



-- FEATURES

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'Partnership' To Continue
In McCalls' BWA Role

By Wendy Elaine Nelles

TORONTO (BP)--Marguerite McCall, wife of the recently elected president of the Baptist World Alliance, says she can't foresee any drastic changes in lifestyle due to her husband's new position.

"I expect to have the same role as always—a partnership. We try to be enablers for each other," Mrs. Duke K. McCall said in an interview after her husband was elected to a five-year term as president at the 1980 Baptist World Congress in Toronto.

Mrs. McCall shares many things with her husband, among them an identical birthdate. Raised in a Presbyterian home, she met her future spouse while studying for a bachelor of arts degree in English at Furman University in her hometown of Greenville, S.C.

Duke McCall was at that time following in his father's footsteps and preparing for law school. His career direction changed to the ministry, however, after feeling the Lord's leading to enter seminary.

Born in Mississippi and raised in Tennessee, McCall came from a strong Baptist family background. "Duke's mother was one of the strongest Christians I've ever known—very powerful in prayer life," says Mrs. McCall.

After their marriage, Mrs. McCall became a Baptist, and in fact was the first person her husband ever baptized. The McCalls have four sons—identical twins, Duke Jr., an attorney, and Douglas, a dentist; John, another attorney; and Michael, a doctor currently completing his residency in dermatology.

"Duke is a very strong family man," said Mrs. McCall. "Although he has had to be away a great deal of the time due to his career, he has never let his family feel deprived. From the time the boys were small, he arranged to travel with them to conventions, so they always felt they shared in their father's profession." As a consequence, all four sons are now very active in church life, she added.

Duke McCall was pastor of the Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., (where he and his wife are currently members) for three years while completing his Ph.D.

At age 28 he was appointed president of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Subsequently he was named executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee and then president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in 1951.

McCall has been deeply committed to the Baptist World Alliance since attending the first youth congress at age 16 in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1931. His wife feels that his contributions to the BWA in the coming term of office will be based on the fact that "he is very knowledgeable about the Alliance, having been connected with it for so long on its General Council, and having travelled so much for it."

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Asked for her insights on his style of leadership, Mrs. McCall replied that her husband is "very quick to go to the heart of a problem and analyze it," and also is "a pretty astute student of human nature."

The BWA's new first lady says that both she and President McCall feel the main purpose of the Baptist World Alliance is to foster fellowship and understanding, because this "is one of the ways to help solve the problems of the world." She personally would like to see the BWA become even more active in meeting world needs.

Mrs. McCall, who has attended every World Congress since the 1939 gathering in Atlanta, Ga., said that each has had its own personality and she has enjoyed them all. As for the 1980 meeting, she was thrilled with the unexpected number of Canadians attending, stating that "this was the story of the whole congress—so much more than anyone anticipated."

In summing up, Mrs. McCall said the outstanding feature common to every congress has been the opportunity of fellowship which crosses all racial and cultural barriers.

"It's the best demonstration I know of the bond of Christian love. It's marvelous to know that you have friends in all parts of the world."

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Wendy Elaine Nelles is a writer in Toronto, Canada.

Baptist World Congress
Comes Alive on NBC-TV

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A Baptist family reunion will be featured on national television Aug. 24 when NBC-TV broadcasts "A World of Difference," the story of the Baptist World Congress in Toronto.

"A World of Difference," produced in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, captures the spirit of celebration and challenge experienced by 20,000 Baptists from around the world who attended the congress.

The special portrays the Baptist World Alliance's 75th diamond jubilee anniversary celebration. The BWA sponsors the congress every five years.

"A World of Difference" is co-hosted by Jimmy Allen, Radio-Television Commission president, and Floyd Kalber, NBC-TV news correspondent. The two interview Baptist leaders from around the world, exploring the challenges faced by all Christians and how Baptists are meeting these challenges.

