



BAPTIST PRESS

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88-177

Baptist missionary dies
after heart transplant

By Eric Miller

HOUSTON (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary Paul Noland died Nov. 6, about 24 hours after undergoing a heart transplant at a Houston medical center.

Noland, 55, of Baton Rouge, La., was believed to be the first Southern Baptist missionary to receive a heart transplant. He received a new heart late Nov. 5 and died about 10 p.m. the next day in St. Luke's Medical Center in Houston. The exact cause of death was to be determined by an autopsy.

He and his wife, Betty, were missionaries to Brazil for 26 years. Noland was executive officer of the Southern Baptist missionary organization in southern Brazil.

Before missionary appointment as a general evangelist, he was pastor of several churches in Louisiana. He held positions as secretary of evangelism for state Baptist conventions in Brazil and taught at a seminary in Brasilia.

"I would love to go back to the mission field," Noland said in telephone interview the day before the transplant operation. "But we're trying to be realistic about things, and I don't see how it's going to be possible. If it is, we're ready."

The Nolands had been in the Houston area awaiting the transplant since August. The Gulf Coast Independent Organ Procurement Organization approved Noland for a transplant Aug. 10.

Noland had a hereditary heart disease called congestive cardiomyopathy which had caused a gradual weakening of his heart muscles over the years. Doctors discovered an "irregularity" during a medical examination prior to his missionary appointment in 1962. The problem resurfaced in 1979 with a shortness of breath and tightness in the chest. But it was 1987 before doctors diagnosed the cardiomyopathy.

Noland collapsed at home last May. He was taken to a Brazilian hospital, where his heart stopped for about two minutes before doctors revived him with electric shocks.

During the telephone interview before the operation, Noland said he was among a group of 50 people awaiting heart transplants. The heart patients attend weekly support-group sessions. The heart patient group and residents at apartments where he and his wife had stayed while he was in and out of the hospital had become his "new mission field," he said.

Whether a new heart would extend his life was "in the Lord's hands," Noland said. "I have no goal. In fact, when my heart quit beating in Brasilia, and I woke up and looked around and saw I was still here, I was just a little bit disappointed, but also I was happy I was still here because of family."

Noland was a graduate of Louisiana College in Pineville and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Other than his wife, survivors include two grown children, Philip Noland of California and Pamela Noland of Baton Rouge; his mother; two sisters; and a brother.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist papers by Richmond bureau.

Pennsylvania-South Jersey

OK's record \$2 million budget

PITTSBURGH (BP)--Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptists adopted a record \$2,031,849 budget and celebrated 10 years of partnership with Florida Baptists during the 18th annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey Nov. 3-5 in Pittsburgh.

The new budget calls for Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptists to contribute \$662,512 to their budget, a 15.22 percent increase over the current budget. The balance of the budget will be contributed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission and Sunday School boards and other sources.

The Pennsylvania-South Jersey churches will contribute \$188,816 to worldwide Southern Baptist causes through the national convention's Cooperative Program unified budget. That amount is 28.5 percent of expected contributions, a 0.25 percent increase.

The 10th anniversary of the partnership with the Florida Baptist Convention was marked by spontaneous testimonies from almost 30 pastors who described the benefits their churches had received from Florida Baptists.

Florida Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteers Howard and Jean Girard of Jacksonville received a plaque on behalf of their fellow Floridians from Wallace A.C. Williams, executive director-treasurer of the Pennsylvania-South Jersey convention. The Girards have been partnership coordinators for the entire 10-year period.

Ed Price, Pennsylvania-South Jersey's first president and former Southern Baptist Convention second vice president, challenged the 247 registered messengers with accounts of the service of laypeople in the Pennsylvania-South Jersey convention's early days. He said: "You have to trust the laypeople. They are the answer to Bold Mission Thrust. You never know what laypeople will do until you challenge them."

All three of the convention's officers were re-elected by acclamation. They are President Dan Crow, pastor of Pittsburgh Baptist Church; First Vice President James Nunn, pastor of Hickory Baptist Church in Sharpville, Pa.; and Second Vice President Lee Bolton, pastor of Berkshire Baptist Church in Shillington, Pa.

