



-- FEATURES

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Missionary Nurse's Care
Means Life For Thousands

By Mary Jane Welch

OGBOMOSHO, Nigeria (BP)—Each morning Ruth Womack is greeted by a row of babies, rear ends up in their mothers' laps, having their temperatures taken.

Womack, Southern Baptist missionary nurse from McMinnville, Tenn., treats about 300 babies yearly at the Kersey Children's Home in Ogbomosho, Nigeria. Because she does, thousands of Nigerians live today who might have died in childhood from malnutrition.

Womack sees the newest babies first, searching their faces for any signs of a change in expression. She considers a smile a sure sign they're improving.

Marie laughs while she and her baby brother are being examined. The baby is healthy, but Marie arrived at Kersey with kwashiorkor, a protein deficiency disease. The critical time for many Nigerian children, says Womack, comes when mothers wean them to begin nursing a new baby. The starchy diet that usually replaces mother's milk simply isn't nutritious enough.

When Womack first began working with malnourished children, about half of the children in the area died before they were old enough to start school. Today, about three out of 10 die before reaching school age, three suffer from malnutrition and four are considered normal.

Appointed as a missionary in Nigeria in 1947, Womack moved to Ogbomosho to work at the Baptist Medical Center in 1951. But she wanted to work with babies and in 1955 got the job at Kersey.

The Kersey Home had its share of problems, at least in her eyes. The babies were clean and very well behaved—too well behaved, she says. She provided a sand pile to get the babies dirty. Instead of discipline, she says, the babies needed love.

But problems lingered. The number of children rose to 100, too many for the facilities. Relatives who were supposed to provide money for food and milk often failed to send it. And some children stayed until they finished high school.

"They were halfway American and halfway Nigerian, and didn't fit in anybody's society," she says. Womack began trying to place the motherless babies with their relatives or in foster homes. But the healthy 2-year-olds placed with relatives often developed swelling feet within months. Some died. Investigation showed the relatives were feeding the children only starchy foods. That was Womack's first encounter with kwashiorkor.

In village clinics, she learned that babies with mothers also had the disease so she opened two rooms at Kersey Home to treat malnourished children. She asked the parents to live there so she could teach them how to care for their children.

Mothers and guardians, bringing their sleeping mats and cooking pots, learn how to care for their children using the same equipment they will use when they take them home. Relatives buy needed food at Kersey, but Womack hunts for bargains and sells it to them at cost.

Some babies are referred to her by the hospital, but most mothers come because they've seen another baby, much healthier than their own, who has been to Kersey.

Today motherless babies use only a few rooms at Kersey. "We are taking care of as many motherless children now as we were before, but doing it in the homes and we have better results," she explains.

Teaching relatives to love often unwanted motherless babies is especially important.

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"You notice today that they seemed to love their babies," she explains to a visitor. "Now a lot of them don't when they first come." Most learn to love their babies as they care for them and see them doing well.

About half of the women who come to Kersey are Moslem, but two days a week Womack leads a Bible study using Mark in an edition called a Book of Good Works so that the Moslem women will feel free to read it.

Her personal Bible study centers on five Psalms and one chapter of Proverbs she reads every night. "David, you know, he was up and down so much. That's the way I feel," she says.

Weekly prayer meetings with fellow missionaries also are important.

It was at one of those prayer meetings that her fellow missionaries learned that an Ibadan, Nigeria, television station had featured Womack and her work. A prayer request of many years had been answered, she reported. The water director for Ogbomosho had learned that Kersey Home didn't have water and promised to connect it to city water and provide water tanks in the meantime.

To Ruth Womack, being featured on a television program wasn't important; getting water for her babies was.

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

Lawsuit Against
CCBS Dismissed

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DALLAS (BP)--A civil lawsuit against the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, its president and his wife, Paige and Dorothy Patterson, has been dismissed two days after it was filed.

The suit was described as "utterly without foundation" by T.A. Patterson, former executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and father of Paige Patterson. An attorney representing the estate of Nelson Farry of Dallas, described the suit as "one that should never have been filed."

It had asked that property transferred to the CCBS shortly before Farry's death in 1980 be returned to Mrs. Farry.

Some 30 commercial and residential lots, including the Farry's home in the fashionable Dallas suburb of Highland Park, were involved.

Jack Brady, attorney for the CCBC, told the Dallas Morning News July 7, after the suit was filed that he viewed the move as a legal safeguard to protect Mrs. Farry since the two year statute of limitations was running out and that the whole question was "near settlement."

