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82-16

CO

Knife-Wielding 'Baptist'
Abducts Mother, Children

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)-- A man, who said he was a Baptist, abducted the wife of a Belmont College administrator and her two young children at knife point Jan. 23, holding them nearly four hours before releasing them unharmed.

During the ordeal, the young man told Carole Troutt he had escaped from a Mississippi prison and was enroute to see his mother, who was ill with cancer, in Boston.

He also told the young mother he was a Baptist. "We were driving by Belmont College, and the kids said that was where their daddy works. He wanted to know what it was, and I told him it was a Baptist college," she said.

"I asked him if he went to church and he said he 'used to.' When I asked him what church, he told me he was a Baptist," she added.

Troutt told Baptist Press she had been to a downtown area department store to pick up some packages and had returned to the parking lot with her children, Carole Ann, 6, and Jack, 4, when the man jerked open the car door, displayed a knife and told her: "Get over, lady, and I won't hurt you."

"The children started crying a little and I told them to calm down, that he was not going to hurt us. He told us nothing would happen if we did everything he said. They quieted down. I thank God for such calm children," Troutt added.

The abduction occurred about 3:15 p.m. The mother and her children were released about 7 p.m. In between, they were driven through East Nashville, to a bank where Troutt was forced to withdraw \$65, along backroads in the Mount Juliet area, and back to Nashville.

During the ordeal, Troutt said the man was "pretty calm ... pretty much together," although he did "mention the children" in a threatening way.

Troutt said the man drove to a rural area east of Mount Juliet and sat alongside a country road. "I was worrying about our safety all along, but especially then," Troutt said. "It was secluded and beginning to get dark. Then, the man said, 'Let's go back to Nashville.'"

As abruptly as the ordeal began, it ended. The man drove back to Nashville, pulled up alongside a main street, got out of the car and "disappeared into the darkness between two buildings."

Troutt saw a police car within two blocks and "frantically waved to the officers," who stopped, escorted her home and started the report process.

Meanwhile, her husband, Bill, executive vice president at Belmont College, a Tennessee Baptist institution, had gone to church, thinking the family might have gone directly there. Not finding them, he started telephoning: the college, the hospitals, the highway patrol, the police. He got no word.

By 7:30 p.m., however, they were reunited.

Of her ordeal, Troutt said it had made her "really believe in prayer. Bill told me he was down on his knees praying. I wasn't down on my knees, but I was really saying them silently."

She also commented that people sometimes think they can "really do something heroic" during such a time, but added: "When it is really happening, and when someone is holding a knife on you and threatening your children, all you want to do is be nice and pleasant and keep him happy."

Troutt admitted she is not sure whether the man is a prison escapee from Mississippi, whether he has an ill mother in Boston, or even whether he is a Baptist.

"Anybody who would pull a knife on someone probably would tell a little fib," she reasoned.

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DB

Christian Businessman
Spends Year At RTVC

By Bonnie Sparrow

Baptist Press
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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Ralph Tacker of Dallas is, first of all, a businessman.

He gives you a handshake as firm as his faith, looks at you straight from smiling brown eyes and is as comfortable in a board room as he is on a construction site.

He has a clear definition of success and he has lived and done well in a career based on the good old American work ethic, coupled with plenty of preparation, persistence and prayer.

Success, he says, has nothing to do with money. "It's being where you want to be and knowing that's where God wants you to be and doing what you want to do and knowing that's what God wants you to do, and enjoying every minute of it."

Preparation, persistence and prayer have led to a successful building and development company (Tacker and Schilling), and to a happy family life ("We have two married daughters and my wife, Wanda, and I are partners in whatever we do.")

It is his definition of success that has led him, at 54, to a year as a Mission Service Corps volunteer at the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

At the RTVC he will put the business skills he honed in the secular marketplace to work as chairman of the agency's advisory committee to low-power television stations. The other four members of the five-person committee will be named later.

Tacker is the first Mission Service Corps volunteer who has opted to spend his year at the RTVC.

"When we first began working on the ACTS network of low-power television stations, I asked God for help in finding people with the business sense and knowledge to put together the organization and the relationships," said Jimmy R. Allen, RTVC president.

"As I was praying about this one day, Ralph Tacker's name came to my mind. He had been a member of the church I pastored at Cockrell Hill (1956-60), so I called him in and outlined what God had opened the door for him to do. I asked him to pray with his wife about it."

That was Christmas of 1980 and there was a lot to be done if the Tackers were to respond.

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"It took some time to sell my interest in the business and development company and to get our affairs in order so I could take this year off," Tacker said. "My wife and I are both Mission Service Corps volunteers. Her job will be to look after our real estate interests to free me to work this year at the RTVC.

"There is a tremendous amount of administration to be done and a lot of logistics involved in lining up and getting low-power television stations on line and connected. I'll also be meeting with cable companies to encourage them to carry our programming and we won't know what cities will have low-power television stations until the FCC grants the licenses."

As busy as he expects to be, Tacker doesn't think he'll have trouble making the transition from Christian businessman.

"I became a Christian at 16 and felt the Lord didn't want me to be a preacher but a businessman," Tacker said. "I love business. I don't mind hard work and when I was bidding on a job I always wanted to be prepared, with as much information as possible."

