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SBC Praised, Chided
For Work Among Ethnic

By James Lee Young

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The 13.9 million member Southern Baptist Convention was both praised and chided for its evangelizing methods among ethnics at the joint annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and Historical Society.

While Baptist witness and missions to ethnics in the New World began as early as 1674 with attempts to "Christianize" Indians in the eastern colonies, the multi-ethnic denomination still has some things to learn about relating to ethnic peoples in terms of missionary efforts and cooperation, participants were told.

At the same time, the ethnic experts noted the various successes of missionaries, pastors and the SBC in general in reaching out to become the Christian melting pot it is today.

Oscar Romo, an Hispanic and director of language missions for the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board in Atlanta, quoted contemporary missiologist Peter Wagner: "Today Southern Baptists are probably five to ten years ahead of most other denominations in perceiving the true spiritual needs of Americans who are unmelted."

Romo termed the growth of the ethnic/language-culture church in America as "phenomenal." Each week the SBC worships and works among 78 ethnic groups, 97 American Indian tribes, internationals and deaf and hearing-impaired persons--a total of 81 distinct ethnic groups.

The language-ethnic leader estimated more than 300,000 people participate in the 4,000 ethnic/language-culture congregations of the SBC, but he also warned the denomination to "evangelize rather than 'Americanize'" in its efforts to minister to everyone.

The age of ethnics in the Christian church is here and churches that do not face up to it are going to face a "cultural collision," another Hispanic and SBC ethnic expert warned. The 1980s are the "decade of the Hispanics," and churches must face up to their needs along with that of other ethnics, said Joshua Grijalva of Mill Valley, Calif., national consultant of ethnic leadership development for the HMB.

Spotlighting 100 years of Hispanic Southern Baptists and their future, Grijalva noted the first organized Southern Baptist work among Hispanics was in 1861 when J.W.D. Creath was named missionary worker among the "Mexicans" in San Antonio, under the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The impact of religion on Hispanics can be highly significant, Grijalva said: "The church of the 20th century is challenged in injecting the teachings of the New Testament to Hispanics as well as other ethnics. "Anglo churches need to have a sense of appreciation for their ethnic brothers...", and Hispanics need a "continuing spirit of unity" if 3,000 new units are to be established by the year 2000, he noted.

Grijalva called for a "continuing examination of value relations, better communications and understanding among all cultures" and noted Hispanics number 18 million of some 119 million ethnics in the United States.

While Anglos were given credit for their share of the evangelizing and Christianizing of ethnics in the United States, Russell Begaye, a Navajo who is national consultant on Indian affairs for the denomination, reminded his listeners that ethnics have been active in winning their own people to Christ.

Southern Baptist ministry to American Indians is built on the lives of Indian believers, "many of whom died along the trails of persecution," he said. Several Indian preachers accompanied their people when the Cherokees traveled the famous "Trail of Tears" in 1838, Begaye said, citing other numerous Indian preachers and missionaries who ministered to their own tribes and others.

The desire, Begaye said, for Indians to learn the "Christian way," prompted them early on to establish Christian schools for their own people.

While most Baptists in the country through 1845 (the year the SBC was organized) were interested mainly in pushing Indians out of the way, some white missionaries were the exception to the rule, said historian Robert Gardner of Shorter College in Rome, Ga.

He cited four early Baptist leaders who were prominent "because of their concern for Indians." The exception rather than the norm, they were David Jones, Peter Folger, Isaac Backus (probably the best known in Baptist history) and Peleg Burroughs.

In his research, Gardner said he discovered women endured the mission responsibilities to Indians better than men, and stayed on longer, in spite of hardships heaped on the females in western mission areas.

Southern Baptist work among the Chinese and other Asians in this country goes back to at least 1854 when J. Lewis Shuck established the first Asian Southern Baptist ministry in Sacramento, Calif. That same chapel produced the first Asian Southern Baptist lay preachers, Ah Mooney and Ah Chak (Leong Chak), who aided Shuck, said Peter Kung, a Chinese Southern Baptist Asian expert who is a liaison between the denomination's Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board.

Cooperation and a positive attitude by Southern Baptists toward immigrants and non-Anglos has ensured continued work on a large scale with ethnic and minority groups in this country, according to another SBC historian.