A vote on a change in bylaws dealing with the makeup of the executive board was postponed until next year to allow for better clarification.

The 1989 annual meeting is scheduled for Nov. 2-4 in Gettysburg, Pa.

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Arizona Baptists adopt
\$5.75 million budget

Baptist Press
11/7/88

TUCSON, Ariz. (BP)--Arizona Southern Baptists adopted a \$5.75 million budget and elected a new president at the 60th annual meeting of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

Meeting at Casas Adobes Baptist Church in Tucson Nov. 1-2, 432 messengers avoided controversy, never using their ballots and agreeing unanimously on every business item except the election of a president.

Harvey Kimbler, pastor of Foothills Baptist Church in Yuma and retired state Sunday school director, was elected president. He succeeded George Webb, pastor of Brown Road Baptist Church in Mesa, who was ineligible for reelection.

Kimble was proclaimed president moments after his opponent, Dennis Adams, pastor of First Baptist Church of Show Low, had been announced as the winner. But Jack Johnson, state convention executive director-treasurer, told the messengers the totals had been mistabulated following a standing vote.

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Adams subsequently was unanimously elected first vice president. Other officers, also unanimously elected, are Wes Strickland, minister of education for First Baptist Church of Sierra Vista, as second vice president; and Frankie Kuffel, a secretary for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention and member of North Phoenix Baptist Church, as recording secretary.

The \$5.75 million budget is a 3.69 percent increase over the 1988 budget, among the smaller increases of the last few years. A total of \$2.95 million is expected to come from the state's 271 churches and 78 missions through the Cooperative Program unified budget. The percentage of Cooperative Program receipts forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention will remain at the 1988 level of 28.5 percent, or \$840,750, and convention staff salaries will be frozen for 1989.

Messengers adopted seven resolutions as a slate without discussion. Resolutions addressed church growth, prayer, concerned awareness for the poor, awareness of ministry needs in the community, ministry to singles, drug abuse and appreciation for people involved in the annual meeting.

During the report of Grand Canyon College, Johnson, who is entering his 10th year as state executive director, was honored with a doctor of literature degree.

The 1989 meeting of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention will be Nov. 14-15 at North Phoenix Baptist Church.

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Simpler materials requested
for planning in rural churches

By Mark Wingfield

Baptist Press
11/7/88

ATLANTA (BP)--About 25 pastors, associational directors of missions and Baptist state convention leaders urged the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to provide simplified evangelism program materials for rural churches.

The group convened at a national think-tank on rural/urban evangelism sponsored by the associational evangelism department of the Home Mission Board. Bob Campbell, associate director of the department, challenged the group to suggest strategies for helping rural churches in evangelism.

Participants repeatedly stated the need for simple, easy-to-understand evangelism planning materials for pastors. They also asked for materials designed specifically for smaller churches rather than materials requiring adaptation to smaller churches.

Rural churches often have bivocational pastors or single-person staffs who do not have the time to work through thick planning books, the group said.

Bob Helmick, director of missions for Oklahoma's Muskogee Baptist Association, urged HMB representatives to act upon this concern: "For years I've been attending meetings where we've given the message that we need simpler materials. The response has always been, 'We're working on it.' If we delay any longer, there will be irreparable damage. Please do something about this."

Associational directors of missions reported many pastors are so intimidated by the bulky SBC planning books that they often throw them away without looking at them.

Instead, agencies should send out simple, one-two-three guidelines for implementing basic programs, the group said.

Other suggested strategies included:

-- Dispelling the misconception that rural churches are in the minority, when in fact they are among the majority of Southern Baptist churches.

-- Promoting good role models of rural pastors and churches.

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-- Tailoring more evangelism programs toward a one-time project emphasis, which is more popular in smaller churches than long-term programs.

-- Fine-tuning existing programs for use by smaller churches rather than developing additional programs.

-- Encouraging state conventions to provide evangelistic teams for revivals in churches with limited financial resources.

