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**Broadman signs book contract
for Christian classic sequel**

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP)--It's been almost 100 years since Congregationalist minister Charles Sheldon wrote the Christian classic "In His Steps" but now the late author's great grandson hopes to bring the book's message to a new generation.

The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press recently signed a contract with Garrett Sheldon to publish his new book tentatively titled, "In His Steps: A Contemporary Sequel." The book is scheduled for release in July 1993.

While a number of sequels to "In His Steps" have been written by other authors, Sheldon's sequel is the first by a family member of the original author.

"My great grandfather died before I was born but I grew up hearing stories about him and his book," said Sheldon, associate professor of political science at the University of Virginia's Clinch Valley College in Wise, Va. "I have written a number of academic books and I had thought about writing a sequel to 'In His Steps' for years but I thought, 'How could I presume to write a sequel to a Christian classic that has sold more than 30 million copies and has been published in 15 languages?'"

Two years ago Sheldon worked up the nerve to begin the book and he completed the manuscript earlier this year. While he is calling the book a "sequel," Sheldon said it does not take up where the original book left off.

"I really just took the basic theme of 'In His Steps' and brought it into the 1990s by updating the characters and the story line," Sheldon explained. "For example, the newspaper publisher is now a television executive, the railroad supervisor is now an airport supervisor and the young singer Rachel Winslow is now a college student facing career choices and difficult relationships."

Despite the changes, Sheldon said the characters in his sequel still pledge to make their life's decisions based on the question, "What would Jesus do?"

And while the sequel still urges Christians to get involved in ministering to others, Sheldon said his book takes a different approach than his great grandfather's novel.

"His book is known as a great social gospel novel," Sheldon said. "He was trying to get churches to minister outside of their buildings to people who were hurting."

"The minister in my book is already very socially active but his family and church are falling apart. He finally learns to redirect his priorities and spend more time with his family and congregation."

Sheldon, an Episcopalian, said he received a number of positive responses from potential publishers for his sequel but added he felt God led him to choose Broadman Press.

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"The nature of the response from Broadman was so warm and I was really looking for a conservative publisher," he said. "I had also been watching Charles Stanley (pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta) and I was really impressed with him and the messages he was preaching. I knew he was Southern Baptist and learned that Broadman was owned by Southern Baptists. So, indirectly, he had an influence on my selection as well."

Broadman will likely release the sequel first in paperback and then later in hardback, possibly as a centennial edition, according to editor Vicki Crumpton. Broadman also is considering the possibility of audio and video versions of the sequel as well as re-releasing the original novel as a companion piece, she said.

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Author shares solutions for
dealing with difficult people

By Chip Alford

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Not long ago, William Diehm sat down and made a list of different types of difficult people. He came up with 77.

"There is more stress in our world today than ever before," Diehm, a 73-year-old retired clinical psychologist and pastor, explained. "We live in a fast-paced world where people are constantly being pushed to be the best, in their education, in their business, in everything they do."

Not surprisingly, Diehm said, many people are finding it difficult to get along.

"Everyone is a difficult person at one time or another. We've all been manipulators, con-artists, hypersensitive or overly aggressive. The key is to recognize that in ourselves and in others and learn how to deal with it," he said.

Diehm himself began learning to deal with difficult people as a young boy. After contracting polio at age 5, he spent most of his childhood at St. Luke's Hospital for Crippled Children in Spokane, Wash. But instead of withdrawing from those who looked down on him or treated him "special," he decided to search for guidelines on how to deal with them more effectively.

As an eighth grade student he was introduced to two books that would provide the help he was looking for -- the Holy Bible and "How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie.

From the Bible he learned about God's love and how to become a Christian. From Carnegie's book he learned the art of making friends. Over the years he learned to combine biblical principles with practical rules and psychology to develop techniques for getting along with difficult people.

He shares those techniques in his new book, "How to Get Along With Difficult People," released in June by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press.

In the book, Diehm discusses more than 20 different types of difficult people, how to deal with them and how to avoid becoming one yourself. He also shares Scripture verses that deal with each type.

Some of the "difficult people" covered in the book include:

-- Nitpickers: people who look for faults, not achievement. They fail to recognize priorities, have a poor sense of timing and are often unkind, cruel, tactless, impatient and judgmental. In dealing with those who have "slipped into pettiness," Diehm suggests: 1) let them fuss; 2) if they are right, be quick to say so; 3) communicate in a friendly way; 4) appreciate the person, if not the nitpicking; 5) start a program of self-improvement; and 6) avoid letting people convert you to "littleness."