An up and down overall mission to ethnics, centered through the SBC's Home Mission Board (formerly the Domestic Mission Board), was characterized in the 19th century by an "ambivalent view of the immigrant," Lee N. Allen, dean of Howard College of Arts and Science at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., told his colleagues.

"He (the ethnic) was a threat to the entire American system," Allen lamented, an attitude that carried over into early Southern Baptist thinking. In the early part of the 20th century, the negativism gave way to accepting ethnic peoples as opportunities for witness.

And cooperation became a key early on, eventually coming to include the ethnics themselves in the work and planning toward maturing, self-sustaining churches, Allen said. "A simple listing of all the new language groups to whom the Convention (SBC) began a ministry after 1942 would read like the index of an Atlas," he observed.

The theme of the historical meeting was "Ethnic Southern Baptist Heritage."

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ACTS Network Launch
Historic, Vital, Moody Says

By Greg Warner

Baptist Press
4/27/83

ATLANTA (BP)--Next year's launch of the American Christian Television System Network (ACTS) is as important to Southern Baptists as the birth of the Cooperative Program in 1925, California pastor Jess Moody told the National Conference on Broadcast Ministries.

"We must make up our minds to prioritize the ACTS network," he said. Moody, pastor of the 12,000-member First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, delivered the keynote address of the three-day training meeting, attended by 500 Baptist media workers.

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"I really don't want us to think of this as just another Baptist meeting," Moody said of the third annual broadcasting conference, the last before the launch of ACTS, Southern Baptist's national TV network. "This is an historic moment, a moment as freighted with importance as the birth of the Cooperative Program."

Moody said television has become the scene of a fierce struggle for control of human lives. "The battle for the whole world is not a battle for borders. It is a battle for the human mind. What captures the eye conquers the world."

Southern Baptists are retooling to meet the modern challenge, Moody said, through their three telecommunications efforts--ACTS, Baptist TelNet and the Video Tape Service. "Baptists, it is your turn to knock at the nation's door," he said. "This nation is interested because it has run out of options."

"ACTS has come upon the scene at a time when Hollywood has fornicated its brains out and attacked marriage until it seems the wedding band is second only to herpes on a secular list of woes." Moody said Christians must share the blame for the faults of the entertainment business because they have remained silent.

"Christians fled from the arena and left it to the lions 50 years ago. Don't blame Hollywood because it went bad. It all went bad because we pulled up the righteous skirts and ran away in Pharisaic horror the first time Jean Harlow showed her calf."

Baptists are back in the arena in a big way Moody said, and their telecommunications will succeed because they tie modern technology to a life-changing message.

"There isn't a sociologist or futurist who will tell you Southern Baptists are making a mistake," he said. "We have grown because we have not flinched before some radical adaptation that was keyed to evangelism and missions."

"God will give it to us because we are challenging every wealthy, every middle class and every poor, dead-broke Baptist to do that which can change the nation. It is a challenge that stirs the blood, imagination and enthusiasm of Baptists."

"We must make it possible for every Baptist to give to this because it is not a standard-brand church cause. It is the absolute, pitched battle for the soul of America."

"Our denomination offered this great challenge to Dr. Jimmy Allen. Don't turn your back on him now that he is six inches off the diving board. "I just pray that every seminary, every agency, board, committee, every Southern Baptist will realize we must somehow find a way, the money, the heart to make this thing happen."

Moody said other television ministries are ill-fated because they are tied to personalities. ACTS will outlive them all, he said, because its strength rises from local churches. "If you get ACTS born, it will last as long as there is a Southern Baptist church up and down the length and breadth of Main Street America. It will last only until 36,000 churches have died. And that's just more dying than Baptists are planning to do."

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(Photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press)

First National Named
Church Growth Consultant

Baptist Press
4/27/83

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A Paraguayan pastor and convention leader will become Latin America consultant for evangelism and church growth upon retirement of the Southern Baptist missionary now serving this area.

Jose Missena, pastor of Villa More Baptist Church in Asuncion, Paraguay, and executive secretary of the Latin America Baptist Union, begins work May 1 as consultant-elect. He will be the first Baptist related to Southern Baptist work overseas named to such a post.

