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Twenty Children
Share Couple's Love

By Norman Jameson

PAWHUSKA, Okla. (BP)--If God financially rewards people who utilize their talents, Barbara Walker will travel to heaven in an armored car.

She believes the Lord gives everyone a talent and her talent is parenting. So she and her husband have 20 children. Fourteen are adopted. Ten are black and four are Indian. Eight children are under eight and five are teenagers.

The Walkers moved to Oklahoma four and a half years ago to escape the prejudice they felt sure was coming in their children's Missouri schools. They feel Pawhuska is "a good Christian community" with a significant Indian population and a job for Muriel Walker.

Her children are popular in school, solid students and the older ones all talk of college. They attend Osage Indian Church.

Mrs. Walker, physically and sexually abused as a child, shuffled through foster care and finally was adopted at age seven. But when her adoptive parents learned more fully of her background, they felt inadequate and returned her to relatives.

The children she and Muriel adopt now are "from parents who haven't developed their parenting skills yet." One child was born in a mental institution while his father was in prison. The child was a "risk" because he was thought to be mentally below par. It turns out the child is exceptionally bright.

Mrs. Walker, 42, didn't finish high school and married young. She articulates her family situation well, but doesn't beat a drum about her actions. Nor will she castigate Christian couples who complain about the lack of adoptable, white, Anglo-Saxon perfect infants.

"That's what their idea of perfect is," she says. "I think our children are perfect. Perfect is what you love with your heart. If that's the only child you feel in your heart fits in your family circle, you should wait until such a baby becomes available."

With seven bedrooms squeezed from the rented house and a \$200-a-week grocery bill, added siblings might be resented. But, says Charlotte, 16, "We adjust the rooms and go on."

"You learn to share," says Mrs. Walker, who stretches her husband's wages as a bulldozer driver by smart shopping. "You learn life isn't all money. You can achieve your goals in different ways and they don't have to be material."

The only new thing they've bought in years is a television set that is watched one hour per day. When they found sausage on sale for 99 cents, they bought 60 pounds. Furniture has been in the family for years or comes from garage sales, but all children have their own bed.

The Walkers really would like a house where they can have a garden and a milk cow, as much to teach the children responsibility as for the actual help in food bills.

"They learn they have to take responsibility for their actions," says Mrs. Walker, who spans sparingly, even though some children were very rough when they came to her. "If they don't learn as children, they don't do it as adults. If they learn early to make decisions for themselves, then as teenagers they can say 'no' to some things."

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Many people question her ability to make time for her children individually. But she doesn't work outside the home and is available 24 hours a day. The children know where their father works every day and that he will be home at night.

"Our children have a good attitude about themselves and feel they're important," she says. "There are so many divorces and people remarried whose children don't have the security ours do. Our children have a lot more security because they have our family. We love them because they're ours and they know that. They know we are here to stay."

Their family alone qualifies for "group rate" at some activities. At home a softball game is easy to get going and Mrs. Walker even coached a grade school team one year.

The Walkers do reserve one night a month for themselves without the children.

"We're no different from anybody else," insists the soft-spoken Walker, 50, "except we have a bunch of kids."

Why do they do it? "For the kids," says Walker. "They need a home. A guy has to spend his money for something and these kids need a place to stay." Mrs. Walker adds: "We just enjoy our family. There's no way to explain just loving one another."

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(BP) photo available upon request from the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger

India Crusades Report
1,800 New Believers

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press
5/3/84

CALCUTTA, India (BP)--More than 1,800 people in northwest India professed faith in Jesus Christ during a Sunday-to-Sunday evangelism crusade in which 46 Southern Baptists participated.

The Americans worked alongside the Northwest India Baptist Association near the cities of Calcutta and Chandigarh March 25 through April 1.

"It was a place of extremes," said missions volunteer Harvey Kneisel, who came to the country six months ago from Conroe, Texas, to help nationals prepare for the crusades. "When the devil makes himself most conspicuous, the Lord makes himself most obvious."