"A major theme running through the program is that Baptists are a diverse group, each person an individual, yet there is a unity of purpose that binds us together," Allen says. "That purpose is to reach those who do not know the glory of having Christ as their Savior and to tell them how he can change their lives."

Check local listings for times and stations showing "A World of Difference" in your area.

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Frank Pollard Assumes
San Antonio Pastorate

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Frank Pollard, host of two popular Baptist radio and television programs and pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., has been called to the pastorate of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, effective Aug. 26.

Pollard, 46, was pastor of First Baptist Jackson since 1975, the same year he became host of "The Baptist Hour" radio program heard weekly on 431 stations in the U.S. Since 1978, he has hosted the national television program "At Home with the Bible" which was recognized as the best Christian television program of 1979 by the National Broadcasters Association.

Pollard is a Texas native and graduate of Texas A & M University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was pastor of Baptist churches in Dallas, Seagraves, Dimmitt and Tulia, Texas, before going to Jackson which has 4,500 resident members. The San Antonio church claims membership of 9,000, many of whom are in other nations and were products of the church's military and international ministries.

Jimmy Allen, former pastor of First Baptist, San Antonio, resigned to become president in January of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

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Long Predicts Passage
Of Tax Saving Measure

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ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--U.S. Sen. Russell Long, D-La., chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, is confident his bill to restore a \$20,000 exclusion for income tax for religious and charitable group employees will be enacted soon.

"Right now it looks like we will have little problem getting this bill (S.1703) through the Senate," Long said in Louisiana recently. "I know that support for its passage is heavy in Congress and the Senate Finance Committee has already approved it. I personally don't think that persons such as foreign missionaries who have already sacrificed so much to carry out their work should be additionally burdened or penalized.

"I think that Congress, in attempting to close loopholes of U.S. citizens working in foreign countries with the passage of Foreign Earned Income Act of 1978, now realizes the harmful effect that legislation had on religious groups. Although the Foreign Earned Income Act of 1978 set forth a series of liberal deductions for Americans working in foreign countries, the deduction approach apparently does not help our missionaries and employees of other charitable organizations who usually serve in low-cost foreign countries."

Although passage of this bill, which Long is co-sponsoring, would exclude missionaries from paying income tax on the first \$20,000 earned abroad, it would not exclude them from paying taxes altogether. All missionaries pay taxes to the country in which they live.

Long, who has been a member of Congress since 1948, grew up in Winfield, La., and is now a member of First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge. It was largely because of hundreds of letters and phone calls to the senator from Louisiana Baptists that he introduced the tax bill.

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Long's office reports that the bill probably will come up for action after Congress returns from recess in late July, and may pass before the August recess. There's a slight chance that a larger tax bill will be brought before Congress and S.1703 would be added to the tax bill. This would delay release but if passed would accomplish the same thing.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board estimates passage of such a bill would save \$1 million annually in income taxes for its 3,000 person missionary force.

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Spanish Radio Reaches
Fort Chaffee Cubans

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7/29/80

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Control Central and Momentos de Meditacion, created by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission to take the gospel to people south of the border, are reaching Spanish-speaking people north of the border, in Arkansas.

Through a joint effort of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Radio-Television Commission, the commission's two Spanish language programs are being aired on KNJB-Radio. The station is a small 10-watt, closed circuit station heard only on the base at Fort Chaffee, Ark. Living on that base are nearly 6,500 Cuban refugees awaiting resettlement.

"We ordinarily don't send programs to such small stations like the one at Fort Chaffee, since they don't reach enough people to justify the cost involved," said Claude Cox of the commission's marketing department. "However, when Oscar Romo of our Home Mission Board contacted us, we readily agreed the unusual circumstances more than justified the expense. We're always delighted to work with the Home Mission Board and glad the refugees can now hear the programs."

While both programs, each 15 minutes long, are designed to be heard weekly, Cox sent the station 26 Control Central shows, enough to air it on a daily basis.

