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October 29, 1982

82-154

Revival Sweeps Government
Schools In Zimbabwe's Bush

By Robert O'Brien

RB

SANYATI, Zimbabwe (BP)--Spiritual revival, resulting in more than 5,500 professions of faith in Jesus Christ, has been sweeping schools in the bush country of Zimbabwe since June.

Southern Baptist missionary personnel lead weekly discipleship training programs in at least 38 government schools in Sanyati, Gokwe and Chenyeri. Missionary Bob Parker, who launched it all, still hasn't had a chance to visit a number of schools.

The phenomenon continues to amaze observers in the Marxist-led country and doesn't appear near an end, according to Parker, who has preached so far to 20,000 students.

Now when Parker travels in his van, children and adults greet him with an index finger pointed heavenward and the cry, "One Way." That has become the slogan of the revival.

"The Lord gave Bob Parker a vision which will allow us to reclaim our young people for Christ," declared Jonas Muchechetere, president of the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe and pastor of the Sanyati Baptist Church.

"One Way Clubs" for discipleship training and continuing witness have sprung up in the schools, touching the lives of students, teachers, headmasters and parents. Three headmasters, 25 teachers and 50 parents have accepted Christ.

Parker and Muchechetere said the converts--all 12 and older--will not be baptized until they satisfactorily complete a 14-week discipleship training program to ensure genuine results.

Parker has distributed hundreds of tracts and gospel portions to the children and Bibles to the school libraries and some 500 teachers and headmasters.

The need for Bibles continues to grow as does One Way Club attendance.

"We thought we'd lose up to 50 percent of the members as churches in the states do," said Parker. "But we have more to come than we can work with. The younger ones want to come but the group gets too large. We hate to send anyone away but we can't accomplish what we're here to do otherwise.

Muchechetere said the One Way phenomenon will spark the struggling convention's church development, potentially leading to at least a doubling of churches and preaching points in that area.

But the blessing of new life among Zimbabwean Baptists has coupled with the perpetual problem of personnel shortages. Unprepared for such far-reaching results, Parker and Zimbabwean Baptist leaders wonder how they will find resources to continue follow-up as the revival multiplies. But they say they must.

"The Holy Spirit is working and now is the time to do everything we can," said Parker, who maintains a full schedule of working with more than 40 churches and preaching points.

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John Monroe, missionary dentist and administrator of the Sanyati Baptist Hospital, helped considerably by releasing two second-year missionary journeymen from hospital duties two days a week. Mark Dewbre of North Little Rock, Ark., and Marty Escoe of Athens, Ga., conduct regular, weekly 30-minute discipleship training sessions in the schools.

But the need becomes more acute as their two-year terms of service near an end and as the impact spreads to more parents and more schools. Zimbabwean Baptist leaders have met to plan how they can stretch already thin resources and personnel to train as many church-starting evangelistic teams as possible.

When Parker left on a 1978 furlough he turned over his long-term work as a school teacher and administrator to trained Zimbabweans so he could concentrate on evangelism. He left just before guerrillas murdered missionary Archie Dunaway at the Sanyati Baptist compound during the black struggle for majority rule, in the country formerly known as Rhodesia.

The lean, South Carolinian returned in 1980 as a church developer after the Sanyati area reopened following the seven-year war.

He found that guerrillas had closed or destroyed many churches and schools in the bush, inadvertently creating an environment which caused a hunger among the people for reading material and for the word of God.

Against that backdrop Parker began visiting the rebuilding government schools, most former schools of various Christian missions. At most of them he found teachers and some headmasters who had been students or teachers at Baptist schools he had administered.

At the first school he attended he noticed a "One Way" sticker on the window of a car. When the headmaster invited him to preach he used it in his message and the students picked up on it excitedly. He repeated it successfully in school after school, basing his message on John 3:16 and John 14:6. Now he drives a van painted on all sides with "One Way" and a hand with the upward-pointing index finger.

Unexpectedly and somewhat reluctantly, Bob Parker—quiet, unassuming and dedicated to reaching people for Christ—has become "Mr. One Way." The people recognize him on sight and know when he questions them that "One Way" means "One Way to Heaven through Jesus Christ."

Recently a Zimbabwean mother stopped Pam Kelley Parker, Bob's wife, and said, "Oh, you're Mrs. One Way. Your husband has stolen part of my children's hearts. Tell him to keep going."