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Missena will assume full responsibility Jan. 1 after retirement of missionary Roy L. Lyon, regional evangelism and church growth consultant since November 1980.

Charles Bryan, head of overseas operations for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said Missena will be a part of the Latin America field staff and his work will be coordinated by the three Latin America area directors. He will continue to live in Asuncion but will be available to travel throughout Latin America as he assists both missionaries and national bodies in evangelism planning and encouragement of church growth.

Missena will relate on a fraternal basis with the three missionaries who fill evangelism and church growth posts in other parts of the world. Bryan said when he met with area directors for Middle America and the Caribbean, eastern South America and western South America to discuss a successor to Lyon, they decided it was the right time for a national to provide these consultant services.

From a number of capable Latin leaders, they settled upon Missena because of his experience in church development, his widespread use as an evangelist in other countries of the region and his ability to inspire and encourage others.

For more than 24 years Missena has been pastor of the influential Villa Mora church, but he had recently shared with his congregation he felt God was leading him into other areas of evangelism at the end of his 25th year there.

Missena, 51, is a native of Paraguay, a Spanish-speaking country, but is fluent in Portuguese and has a working knowledge of English. A graduate of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he has served both as president and executive secretary of the Evangelical Baptist Convention of Paraguay and as a board member for Baptist Hospital, Asuncion.

As executive head of the Latin America Baptist Union, he represents his region in relating to the Baptist World Alliance. His wife, Betty, a native of Uruguay, manages the Baptist bookstore in Asuncion and also served at one time as president of the Paraguay convention. The Missenas have three grown children.

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(Photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press)

HMB Commissions 85
For Mission Service

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CLARKSTON, Ga. (BP)--Missionaries who work with Hispanics, Koreans and American Indians, start churches in cities and remote spots "three-and-a-half hours from the nearest K-Mart," and serve as chaplains to Ivy League students as well as Georgia inmates were among 85 commissioned by the Home Mission Board.

The dedication service, one of two held each year, took place during Sunday morning worship at Clarkston Baptist Church, which is celebrating its centennial.

Margrette Stevenson, director of the HMB personnel division, told the missionaries, "We have come to dedicate your gifts, to acknowledge your love of Christ and to share your commitment." Irvin Dawson, director of the HMB missionary personnel department, described the missionaries, who serve in 22 states and Canada, as "an arm of this church and every church which supports and prays for home missions."

HMB President William G. Tanner warned "any worthy service is accompanied by stinging opposition and bouts of doubt." Describing missionaries as "people who rescue other people," he said, "God didn't call you to be successful but to be faithful. Remember as you reach out to meet needs, you both give of yourself and share the love of Christ."

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Several missionaries talked about their call to mission work and the challenges they face. Mona Samples, appointed with her husband, Ted, who pastors the only Southern Baptist Indian church in Wyoming, said "at 34, with four children, it was hard to believe God was really calling me to missions." Richard Onarecker, director of church extension in Cape Coral, Fla., related his journey from chemical sales to seminary, then from a comfortable pastorate to the risks and rewards of starting new churches.

Twenty-two persons were commissioned in church extension: Homer Jr. and Glenda Davis, Tifton, Ga.; Gerald and Jane Edwards, Hallandale, Fla.; Carrol and Wilma Fowler, Onaway, Mich.; Dwain and Marilyn Gregory, Telluride, Colo.; Horace and Margaret Kennedy, Playas, N.M.; Glen and Joyce Land, Troy, Mo.; Philip and Judy Langley, Parachute, Colo.; Keith and Lorena Moore, Wheeling, W.Va.; Richard and Anita Onarecker, Cape Coral, Fla.; Clarence and Janice Smith, Pioche, Nev., and Edward and Jennifer Smith, Mammoth Lake, Calif.

