



BAPTIST PRESS

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Mace Calls Anger Major Cause of Marriage Failure

By Tim Fields

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Failure to deal realistically with anger as it arises is the major cause of failure in modern marriages, according to world-renowned marriage counselor David Mace.

Mace told Southern Baptists attending a Christian Life conference that his discovery of the role of anger in marriage and the family came late in his nearly 50 years as a professional marriage therapist.

"I am deeply convinced that we have been ignoring the vital central reality about the business of living together in families," he said. "We have made tremendous efforts to improve the social and physical environment of the family, but I now believe that there is something vital and essential that we have missed.

"The generally supposed causes of marital trouble such as difficulties with sex, money, in-laws, and child-raising are not the real causes.

"The inner failure of a close relationship takes place always for the same reason. It's because the persons involved have been unable to achieve mutual love and intimacy. That failure is almost always due to the inability of the persons concerned to deal creatively with anger."

According to Mace, marriage and family living generates, in normal people, more anger than they experience in any other situation in which they habitually find themselves.

"The overwhelming majority of family members know of only two ways of dealing with anger--to vent it or to suppress it," Mace explained. "Both of these methods are destructive of love and intimacy."

Mace said there is a way out of that destructive choice and it begins by recognizing openly that anger is a healthy emotion and it cannot be prevented.

"Couples should give each other the right to be angry with each other without any judgments or penalties," Mace explained. "However, couples should agree that when one does get angry with the other this should be communicated as soon as possible."

Secondly, couples should agree never to attack each other. That assurance makes it unnecessary for the other partner to go on the defensive and to develop retaliatory anger. "Instead," Mace said, "couples should try to develop a compassionate concern rather than

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a sense of hostility toward the angry partner and to communicate the desire to understand how and why the anger occurred."

After acknowledging the anger and promising not to vent it, the anger still is there and must be faced, understood and removed.

"In order to do this," Mace said, "couples have to accept the fact that the state of anger in one partner, evoked by the other, is an integral part of the couples' total relationship. Both have an equal responsibility to clear it up."

Mace said that can be done in a session together in which the situation that produced the anger is carefully examined. The atmosphere must be one of openness and honesty, with all relevant facts and feelings shared. "If the anger is still too hot to handle, it may be necessary to wait," he said, "but postponement must not become evasion."

"Only by going right to the inner core of our intimate relationships, and learning how to resolve the love-anger cycle, shall we release the power to make family living warm, loving and tender," Mace said. "When we can do this for families, they should be able to do just about everything else for themselves."

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Mark Sandlin Joins
Home Mission Board

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ATLANTA (BP)--Mark Sandlin, photojournalist at the Baptist Sunday School Board, has joined the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as manager of photographic services.

As a member of the Home Mission Board's audio-visual department, Sandlin will help to provide a photographic service for the board, as well as undertake assignments for Home Missions magazine. J. C. Durham Jr., director of audio-visuals, says Sandlin "has ability to take the kind of photograph which shows the heart as well as the work of missions."

Sandlin, 25, will share photographic responsibilities with Paul Obregon, a board photographer for five years. The realignment was prompted by the resignation of Don Rutledge, top board photographer who resigned to join the staff of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Sandlin's father, Bryce, is a former employee of the Home Mission Board.

Sandlin graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia in 1977. He was selected as one of the "Outstanding Young Men of America" in 1980. He also has won several awards for photographs in sports, features and entertainment.

He is married to the former Terry Katherine Smith of Nashville, Tenn.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Music Help Needed
In New Work Areas

By Jim Lowry

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Three state Baptist convention music secretaries appealed urgently at a conference here for more musicians in Southern Baptist "new work" areas if churches there are to grow and reach families for Christ.

"Music work in many new work convention areas is more primitive than on a lot of foreign mission fields," claimed Charles Sharp, music secretary for the Northern Plains Baptist Convention.

"I strongly support the work of foreign missions, but I think Southern Baptists could be in danger of losing the battle in the homeland if music missions work is not given priority status," he said.

"Music is a universal language and music can reach people for Christ," said Harry Taylor, music secretary for the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.

Sharp, Taylor and Sandra Bench, secretary for the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship, all attending the Church Music Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, said their churches needed good music programs to attract people.

"We have excellent music programs in the Southern Baptist Convention, but no one can interpret the programs to people in Iowa churches," explained Mrs. Bench, who serves Iowa on a volunteer basis.

The musicians said training is the greatest need. Talented local people could lead music programs, but because they were not raised in a Southern Baptist church, they do not have a concept of a music education program.

