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October 19, 1987

87-156

Church Celebrates Answered Prayers
When Trapped Toddler Is Rescued

By Ken Camp

N-Texas

DALLAS (BP)--Thanksgiving came a month early for Harold McClure and the other members of Cotton Flat Baptist Church in Midland, Texas, as they celebrated the rescue of McClure's granddaughter, Jessica, from an abandoned well.

Strengthened by worldwide prayer support, volunteers worked around the clock Oct. 14 to Oct. 16 to free the 18-month-old toddler who was trapped 22 feet underground in an abandoned well. The 58-hour nightmare ended at about 8 p.m., Oct. 16, when Jessica was brought to the surface.

While Jessica's parents visited with Vice President George Bush by the child's bedside at Midland Memorial Hospital Oct. 18, Harold McClure joined in a praise service at Cotton Flat Baptist Church.

Jessica's father, Chip, and her paternal grandparents are members of Cotton Flat. Her mother, Reba, is a Church of Christ member.

"Everyone involved is on a mountaintop right now. Everybody is giving God the credit," said Cotton Flat Pastor Ross Payne. He devoted his Sunday morning sermon to thanksgiving, and all of the hymns sung were praise songs.

"I think we just about had a world revival," said Harold McClure. "We got calls from all over the world -- Australia, Italy, lots of places -- telling us people were praying."

Pointing out that Jessica is the youngest of his 15 grandchildren, McClure said the rescue effort was "quite an ordeal" for all the family. However, he said the family drew strength from the prayers that were offered on their behalf.

"It was hard watching on television, seeing what was going on at the well and thinking of our little granddaughter down there," McClure said. "But we knew God was with her."

While emphasizing support for the McClures and help for little Jessica was a community wide effort crossing all denominational lines, there were several members of Cotton Flat Church involved directly in the rescue effort, said Randy Taylor, minister of youth at the church.

Bill Welch, a deacon at Cotton Flat who operates a "rathole" drilling rig, and his son, Chris, stayed at the well site with equipment on standby in case any of the other rigs experienced mechanical failure.

Another Cotton Flat member, Jim Cates, owner of a machine shop in Midland, stayed at the accident scene sharpening drill bits throughout the rescue effort.

"There have been so many volunteers, it's hard to single certain ones out," said Taylor. "The whole community -- for that matter the whole world -- has been here in their thoughts and prayers."

Taylor said that at one point the original rescue team was approaching exhaustion and an appeal went out for additional workers. Within 10 minutes, he said, about 200 men were at the well, offering to dig.

"God's hand was on this throughout the whole thing," said Payne. "It's marvelous when you see Christians pulling together to do something, but this went beyond that. There were people who you aren't about to get in church working on this. Only the Lord can bring people together like this."

Golden Gate Trustees
OK Property Development

By Eddy Oliver and Herb Hollinger

MOCO
(Calif.)

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Residential development of seminary property that could produce \$10 million in endowment was approved by Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees who also authorized a \$1.4 million building project at the Southern California Center in Brea.

Seminary trustees, meeting on the main campus in Mill Valley, Calif., also affirmed their support of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement and will study ways the seminary can fulfill recommendations of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee.

The residential development is part of the seminary's master plan of the 148-acre site and will provide for 24 single-family lots and a 36-unit 4.5-acre condominium site.

Trustees also approved a plan to participate in an assessment district with three other developers in a required traffic mitigation project. The seminary's expected cost is about \$250,000.

A second part of the development was approval, not to exceed \$70,000, for engineering site work and actual plans for the development.

Trustees also approved plans to seek a loan for construction of a 20,000-plus square-foot building at the Southern California site in Brea. Expected occupancy is Sept. 1, 1988, with several compatible tenants providing income enough to make the construction loan payment. The 10-year leases will include a Baptist Book Store on location. The building will accommodate about 300 students.

Trustees have affirmed the Baptist Faith and Message since 1979 but used this trustee meeting to have new trustees sign the document during a chapel service on the campus.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Clark Johnson of Phoenix, Ariz., pastor and trustee chairman, announced the staff and trustee executive committee will study proposals that will "come in harmony with the intent of the SBC (Peace Committee)." The full trustee group will consider those recommendations at the April 1988 meeting.