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-- The Hypersensitive: people who are always getting their feelings hurt. To get along, Diehm suggests: 1) be quick to say, "I'm sorry," or "forgive me," but don't reward petulance by begging; 2) pay close attention to what they are saying; 3) don't gossip about people around them; 4) compliment them as liberally as possible; 5) leave them alone while they're having their "fit"; 6) don't overrespond to their overresponsiveness; 7) be sensitive but control your emotions.

-- Complainers: people who "get into the obnoxious habit of negative, griping complaints as their only means of acknowledging life's existence." Ignoring or confronting complainers won't work, Diehm contends. Instead, he suggests: 1) listening with sympathy, empathy and Christian understanding; 2) using hyperbole, irony, dramatization and exaggeration to indirectly teach the stupidity of complaining; 3) always speaking in terms of possible solutions; 4) setting an example by your own problem-solving techniques; and 5) making "endless comments" about things that are going right, people whom you like and blessings you have received.

Of all the types of difficult people covered in his book, Diehm said he personally has the most trouble getting along with the overly aggressive person.

"I guess I have trouble with them because I'm a little like that myself," he said. "Our own failings always bother us the most."

But whatever difficulty people encounter in their relationships with one another, Diehm said there is always hope for a peaceful solution.

"Most problems with people can be solved by being honest, bringing wrong to light, loving wrongdoers and trying to teach them what is right," he said.

"We can handle difficult people with Christian grace or Satanic ugliness. It's our choice."

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Volunteers in remote India
treat 3,000 in Himalayas

By Jim Burton

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LEH, India (BP)--An 18-member Southern Baptist volunteer medical team saw 3,064 patients in northern India, one of the world's most remote areas.

The team visited 12 villages in the Ladakh region of India's Himalayan Mountains. Populated at altitudes of 9,000-12,000 feet with surrounding mountains reaching 23,000 feet, Ladakh is only accessible during the summer months due to heavy snowfall.

"This team has been to one of the 'uttermost parts of the earth,'" said team leader Eddie Pettit, Baptist Young Men's director for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn.

There are only 130 Christians in Ladakh, a predominantly Shiite Muslim region with approximately 134,000 people. The purpose of the Ladakh Medical Project was to get a feeling for the people, build a rapport with the citizens and officials and to evaluate future projects, said officials with Cooperative Services International, a humanitarian organization sponsoring the project.

The Brotherhood Commission and the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship recruited the team of six physicians, two dentists, four nurses and six support personnel from the United States to work with Indian medical professionals.

The Ladakh Medical Project team represented one of Southern Baptists' most experienced volunteer medical teams. Team members have participated in more than 150 overseas projects, Pettit said.

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"I'm a firm believer that medical trips like this do some good medically," said William Bowen of Athens, Ga., who was on his third trip to India. "But more than that, it leaves such a good impression on people.

"It gets the point across that we are Christians," added Bowen, who also is president of the Georgia Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship.

The team conducted basic physical exams and dispensed medicines as they surveyed the medical needs in Ladakh. According to the region's chief medical officer, Girdhari Lal Raina, health problems in Ladakh begin with malnutrition.

A short growing season creates a deficiency of fresh vegetables, Raina said. Agricultural assistance is needed to develop greenhouse applications for the stone-and-mud Ladakhi homes.

Because of the long winters, respiratory tract infections are the second major health problem, Raina said. With winter temperatures reaching minus 40 degrees Celsius, families live in one room around a fire in a room full of smoke. "One can't fight an infection so there is cross infection," Raina said.

His third major area of concern is cataracts. Bright sun glaring off snow in winter and dust in the summer cause cataracts, Raina said.

The cataract problem may be addressed in the future by recruiting ophthalmologists to do cataract surgery clinics, Pettit said.

"The Ladakh Medical Project proves once again how lay skills can open doors of service for Southern Baptists," said Douglas Beggs, Brotherhood Commission vice president for program services. "We look forward to continuing the work in Ladakh begun by this team."

Most team members expressed a desire to return to Ladakh.

"Beneath the layers of dust, the eyes of pain and the fluids of infection are hurting spirits and children of God that he created," said Jim Brown, 21, a senior at Mississippi State University in Starkville. "There is much more to be done here."

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(BP) photos mailed by the Brotherhood Commission.

EDITORS' NOTE: Below is the first edition of (BP) Brites to be published as a pilot periodically through September. Baptist Press welcomes readers' comments about this possible addition to (BP) services.