Kneisel and others returned to the States with stories of God's power:

--Two young men not known to be Christians physically cut short a religious extremist's verbal attack on an 81-year-old pastor from Florida. During the service the men picked up the extremist, who was toting sword, dagger and gun, and carried him out of the meeting place. Then they all disappeared. The same day 45 people professed faith in Christ;

--In the town of Kizrabad 139 people were baptized, after repeated disturbances during the entire crusade. People were so disinterested that, in one earlier instance, an entire congregation of 300 deserted the American preacher when an ice cream truck drove by;

--An associate pastor's wife from Florida who sang a solo early in the crusade became the vocalist for the entire event in the town of Kizrabad--and her husband had never heard her sing by herself before. Only one Christian family lived there and the village of about 3,000 had never heard the gospel message in a meeting.

India is emerging as one of the world's most responsive areas to the gospel. "Some teams spoke to 3,000 people at a time, in areas where it is difficult to even imagine where all of the people came from," said Southern Baptist missionary Jack Ollis, who accompanied groups to West Bengal. "One team alone spoke to 10,000 people (during the period)."

Most Southern Baptist work has been concentrated near Bangalore Baptist Hospital in the south, where 11 missionaries work. But about a year and a half ago, Jerry Rankin, associate to the Foreign Mission Board's director for Southeast Asia, began training and leadership programs throughout the northwest--in Calcutta, Bombay and Chandigarh churches.

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In February, Mission Service Corps volunteer Kneisel and his wife, Charlene, began training nationals in evangelism and setting up living arrangements for the Americans. They also organized a publicity campaign involving the distribution of 14,000 printed wall calendars with messages about Christianity and the crusade.

As part of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board partnership evangelism project, each of the 17 American teams held two services each Sunday and six during the week. Total attendance was 54,128.

"They're real hungry for the gospel," said Southern Baptist Pastor Wayne Driggers of Plant City, Fla., who worked in the town of Dagshai. "There were just multitudes of people who made commitments to Christ, and they were very meaningful commitments."

During the crusade, nationals in many areas were both receptive to the gospel message, and friendly. "We did a lot of street witnessing and a lot of home Bible studies," said Driggers. "Everybody wanted us to visit their home and have a Bible study and a prayer meeting and have 'chai' (hot tea) with them."

Many of the friends Driggers' team made were not Christians, but Hindus. One upper-caste Hindu family asked his team to join them for breakfast. As a result, the group was invited to a meeting of the Rotary Club, whose members were mostly business owners.

"These people were noncommittal, but receptive to the gospel," said Driggers. "The question they wanted to know was, 'Why do you believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God?' The general populace didn't ask this question; they were just hungry to hear about Jesus. But these people who were the elite posed this question, not in an argumentative but in a searching way."

The Northwest India Baptist Association was organized in 1976 by a Baptist group from Florida. Now about 5,000 people worship in 36 churches and preaching points with 17 national pastors, who baptized 600 new Christians last year.

The commitment of national leadership can be seen in people like bivocational pastor George Masih, an interpreter during the crusade. Every Sunday Masih leaves his home at 6 a.m. and returns at 11 p.m., after walking 17 kilometers (nearly 11 miles) to teach at three preaching points.

New-believer discipleship workbooks were produced in the Hindi and Punjabi languages to help follow up on the 150 new baptized Christians and the scores of others expected to be baptized as a result of the crusade.

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Cothen Calls ACTS, BTN
'Intervention of God'

Baptist Press
5/3/84

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The emergence this year of two Baptist Communications Networks--ACTS and BTN--is a "miraculous intervention of God," said Grady C. Cothen, former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

A study seven years ago said Southern Baptists would have to wait until the late 1980s to start a telecommunications ministry, Cothen told the annual National Conference on Broadcast Ministries.

Instead the denomination will inaugurate two satellite-fed TV systems in June. "What is going to happen is nothing short of a miraculous intervention of God," said Cothen, who in 1981 founded one of those systems, the Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN).