In other action, trustees acknowledged approval by the SBC Executive Committee to refinance the Marin Gardens apartments in order to use the equity for possible operating funds. The audit report for the seminary's 1986-1987 fiscal year that ended July 31 showed the institution finished the year in the black by about \$20,000.

Also, trustees approved the J.M. Frost Baptist Sunday School Board Chair of Religious Education. The position is funded by the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board.

Seminary President William O. Crews was given approval to appoint a salary study committee and an administration plan to change the requirement from three years to four years for a half-sabbatical also was approved.

Randy Strassburg, a Wichita, Kan., layman and trustee, said the trustee/student relation committee found improved morale among students since the April meeting and gave high marks for Crews in relating to the students.

Trustees also heard the Federal Environmental Protection Agency had cited the seminary for a pollutant electrical transformers and has given the seminary a January 1990 deadline to remove the substance. It is expected to cost the seminary about \$60,000.

Trustees declined to purchase earthquake insurance when they learned the premium would be \$50,000 annually for \$10 million of insurance.

Also approved was the selection of James Dobbs, an attorney from Dublin, Ohio, as a new trustee to fill a vacancy and the resignation of Gayle Butler, who moved from Tennessee where she had been that state's representative.

Emeritus Missionaries Say They
'Found Place, Invested Lives'

By Michael D. Chute

F- FMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--"Find a place, invest your lives," was a charge 53 retiring foreign missionaries lived out every day of their combined 1,618 years overseas.

They invested heavily in the lives of people and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board bestowed emeritus missionary status on them Oct. 12 during the annual recognition service held at Chamberlayne Baptist Church in Richmond, Va.

Their testimonies were featured during the special service. Earlier in the day, the retirees spoke to FMB employees during chapel services and to board trustees in regional committee meetings.

Recognizing that not all appointed missionaries attain the emeritus missionary distinction, FMB President R. Keith Parks told the retirees: "You have been tempered through the years and revived through the trials and testaments. As you've been strengthened through the struggles, you have clothed yourselves in Christ in a way that has left an impression in the hearts of the people of this world to the degree you will never know until you reach heaven."

Several of the retirees recalled a few of those incidents of struggle and revival. They recalled how being "clothed in Christ" allowed them to endure trials throughout their missionary careers.

Edith Vaughn from Virginia told of being confronted by a man who threatened to kill her with stones he held in his hands. He kept her at bay in front of the Friendship House she directed in Brazil. For hours, he threatened her as she told him about Christ.

As it began to get dark, he suddenly dropped the stones and said: "Lady, I don't know what you have, but I can't kill you." She concluded: "God is always with us. He is all powerful."

Missionaries Charles and Erica Morris from Illinois remembered what former FMB President Baker James Cauthen told them at their appointment 30 years ago, "The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you."

The Morrises worked in Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Theodore Cox first encountered the Japanese on Iwo Jima. Later the Indiana native arrived in Japan among the occupation troops following World War II. "I had every reason to hate the Japanese," he told trustees of the Asia regional committee, many of whom also remembered the hatred generated by the war. "I saw buddies die. I myself was wounded."

But Cox said God replaced his hatred with respect for the Japanese. Later, God helped him change respect to love. Only then was Cox ready to return as a missionary with his wife, Patricia. This time he saw the Japanese not as the enemy, but as people who needed Jesus Christ.

"The name of the game is attitude," Cox told new missionaries who also were in the meeting. "We have every reason to hate people, but God puts love in our hearts. Plant your lives there (in their appointed countries), have the proper attitude and God is going to give the victory."

One common thread running through the testimonies was appreciation for Southern Baptists' prayer and financial support. Nearly every retiree mentioned that support.

Edgar Burks told board employees that "it was good to be part of a major league team" for his 30 years in Nigeria: "We (he and wife, Linnie) were a long way from home (Missouri) and dependent on the Lord and Southern Baptists. Neither let us down."

Throughout her 42-year tenure, Roberta Ryan thanked "God and you (Southern Baptists) for giving me the great privilege" of working in Chile and with the El Paso (Texas) Baptist Spanish Publishing House. With the move to Texas in 1961, Ryan, an Alabama native, said she became "one of those queer creatures -- a foreign missionary working in the United States."

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As retirement approached, Frank Baker had a "sense of wonderment and awe at the way God provided for us throughout those years." The Florida native credited God with giving him and his wife, Margaret, emotional stability in times of danger. They served 23 years in South Korea, Zambia and South Africa.

