



-- BAPTIST PRESS

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September 15, 1981

81-141

**Missionary Freed in Time
To Rush Baby to Hospital**

By Norman Jameson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Missionary W.L. Larry Baker got out of jail just in time to bring his baby girl to Nashville for a life saving operation.

Baker was arrested when he hit and seriously injured a 13-year-old Ecuadorian boy who had run out in front of his car. Baker said he did not even have time to apply the brakes and hit the boy at 50 miles per hour.

Now it appears an influential politician will nominate Baker for Ecuador's highest civilian award for saving the boy's life after the accident.

The boy had swallowed his tongue and Baker, director of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Guayaquil, pulled it from his throat. Baker massaged the boy's heart which had stopped and knew he was successful when blood gushed from a wound in the boy's head.

A crowd gathered and began to harass Baker and the Ecuadorian pastor who was with him in the car, a common occurrence in Latin America after a serious accident as friends and relatives direct their anguish at those involved.

Baker, worried for himself and for the injured boy, yelled no such action would help the boy and suggested they pray. He went to his knees.

"Not everybody else did," Baker said from the Nashville hospital. "I don't know if it was good Spanish or not, but I yelled and prayed. Soon the boy opened his eyes."

Police arrested Baker, as they usually do the driver in an injury accident. He spent four hours with 26 other men and an undetermined number of cockroaches and rats in a five-by-12 foot cell.

Then he was put in the jail for professional drivers whose powerful union secured a jail cell with better amenities. There he languished for six days while his six-week-old daughter grew progressively sicker.

It turned out all he needed to get out was a paper saying the boy was still alive. The lawyer hired by representatives of the Southern Baptist mission did not go that route and Baker was not released until a fellow missionary got the necessary paper.

The politician friend told Baker later he thought Baker was out of jail the next day or he would have gotten him out.

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As soon as Baker was released, he worked to get Amy Jean's papers together to bring her to the United States. Medical representatives at the Foreign Mission Board had made a preliminary diagnosis from symptoms related over the telephone and determined she needed to be hospitalized in the United States immediately.

For reasons still unknown to Baker, an official took special interest in Amy's case and hand carried the necessary paperwork. In three hours they accomplished what normally takes a month, he said. He even got special seating on the airplane, where normally there are no reserved seats of any kind.

"That was incredible treatment to be getting after six days in jail," he said.

Nashville's Vanderbilt Hospital has one of the best facilities available for the sensitive surgery thought necessary. Tests were inconclusive and doctors finally had to operate Sept. 11 to find and try to correct the problem.

The surgeon emerged from the operating room three hours later to tell the Bakers of all things possible, the clogged ducts they discovered in the liver was the best thing they could have hoped to find. "Your prayers have been answered," he said.

Those prayers were multiplied around the world through a hand held radio plugged into a repeater network. The Bakers received calls of encouragement and prayer support from nearly 20 countries in the day before and during Amy's surgery.

Amy Jean was scheduled for release a week later. Baker was going home to Hopkinsville, Ky., to have elective surgery done on his right eye to remove shrapnel left there from Viet Nam.

Then he was going to hurry back to Ecuador by mid-October to resume the seven classes he left other missionaries to teach for him at the seminary.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers and available to others on request.

Green Beans
Bring Sunshine

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SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--Gray clouds hung low over the Oklahoma Baptist University campus.

Freshman orientation was just 10 days away and beanie makers were on strike in Mudville.

"Why, a freshman orientation without beanies would be like a day without sunshine," bemoaned Randy Wood, OBU associate dean of students.

To save the day, Wood's wife Edna created a beanie pattern from which helpers cut out 1,700 triangles from 24 yards of green and gold felt. Other helpers sewed the beanies together in three days and Wood and his staff ironed Bison decals on the front of each beanie over a weekend.

When 400 unsuspecting freshmen donned the handmade products at Beanie Initiation, the sun broke through above Raley Chapel.

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Alaska Chaplain Baptizes
Four in Cold Bering Sea

Baptist Press
9/15/81

SHEMYA AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (BP)--A Southern Baptist Air Force chaplain baptized four airmen in the frigid waters of the Bering Sea, while 40 persons watched during beachside services.

Chaplain Capt. David Breeding, who serves one of the most remote bases in Alaska, conducted the services wearing chest waders.

The four airmen described the 48-degree water as "invigorating," and wasted no time getting out of the water after their baptisms.

It wasn't much warmer out of the water, but the 51-degree temperature with overcast skies and a slight breeze was considered "good weather" by Shemya standards.

Shemya Air Force Base is on the 4 1/2 by 2-mile Shemya Island at the far end of the Aleutian Islands. The remote island is closer to Japan than to Anchorage, Alaska.

In Anchorage at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Chaplain Col. Palmer Bowers, a Southern Baptist who is command chaplain in Alaska, said Chaplain Breeding's service was "one of the first known baptisms in the Bering Sea."

The four airmen who requested baptism by immersion were Staff Sgt. Jorge Chavez, Senior Airman James D. Stille, Airman 1st Class John M. Dixon and Airman David Putnam. All were stationed at Shemya without their families on one-year tours of duty.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

Robert Stuckey Named
Iowa Executive Director

Baptist Press
9/15/81

DES MOINES, Iowa (BP)--Robert H. Stuckey, a staffer with the Illinois Baptist State Association, has been named executive director-treasurer of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship.