Almost 800 church media workers, pastors and others participated in the broadcasting conference. It was the last training before start-up of BTN, a teaching and training network for churches, and the American Christian Television System (ACTS), a TV network for homes.

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Despite all the preparation and excitement, however, Southern Baptists still haven't gauged the full impact of their adventure, Cothen said.

"We don't understand a fraction of what ACTS and BTN can do for churches," he said. "Southern Baptists will have more time on television in the first month of ACTS than in the history of the denomination. From the outset it will be the best distribution system for home television that any denomination has ever had."

Cothen said BTN is not a substitute for established church programs, but will support and enhance them. BTN will multiply a pastor's ministry potential by helping with his primary function by "equipping the saints" for ministry. "We are not proposing an electronic denomination," Cothen said. "BTN is aimed at helping you be all you can be."

Cothen said ACTS and BTN will help Christians grow spiritually "by getting them involved in what God is doing around the world. I wish every Southern Baptist could feel the needs of the missionaries. They can't experience that first hand by being there, but they can experience it in the comfort of their church or living room.

"They can go to Glorieta and never leave Texas. They can go to Hong Kong and never leave Mississippi," he said.

Cothen said Southern Baptists cannot afford to ignore this chance to develop a TV ministry. "It's high time someone said 'no' to the way of life presented on commercial television, because that's not the way life is supposed to be.

"No one who has ever lived has had the opportunity to share the gospel that you have," Cothen told the group. "It will cost some money. But if any church invests in ACTS and BTN with any degree of imagination, it will not cost you anything but will bring in money you didn't know was there."

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

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Southwestern Plans
'Chair of Prayer'

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
5/3/84

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Years ago, as a pastor, Jack Gray was "trying to prepare 'meals' for church members when I wasn't eating well myself."

Now, at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, Gray is teaching future church leaders "how to eat a balanced meal out of the riches of prayer and God's word and teach other people to do the same."

Gray will retire this year as professor of missions, a post he has held since 1956, but during the coming year he will be adjunct professor of the new Chair of Prayer and Spiritual Formation.

"Southwestern has been a pioneer among seminaries in the field of teaching spiritual development," said seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. The chair is part of an emphasis that gained momentum in 1970, when Gray inaugurated a Spiritual Foundations for Missions course, now listed as Spiritual Formation for Ministry.

Dilday noted the seminary "should not only prepare its students in professional skills, but also in the important areas of prayer, devotional disciplines and Christlikeness.

"While many seminarians have had a long pilgrimage of spiritual growth, many others come to Southwestern from recent initial encounters with God," he added. "They have had very little experience in the dynamics of personal spiritual growth, much less in how to lead others in spiritual formation."

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The idea for a Chair of Prayer and Spiritual Formation, akin to the seminary's L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism (Chair of Fire), was first suggested to Dilday by Jack Taylor, a Southwestern graduate, well-known author and Bible conference leader and 1980-81 first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

According to Taylor, "We can know a lot, but we cannot know it effectually without the power of prayer." He has been among those raising the \$500,000 endowment needed for the chair. He reported \$80,000 has been received, including a retired missionary's \$10,000 life savings.

The chair is consistent with a recent emphasis on spiritual formation within the Association of Theological Schools, Dilday pointed out.

Future catalogs will detail the seminary's spiritual development plans, he said, adding, "There also will be a strong emphasis on the role of the local church in providing worship, prayer and discipleship opportunities for students."

In his travels as a missions professor, Gray said, "I found missionaries on the field and church leaders at home who were experiencing spiritual exhaustion."

And he recalled his days as a pastor, when "I had no means for discipling people. I needed it personally and my people needed it. I had been trained in encounter evangelism, but not follow-up after conversion."

This year, in addition to Spiritual Formation for Ministry, he has taught a year-long MasterLife course. MasterLife, a 26-week small group discipleship program, is "the only instrument for actually training people in discipleship--in becoming disciples and making disciples--that Southern Baptists have ever had," he said.