"Summer mission trips and touring choirs are good outreach, but those are not what we need," Sharp explained. "We need persons from the area, persons raised in the culture who are trained to lead their own music programs."

Taylor hopes that Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries will establish a music internship, giving educational credits for service in new work areas. Travel and lodging could be paid by churches from established areas as part of their missions ministry.

Or, churches could provide funding to pay for local persons to spend a summer, or a year, traveling through the convention training persons to establish music ministries.

Eastwood Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla., currently has a program which pays the travel and salary of a couple to move to a new work area and establish a music ministry. The church supports them for 12 to 18 months, then the couple is on their own to continue the ministry on a bivocational basis or be supported by the church they have established.

The secretaries also encouraged established churches to adopt a church in a new work area and provide it with music materials and equipment.

Mrs. Bench said she knew of churches in established areas that wanted to be told what they could do as missions projects. They have the money and need direction on how and where to spend it.

One way, she said, would be to pay the salary of a music minister in another convention area. Or, the church could give its minister of music and family a sabbatical leave to spend one, two or three months living in a new work area, providing training and showing local church members how to set up music education programs.

Another option would be to pay the way of a volunteer musician from the new work area to attend a music leadership conference at one of the conference centers in established conventions.

"We need people who are willing to come and be a part of the community for one to two years, with their salary paid by the church back home," he said. "We need people, and that takes time and money."

"I am willing to serve my Lord as a Southern Baptist, but I can't do it without financial backing from fellow Southern Baptists who want people to know about Jesus Christ, whether they live in the north or south."

"Music is one of the greatest teaching tools for Bible truths that we have, especially for children," Taylor said. "You will reach children with music when you cannot get them to sit still in a pew for an hour. I still remember songs about God and Jesus' love that I learned as a preschooler."

Of the 72 churches and chapels in the Iowa Baptist Fellowship, there are only two full-time staff members who are ministering through music, and both of them are combination music and youth or education, according to Bench.

In Northern Plains, which includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, there are four full-time musicians (also combination) in 149 churches.

The Kansas-Nebraska Convention has 22 full-time musicians (combination) in 238 churches. Each of the conventions has a few part-time musicians but the remainder are church members directing the music during services in churches with no ongoing music program to give training and music education.

Another problem expressed by Sharp is that schools in the Northern Plains area do not have adequate music education programs, which means there are fewer trained musicians to even serve as volunteer music directors.

Awareness of the situations in new work areas is one of the keys to gaining support for the vital ministry, according to the musicians. They called for a renewed music missions emphasis in colleges and seminaries which would present the facts to students, and make them aware of the music needs.

"We are losing transplanted Southern Baptists and native prospects because we cannot provide for them and their children as they have come to expect in churches in established areas," Sharp said. "We are in areas that are not culturally Southern Baptist, and they need attention."

Bivocational Pastors
Wield Heavy Influence

By Jim Lowry

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Southern Baptist missions awareness and participation are heavily emphasized in churches led by bivocational pastors, according to denominational leaders at Bible Preaching Week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

While recognizing the importance of bivocational pastors, along with the frequently accompanying limitations of time and finances, new helps are being offered by the denomination to assist the pastors in becoming more effective in their churches.

Charles Bryan, newly-elected vice president of overseas operations at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, told the bivocational pastors he believes God has touched Southern Baptists in a unique way with Bold Mission Thrust, the denomination's goal to share the gospel with the world by 2000.

"Many people think large churches provide the missionaries and money, but that's not the case," Bryan told the pastors. "The small church produces the bulk of the money for the Cooperative Program (Southern Baptists' unified giving plan) and many of our missionaries."

In the Southern Baptist Convention, 26,000 of the 35,000 churches have a membership under 300. More than 9,000 pastors are bivocational, which means they hold a full or part-time job in addition to their church responsibilities.

Churches led by bivocational pastors many times are small, some having as few as 15-20 on a regular basis in Sunday School and worship services. Others are larger, but generally under 150.

Approximately a dozen bivocational pastors attended the Ridgecrest conference entitled "Tasks and Tools for the Bivocational Ministry." One pastor, who has been bivocational for 22 years, said he was "tired of all meetings being planned for ministers from larger churches," without consideration for the situation of bivocational pastors, whose time is limited.

The pastors attending the meeting were from Mississippi, Kentucky, West Virginia, Louisiana and Tennessee. The West Virginia pastor reported that the number of churches with bivocational pastors in his state was higher than the number of pastors with full-time church positions.

Numerous topics were covered in the conference, including planning, preaching, how to establish priorities for becoming better ministers and how to help deacons participate more fully in the ministries of the church.

The Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department is planning 10 regional conferences for bivocational pastors through 1981.

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