saturday night saloon brawls.

World War II interrupted his medical practice and doomed Mogollon. When he returned in 1942 after a four-year stint in the army, the once thriving mining business was deteriorating, its resources sapped by the demands of war.

After helping the people of Reserve plan and raise money for a new clinic, Doc Foster agreed in 1948 to move his practice there.

Since then he has built a reputation as genuine general practitioner, one of a vanishing breed in a profession enamored with specialization.

In non-medical terms, Doc Foster's true "speciality" has always been the same—helping people who hurt.

School Prayer Supporters
Using 'Hardball' Tactics

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--Efforts to convince hesitant members of the House of Representatives to sign a petition to bring the explosive question of state-sponsored prayer in public schools onto the floor are increasingly characterized by "hardball" politics.

Dozens of members of the House who thus far have declined to sign discharge petition No. 7, filed by Congressman Philip M. Crane, R-Ill., report increasing pressure from religious organizations closely associated with the so-called "new right."

Examples of tactics being used as members of Congress left Washington for a lengthy adjournment to observe the July 4 holiday and allow Republican members to attend the GOP national convention in Detroit surfaced at a briefing held July 1 by religious leaders opposed to the Crane petition.

After the six religious spokesmen who called the briefing at the request of numerous congressional offices finished making brief statements, William C. Chasey, identifying himself as a member of Crane's staff, accused the six of conducting a "loaded" hearing.

He said the religious leaders, including Porter W. Routh, interim executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here, ignored demands by Crane's staff to include panelists from the other side.

After Chasey's impassioned remarks, another member of the conservative Illinois congressman's staff demanded the floor but was denied permission to speak by panel moderator Dean M. Kelley until representatives from the other offices had spoken.

A third Crane supporter, Robert M. Hardy Jr., an aide to conservative Rep. William L. Dickinson, R-Ala., then rose to demand an explanation by Routh of the recent Southern Baptist Convention action reaffirming the 13.4 million-member denomination's support of the Supreme Court's 1962 and 1963 decisions banning state-sponsored and state-written prayers in public schools.

Finally, a woman from an uncommitted congressman's office demanded that the proceedings not be taken over by Crane supporters.

At the conclusion of the nearly two-hour forum, a flushed Chasey approached a young aide to an Arkansas congressman who had indicated her boss was opposed to the Crane petition.

Chasey, who admitted later to a reporter that he was actually not a member of Crane's staff but executive vice president for governmental and political affairs of the ultraconservative Religious Roundtable, demanded that the young assistant take two messages back to the Arkansas congressman.

"You tell him for me he's a liar," Chasey fumed, adding that the congressman had told him he had signed the petition when he had not.

He then instructed the assistant to warn the congressman that many people in his district were upset about his refusal to sign the petition and would turn him out of office unless he capitulated.

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Religious Roundtable, organized last year by E. E. McAteer, a long-time right-wing activist, is seeking to organize tens of thousands of ministers from all denominations to urge defeat this fall of "liberal" members of Congress.

McAteer, who works out of Washington but lives in Memphis, is a member of Bellevue Baptist Church and a self-described friend of and adviser to his pastor, Adrian Rogers, an outspoken supporter of the Crane petition.

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High Court Upholds Law
Favoring Minority Firms

Baptist Press
7/3/80

WASHINGTON (BP)--Congress has constitutional authority to set aside certain percentages of public works contracts for businesses owned by minority groups, the U.S. Supreme Court held here July 2.

Acting on the last day of its current term, the high court held 6-3 that Congress was justified in passing a 1977 law requiring that 10 percent of all federally funded public works projects be reserved for minority businesses.

In his controlling opinion for the six-man majority, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger wrote that both the objectives and means of the law fell within Congress' spending power and that the statute did not violate the equal protection rights of white businessmen competing for the contracts.

Burger ruled further that Congress has the latitude, in a continuing effort to achieve the goal of equal economic opportunity for all Americans, to "try new techniques...to accomplish remedial objectives."

Burger spoke for himself and Associate Justices Byron R. White and Lewis F. Powell Jr.

Justice Thurgood Marshall, for himself and Justices William J. Brennan Jr. and Harry A. Blackmun, concurred in Burger's judgment but filed a separate opinion declaring that for him the key issue in such affirmative action cases is whether racial classifications serve important governmental objectives. Under that standard, he went on, the 10 percent set-aside provision "is plainly constitutional."

Three justices disagreed, including Potter Stewart, who declared that "under our Constitution, the government may never act to the detriment of a person solely because of that person's race." That rule, he said, "cannot be any different when the persons injured by a racially biased law are not members of a racial minority."

Besides Stewart, the other dissenting justices were William H. Rehnquist and John Paul Stevens.

In related actions on its last day on the bench until October 6, the court unanimously agreed to hear a pair of new cases dealing with affirmative action and racial quota plans.

It will decide next term if a policy by the California Department of Corrections giving employment preference to blacks and women violates the constitutional rights of white men. Another case accepted for review will test a voluntary desegregation plan of the Chicago Board of Education setting racial quotas in two high schools to combat "white flight."

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