Gray will continue teaching the Spiritual Formation for Ministry and MasterLife courses. And he intends to initiate some course work in prayer--how to pray, to teach others to pray and to mobilize a church in prayer. He also hopes to schedule guest lecturers and a special prayer emphasis week.

For Gray, who has taught missions 28 years, "my encounter with missions was at Southwestern Seminary" during his student days in the late 1930s.

A concern for missions became a vital part of his faith when he was "confronted with it again and again" in his classes and in chapel. He was there when Baker James Cauthen, then a missions professor at Southwestern and pastor of Polytechnic Baptist Church, and his wife Eloise gave their testimonies about being called to China as missionaries.

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(Art Toalston is co-news editor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.)

McCall Assistant Dean
Of Boyce Bible School

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--John G. McCall has been named assistant dean of Boyce Bible School, effective Aug. 1. McCall is presently pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Miss., where he was pastor for 30 years.

He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Radio and Television Commission. He is a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and was a trustee for Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss.

McCall, a native of Quitman, Ga., received the A.B. degree from Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., and the Th.M and Th.D. degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. As assistant dean at Boyce, McCall will work in recruitment and promotion, as well as teach New Testament courses.

Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Seminary, was founded in 1974 to provide ministerial training for persons without a college level degree.

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Evangelists Plan
Festival, Meeting

By Dan Martin

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--After a year of studying its future, the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists is planning a restructured program for the 1984 meeting at the Southern Baptist Convention.

After several years of acrimonious controversy, the 1983 annual meeting of the Conference voted to abolish the meeting and to study merging the group into the Pastors' Conference. However, after a year of study and a mail poll of the 350 members of the conference, it was decided to continue having an annual meeting in conjunction with the SBC.

"Last year, in an effort to bury the controversy, we voted to completely abolish the whole thing," said Rick Scarborough, an evangelist from Mobile, Ala., who is serving his second term as president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.

"But in July, Jimmy Draper (president of the SBC) called me into his office and asked me not to eliminate it. After talking to several key people we found we were meeting a real need in the lives of many folks. We decided we needed to eliminate the controversy but not the program," Scarborough said.

Scarborough, whose election to a second term at the helm of the group was a departure from tradition, said much of the controversy centered on finances and revolved around "two very vocal and very visible men."

While saying he does not know if the controversy between the two "strong personalities" has died down yet, he said steps have been taken to eliminate the financial burden on the small organization by eliminating two items which "produced a financial straitjacket."

"We have eliminated the banquet," he said, explaining the conference was in a continual bind "trying to figure out how to pay for 500 places when only 200 people showed up."

"A lot of controversy also surrounded the printing of a directory, which was a power struggle and a financial drain. This year the Home Mission Board evangelism section has taken over that responsibility and will put out the directory of evangelists which will go to every church in the convention and will list as many evangelists as possible, not just members of the Conference," Scarborough added.

With the elimination of the banquet and the directory, the Conference will "settle back into being a fellowship, which was what it was intended to be when it started," he said.

With the program for 1984, Scarborough said planners are "hoping to eliminate some of the bad connotations" which have surrounded the CSBE in recent years.

The program will have three features: a formal program from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday (June 13) in the Music Hall at the H. Roe Bartle Hall of the Kansas City Convention Center, a Festival of Praise June 11 and 12 from 10 to 11:30 p.m. in the Colonial Ballroom of the Radisson Muehlebach Hotel, and a breakfast business meeting at 7 a.m. Tuesday for the conference, in the Trianon Room at the Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel.

The program Wednesday is designed "to strengthen the pastors and messengers there for the convention. The convention itself does not include a whole lot of inspiration, and we want to provide a break in the middle of the action to encourage the preachers. They can come to the Wednesday afternoon meeting and hear some great preachers and singers, have fellowship and go back to the convention refreshed and spiritually revitalized," Scarborough said.

Speaking at the program will be Junior Hill, an evangelist from Hartselle, Ala.; Scarborough and Ron Dunn, a conference leader from Irving, Texas.