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MasterLife gains
'universal' appeal

By Terri Lackey

Baptist Press
11/7/88

NASHVILLE (BP)--The French call it the Master's Way; Hispanics, el Plan Maestro, or the Master's Plan.

In the United States, it is known in more than 11,000 Southern Baptist churches and to members of 30 denominations as MasterLife.

The Lay Institute for Equipping adult discipleship course has charted a path across the globe and touched the lives of at least 150,000 Americans since 1980, said Avery Willis, manager of the leadership development section in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department and primary developer of the concept.

MasterLife: Discipleship Training, the first Lay Institute for Equipping course developed by the church training department, is taught in 110 countries located on every continent, he said.

The MasterLife concept of multiplying leaders is "most definitely" working, Willis said.

"The idea is that if out of every group taking MasterLife, at least two people go out and lead another group, MasterLife users will multiply by geometric progression," he said.

"Over four hundred people in the United States enroll in MasterLife each week, and about 20,000 Americans take it every year. About 23,000 so far in 1988 have taken MasterLife."

MasterLife has been translated into 43 languages, noted Willis, who said he does not have enrollment statistics of MasterLife use in other countries since "each does its own figures."

MasterLife is popular because it is "so biblically based and can be translated into languages of various cultures by just changing the illustrations," he said.

"It can be used everywhere regardless of culture."

Another reason MasterLife has caught on so well, Willis said, is because "it changes people's lives. It gets them in contact with the Lord on a personal daily basis.

"So many people in America, especially in Baptist churches, have never personally dug into the Scriptures for themselves. MasterLife helps them apply Scripture to their life and work."

After taking MasterLife, many Christians say they notice a change in their relationships to others and their spouses, they develop daily quiet time and prayer time and they begin to attempt to witness or tell others about Jesus Christ, Willis said.

"Some who wouldn't even pray out loud become leaders," he claimed.

Almost all who take MasterLife "get involved in ministries of one kind or another," he said.

Fifty-nine percent of the people taking MasterLife become Sunday school workers; 23 percent, church training leaders; 21 percent, deacons; and 19 percent are actively involved in Southern Baptist Brotherhood or Woman's Missionary Union activities, he said.

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Also, churches of all sizes reporting MasterLife on the Southern Baptist Uniform Church Letter show significant gains in baptisms, growth in Sunday school enrollment and Cooperative Program unified budget giving than those not reporting MasterLife, he added.

The special edition of MasterLife in Basic English to be released in October 1989 will be for people with a low reading level, people for whom English is a second language and for the deaf, he noted.

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Love makes difference
in spread of gospel

Baptist Press
11/7/88

GOLEA, Mali (BP)--Presenting the gospel without proof of love has little effect in Africa.

This is true in Mali, where Mike and Patricia Krahwinkel of Owensboro, Ky., are Southern Baptist missionaries. Krahwinkel is an agriculturist and evangelist.

"People aren't searching for something new" in religion, Krahwinkel says. "They are happy in their tradition. But when you do something to help them that you don't have to do or that is not of direct benefit to you, they search for the reason that motivates it."

The missionaries found a village lacking water and health care. With their young daughters, Karissa and Kamille, they made hazardous journeys twice weekly up an hour-long trail to the mountaintop village.

They transported water, gave first aid, told Bible stories and taught Christian songs. They carried sick people to a hospital in another town. They used equipment and dynamite to dig a well. Word spread and another village invited them to do the same.

The Krahwinkels started several popular prayer meetings and Bible studies and distributed two types of seeds: those of the gospel and those for crops.

"By helping with food, water, medicine, by helping lepers and by providing seed, it proves that Christ's love is real," Krahwinkel says.

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Summer work leads juveniles,
probation officer to Christ

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
11/7/88

DALLAS (BP)--Four juvenile delinquents and their probation officer came to Christ because a Rio Grande River Ministry summer worker was "in the right place at the right time."

Brenda Stovall of Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church, Dallas, served with the River Ministry last summer as a youth worker in the Rio Grande Valley. In a store there one day, she saw a 15-year-old boy accused of theft being confronted by his parole officer.