He'll follow that same style in dealing with cable companies and in working with low-power television stations. And he'll rely a lot on prayer.

Tacker learned something really special about prayer during a trip to Honduras after Hurricane Fifi. "A friend had asked me to come down to help him," Tacker said. "When I got there I saw so much death and destruction I was almost overwhelmed. But my friend and I prayed about what we would do. I planned it and wrote it out. The next morning my friend was called to another spot. He not only left me alone, he took the car so I had no way to get around.

"That's when I prayed again. I was in my hotel room, having breakfast and I told God, 'Well, I'm here, and I'm willing, but you're going to have to take over because I feel very inadequate.'"

Almost immediately there was a knock on the door and a missionary stood there with a broad smile. He had eight answers to prayer in tow.

"He told me they were Mennonite construction workers looking for someone to give them direction. That was right up my alley. Before we left Honduras we had played a part in the building of 250 homes and a church in Colonia.

"You know, life changes so often we get accustomed to relying on our own resources and we sometimes reach the point where we just see ourselves and our limitations. That experience taught me to look to a Father who has no limitations."

And that's what he'll be doing again this year as a Mission Service Corps volunteer at the RTVC.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Radio and Television Commission.

Panel Examines Gay Rights
Measure: No Action Likely

WB
By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press
1/28/82

WASHINGTON (BP)—A bill protecting homosexuals from discrimination in housing, employment, education and public accommodations drew strong support as well as heated opposition during a House subcommittee hearing.

But the hearing was primarily "educational," according to a spokeswoman for one of the bill's nearly 50 sponsors. An aide to Rep. Ted Weiss, D-N.Y., told Baptist Press it is a "safe assumption" that no action will occur on the bill this year.

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Nonetheless, Weiss declared in opening remarks his belief that "Americans oppose this form of bias just as strongly as they reject discrimination against a religious or racial minority."

Among those speaking in favor of the bill before the House Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities were Sen. Paul Tsongas, D-Mass.; Jean O'Leary, director of the National Association of Business Councils; Jane Wells-Schooley, vice president of National Organization for Women; and Avery Post of the United Church of Christ.

Opposing the bill were Connaught Marshner, chairman of the National Pro-Family Coalition and Gary Jarmin, legislative director of Christian Voice, who submitted written testimony only.

Right-leaning political lobbies such as Christian Voice and Moral Majority have focused on homosexuality and the gay rights bill in recent fund-raising efforts--a practice lamented by Wells-Schooley in her testimony.

Wells-Schooley pointed to what she described as a "homophobic diatribe" in a recent solicitation piece from Christian Voice Moral Government Fund which claimed that if the Weiss proposed amendment to the Civil Rights Act became law, "thousands of innocent American children may soon be molested by sex deviates...including precious Christian children in your local Sunday School and church school."

No additional hearings on the bill, H.R. 1454, are scheduled.

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Foreign Board Names Bristow
To Evangelism Enlistment Post

RB

Baptist Press
1/28/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Texas evangelist Wayne Bristow has been named evangelism enlistment coordinator for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Bristow, 45, rounds out a team named to help the board handle the increased number of volunteers generated by partnership evangelism, a program which links Southern Baptist churches to churches overseas through an exchange of pastor-led teams of lay persons.

Billy Peacock, veteran missionary to Korea, was named earlier to direct overseas aspects of the program. Michael Wilson, former director of evangelism for the Colorado Baptist General Convention, is orientation manager for short-term volunteers and manager for short-term volunteers and partnership evangelism teams. W. H. (Dub) Jackson Jr., former president of World Evangelism Foundation, was reappointed as a missionary to serve overseas as a regional coordinator.

Bristow, who will be a part of the board's volunteer enlistment department, also will enlist volunteers for the board's other short-term evangelism, church growth and stewardship projects.

As president of Outreach Evangelism International, Inc., Bristow has been involved in crusade evangelism ministry in 31 states and 17 countries. He has participated in more than 500 crusades and in 1976 was president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.

Bristow grew up in Muleshoe, Texas, graduated from Wayland Baptist College, and attended Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He entered full-time evangelism in 1963 after time as pastor of churches in Lubbock and Bailey County, Texas.

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

John Allen Elected
Executive In Alaska

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ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP) -- John H. Allen has been elected executive director-treasurer of the Alaska Baptist Convention, replacing Allen H. Meeks, who took medical retirement in December.

Allen, 50, has been interim executive director since Meeks told convention leaders he was requesting permanent medical leave of absence "upon strong advice" of his cardiologist.

The election came during a special called meeting of the convention, held at Faith Baptist Church in Anchorage Jan. 26.

Allen, who joined the staff of the Alaska Baptist Convention in 1976, has been director of missions and evangelism. Previously he was assistant director of the department of church extension for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, with primary responsibility for work in the western states, Alaska and Hawaii.

He also has been pastor of churches in Texas, California and Virginia, and director of associational missions in South Dakota.

Allen, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, is a graduate of Wayland Baptist University, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, and currently is a candidate for a doctor of ministries degree at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

He is married to the former Anna Hoeksema. They have two children.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story mailed January 20 entitled, "Wheeler Accepts Morehouse Post," please change wording in graph three to read: "Wheeler succeeds Bobby Joe Saucer, who resigned." It is Wheeler who became chief administrator!

Thanks,

Baptist Press