Parker plans to do just that.

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

Nevada Convention Ups
Mission Giving Two Percent

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Baptist Press
10/29/82

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)—Beverly McLeroy, the Southern Baptist Convention's first female state convention president, turned her gavel over to her successor in Las Vegas Oct. 27 as Nevada's annual convention concluded.

Officers elected for the coming year were: Neil Myers, pastor of West Oakley Baptist Church in Las Vegas, president; Stanley Unruh, pastor of Sunrise Baptist Church, Las Vegas, first vice president, and Jaffus Haley, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of North Las Vegas, second vice president.

Messengers approved a budget that will increase its mission giving to 18 percent, an increase of two percent. The 1982-83 budget represents a 26 percent increase from last year to \$889,546. Income includes \$335,000 from the Cooperative Program (up 25 percent); \$8,000 from the state paper, the Nevada Baptist; \$30,000 from gifts; \$12,376 from earned interest and \$30,000, interest on trust fund, \$12,376 and state mission offering at \$25,000.

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WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--In its semi-annual meeting the board of trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary elected officers for 1982-83 and authorized the development of plans for the Ledford Student Center.

Elected chairman of the board was W. Lee Beaver of Chesterfield, Mo., a member of Edmondson Road Baptist Church in St. Louis and executive vice president of Sachs Holding, Inc. of Chesterfield. O. Charles Horton, pastor of College Park Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., was elected vice chairman; Bill Bruster, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Bearden in Knoxville, Tenn., was elected secretary and Edgar M. Wyatt, president of Wyatt-Quarles Seed Co. and a member of First Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., was re-elected treasurer.

Final plans for the renovation of Gore Gymnasium into a student center, as well as plans for funding the project, will be presented to the trustees at their March 1983, meeting. Cost is expected to be \$2 million with \$1 million provided by the capital funds program of the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program.

The 30-member board also ratified a mail vote electing Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., as a trustee to fill the 1982-83 term of Cecil Seagle, who moved from North Carolina during the summer (trustees of SBC agencies are prohibited from serving when they move from one state to another), and granted academic tenure to Claude Y. Stewart, associate professor of theology.

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'Best' Listing Includes
Baptist Memorial Hospital

Baptist Press
10/29/82

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis is cited in the November 1982 issue of Ladies Home Journal as one of the 13 best hospitals in the South.

Charles Seabrook, medical writer for the Atlanta Journal who prepared the article for Southern readers, said he developed the list after talking with leading physicians, hospital administrators, state hospital associations, medical school faculty members, health educators and medical writers in the South.

Baptist Memorial was described as the largest private general-care hospital in the United States, with 2,068 beds.

"The services it provides go far beyond those of a typical big city hospital and it's a leading referral hospital for people throughout the states of Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi.

"This is one case in which you can say 'largeness' does contribute to excellence. It's main strength is community health care, especially providing the most up-to-date therapies for cancer and cardiovascular disease."

Other hospitals cited are Baylor University Hospital and Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas; Duke University Hospital, Durham, N.C.; Emory University Hospital and Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta; Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami; M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Methodist Hospital and Texas Heart Institute, Houston; Medical College of Virginia Hospital, Richmond; University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital, Birmingham, and Vanderbilt University Hospital, Nashville.

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HMB's Carter Accepts
Oklahoma Pastorate

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Baptist Press
10/29/82

ATLANTA (BP)--Kenneth E. Carter, director of associational evangelism department for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's evangelism section, has resigned, effective Jan. 1, 1983, to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Miami, Okla.

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Carter, director of HMB associational evangelism since 1979, has assisted churches, state evangelism directors and associational chairmen of evangelism in development and implementation of evangelism strategies. He also assisted small churches (less than 300 membership) in using evangelism methods.

Carter, a native of Sayre, Okla., joined the HMB staff in 1976 as director of small church and revival evangelism for the HMB Evangelism Section. Before accepting the board post, Carter served as director of evangelism for the Illinois Baptist State Association. Carter also has been pastor of churches in Pantex, Poolville, Plainview and Amarillo, Texas, and in Marietta and Duncan, Okla.

He is a graduate of Wayland Baptist College in Plainview, Texas, and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

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'Pac Man' Becomes Tool
In New Arcade Ministry

Co
By Trennis Henderson

Baptist Press
10/29/82

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—When Ellen Riffe walks up to a "Pac Man" machine and drops in a quarter she has winning on her mind—winning people to Jesus.