Station personnel praised the program. "We're interested in providing something the Cubans can enjoy in their language," station manager Ralph Wallace said. "We like Control Central because the music is soothing and the material offers spiritual guidance. Some of our station personnel have been out among the refugee population. The refugees say they listen to the program and like it."

Control Central is being played daily at 10 p.m. "to help wind down the day," Wallace said. He plans to air Momentos Meditacion at 10 a.m. on Sundays.

Both programs are produced and hosted by Hugo Ruiz, who heads the commission's Spanish language department. Ruiz studied in Cuba before coming to the United States.

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Elder Urges Christian
Election Involvement

By Tim Fields

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GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--Southern Baptist ethicist Bill Elder says the 1980 presidential election is a God-given opportunity for Southern Baptists to practice Christian discipleship. But he warns of dangerous liabilities.

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Elder, director of Christian citizenship development for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, told participants at a Christian Life Conference on ethical issues of the 1980 election that there is a strong awakening among Southern Baptists and other Christians to politics and personal involvement in the political process.

"That's good news because applying the Bible to the world is the basic way Christian discipleship is nurtured," Elder said. "But with that good news comes the danger that this new political energy can be easily misdirected and exploited to the detriment of both our nation and our faith."

Elder said the two major pitfalls of Christian political involvement are the move toward creation of a religious state and the identification of a particular political party or philosophy with the Bible.

"America is a free society which means we have institutionalized the principle of pluralism through our Constitution and our laws," he said. "We are always trying to strike a balance between the will of the majority and the rights of the minority."

"As Christians we believe there is only one way that leads to salvation. It would be very tempting for us to move to the position that there is only one societal model that leads to national salvation. When political power is added to this kind of religious zeal we are only one step away from tipping the balance in such a way that the will of the majority takes total precedence over the rights of the minority."

"When that happens a religious state is created and religious and social tyranny stand in the wings. This would be a flagrant violation of church and state."

Elder also warned Southern Baptists to be certain their own political or social tastes are not allowed to color the cutting edge of biblical truth.

"There are a growing number of people who have wedded the Bible and their favorite political philosophy. The Bible was used by both the abolitionists and slave holders in the Civil War and by both the Germans and Americans in World War II; and it is used today by both the Ku Klux Klan and the Southern Christian Leadership Coalition."

"I don't believe the Bible is contradictory," Elder said. "But I do believe it can be misused."

Despite the pitfalls, Elder said Southern Baptists must continue to be involved in the 1980 election and suggested that churches consider a Sunday or Wednesday night series on the Bible and moral issues in the 1980 political campaign.

"Ministers need to do more about relating issues to the Bible but no preacher worth his salt will try to dictate who church members vote for," Elder said.

"Politics may seem unsavory, painful and very secular, but I believe that political activism informed by the principles of the Christian gospel is a very essential part of taking up our crosses and following Jesus," he said.

Tourist Trip Helps
Start New Church

By Louise Winningham

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. (BP)--After Mrs. Zack Melton of Fort Worth, Texas, returned from a charter bus tour to Wisconsin, she could not forget a town she had seen that had no Southern Baptist church.

She had remarked to two other Baptist women on the tour bus, "There was not a sign of a Baptist church in Platteville."

After an article appeared in the Texas Baptist Standard in mid-1978 explaining the cooperative relationship between Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptists and the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Mrs. Melton wrote inquiring about a church in Platteville. "I know Southern Baptists are scarce in those two states," she said. "Perhaps some transplanted Baptists from Texas or one of the other states where they flourish could start a mission there."

Mrs. Melton enclosed a check "to give the project a little incentive." It was designated for "Platteville or some other point in the same circumstance."

Minnesota-Wisconsin Coordinator Otha Winningham channeled the check to Central Baptist Association Director of Missions Fred Hill. The money was deposited to draw interest until a chapel could be begun. At that time there were no known prospects for a chapel and Platteville was 80 miles from the nearest Southern Baptist church.