Stuckey, 50, was elected during a special called meeting of the fellowship's executive board, said Mike McKinney, who has been interim executive director of the fellowship since Jan. 1, 1980, when A. Wilson Parker took early retirement.

"The search committee reported they had a significant spiritual experience and were led unanimously to recommending Bob Stuckey," McKinney said. "I am deeply impressed with him and feel he is God's man to lead the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship."

The Iowa fellowship, an organization of some 70 churches and 8,500 members, is affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention. It is one of three fellowships within the Southern Baptist Convention, an intermediate step toward state convention status.

McKinney, who also is president of the fellowship and pastor of Ashworth Road Baptist Church in Des Moines, explained the fellowship has "downplayed" its goal of becoming a state convention by Jan. 1, 1983.

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"Our goal is not necessarily to become a state convention as fast as we can, but to provide the kind of ministry and witness we need in Iowa. If we do that, state convention status is something that will happen naturally," he added.

Under SBC guidelines areas may become state conventions when they have 70 congregations and 10,000 members or 50 congregations and 12,500 members.

Stuckey told Baptist Press he is "excited about the challenge of a pioneer area," and said he believes the fellowship "should continue to do the excellent job of church planting and developing. If we do, I feel confident that in the near future we will be able to stand by ourselves as a convention."

He lauded the Missouri convention for its "excellent assistance" in the growth of the Iowa fellowship.

Stuckey, a native of Bupo, Ill., was a Southern Baptist foreign missionary to Indonesia from 1962 to 1975, serving as a direct field evangelist. In 1975, he took a leave of absence and was pastor of Belmont Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas, until his resignation from the Foreign Mission Board, Dec. 31, 1977.

In February 1978, he became director of lay mobilization for the ISBA, which includes responsibility for Baptist Men and boys.

He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and has been a pastor in Illinois and Indiana.

He and his wife, Suzanne, have three children.

He assumes his new post Nov. 15.

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Foreign Board Taps Wilson
For New Orientation Post

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9/15/81

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Michael Wilson, director of evangelism for the Colorado Baptist General Convention, has been named orientation manager for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's short-term volunteers and Partnership Evangelism teams.

Wilson's hiring comes as the board moves closer to assuming full responsibility for Partnership Evangelism, the program which links Southern Baptist churches to churches overseas through an exchange of pastor-led teams of laypersons.

That program has been most strongly promoted by World Evangelism Foundation, which is phasing out its organization because of Foreign Mission Board plans to accelerate Partnership Evangelism around the world.

Billy Peacock, veteran foreign missionary, already has been named to direct overseas aspects of the program and W.H. (Dub) Jackson Jr., president of WEF, has been named regional coordinator. The volunteer department of the board's office of human resources will add a staff member responsible for enlisting Partnership Evangelism teams.

Wilson, 35, will coordinate evangelism training and cultural orientation for Partnership Evangelism teams and for mission volunteers serving four and one-half months or less. He will do the same for partnership mission teams sponsored by associations and state conventions.

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Sam James, director of the board's orientation and development department, anticipates Wilson will build a corps of training volunteers across the convention to provide local or regional orientation to individual volunteers and evangelistic teams.

A native of Henryetta, Okla., Wilson officially became a member of the Foreign Mission Board staff Sept. 15, when he left for London to observe a WEF-sponsored Partnership Evangelism crusade. He and his wife, Olivia, and their three children will move to Richmond, Va., shortly after Oct. 1.

Wilson is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

His most recent pastoral experience was at First Southern Baptist Church in Yuma, Ariz., which reported about 850 additions during his three years there. He has held other pastoral and church staff positions in Texas.

He has been involved in overseas evangelism in 1968 in Kenya, where he was a student summer missionary, and in Kumamoto, Japan, where he preached a citywide crusade in 1970.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

**Annuity Board To Adopt
New Insurance Program**

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9/15/81

DALLAS (BP)—New applications for group life, medical and long-term disability insurance coverage for church personnel through the Southern Baptist Annuity Board will not be accepted for the remainder of the year.

The announcement was made by Darold H. Morgan, president of the agency which administers the group insurance and retirement plans for the 13.6 million member Southern Baptist Convention.

Morgan said enrollments have been suspended until a new life and comprehensive medical program is started Jan. 1, 1982. The plan, which is being prepared, will be announced in October.

"Those who currently have medical coverage in the Designated Insurance Program will be transferred to the new program on Jan. 1, 1982," Morgan said, "but we have suspended enrollments so that we can make the necessary administrative adjustments."

The action is necessary, Morgan said, because "inflation and cost increases pose a very real threat to the current program."

Problems surfaced in May of 1981, when Aetna Life Insurance Co., which underwrites the Annuity Board insurance program, told the board it is experiencing losses on the coverage. From July 1, 1980, to May 1, 1981, the company reported the church medical insurance program generated \$8,937,000 in premiums while paying \$9,151,000 for participating members' medical expenses.

"For every dollar we receive as premium, \$1.02 was paid for medical expenses," said Morgan.

The new program is expected to make some changes in the comprehensive medical plan, offer life insurance coverage up to \$100,000 and leave the long-term disability program unaffected.

Morgan said some change in benefits was necessary, because "the only way we could have maintained the present program would be to escalate premiums by 49.6 percent. I don't think our members are prepared for that kind of economic shock."

The 49.6 percent figure is determined by combining a 36 percent national health inflation factor with the increased administrative costs of both the insurance company and the Annuity Board.

"We believe this new package will provide our members with adequate coverage at costs they can afford," Morgan said.

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