Wearing jeans, a "Pac Man" T-shirt and an "arcade chaplain" button, the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student frequents several arcades in the Kansas City area befriending, counseling and witnessing to customers.

Her ministry began about six months ago as a research project. Under the direction of Ken Taylor, Christian social and special mission ministries director for Blue River-Kansas City Association, and through funding from the Missouri Baptist Convention missions department (made possible by the state missions offering) Riffe began studying the feasibility of such a ministry.

Three months and 50 arcades later she determined an arcade ministry was possible, ethically sound and greatly needed.

"We started by saying 'Let's just see if there are any needs there' and we found there were," Taylor explained. "Most managers are very honored to have a chaplain in their arcade."

Nicknamed "The Arcade Queen" by friends from seminary, the energetic chaplain established a routine during the summer where she would visit arcades, play video games and make friends with managers and customers alike.

Recalling her initial witnessing opportunities in the arcades, Riffe remarked, "I was kind of scared ... I was real scared ... I was terrified." Now, however, she feels comfortable with her role and confidently eases into conversations about Christ and salvation as she fires away on a video game.

"I've grown to love all the people in the arcades," Riffe said. "And many of them know me by name. Once they know you're a chaplain they usually bring up talking about God."

As the arcade ministry continued to grow Riffe realized the need for local church involvement in order to further expand the ministry and provide follow-up and discipleship for new Christians.

A great deal of her time now is being spent in Kansas City area churches, presenting the need for sponsors and participants in the program and training people interested in beginning an arcade ministry through their own church.

The essential elements in an arcade ministry, according to Riffe, are prayer, perception to timing and initiative in building relationships. Additionally, participants should "dress like the people you're witnessing to, look like you're ready to play and always carry a New Testament, some tracts and some quarters."

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As two or three churches in the Kansas City area are preparing to initiate arcade ministries, Riffe stays busy looking for other sponsoring churches and continuing her ministry in the arcades.

"The biggest thing is getting used to the atmosphere," said Riffe. "Mostly you find good kids in the arcades because that's who the arcade managers want.

"You've just got to be flexible," she stressed. "You become their friend and become interested in them. People are just starving for the Bible."

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(Trennis Henderson is associate managing editor of the Missouri Baptist Word and Way.)

Church's Demonstrated Concern
Helps Wichitan Gain New Freedom

By Brenda Hall

Baptist Press
10/29/82

WICHITA, Kan. (BP)—The new-found freedom that 20-year-old Mike Meyer has experienced since July is due in part to the congregation and friends of South City Baptist Church.

Meyer, who has cerebral palsy, is learning how to get around in a battery-powered wheelchair operated by breath control. Funds for the heavy chair itself (which cost \$1,700) and for a wheelchair ramp to accommodate it at Meyer's home came from members of the Southern Baptist church and others who heard of the need.

South City pastor Joe Morgan initiated the fund drive and a grant from the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation covered cost of the breath control mechanism.

Now Meyer is learning to wheel himself wherever he wants by blowing or sucking on a plastic tube held to his lips by the chin strap of a small helmet. The tube is connected to switches which control the motor.

When Meyers blows lightly into the tube his chair moves forward. Blowing more forcefully causes it to turn left. When he sucks lightly on the tube the chair moves backwards. It rolls to the right when he sucks hard.

The breath control mechanism was devised by volunteers at Wichita State University's College of Engineering. Meyer's father, Gene, chairman of deacons at South City church and a maintenance electrician, is working with them to get the "bugs" out of the system.

Since he has little control of his hands, Meyer cannot use an electric wheelchair operated by levers. In the past he has relied on friends and family members to push his chair for him.

Now he practices with his wheelchair in the church parking lot and on the sidewalks of his neighborhood. His mother, Judy, hopes he will be able to practice this winter in the gymnasium of Wichita West High School where he is a senior in the special education class.

The Meyers say the new wheelchair will give their son greater independence at school and at any total care facility where he might eventually live.

Meyer already has demonstrated that independence several times on neighborhood outings by tooling rapidly off down the sidewalk, leaving behind whoever is with him.

"I just sit down on the curb and wait for him to come back," said Mrs. Meyer, laughing.

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