Twenty-four were commissioned for language missions: Bynum and Sybil Akins, Dallas, Texas; Elio and Carmen Camacho-Vasquez, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Sok and Banan Doeung, Fort Worth, Texas; Manuel and Esther Galindo, Harlingen, Texas; Paul and Ruth Hartt, Chicago, Ill.; David and Judy Kim, Santa Ana, Calif.; David and Sherry Lee, Pascagoula, Miss.;

Josias Jr. and Elizabeth Robledo, Oxnard, Calif.; Epifanio and Francis Salazar, Artesia, N.M.; Ted and Mona Samples, Fort Washakie, Wyo.; Kenneth and Chiraphon Shipman, Dallas, Texas, and Raul and Mirta Vazquez, Houston, Texas.

Three missionaries were commissioned for special mission ministries: Wayne Andrie, Saskatchewan, Canada, and Dan and Anne McClintock, Framington, Mass. Rickey and Tobiper Armstrong of Birmingham, Ala., work in black church relations. Randy and Pam Evers of Montgomery, Ala., are in evangelism.

Three couples work in metropolitan missions: Charles and Fay Chilton, Beltsville, Md.; Don and Dolores Hall, Hawthorne, Calif., and Charles and Bettie McClung, Van Nuys, Calif.

Ten persons were commissioned for Christian social ministries: Ron and Carol Climer, Fresno, Calif.; Douglas and Iva DeWitt-Hoblitt, Columbus, Ohio; Jeffrey and Jean Franklin, Richmond, Va.; Robert Franklin, Milledgeville, Ga.; Lora Manolia Hall, Atlanta, Ga., and Leonard and Martha Willingham, Charlottesville, Va.

In rural-urban missions, 16 persons were commissioned: LeRoy and Stella Bearce, Las Vegas, Nev.; William and Katie Duke, Drums, Pa.; Ralph Jr. and Bettye Guthrie, Flagstaff, Ariz.; Charles and Faith Kellar, Lincoln, Calif.; Jerry and Lela Purkaple, Show Low, Ariz.; Robert and Fonda Stout, Harrisburg, Ill.; David and Barbara Wigger, Liberty, Mo., and Garland and Hellen Wilkerson, Sidney, Ohio.

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(Photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press)

Brotherhood Commission
Dedicates Conference Center

By Mike Livingston

Baptist Press
4/27/83

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Speaking in the Brotherhood Commission's recently completed Glendon McCullough Conference Center, President James H. Smith opened the commission's spring trustee meeting calling for new goals in enrollment, curriculum and training.

During the three-day, semi-annual meeting, the conference center was dedicated to Smith's predecessor, Glendon McCullough, a 1983-84 budget was okayed and the formation and by-laws of a Fellowship of Baptist Men was approved.

Praising McCullough for his vision of a national center where men could be trained in missions, Smith said, "We will now be able to more effectively work toward our goals in training by developing the skills of church, associational, state and SBC Brotherhood leaders.

Construction of the center and other refurbishing of the commission's headquarters, totaling more than \$300,000, would be completed without incurring any indebtedness.

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An overflow audience packed the conference center for dedication services. Personalities from all segments of Southern Baptist life, including McCullough's widow, Marjorie, M. Wendell Belew of the Home Mission Board, John Dunaway of the SBC Executive Committee, and June Whitlow of the Woman's Missionary Union participated in the dedication.

A recurring theme in many of the dedication speeches told of the people whom McCullough touched through his life and work. Belew said his life had been touched in many ways during his long association with McCullough, but was particularly touched through McCullough's vision, humor and dedication to missions.

"His children in missions, who grew up under him, are everywhere," said Belew. "Because of them, Glendon was truly a man of the world through lives of people he touched."

Dunaway added, "While we are dedicating the Glendon McCullough Conference Center there's a very real sense in which we are dedicating ourselves and the Brotherhood Commission to the task of involving men and boys in missions."

In other business, the commission approved the by-laws of the Fellowship of Baptist Men which will function as part of the Brotherhood Commission. The fellowship will elect its own officers and will work to identify avenues of missions involvement for laymen.

The fellowship is a result of several years' study of the Brotherhood Commission on how to involve more laymen in SBC activities. The study was initiated by a group of laymen who were concerned laymen were not as involved in SBC life as they could be. The fellowship will attempt to complement, not duplicate, present Baptist Men's work while encouraging laymen to become more involved in missions.

