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# -- FEATURES

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## Atypical Couple Discovers Their Purpose In Missions

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--If Southern Baptists selected a "typical" missionary couple, Archie and Caroline Jones would not get a vote.

"We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that everybody who meets us, sees us, hears about us, knows we are different," Caroline says.

She was just a 4-year-old in the Sunbeam mission organization when Archie was appointed in 1959 as a foreign missionary with his first wife, Julia Jones, who died in 1978.

Today, Archie is 49; Caroline, 26.

In October, he was reappointed and she was appointed as Southern Baptist missionaries to Chile.

They met and became engaged while he was director of North Carolina's Baptist men and she was director of camping programs for the state Woman's Missionary Union. They married in October 1980.

Archie was well known in the state as a pastor and in mission circles for his 21 years in Ecuador. She wrote WMU materials and is the daughter of the president of the Baptist Foundation of Alabama, U. A. McManus Jr.

Their high visibility, coupled with their differences in age, marital and mission experience, challenges this enthusiastic couple.

"We're not like the last hundred couples who have been appointed and won't be like the next hundred," Caroline says. "We know that we're pretty much on a skewer being turned and we'd better do good."

They have tried to be open with acquaintances who seem uncomfortable with Archie's remarriage and the age difference. It isn't always easy. "During this past year we've lived about five ordinary years," Archie admits.

"We knew, number one, that coming together with all of our many differences, there had to be an Almighty purpose in it," Caroline explains. "It was a matter of finding that purpose and getting there quickly, which is what we're headed for."

As Archie and Caroline discussed marriage, they talked of foreign missions as a possibility. But he knew better than to pressure a spouse to follow him overseas without a direct mission call herself.

Besides, Caroline is not really the tag-along type.

She still had not felt a personal call to missions when they were married. It came weeks later--on Dec. 7, 1980--during a service in a small church where she and Archie were promoting

the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions.

As they walked out of church that day, she said, "Arch, we need to call the (Foreign Mission) Board."

Now the Joneses are just months away from launching pioneer evangelistic work in the area of Puerto Montt, a trade city in south Chile.

There they will be out of the public eye, the only Southern Baptist missionaries in the German-settled community at the southern tip of the Chilean railroad line.

When they arrive in Chile next April, Caroline will study Spanish. Archie, already fluent in Spanish, will study German. Most of their work will be with Spanish-speaking Chileans.

Because each has strong leadership abilities, they plan to work together in evangelism and church development.

"There is a strong sense of co-worker team in everything we do," Archie says. "I know she's going to do a good job. We challenge each other by pulling the best out of one another when we're together."

And if they weren't excited enough about their marriage and missionary assignment, they're anticipating the birth of their first grandchild in December to one of Archie's three children by his first marriage.

"I'm going to be a granny," Caroline says approvingly.

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

RTVC Shows Deal With  
TV Evangelism, Singles

By Greg Warner

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission will be represented on two network television programs, Sunday, Nov. 29, dealing with television evangelism and ministries to singles.

CBS will present a dialogue on the use of television in evangelism, featuring Lutheran theologian Martin Marty and Jimmy R. Allen, president of the RTVC. They will participate in a "For Our Time" public affairs series segment on "The Medium or the Message."

ABC's "Directions" series will air "Living Abundantly: Ministry to the Single Person," a program about the work of the Southern Baptist churches with single adults.

Host Bob Clark will interview Ann Alexander Smith, single adult consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, and Ed Seabough, minister to single adults at South Main Baptist Church in Houston.

Marty, professor of modern Christian history at the University of Chicago Divinity School and long-time associate editor of Christian Century magazine, and Allen, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention who has been RTVC president since 1980, did not see eye-to-eye on the usefulness of television in evangelism.

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"Christians must be aware," Marty said, "that television is more an equipping, affirming and edifying tool than a converting tool." He said it would be tragic for Christians to make television their primary means of evangelism.

While Allen did not lessen the importance of the two-person contact in evangelism, he was not willing to surrender the use of television either. "The television tool is the most powerful teaching tool in the history of mankind," he said. "It would be unthinkable to me that television would not be used to convey the most important message of mankind and be done adequately enough for people to respond."

"There is no totally adequate mechanism to contain the message of God," Allen continued, "but God has always moved through imperfect communication mechanisms in an imperfect world."

Marty said it is the personal touch in evangelism that makes the difference. Since 80 percent of Christian conversions stem from personal contact, he said, television should be used to "enhance the 'touchers.'"

Marty said he is not "an antagonist" of Christian broadcasting, but "I am a critic of a certain type of it." He said television is saturated with healing ministries and other things that divert attention from the central message. "For mainline denominations to set up shop on that soil would be unproductive," he said.

Marty said the use of television by Christians would be more honest if it cost churches money, rather than being a primary source of income, as it is to many electronic evangelists. And he said the involvement of mainline churches may bring more accountability to Christian broadcasting.

Allen agreed. "When the local churches are involved as active partners in the process, there is always within the church a corrective element," he said. "We believe that with churches of the Southern Baptist fellowship undergirding our efforts, we can eliminate the huckster element which often turns off the secular mind."

Although both network programs are scheduled for Nov. 29, the exact dates and times may vary in each area and will be announced in local television directories.

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Arkansas Messengers Move  
Toward 50-50 Division

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FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (BP)--Messengers to the 128th annual session of the Arkansas State Baptist Convention elected a new president, adopted a record \$9.1 million budget, and approved a unified budgeting system which will increase the percentage amount of money given through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

Dillard S. Miller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mena, was elected president in a run-off election against Joe W. Atchison, pastor of South Side Baptist Church, Pine Bluff. Jon Stubblefield, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Magnolia, was elected first vice president, and Winfred B. Bridges, pastor of First Baptist Church, Paragould, second vice president.