Early in 1979 Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., filled out a "Hello Baptist" referral card (for members who have moved away) on Frank and Kay Bilders who had moved to Platteville. Hill contacted the Bilders about starting a Southern Baptist church in Platteville. Frank, a new Christian, was hungry for the Word and Kay missed the warmth of her former church. Yes, they were interested.

By February 1980, a regular Tuesday night Bible study began in their home. Pastor Greg Whitaker of the sponsoring Trinity Baptist Church in Reedsburg, and Hill led the studies. Later Martin Haglund, living near Madison, became the bivocational pastor and led the Bible studies. Mrs. Melton's check was used to assist in Haglund's twice-weekly trips from Madison and for visitation while there.

June 22, Sunday morning services began in the Masonic Lodge, with 24 present, 18 of whom were from the Platteville area. By then three families were committed to the chapel and several others expressed strong interest.

At this point a telephone call was made to Mrs. Melton. "I think that's just great," she exclaimed, when told of the new Platteville chapel. "I will just send you another check."

Only God could have touched the heart of a Fort Worth traveler in behalf of Platteville, then moved a Memphis family to that town, all the elements converging to make a new Southern Baptist church possible.

Cuban Pastor Will Be
Chicago Church Planter

CHICAGO (BP)--When Ruben and Amilia Casanova-Vega and their four children stepped into a crowded shrimp boat to leave Cuba, they went on faith that the Lord would provide for them.

Their faith was rewarded and Casanova-Vega, a graduate of the Southern Baptist Seminary in Havana, who was once imprisoned by Fidel Castro, will be a church planter in northwest Chicago.

Northwest Missionary Baptist Church sponsored the refugees. Ruben will work to form a new church by contacting other Cuban refugees, as well as Spanish-speaking persons from other countries.

When the family arrived at O'Hare Airport, Bonnie Berry, wife of catalytic missionary Marvin Berry, took them to an apartment that members of the church had rented, furnished and stocked with food. Mrs. Berry said when she took them to a small grocery store nearby, the whole family was amazed at all the things to buy.

Mrs. Casanova-Vega looked and looked and finally remarked, "En Cuba, no hay nada--nada!" ("In Cuba, there is nothing--nothing!") Mrs. Berry said the children wanted to buy \$12 worth of packaged candy.

Later, Mrs. Casanova-Vega explained that food is rationed severely in Cuba and fresh fruit and vegetables are simply not available. Meat is rationed--1/4 pound per person each nine days. That usually provided small portions of meat for the family for three days and for six days there was no meat on their table.

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Lost Dollar Goes
To Baptist Relief

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TORONTO (BP)--Delegates to the Baptist World Congress in July contributed more than \$39,000 to Baptist world relief.

Tellers counting the donations found one envelope of special interest. It contained a one dollar bill and carried this notation:

"This dollar was found on the ground of the Canadian National Exhibition Wednesday (site of the congress's World Fellowship Celebration). Someone--perhaps one who needed it--has shared unknowingly."

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Marriage Potential Inventory
Encourages Couples' Growth

By Tim Fields

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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--"There are upper limits for the growth of every marriage but most of us don't get within miles of those limits," marriage therapist David Mace told Southern Baptists attending a Christian Life Conference on marriage and the family.

Mace and his wife, Vera, based on a study that showed few marriages realize their potential, developed a test to help married couples gauge their potential and then map out a plan for marriage growth.

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David, 73, and Vera, 80, are internationally known marriage therapists and authors with some 30 books to their credit. They have worked professionally with married couples for the past 45 of their 47 years of marriage.

The test, which appears in the July 1980 issue of Readers Digest, is a subjective self-scoring test which couples can complete in their own home, Mace said.