On July 9 Ralph Pulley, who represents the estate of Mr. Farry, John Gilliland, attorney for Mrs. Farry, and H. Campbell Zachery, from the law firm that filed the suit, confirmed it had been dismissed though all three declined to discuss the settlement.

The suit, which charged Patterson and his wife used intimidation and misrepresentation to convince the Farry's to give the property to CCBS, was "just a pleading with some lawyer's rhetoric," Pulley explained.

The Patterson's were in the Middle East and unavailable for comment when the suit was filed.

T.A. Patterson described the whole idea of the suit as "absurd." "Paige and Dorothy have known Mr. and Mrs. Farry for years and have taken care of them and taken their places and have taken care of Mrs. Farry since her husband's death," he said.

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**CBS Earns
Hollis Praise**

By Duann Kier

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A decision by CBS to move the long-running "Captain Kangaroo" television series to a weekend time slot will provide a wholesome alternative to the often violent cartoon programs for children, says a Southern Baptist family specialist.

"CBS has made an especially positive programming move by making 'Captain Kangaroo' more accessible to children. This change is a giant leap forward for weekend television," Harry N. Hollis Jr., director of family and special moral concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said.

"Captain Kangaroo," created in 1955 by Bob Keeshan who is also executive producer of the series, for some time has been limited to a 6:30-7:00 a.m. time slot on weekdays, causing a decline in the program's audience.

The program is now scheduled to return in late September or early October to its original one-hour length at a time when more young viewers are available (7-8 a.m. on Saturday and 8-9 a.m. on Sunday).

"I congratulate CBS for improving the quality of weekend television and I congratulate Keeshan for his 27-year positive influence on American children and their families," Hollis said.

Keeshan will also produce three or four after-school children's specials for the network.

"I am excited about expanding into after-school production," Keeshan said. "There are so many important and interesting subjects that should be explored through children's television. Availability to children is all we've ever wanted, and it's all I've ever worked for."

In a recent address at the annual Christian Life Commission seminar on strengthening families, Keeshan said, "I believe parental intervention is vital in children's choices of television programs and in the amount of time children watch television.

"Just as the love of God should be a way of life affecting all we do every minute of the day, parenting is a consuming calling, requiring sacrifice, love, and concern which are not to be addressed only when convenient," he stressed.

Hollis urged Southern Baptists to demonstrate wide support for the weekend "Captain Kangaroo" program and for the afternoon specials.

"CBS will be watching to see if we're watching," Hollis pointed out. "This is a golden opportunity for parents to guide their children toward better television viewing and at the same time send a signal to the networks that we support positive television programming."

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Four Approved For
Mission Service

By Michael Tutterow

Baptist Press
7/12/82

ATLANTA (BP)--The personnel committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved four persons for mission service during its July meeting.

Acting on behalf of the HMB executive committee, the personnel committee named Deborah and Samuel Snyder of Homewood, Ala., missionaries, and appointed Gary and Linda Hargrove of Louisville, Ky., missionary associates.

Neither the HMB executive committee nor the board of directors met during July.

The Snyders will remain in Homewood where she becomes director of Christian social ministries for Birmingham Baptist Association. A graduate of Mars Hill College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, she served as interim director of special ministries for Birmingham Association before appointment. She has also served as assistant director and director of Tidewater Baptist Goodwill Center (Friendship House) in Newport News, Va.

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He is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and William and Mary College, and currently works as a personnel analyst in Birmingham.

The Hargroves will reside in Des Moines, Iowa, where he becomes state consultant in Christian social ministries for the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship. He has served as a campus minister, associate pastor and pastor in Arkansas, and assisted in social work placement in Louisville. A graduate of the University of Arkansas and Southern Seminary, he served as minister to senior adults at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville before appointment.

She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and has worked as a nurse in hospitals in Little Rock and Louisville.

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Free Show Tickets
Now Available

Baptist Press
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KNOXVILLE, TENN. (BP)--Due to the popularity of the Baptist pavilion performances and presentations at the World's Fair, fairgoers wishing to attend pavilion shows should pick up the free tickets at the pavilion's front doors in advance of show times.

The tickets which are honored until 10 minutes before show times, will insure visitors a seat in the Baptist pavilion.

PowerSource performances of musical-drama, "Love, You Spoke A Word," are at 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. (The 4:30 performance is omitted on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.)