Music will be provided by three soloists and three groups. The soloists are Pat Roper, an evangelist from Greenville, S.C., and music director for the CSBE; Lois Jane from Gallatin, Tenn., and Alan Celoria from Jackson, Miss. Groups are Eternity from Austin, Texas; New Song from Valdosta, Ga., and the Murk Family from Wheaton, Ill.

Roper will be assisted in leading the music by Jackson Cox from Milledgeville, Ga., and assistant music director for the conference. Pianist will be John Bos from Orlando, Fla.

The Festival of Praise on Monday and Tuesday nights will replace the Afterglow sessions of recent years. Scarborough said the change is an "effort to restructure and rename the event to eliminate some of the controversy."

The Festival will feature the six featured musical groups, as well as other music evangelists who wish to perform. It also will have testimonies and a devotional and prayer time. "We will ask one of the preachers present each night to "share a word and lead a prayer time in a spontaneous way," Scarborough said.

Scarborough said the separate business meeting is another effort to bring harmony to the conference. "We have always aired our dirty linen during the Wednesday afternoon session right there on the floor. One loudmouth, either in or out of order, could cause a lot of problems and it gave us a horrible reputation."

The morning meeting will deal with conference business. "We set it in the morning because it is awfully hard to be controversial that early in the day," Scarborough said.

"We want the controversy to settle down and for the conference to provide a time of revitalization. We intend to provide spirit-anointed preaching and singing so anyone who wants to come can come and be blessed," Scarborough concluded.

Officers are: Scarborough, Roper, Cox, Mike Gilchrist from Shreveport, La., vice president; Larry Taylor from San Antonio, secretary-treasurer; Melvin Wise from Atlanta, parliamentarian; Tom McEachin with the HMB evangelism section, liaison with the HMB, and Richard Vaughan, pastor of Fletcher-Immanuel Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas, pastor-advisor.

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Volunteers' Love For Baby
Touches Hearts In Malawi

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press
5/3/84

BALAKA, Malawi (BP)--Warren and Dottie Marchant's love for tiny David Chepweza may have touched more hearts than anything else they have done in 11 months as mission volunteers.

Marchant, a retired research agronomist, and Mrs. Marchant, a nurse, came from Tifton, Ga., to Balaka, Malawi, last year to fill in during the furlough of Darrel and Judy Garner, Southern Baptist agricultural missionaries from Arkansas.

Six weeks after their arrival David's mother died giving birth to him. His father wasn't able to care for him, and he ended up in the care of grandparents, already struggling to keep 10 other children and grandchildren. Missionaries feared the newborn would die.

Even though Mrs. Marchant suffered from a badly fractured wrist and many strains from culture shock, she offered immediately to care for the new arrival. She remembered her prayer before she left Georgia that if God would care for her children at home, she would care for his in Malawi with his guidance.

The grandparents, hesitant to part with their grandchild, declined Mrs. Marchant's offer, but she kept saying: "Just give them time. It's not the right time now, but it will come."

The time came when missionaries Ron and Delinda Miller, who had won David's father to Christ and had received the honor of naming the baby after his birth, discovered David ill with severe diarrhea and near death from dehydration. David's grandfather asked if the Marchants would still take him.

The Millers put the child into their car, along with his handmade straw bassinet and unusually large bundle of clothes, some made by his mother. They took him to a small cottage by Lake Malawi where they had come for some much needed rest.

Mrs. Miller, a nurse, worked all night to save him, praying fervently. David survived the crisis, but he would need a lot of special love and attention to recover fully. Soon he was on his way to the Marchants in Balaka.

Accepting children who aren't their own flesh and blood isn't new to the Marchants. Years ago they adopted two little girls who were sisters. One of the girls has, in turn, adopted a child of her own. That child now calls David "my mother's little brown brother."

David, now fat and happy, radiates love and joy. He's just the medicine Dottie needed for her bout with loneliness and culture shock in the isolated area where she and Warren have worked.