Couples taking the test make a list of the following 10 areas of marriage interactions: 1) Common goals and values; 2) Commitment to growth; 3) Communication skills; 4) Creative use of conflict; 5) Appreciation and affection; 6) Agreement on male and female roles; 7) Cooperation and teamwork; 8) Sexual fulfillment; 9) Money management; 10) Parent effectiveness or, for non-parents, decision-making.

Husband and wife then sit down in separate rooms with plenty of time to look at their marriage as each sees it.

"Decide what your marriage would be like if you had done everything in your power to achieve your highest potential in all these areas," Mace said. "When you know where it would be, then decide where you are now on a scale of one to 10.

"Next you add up the figures for each of the 10 categories and you will have the percentage of your subjectively estimated marriage potential which you have already claimed. The difference between that figure and 100 is the percentage of your marriage potential which you have yet to claim."

Mace said couples should then discuss their individual totals and compare how close or how far apart they are on their estimated progress in each category.

"When you are not seeing a category in the same terms, talk about it and you may make some very significant discoveries. Remember that a high score may mean low expectations and a low score high expectations," he said.

"I don't believe any couple could seriously and sincerely go through and take this test without learning a great deal about their marriage in terms of growth," Mace said.

"The final step is to make a growth plan for your marriage for the next 12 months. It should be a statement of where you want to be one year from now as individuals and as a married couple. After you have made the growth plan, make any contracts you want to make with each other and work at it for a year.

"I think that by the end of that year you will be able to say as a couple, 'Our marriage can grow, we want it to grow and we are united in our goals and purpose for our marriage,'" Mace concluded.

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SBC 'Nightclub' Boosts
Christian Entertainers

By Laura Fite

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ST. LOUIS (BP)--A hotel ballroom, dimly lit, appears to be the "nightclub" of the Southern Baptist Convention. Singing evangelistic hopefuls are scurrying around the large room in which some of them will soon make their debut as Christian entertainers.

An elegantly dressed man, Ed Stalnecker, is obviously coordinator of the event. He keeps a strict list of who performs and who doesn't, sometimes allowing a last minute entry to join the "talent show" line-up.

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Attitude and mode of dress is noticeably different at the Stalnecker Open House, held after the night sessions of the SBC annual meeting for two hours, at the Marriott Hotel in St. Louis.

At no other convention activity could a woman dress similar to an old-time saloon girl and get by with it.

For 17 years, the singing Stalnecker family of Jacksonville, Fla., has hosted the open house, giving Southern Baptist musicians a chance to display their talents in front of pastors and other church leaders attending the convention. The musicians come for exposure; the pastors, to shop.

Sam Porter, pastor of First Baptist Church, Eakly, Okla., explained that many times an evangelist will preach at his church in revival and not bring a musician to serve with him. Porter keeps in mind performances he views at the Stalnecker open house and later considers using them for revival purposes.

However, Porter and other church leaders disclosed that they are scouting for the individual musician, not the "expensive" group. Groups such as Truth, Joysong, and Bridge take part in the open house for exposure, but according to Stalnecker, they are also there to entertain.

The transient lifestyles and eccentric dress of these groups reflect immersion in the entertainment world. Why is their dress so different? Why do they have to "sell their wares?"

Steve Taylor, director of Joysong from John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Ark., explains that "Christians should be the ones that should set the trends--but not in a showy way." He said ministry is the priority of his group, and that calls for appealing to the non-Christian through dress and style of music.

The bass guitar player for Truth looks at the open house as a time of fellowship with other groups that are normally also on the road. Ron Freed says it gives him the opportunity to "make new friends and meet new people."

Hopefully, some of these new friends will invite Truth and the other not-so-well known groups and individuals to visit their churches.

Stalnecker requires that each performer be Southern Baptist or at least be part of a group led by a Southern Baptist. Stalnecker completely funds the open house through his "Strength for Living" organization.

The SBC "nightclub" is conducted for only three nights of each convention gathering, but by that time perhaps enough talent, showy dress, albums and literature has been displayed to get little known musicians well on their way to success.