The 21-year-old missions volunteer, who was at that time majoring in criminal justice at Eastfield Community College near Dallas, quickly intervened.

"I said to the probation officer, 'You don't really want to take him in, do you?' Then I asked him to give me a week to work with him," she recalled.

Stovall, who had worked with troubled young people through the Positive Alternatives for Youth program at Buckner Baptist Benevolences in Dallas, talked to the teenager and promptly enrolled him in Vacation Bible School at a local Baptist church. By the end of the week, he made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

"Within a few weeks, three of his friends who had been in trouble with the law also accepted Christ," Stovall said.

"Later in August, the probation officer called saying he wanted to talk with me. He said, 'Those boys had been the horror of my work before. What has happened to them?'"

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The youth had committed their lives to God and become born again Christians, Stovall explained. The probation officer said that he was a Catholic and that he knew God, but he still couldn't understand how such a radical change could take place.

"You know about God, but you don't know God personally," Stovall told the officer, asking him if he would like to know Jesus as his personal savior. The officer responded positively, praying to accept Christ as Lord.

Seeing the young people and the probation officer accept Christ as a result of her ministry was a life-changing experience, Stovall said.

"God really opened my eyes to the possibilities that are always around me," she said. "It was clear there. The Lord put me in the right place at the right time."

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Trend in pastoral authority
could affect youth ministry

By Terry Barone

Baptist Press
11/7/88

DALLAS (BP)--Autocratic pastors and the New Age Movement are trends which threaten the future of youth ministry according to a Southern Baptist seminary educator.

Speaking to a group of about 250 youth ministers attending the Texas Baptist Youth Ministers' Conclave, Oct. 31-Nov. 2, at First Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas, Phil Briggs, professor of youth education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said youth ministers must be aware of the "altering role of the pastor."

"With an attempt to increase pastoral authority in some quarters ... autocratic pastors are causing many youth ministers to seek other churches."

He said while many youth ministers have experienced freedom in programming, flexibility in style, support from parent and youth leaders and "unusual support" from the pulpit, the trend is changing to "harsh accountability and unrealistic quotas of visits and converts, altering the novel methods of outreach, programming and activities to stern, serious, heavy-handed tactics and less than ethical demands."

Briggs added that all of this "may not be bad," but encouraged the youth ministers to "learn from it" and "not give up the strides we've made in touching and enriching the lives of youth."

He also warned youth ministers about the New Age Movement and that it is "deeply rooted in our culture."

He defined the movement as a "spiritual, social, and political movement to transform individuals and society through mystical enlightenment, hoping to bring about a utopian era of harmony and progress."

Youth are attracted to NAM, because it "offers answers and solace amid chaos" and said "NAM's use of the mystical, ethereal aspects whet the appetite of youth, especially high school youth."

"NAM has been propagated by TV, apocalyptic writers and science fiction -- all which interest youth."

He cited statistics of the 70s and early 80s which indicated that 27 was the average age of those persons entering cults. Today, however, NAM is attracting persons at younger ages.

Christian terms and concepts and some biblical truths are being misused by NAM, Briggs said.

Although NAM magnifies care for others, Briggs said it appeals to power and elitism. "The information society lends itself beautifully to NAM" he said, because it "magnifies holistic health, healing, faith and prosperity going together."

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Briggs pointed out the weakness of NAM is that it has a "false Christology, an emphasis on amorality, a magnifying of the superstitions and a perverted mysticism."

The professor also cited Time magazine as having labeled NAM as a "copout and escape from realism."

He pointed out that the Christian approach should be to "out love, out live and out think NAM" by emphasizing the importance of proper methods of "interpreting the Bible."

"Getting a Handle on Youth Ministry" was the theme of the three-day conclave designed to help meet the needs of youth ministers in the areas of working with volunteers and in ministry to parents of teens.

Richard Ross, youth specialist for the Baptist Sunday School Board, said youth ministers must have compassion for hurting people. "Very few families are tripping along without problems."

He added that many of the problems in families today are caused by parents who don't know "the basics about effectively rearing teenagers" and encouraged youth ministers to teach the basics as part of their youth program.