The trustees also approved a \$2.6 million budget for 1983-84 and heard an update on the Brotherhood Commission's effort to enlist laymen to participate in an evangelistic crusade planned for Pennsylvania prior to the SBC annual meeting in Pittsburgh.

Douglas Beggs, director of Baptist Men and coordinator for enlisting crusade volunteers, reported 28 teams of 40 volunteers already have been formed. He said 10 additional team leaders have been enlisted and efforts are continuing to enlist more volunteers.

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Southern Baptists
Dominate RPRC Awards

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4/27/83

DENVER (BP)--The annual awards competition of the Religious Public Relations Council had a definite Southern Baptist flavor this year as SBC entries took three of the six "grand awards" and 11 of the 34 Best-In-Category honors.

Floyd Craig, former staffer with the Christian Life Commission, won two of the major awards for "Here's Hope," a campaign he produced for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. It took top honors in both the Public Relations Campaign and the Print categories.

The other SBC grand award winner was Marshall Walker of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., for a videotape, "Introducing Baptist TelNet."

The Baptist Sunday School Board took four categories, while the SBC Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, each took three.

Best In Category winners included:

Booklets--Phillip Poole, Southwestern Seminary; Advertising--Floyd Craig, Craig and Associates Inc., Raleigh, N.C.; Special Print Materials-- Linda Lawson/David Haywood, Baptist Sunday School Board;

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Black and white photography--Robert O'Brien, Foreign Mission Board; Videotapes and/or discs--Marshall Walker, Baptist Sunday School Board; Radio program series--Don Fearheiley, Baptist Sunday School Board;

News story--Robert O'Brien, Foreign Mission Board; Feature story--Norman Jameson, Southwestern Seminary; Feature series--Robert O'Brien; National public relations campaign--Lloyd Householder, Baptist Sunday School Board; Local public relations campaign--Floyd Craig.

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Conference Participants Hear
Honest Word About Missions

By Norman Jameson

Baptist Press
4/27/83

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Don Kammerdiener talked straight about missions to 750 college students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, admitting some missionaries are neither successful nor effective.

Oscar Romo, director of the Home Mission Board's language missions division, urged participants at the seminary's 34th annual student missions conference to "go where the people are" in their witnessing efforts.

In Kammerdiener's frank opening address, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area director of middle America and the Caribbean also debunked several traditional mission myths.

He said successful missionaries have at least six qualities, they are: evangelists, the source of ideas, someone who puts those ideas into practice, educators, persons able to work within another culture, reconcilers between cultures and races and catalysts.

Many missionaries have other specialties, but underlying all their efforts, must be "the belief that every person needs to come to the conviction and decision for his life that Jesus Christ is Lord," Kammerdiener said.

He said a missionary's work must always be reproducible. It is a "horrible mistake" to bring up a church with tools and finances of a foreign culture. The missionary must show it can be done with local tools.

When working within a different culture, Kammerdiener said the missionary will realize if he is unwilling to be a learner he is incapable of being a teacher.

Kammerdiener cautioned would-be missionaries about too closely assimilating the culture in which they enter. A missionary stands between cultures, he said, blending the best of each.

Kammerdiener punctured several myths in the minds of the students, many of whom are considering missions vocations. Among them is the idea "if you're not a missionary, you're a mission field." "I don't believe it," he said. "That's a pop theology that needs more examination." In the book of Acts, he said, five persons were praying for missions and only Paul and Barnabas were called as missionaries.

Another myth is missionaries are to work themselves out of jobs. "You don't work yourself out of a job, no matter what you may hear," Kammerdiener said. "You many work yourself out of one job only to work yourself into another."

"I've never surrendered to missions," said Kammerdiener in the common missionary terminology. "I was a happy volunteer."

Romo noted United States population now includes more than 200 ethnic groups speaking 560 languages and dialects. "There are 81 nations within our nation, and that does not include the various American Indian groups," Romo said.

He urged the students to catch the vision of the world around them and be willing to reach out to people in the United States who have not heard the Christian message. "We must put ourselves in the context of the people," he said.

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Traditional door-to-door evangelism is no longer sufficient, Romo said. "We must go to the massage parlors and other sinful places to reach the people. We must get their names and addresses there. This is where we will reach the cultures which the census cannot count."