The more than 1,000 messengers allocated a record \$9.1 million to state and Southern Baptist Convention causes, which represents a 13.5 percent increase over last year.

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The 1982 budget includes \$7,973,878 in the operating section, of which 43.07 percent --\$3,434,349--will go to worldwide causes through the SBC unified budget, an increase of a half percent over 1981.

The advance section of \$1,144,797 will be retained for Arkansas causes, but any "overage" in excess of the \$9.1 million will be divided 50-50 between the state and SBC.

The unified budget formula, which will go into effect with the 1983 budget, will do away with the advance and "overage" sections of the budget. It is designed to increase to 50 percent state contributions to the SBC Cooperative Program. The contributions will increase by a half percent a year and will reach the 50-50 division within 25 years.

In recognition of the contributions of the late executive secretary Huber L. Drumwright, who died Nov. 2 after slightly more than a year as head of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the Tuesday evening session ended with a memorial service. Drumwright's wife, Minette, associate executive secretary L. L. Collins, and Don Harbuck, pastor of First Baptist Church of El Dorado, reminded messengers of Drumwright's concern that Arkansas Baptists be united despite their diverse theological and social backgrounds.

Collins was appointed interim executive secretary by the executive board during the convention. After its organization meeting in December, the operating committee of the executive board will become a search committee to select a replacement for Drumwright.

The 1982 convention will meet Nov. 16 - 18 in North Little Rock.

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Baptists Hopeful, Cautious  
On Reagan Peace Proposals

By Stan Haste

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Southern Baptist leaders reacted with hope but caution to President Reagan's dramatic Nov. 18 proposals for peace in Europe and future strategic weapons talks with the Soviet Union.

Reagan's plan, announced during a speech televised to many parts of the world, called for cancellation of 572 new medium-range American missiles now planned for installation in Western Europe, provided the Soviets agree to dismantle some 600 of their medium-range missiles aimed at Western Europe.

Such a step, the President declared in his first major foreign policy pronouncement since taking office 10 months ago, would be "a historic step." By agreeing to the reductions, he went on, the U.S. and the Soviet Union "could together reduce the dread threat of nuclear war which hangs over the people of Europe."

In addition, Reagan said he has proposed to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev that a new round of discussions on strategic nuclear weapons begin early next year, perhaps in January which would aim not just at limitations on future nuclear arms, but at actual reduction of current arsenals. To "symbolize" the change, he proposed that the new discussions be called START (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks), replacing SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks).

W. A. Criswell, pastor of the Southern Baptist Convention's largest congregation, First Baptist Church of Dallas, termed the president's appeal "one of the finest national and international statements made in recent years." Reagan, he said, "showed a real genius of political statecraft when he challenged the Russians to disarm with us and to renounce all nuclear weapons on European soil."

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Criswell, a former SBC president, voiced the hope that peace may "not only cover the soil of Europe but the ground of all the nations of the world."

Others contacted by Baptist Press were not as optimistic.

A. Carman Sharp, a Louisville, Ky., pastor who has become a leader of a new group of Southern Baptists concerned about peace issues, said that "any word about slowing down the arms race, any movement toward peace, is very positive. I am thankful to God for it."

But Sharp, pastor of Deer Park Baptist Church, also expressed reservations: "I have a deep-down question about why he (Reagan) waited so long and about his apparent motive of putting pressure on the Soviets." Sharp expressed hope that Reagan's speech will be followed by "an effort genuinely to reach out to the Soviets, to start talking, to start moving."

Foy Valentine, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, said he finds "some small comfort in the change in rhetoric."

The veteran Southern Baptist ethicist said further: "Peace is better than war; and talk about peace is better than talk about war. Even if the offer was designed partly as a public relations effort to help the President's steadily sagging foreign policy image, to placate our European allies, and to propose something he knew the Kremlin would not accept, still I hope and pray that it signals a start toward some new initiatives to harness the runaway nuclear arms race and to do the things that make for peace."

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Executive Director James M. Dunn declared that "millions of American Christians welcome any hint of the end of the arms race and pledge ourselves to pray earnestly for follow-through on the part of the superpowers and to watch closely for evidence that our leaders mean business."

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Despite Budget Deficit  
Alabama Forges Ahead

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--Despite budget deficits of almost \$1 million, Alabama Baptists planned a record \$16,125,000 budget, established a partnership missions project with the Nigerian Baptist Convention and approved a study for a similar relationship with Wyoming Baptists.

The budget designates 39.34 percent for Southern Baptist Convention-wide causes. Last year, after subtraction of convention promotional costs, Alabama receipts were divided 50-50 with the SBC. Messengers to the annual meeting preferred the SBC portion be figured as a percentage of the total income.

Apparently, little smoke remains from the Los Angeles grass fires of last summer, according to conduct during presidential elections.

When Fred H. Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, and James Auchmuty, pastor of Shades Crest Baptist Church, Birmingham, faced each other in the election, no mention was made of their opposing positions during political maneuverings preceding the 1981 SBC meeting in Los Angeles.

But neither of them won the election. That honor, after a run-off with Wolfe, went to Harrell R. Cushing, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gadsden.

Messengers adopted resolutions calling for raising the legal age for purchasing alcoholic beverages from 19 to 21; asking a criminal code oversight be corrected to make prostitution an offense; reaffirming the biblical sacredness and dignity of all human life and calling on all citizens to work to change attitudes and conditions which encourage people to turn to abortion as a means of birth control.

The 1982 meeting of the Alabama Baptist Convention will be Nov. 16 - 17 in Mobile.

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