"Parents have the greatest potential to positively or negatively affect teenagers," he said. "Whatever you try to do in your youth ministry, parents can do more effectively at home."

Keith Kline of the Sunday School Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, encouraged youth ministers to work effectively with volunteers.

"One of the greatest resources between the youth minister and God," Kline said, "is volunteer workers."

He encouraged youth ministers to help volunteers understand their responsibilities, develop skills in teaching, improve teaching skills and become team members.

In speaking to the group about youth ministry for the long haul, Chuck Gartman, youth minister at First Baptist Church, Conroe, Texas, encouraged youth ministers to "hang in there no matter what. It doesn't matter whether you are successful," he said, "but whether you were faithful to your call."

He said youth ministers should always strive for excellence in youth ministry but challenged the youth ministers to "spend time with God, being sensitive to him and what he wants us to do."

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Cowboy quarterback baptized by fire
on field, by water in swimming pool

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
11/7/88

DALLAS (BP)--On Oct. 30, Dallas Cowboy quarterback Steve Pelluer completed only nine of 31 passes, threw two interceptions and led his team to a disheartening 16-10 loss to the Phoenix Cardinals.

It was one of the greatest days of his life.

That evening, Pelluer stepped into a swimming pool at the home of Joe and Connie Aulds in Coppell, Texas, and was baptized into the fellowship of Valley Ranch Baptist Church of Irving.

The 26-year-old professional athlete was one of four persons in the evening service baptized by Paul Basden, pastor of Valley Ranch Baptist Church. Pelluer, who was reared a Presbyterian, made a profession of faith in Christ as a teenager.

"Steve's testimony is that he has been a Christian about 10 years," said Basden. "As a teenager, his older brother challenged him to follow Christ."

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"Steve has been active in our church, particularly working with our Kid's Olympics program. He loves kids, and they really flock to him."

The third annual Kid's Olympics sponsored by Valley Ranch Baptist Church will be held Nov. 19 in Irving. In addition to a softball shot put, soccer ball kicking contest and football throwing competition, the Olympics also will include a tug-of-war between the young people and a half-dozen Dallas Cowboys recruited by Pelluer.

Though Pelluer is the only Dallas Cowboy who is a member of Valley Ranch Baptist Church, he was joined in the baptismal pool by one-time Cowboy Buzz Sawyer. Sawyer, a former All Southwest Conference punter for Baylor University, served on the Cowboys' replacement team during the National Football League players' strike.

Pelluer has attended Valley Ranch Baptist Church since its early days as a mission of Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, about two years ago. Since Valley Ranch currently is relocating from a temporary meetingplace to its first permanent facility, the Cowboy's first-string quarterback likely is part of the last group to enter the church through a swimming pool baptistry.

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Brazilian brings mission
to Southwestern Seminary

By Scott Collins

Baptist Press
11/7/88

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Bertoldo Gatz understands the kind of growth Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has experienced to become the largest theological institution in the world.

Gatz understands because he helped lead Baptist Theological Seminary in Sao Paulo, Brazil, to similar growth.

Since Gatz became dean of the Brazilian school in 1973, the seminary has grown by more than 500 percent, from 83 students to more than 550, added a music degree to its theology and religious education programs and started master's-level classes.

Gatz has brought his knowledge to Fort Worth, Texas, to translate those successes to students at Southwestern as national guest professor under the sponsorship of the seminary's World Mission and Evangelism Center.

This fall, Gatz is teaching two missions courses, "The Missionary Message of the Bible" and "Missions in Latin America."

The premise for both courses is the same, he said. "The effectiveness of mission work has to be based on what the Bible says about missions and not on what we would like it to say."

And Gatz believes what the Bible says is that missions is not a professional career: "It is something we do as a divine call from God. We tend to see the missionary as the one in charge of the task and we give the money. But every Christian is a missionary, and giving and going are related."

The mission enterprise is not new to Brazilian Baptists, Gatz said.

Southern Baptists' first missionaries arrived in the country in 1881, and the Brazilian Baptist Convention today sponsors more than 500 of its own missionaries worldwide.