Baker also acknowledged how Southern Baptists had sustained them in prayer and finances. "If God ever calls you far afield, never fear," he told the crowd at Chamberlayne church. "All you need is in his hands. He'll provide."

Anna Cowan, a missionary for 36 years in Israel and Jordan, spoke of the concerned friends who often asked how she could "go out there alone without any family." But Cowan, from Missouri, always insisted she was not going alone, "God was going with me." She talked further of the family she found on the mission field being "closer than brothers and sisters."

Finally, the emeritus missionaries issued a plea for more missionaries overseas. Dorothea (Dottie) Lane's one hope for Japan is "more and stronger churches and more and stronger missionaries." One missionary cannot reach the 128-million people of Japan, she added. "More people cross the street on one light (in Japan) than live in my hometown (of Sturgis, Ky)."

Vowing they are "missionaries incurable," Charles and Nella (Indy) Whitten promised they are "not finished by any means." The Whittens, from Mississippi, served 40 years on three continents in Argentina, Spain and Equatorial Guinea.

Several of the retirees echoed a similar sentiment. Parks noted that through experience, "We know that much service will continue in the lives of these who are reaching this particular milestone."

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Measure Your Motivation
Gregory Tells Seminarians

By Breena Kent Paine

N-LO
(NOBIS)

Baptist Press
10/19/87

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--"Measure the motivation of your ministry," Joel Gregory challenged students during the 1987 Layne Foundation Lectures at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"The congregations that you serve or will serve will very soon get to know you," and they will be able to tell what their minister's motivation for ministry is, said Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

According to I Thessalonians 2, ministers should disdain "motives that spring from error," Gregory said. "A fundamental right that your congregation has is to believe that when you stand in the face of them you believe the message you preach."

Gregory urged ministers to not be a "deluded deluder" or a "deceived deceiver" and to not believe the message they preach with "some kind of subjective inner mirage."

A second motive ministers should disdain is impurity, he said. The Apostle Paul "particularly had in mind what he mentions in a fuller way ... when he said, 'We never used flattery, nor did we use a mask to cover up greed,'" said Gregory. Paul's motivation was not that of "grasping greed."

"Students, I want you to understand that in the America of 1987, the people who watch us and listen to us ... are suspicious and wonder about us at just that point," said Gregory. "This generation of seminary and theological students are those who must demonstrate ... we are not in this wearing a mask to cover up greed."

Third, ministers should disdain "motives of manipulation," he said. "Our people are very quick to detect those among us who are there with some hidden agenda -- who while on top of the table we're doing one thing, underneath the table, we're seeking to do something else.

"Students, if you believe in the power of God, then let the word do the work. Do not manipulate the people. Some of our kind, gentle, tenderhearted Baptist people have been subjected to those who stood over the Word of God, and used it to manipulate them, rather than standing under the Word of God, as Lord of the minister's life as well as Lord of the people's life."

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Fourth, ministers should disdain "motives of reputation," Gregory said. "If you are a minister of the gospel with any visibility, you are going to have a reputation. ... It is unavoidable. But, students, there is all the difference in the world between ministering in order to have a reputation and having a reputation because you are a faithful minister."

There are also two "pure and positive" motives for ministry, he said.

First, "Are you motivated by any sense of sacred trust on the part of God?" he asked, noting when God calls a minister to his particular vocation, he is depositing with him a sacred trust that should not be breached, and a minister constantly should be motivated by this sacred trust.

Second, ministers should be motivated by the fact they are under a constant screening test, he said. "Do you know what the only credential is in ministry that ultimately matters? It is that you pass this screening test of integrity," both in ministry and manner, he explained.

"If your view of the ministry is, 'I can climb some kind of ladder so that up there I can be in some kind of splendid isolation where I'm in my study all week, go through a kind of pneumatic tube and pop up in front of the pulpit, preach the Word of God, go back through that tube, and insulate myself in my study where I don't have to come in contact with people, you've missed it somewhere.

"Ultimately, your congregation does not want your message; they want your message in you, the messenger," and a sense that their minister loves them.

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(BP) photo available upon request from New Orleans Seminary.

Teen Pregnancy Reflects
Social Neglect, Expert Says

By Pat Cole

N-10
(SBTS)

Baptist Press
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LOUISVILLE, Ky.--The nationwide teen pregnancy crisis is "a paradigm of America's social neglect" of its youth, charged a national expert on children's issues.