The Marchants, both in their 60s, admit that back home in Georgia they have never touched a black person before--and weren't sure how it would affect them. It didn't take long for David's happy smile, soft skin and wet kisses to revolutionize their lives.

"Last October 1, when David came to us, I realized why the Lord had sent us to Malawi," Mrs. Marchant said. "There was no language barrier, no age barrier, no culture barrier, no race barrier, no barrier at all when David came into our lives."

The Marchants call David their "live witnessing tract" because Africans, overwhelmed at the sight of a black baby in the arms of white senior citizens, stop them everywhere to ask why they have him. That opens up chances for them to witness for Jesus Christ.

David has become a celebrity across a 300-mile area where the Marchants travel. Shopkeepers wait on them first. Cash register attendants leave their posts to go out to their car and hold him. People wave at them and stop to talk.

Old African beggars stop the Marchants on the street, wave their hands over their hearts, repeatedly say, "God will bless you," and then go on their way without asking for a handout.

Many Africans ask hopefully if the Marchants will take David back to the United States where he'll have more opportunity, but the Marchants explain that God has a special place for him among his own people and that the Malawian government won't allow foreigners to adopt Malawians.

One village chieftain responded that he would adopt the Marchants to make them Malawians so they could adopt David. But David doesn't need to leave Malawi, because missionaries have found him a good home with a relative, and the Marchants have set up a fund for his education.

"We'll always have a little brown baby in Africa when we go home," Mrs. Marchant said. "One of our children will always be here." The couple is scheduled to return to the United States this month.

Meanwhile, back in the U.S., the Marchants' children and family have fared well. "God has certainly held up his end of the bargain," Mrs. Marchant said, recalling her prayer that she would care for his children in Malawi if he would care for hers at home. Some troubling health and relationship problems her children and other family members had before the Marchants left have disappeared.

"This trip, even if it's done nothing for Malawi, has done much for our family and friends," she said. "I think it's brought so many close to God."

It's also affected the opinions of some leaders of the Malawi Baptist Convention, who have had to sort through the typical relationship problems missionaries and national Christians face amid the tensions and difficulties of Third World ministries.

"Our people are surprised and excited because they haven't seen white missionaries taking care of a Malawian child," said Pastor Kanowa, chairman of the convention. "Is this not love?"

Rural Church Finds Local Involvement
Key Ingredient Of ACTS Strategy

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CLARENDON, Texas (BP)--Like connected dots on a child's puzzle, dozens of small towns are dissected by U.S. Highway 287 on its diagonal course across the Texas map. Clarendon is only one of those whistlestops, known best to Texans as a refueling point on this favorite route to the Colorado ski slopes.

But to Paul Heil and the First Baptist Church where he is pastor, Clarendon and towns like it are key ingredients of the American Christian Television System (ACTS), Southern Baptists' nationwide TV network.

That's why First Baptist and two other area churches formed a local ACTS board to make sure residents will be able to view the network on the local cable TV system beginning May 15. The boards are part of the nationwide strategy of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission to involve churches in ACTS.

With so many religious TV networks available, Heil said, it is unlikely a cable TV operator would choose ACTS for his viewers if churches like First Baptist were not involved to give the network a local flavor. "That is making ACTS possible here," he said.

"ACTS depends on churches in small towns like Clarendon as much as it depends on large urban churches," said Bill Nichols, director of broadcast services for the Radio and Television Commission. "The distinctive thing about ACTS as a TV alternative is this vital link to the local community through the church."

Clarendon was, in fact, the first town to form one of the local ACTS boards, which are designed to promote the network in the communities, produce local programs for broadcast and supply the cable systems with the necessary equipment to receive the network via satellite.

Already 490 Baptist churches of all sizes have joined local boards. That gives each one a vote in all ACTS-related decisions involving its community. It also makes available local spot announcements on the channel for each church to promote its activities.