For nearly 29 years, Gatz has helped Baptists in his home country develop through his work at the seminary. In addition to being dean, he was vice president and taught Greek, New Testament and Christian ministry.

Gatz, 55, was born after his parents moved to Brazil from Germany. He was raised in a Baptist home and made his profession of faith at 15.

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While studying for an engineering degree at Sao Paulo University, Gatz sensed God's call to Christian service. He left the university and entered South-Brazil-Baptist-Theological Seminary. Later, he received degrees from Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary.

During his teaching tenure at Southwestern, Gatz said, he will emphasize to students the need to be sure of their call, especially students called as missionaries.

"If he doesn't have a sense of the call, he will not make it," Gatz said.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary

'Town drunk' turns
life toward Christ

By Jim Burton

Baptist Press
11/7/88

DENVER (BP)--Alcohol drove Ray Boggs to the depth of life's valley. From 1946 until 1955, Boggs was the self-proclaimed town drunk of Deerfield Beach, Fla.

When he owned a 24-hour service station that sold beer and wine, Boggs was his best customer.

When he built the town's jail, he was the first inhabitant.

"It was hell on earth," recalled his wife, Frances. "It was embarrassing at times."

But she stayed with her husband. She knew he was better than his rough exterior.

In the 1950s, anybody who was the town drunk was hopeless, Boggs said: "They were usually dead by the time they were 45. I was about 37."

He began looking for help. Eventually he found it in Scripture.

"My Bible says that Jesus was the same yesterday, today and forever," said Boggs. "What he could do then he could do today. When I couldn't get help from anybody else, I went to the Lord in 1955.

"I said, 'If you're still there and can help me, if you will deliver me and set me free of this bondage that I'm in, I'll give you every part of my life.'

"He physically delivered me from the demon of alcohol in 1955."

Boggs joined First Baptist Church, where Frances was a member, and for 10 years held every job there. In 1965, their lives were changed again during a lay renewal weekend conference.

Two of the renewal team members were former drinking buddies. They, too, had become Christians. But Boggs could see that they had something he didn't have.

"He (God) was Lord of their lives, and instead of them working for God, they allowed him to work through them," said Boggs.

Church renewal caused the Boggsses to make a transformation equally radical to overcoming alcoholism -- total surrender to Christ's will.

From 1965 until 1972, Boggs was the janitor of First Baptist Church in Deerfield Beach, a church he had built as a contractor. "I humbled myself as a servant because all the Scripture I read says we have to become the servant," he said.

Boggs spent the next five years seeking God's will for his life. On a renewal weekend in 1970 at a Florida drug and alcohol rehabilitation camp, he found his answer.

Out of their own experience with alcoholism, the Boggsses could help residents there. But it was still two years before they joined the camp staff, where they ministered for seven years.

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"When we retired, I thought we were going to sit on the porch in our rocking chairs and catch catfish and speckled-perch out of Lake Okeechobee," he said. But Southern Baptist volunteers were going into the New York City's South Bronx to restore burned-out buildings. Boggs was asked to be the coordinator for the projects and volunteer work teams.

"It was without any fear or reservation that we went to the Bronx," said Boggs. "We never had a day of fear in all of our ministry."

The Bronx ministry continues today. They spend part of the year in New York and the rest in Colorado.

In 1980, they moved west to the Rocky Mountains to serve as Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteers. Responsible for 14 states, the Boggsses are national renewal consultants based in Denver. They have trained consultants in eight western states. There are 35 renewal coordinators and 600 team members.

A recent heart attack and car accident haven't kept Boggs from seeking the next phase of ministry. "I feel right now that it will either be Alaska or Hawaii," he said.

After serving in both states on short-term renewal assignments, the Boggsses see tremendous opportunity for ministry in either state.

But Boggs seems partial to Alaska, which has an alarmingly high rate of alcoholism. He wants to go into the logging camps and oil fields and tell people how God saved the Deerfield Beach town drunk and made him an instrument of renewal.

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(BP) photos available upon request from the Brotherhood Commission