Marian Wright Edelman, president and founder of the Washington, D.C.-based Children's Defense Fund, said the crisis "is one symptom of a pervasive lack of hope and too few positive life options."

Edelman, who delivered the Gheens Lectures at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Oct. 6-9, said the cornerstone of efforts to prevent teen pregnancy must be to improve the quality of life for youth.

"Our goal," she said, "must not only be to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy, but also to increase the likelihood that today's teens and young adults will have the understanding, values, desire and incentives to delay parenthood until they are out of school and economically self-sufficient."

Edelman, the daughter and granddaughter of Baptist ministers, warned that to postpone pregnancy without also giving children a hopeful future is "merely delaying the formation of poor families."

She said a recent program approved by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board that will provide support and pre-natal care to unwed mothers is "an important first step" in addressing the adolescent pregnancy problem. However, she said more measures are needed that focus on prevention of teen pregnancy.

The teen pregnancy crisis is not just the a problem among urban and minority youths, but is fast becoming a threat among all segments of society, Edelman said: "The over 1 million American teens who get pregnant every year are everybody's daughter, granddaughter and neighbor's child." And they are impregnated by everybody's son, who is often the forgotten, excused or winked-at half of this social tragedy."

She said parents must talk to both boys and girls about the "risks and responsibilities of premature sexual activity."

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During her lectures, Edelman advocated less federal spending for defense and greater expenditures for programs that benefit children. An "escalating arms race and perverted world and national priorities" have adversely affected the plight of children, she noted.

"While I, like all Americans, support a strong national defense and carefully defined national security goals, we must demand that military expenditures must meet the same test of need and effectiveness as social expenditures," Edelman declared.

She called for national priorities that reflect a "better balance between internal and external security needs."

For \$31 billion, Edelman said every child in American could be delivered from poverty, every mother could have prenatal care, every child could have remedial education and every poor preschooler could attend a Head Start class.

Edelman said expenditures on those programs would be an "incomparably better investment" than Star Wars (Strategic Defense Initiative), which she predicted could cost as much as \$1 trillion.

While admitting there is no quick or easy solution to child poverty, she said the "means to eliminate" the problem exist. Increased citizen awareness, a more sympathetic government, stepped-up private efforts and a change in how the nation spends its tax dollars are needed in order to provide better lives for children, she said.

"As Americans, we need to dig deep within ourselves and commit to a greater personal tithing of time, energy and resources to help the needy young and old and to redirect immoral national priorities," she said.

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Southern Baptist Statesman
Alton Reed Dies At age 81

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(A.B)

Baptist Press
10/19/87

DALLAS (BP)--R. Alton Reed, president emeritus of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board and former pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church died Oct. 16 following heart surgery. He was 81.

The family requests that memorial gifts be made to the Memorial Fund of the Annuity Board or the Building Fund of Park Cities Baptist Church.

Darold Morgan, who succeeded Reed as president of the Annuity Board, called Reed "one of the great denominational statesmen who set the pattern for growth and cooperation in the Southern Baptist Convention. His life was characterized by integrity. No shadow ever crossed his path."

Under Reed's 17-year tenure as president of the now \$2.1 billion denominational pension board from 1955-72, the agency began employing money managers to invest retirement funds for competitive returns. Morgan said the board's adoption of this philosophy of ,manager of managers' has proven to be a vital link in the Annuity Board's stability and growth."

Reed was pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas from 1940-47. In later years, he taught a Sunday school class and in 1986 was president of the Best Years Group at the church.

Born in Henderson, Texas, June 4, 1906, Reed was a graduate of Baylor University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He held an honorary doctorate of divinity degree from East Texas Baptist University in Marshall.

While serving as pastor of Cockrell Hill Baptist Church in Dallas, Reed was chief announcer at KRLD radio from 1930-34. In addition, he was pastor of Carlisle Baptist Church in Henderson, 1934-37, and Lamar Avenue Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, 1937-40. In 1947, he became director of radio and public relations for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

In 1953 he joined the staff of the Annuity Board as associate secretary and director of public relations and was elected chief executive officer in 1955.

Reed is survived by his wife, Helen Barker Reed and daughters Caroline Reed Wicker and Annelle Reed Burton of Dallas. He had seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

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