A town of 2,200 in the cotton and cattle country of the Texas Panhandle, Clarendon doesn't seem a likely site for a TV ministry. It doesn't have a television station of its own and is not even included in any of the established TV markets. The nearest station is 60 miles away in Amarillo.

But that isolation made Clarendon a prime candidate for cable television, which came here in 1962 to give residents dependable TV reception for the first time. Now Cable TV of Clarendon is received by 550 area homes.

With help from the Radio and Television Commission, Heil formed a local board with Howardwick and Martin Baptist churches, the only other Southern Baptist congregations in the area. They showed the ACTS plan to Ricky Rattan, manager of Cable TV of Clarendon and member of First Baptist. Rattan agreed to dedicate channel 8 on the cable system to ACTS.

Under the agreement, the local board will provide a satellite dish to receive ACTS. Heil said the equipment, which cost \$10,400, is being paid for by private donations. The local board also will use the equipment to receive Baptist Telecommunication Network, the Sunday School Board's network to churches.

What excites Heil most, he said, is the possibility of doing local programs, although none of the churches have done TV production before. While they won't have a lot of money to put into it, the emphasis will be on local people and events.

"This puts us on the cutting edge with television," he said. "To back off and not use this ministry would be a disappointment. It is an open door, a means of evangelism."

Heil is proud of Baptists in and around Clarendon for seizing the TV opportunity. "There are a lot of good people here who will do anything in the world for you. They're progressive once they see a need."

Baylor Students Filming
'Miracle Tree' Documentary

By John Dellis

WACO, Texas (BP)--Eight radio and television students at Baylor University have begun work on a film documentary about a "miracle tree" they hope will help combat world hunger.

"Trees of Life" will be a 30-minute video documentary describing how vital trees are in combating world hunger. The program will focus on the leucaena or "miracle tree" as a practical tool in helping people to help themselves. The tree is so named because of its incredible ability to grow in all types of soils and climates.

The tree provides fodder for livestock, fuel for fires, fertilizer for crops, and is a means to restore forests. It grows well in tropical and subtropical lowlands, but can survive in other environments such as on rocky, steep hills, in marginal soils and in well-drained, wet areas, as well as dry regions of the world.

"The problems of hunger and starvation are formidable," said Michael Korpi, director of the radio-television division of the communication studies department and executive producer of the documentary. "When the causes of hunger and starvation are properly understood, some practical solutions are apparent.

"Practical solutions, in my opinion, are not those involving grants or give-away programs, campaigns for sweeping changes in the social structure, and so on," he said. "Practical solutions are those which encourage people to help themselves."

Stock footage from Africa and Asia will be used to illustrate the problem of advancing deserts. Footage shot by the students on location in Mexico and Haiti will serve to re-emphasize the problem.

The primary purpose of shooting in Mexico and Haiti is to focus on a solution, Korpi said. World Hunger Relief Inc. has successful reforestation projects under way in these countries.

"Trees of Life" will reveal the remarkable impact leucaena trees are having economically and environmentally. In a matter of months, significant progress is made in solving a problem which took decades to develop, he said.

The videotape will include voice-over narration, background music and interviews.

Ministries such as World Hunger Relief will use "Trees of Life" as a part of their continuing communication programs. The documentary will be presented to churches and other groups interested in the problem of world hunger.

"Trees of Life" will be made available to public television stations. Once the program is broadcast on a public television station, it will be eligible for submission to the Public Broadcasting System for use on the PBS network. As an educational film, it will be made available to educational film libraries which serve junior high schools, senior high schools, colleges and universities.

"A production like 'Trees of Life' would ordinarily cost from \$60,000 to \$100,000," Korpi said. "Because Baylor provides most of the equipment, and students provide the labor, production costs are drastically minimized."

Production costs for the film total \$16,000, and the students making the videotape are responsible for obtaining the funding. Anyone wishing to contribute to the project may write Michael Korpi, department of communication studies, Campus Box 394, Waco, Texas, 76798.

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(Dellis is a student writer in the Baylor University Office of Public Relations.)