Romo noted Southern Baptists have whole segments in the United States whom they have yet to reach. These segments have their own cultures, heritages and languages. "We must be willing to go where they are. We can't expect them to come to our churches," he said.

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New Lottie Moon to Premiere
At WMU Meeting in Pittsburgh

Baptist Press
4/27/83

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists will get their first look at a new Lottie Moon at the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting in Pittsburgh June 12-13.

The new Foreign Mission Board film, "Journey Home: Lottie Moon of China," will premiere in Pittsburgh's Stanley Theatre at 7:30 p.m. June 13. Sheila Bailey, the actress who plays the missionary in the film, will present a monologue from a different stage of Moon's career at each of the four WMU sessions.

Because seating capacity in the theatre is limited, all seats for the premiere are reserved. Tickets are available at no charge from the national and state WMU offices.

In the film, Lottie Moon reflects on her missionary career from her deathbed in a stateroom aboard the Manchuria on her final journey home. Through a series of flashbacks she recalls her life in China from the first day she arrived as a vivacious young missionary.

Ken Lawson, Foreign Mission Board director of product development, says the Lottie of "Journey Home" fairly sparkles, especially the young Lottie. "She's sharp, she's decisive. She likes people, very obviously. She smiles a lot," he said. "We see a lot of things to identify with."

The film was commissioned to Scene Three, a Nashville, Tenn., production company, but Lawson was involved in the production from start to finish.

All outdoor filming except the ship scene was done on location in Taipei, Taiwan. The exterior ship scenes were shot in Charleston, S.C. All interior shooting was done on a Nashville sound stage.

"The first obvious thing people are going to notice is how real this film seems because we're out in the open," Lawson says. "You're seeing a lot of Chinese people and you're seeing scenes and buildings that look like China." Those scenes were shot on a backlot at Central Motion Pictures in Taiwan, at one time using 40 Chinese actors.

Filming was not without its memorable moments. The worst typhoon to hit Taiwan in five years interrupted shooting for two days. Sustained winds of 100 miles an hour damaged trees and buildings on the backlot where the crew was shooting.

Lawson was impressed with how closely the new Lottie seemed to resemble the Lottie preserved in photographs. Sheila Bailey is 4-foot-10, though not so short as the 4-foot-3 missionary. Lawson notes facial characteristics like the eyebrows and squared jaw were similar for both women.

"I was really stunned when I saw her (Bailey) as the middle-aged Lottie with the sweeping hair and gray temples," Lawson admits. "And as tiny as she was in comparison with the Chinese. She physically resembled her that much."

I think people are going to come to know a new Lottie they haven't known before," he suggests. "If they see the film, then go read the book (Catherine Allen's, The New Lottie Moon Story), they'll find her there. That's the way she was."

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Lawson said the film was limited to 30 minutes so it could have the greatest use in the churches, though "we could have done a two-hour film and had people wanting more."

The primary release of the film will be in videotape, he said, but it also will be released in motion picture. Videotape copies will be sold at the Video Tape Service exhibit at the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh. Some 16mm films will be made available through Baptist Film Centers.

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(Photos sent to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press)

First Phase Of Pilot
Retirement Community Dedicated

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4/27/83

ATLANTA (BP)--The first phase of a \$23 million-plus Christian retirement community has been dedicated by Briarcliff Baptist Church in Atlanta.

King's Bridge at Briarcliff, a pilot project in senior citizen care, emphasizes health care in the home through a health clinic and 24-hour medical staff.

The 200 one- and two-bedroom units and 32 personal care units (for persons needing individualized care but who are not chronically ill or disabled) will be constructed around the existing facility of the Briarcliff Baptist Church, sponsor of the project.

"The primary concept was not to put people in a retirement community off by themselves but to wrap them around a church concerned about senior adults," explained former Briarcliff pastor Paul Baxter. "The church will be able to share its facilities and resources and will be there as a good Christian neighbor, not to interfere, but to help."

Several years ago Hamish Fraser, a Scottish-born architect, who was architect and designer for King's Bridge, contacted M. Wendell Belew, director of the missions ministries division for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and proposed a retirement community "centered around a local church where all members were involved in ministry."