Multi-image presentations "The Word Is...Energy," begins at 2:30 p.m. and continues very half hour except for PowerSource performances.

Tickets are available for guest choirs, which perform at 11:45 and 12:30 each day and the 9:00 p.m. Potpourri hour, every night but Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Potpourri is a 20-minute PowerSource performance of Christian music.

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Successful Run
Minor Matter

By Norman Jameson

Baptist Press
7/12/82

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Hysterical screams shattered Rod Minor's quiet lunch and led him on a desperate chase through Fort Worth alleys and back lots one recent afternoon.

Drawn across the alley by the screams, Minor, a December graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, found a frantic woman, pointing down the alley. "He attacked me and took my purse," she screamed.

Minor looked and saw a man disappearing around the corner with the woman's purse and gave chase.

Minor climbed fences, cut through back lots and ran across parking lots for several blocks before closing to within a few paces of the man. Minor told him to drop the purse, which he later learned contained \$1,100.

The thief threw the purse and Minor relayed it back to the woman and continued the chase. Two friends from the funeral home where Minor works closed at different angles.

He finally caught the thief, wrestled him to the ground and held him, with the others, until police came.

"It was more instinct than anything," Minor said. "The woman was hysterical. I thought the man had worked her over. The only thing to do was run him down.

"I would have appreciated somebody else doing the same thing for my wife."

Minor learned the next day, when the FBI telephoned him, that the man was on federal parole after serving time in prison for attempted murder, armed robbery and assault.

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Arienda Prays For President
He Once Wanted To Overthrow

By Bill Webb

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The man who once sought the violent overthrow of the Philippine government of President Ferdinand Marcos urged Southern Baptists attending the Foreign Missions Conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center to pray for Marcos to become a born-again believer in Jesus Christ.

Roger Arienda, self-avowed communist revolutionary and a federal prisoner when he accepted Christ in 1975, described his conversion as a "cyclone that turned over the entire landscape of my old life."

The Filipino evangelist related a recent meeting with Marcos, the man responsible both for his incarceration in 1972 and his release by presidential pardon Christmas Day 1980. Both Marcos and his wife are Roman Catholics.

"Mr. President," I said, "You might be in want, you might be tired, you might be needing some rest because of all the troubles of the presidency. Now here is what our Lord is saying: Come to him and he will give you rest, Mr. President."

"Mr. President, I would advise you to believe this and even help propagate the gospel among our countrymen," Arienda said. "Because whenever this is heard and believed it has the capacity to change men and do away with the greed of men."

"Oh, is that so?" Arienda quoted Marcos as saying thoughtfully. "I thought I was witnessing to King Agrippa, who was almost persuaded," Arienda said. "Let us pray continuously that my president will be born again. That is not too hard for God to do."

Arienda's notoriety as a flamboyant radio commentator and his influence as a political agitator before his imprisonment and conversion, have offered him inroads for sharing his faith among other government people, politicians, economists, Marxists and others.

Today he maintains a vigorous schedule broadcasting the radical love of Jesus Christ on television and over 22 radio stations. No more an agent of revolution, he has become a minister of reconciliation.

The man who daily lambasted the Marcos government doesn't attack political and economic ideologies anymore though he admits there are times "when I have to make some political, economic or social criticism, especially when it comes to the issues of righteousness, justice and equality."

When sharing his faith with Marxists, "I don't attack their ideology," he explained in an interview. "My job is to preach to them Christ and let them know that Christ, in spite of who they are, loves them. He died for the criminals, he died for the capitalists, he died for the socialists, he died for the Marxists."

Arienda has resisted confining his ministry to any particular group in his country. Rather, he is burdened with reaching the cross sections of Philippine society with the gospel, he said. He demonstrated that concern dramatically after he accepted Christ in New Bilibid Prison near Manila, bringing some 1,600 of the 8,000 prisoners to Christ and establishing Simbahang Kristiyano Southern Baptist Church within the prison walls.

Prison offered him plenty of time to study the Bible and prepare for his ministry, he said. "While churches on the outside were praying for my release, I was praying, 'Lord, hold me here. I want to learn and know you more,'" he said. "And I won. The Lord held me there for another five years but it was a beautiful time to learn and study."

As he concluded his conversation with President Marcos, he said: "Mr. President, thank you for sending me to jail. Because of that I have found the Lord. That was my Damascus."