Belew suggested Baxter and Briarcliff church as possible sponsors. The church had a history of ministry with senior adults in the community, regularly scheduling programs and visits at near-by Briarcliff Oaks, a government subsidized high-rise for senior adults.

The Briarcliff church voted to sponsor the project and gave a 5.7-acre tract of land surrounding the church's facilities for construction of the new community. The church also formed a separate board to manage the affairs of the non-profit corporation.

Groundbreaking for the retirement center will not begin until 25 percent of the units have been sold. Fraser anticipates tax-free bonds can be issued in October with hopes of groundbreaking sometime in 1983 or early 1984. Construction is expected to be completed within 18 months of the groundbreaking.

Entry fees for personal care residences start in the mid-20s and one-bedroom units start in the low 50s. Monthly maintenance and service fees cover costs for security, an on-site health clinic, 24-hour medical personnel, housekeeping, at least one meal per day, interior and exterior maintenance, all utilities (except for phone), local transportation and other services.

"The monthly charge reflects that whoever comes to this community has a lifetime assurance of our care for them just as if they were a member of our own family," Fraser said. "We have a church committing itself to minister to this community. All manner of people in the church will become involved in life at King's Bridge."

Fraser stressed the project is not just a ministry "to" retirees but retirees can play an active part in the building of the congregation and in community ministry.

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The model for the community stems from his own childhood in Scotland. "There was a definite commitment to one another," he recalled. "If anyone didn't look after anyone else, it would fail." He added, "I see the unique possibility of this interaction between retirees of the community and all age groups of the church. There's an opportunity for a strong spiritual tie between generations.

"If we're able to do this project," Fraser said, "Baptist churches around the country will be able to point to this model and begin their own ministries."

With increased budget cuts affecting future building of government subsidized senior adult housing, Fraser sees the church as the hope of retirees. "I think the church is the last hope of the community," said Fraser. "If they don't do this ministry, I don't know who will."

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(Photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press)

Students Put Pedal Power
Into Mission Commitment

By George Wilhite

Baptist Press
4/27/83

BELTON, Texas (BP)--Ron Sutton and Kelly Boggs will travel more than 1,850 miles as missionaries this summer on bicycles.

The pair will start their trip May 18 and hopes to be back in Belton at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor by Aug. 15. They plan about 75 stops including visiting Baptist encampments and leading youth revivals and rallies at local churches. But equally important to the two young ministerial students are the casual acquaintances they hope to make along the way.

"We're hoping to talk to people when we stop at stores for a drink or at parks and recreational areas along the way," said Boggs. Sutton plans to take his guitar so, "When we stop to camp at night, I can bring out the guitar and begin playing and singing." He hopes that will bring people over from neighboring campsites to gather around and talk. Neither plans to preach at these types of gatherings, just talk.

Boggs said he is well aware of the stereotype Christians have to other people. He stereotyped Christians himself before he became one. Most people expect to get lectured when they find out a person is a Christian. On the contrary, Boggs said, he likes to just talk to people, witnessing by just being there.

One of the hardest things to overcome, he said, is the concept that if you are a Christian, you can't have fun. Many people have contact with Christians who are too worried about sticking closely to a set of rules and not about helping others.

Boggs believes a Christian has an obligation to be available when someone needs him, not to go out of his way to try to cram his religion down someone's throat who isn't ready to listen. He feels the Christian needs to do more listening and less preaching so he can be aware when a cry for help comes.

One of the problems the two men have had has been in the areas of support. Boggs said he got really excited about doing something of this nature a year ago. But everyone he talked to acted like he was a little off. Eventually, he quit talking to anyone about it and just prayed. Then he ran into Sutton.

Sutton had a similar problem when he decided to join Boggs in the trip. "Some of my friends and family members," he said, "thought that I should really be spending my summer doing something more 'profitable,' like working."

Both men feel their growth as Christians will be one of the major advantages of the trek. One problem still remains, though. Neither student has a lot of money for undertaking the trip. Boggs, however, is philosophical when he says, "If God wants us to make the trip, he will provide for us."

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(George Wilhite is associate director of marketing at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.)