(BP) Brites, compiled by Art Toalston

Losing pastor kisses pig on snout

ELDRIDGE, Iowa (BP)--Charles Adams lost. He had to kiss a pig. On the snout. Publicly. Adams, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Eldridge, and David Carlton, pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Davenport, agreed to a Sunday school contest tallying visits and phone calls to prospects and members needing contact. The losing pastor would kiss a pig. John Adams, Iowa Baptists' church development director, commended the pastors' courage "to kiss a pig, if necessary, to motivate Sunday school workers to make an extra effort to reach the lost and to care for people."

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Senior adults: special resource

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--The rising number of senior adults in America -- and Southern Baptist churches -- "should not be tolerated, but celebrated," says David Roddy, Florida Baptist Convention family life department director. "This is the group that grew up being faithful in the church. They are the tithers, our trained leaders, our regular attenders and our source of wisdom." Gerald Quick, senior adult minister, First Baptist Church, Plant City, Fla., adds, each time the church loses a senior adult "we have to find three young people to take his or her place."

68-year-old enters the ministry

MURRAY, Ky. (BP)--Bill Miller, 68, had a 33-year career in public education as an elementary teacher, history teacher, basketball coach, principal and superintendent. Then he felt a call to preach and is now pastor of Sugar Creek Baptist Church near Murray. He "kind of dreaded" telling his wife and three children "because it's such a big change and I didn't know what kind of reaction to expect. But no one seemed really surprised." Miller, a Christian since age 13, had taught Sunday school and held other key posts in First Baptist Church, Murray, since 1947.

Faith keeps Laotian mother from suicide

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--If Koy Iene Saechao were not a Christian, she admits she would have followed her Laotian customs after her husband, Fou Seng Saechao, was slain in a May convenience store robbery: She would have taken her own life. But as a Christian, says Mrs. Saechao, mother of four children, ages 9 to 14, "I will keep on until God takes me home to heaven to be with my husband again." Saechao was a deacon at Iu-Mien Friendship Baptist Church in Portland who became a Christian in the mid-1970s in a refugee camp in Thailand.

Vietnamese church celebrates MasterLife

TACOMA, Wash. (BP)--Members of Tacoma's Vietnamese Baptist Church shared a seven-course meal in grand Oriental style to celebrate nine church members' graduation from MasterLife 1 and 2. Ten other members currently are completing MasterLife under pastor Henry Phan's leadership. Of the 19 MasterLife participants, Phan noted, all are teaching Sunday school or serving in other church leadership areas; all have become tithers; participants have recorded seven professions in MasterLife witnessing visits; two have surrendered to full-time Christian work.

Anger can be godly, prof says

CAVE CITY, Ky. (BP)--Anger is part of the original equipment God gave humans at creation, according to Walter Jackson, Christian ministry professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "Anger often travels in bad company, such as hitting and shouting," Jackson said. "Sin is the misuse of God's good gifts and anger certainly can be misused." To deal with anger, Jackson suggested accepting it as a gift from God; admitting anger in one's life; aiming anger at the correct cause; and expressing anger constructively.

Pastor learns of the cross's weight

MANCHESTER, Ky (BP)--Pastors and members in Booneville Baptist Association took turns carrying a large wooden cross two miles from a shopping center to the county courthouse. Their purpose, said Manchester pastor Johnny Adamson, was to send "a visible message to the community, simply saying that Christ carried his cross for each of us." Adamson added, "Having lifted it with two other people in the parking lot, I didn't think the cross seemed that heavy. But when it was put on my shoulder alone, I really felt the weight of it."

Tabernacle is layman's key interest

LUBBOCK, Texas (BP)--Doug Solsbery spent a year building a replica of the Tabernacle and uses it in seminars he leads on the Tabernacle's importance. Solsbery, a layman in First Baptist Church, Lubbock, who began studying the Tabernacle 25 years ago, says 50 chapters in the Bible are devoted to discussing it; it was the precursor to the Temple in Jewish worship; it is vital in understanding much of the New Testament, especially the Book of Hebrews; and "in the Tabernacle God began to reveal the coming of Christ," with every detail having a spiritual meaning.

Draper urges bookstore workers to excel

NASHVILLE (BP)--To Baptist Book Store personnel, James T. Draper Jr. said "there are no small jobs. My job is no more important in the Kingdom of God than your job." The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board president noted: "You are providing the customer with products that can help their lives. If (Southern Baptists) didn't write it first, it doesn't mean we can't provide it. We may produce some of it, but we will provide many things." Draper urged Book Store workers to excel. "I don't believe God ever called anyone to be mediocre," he said.

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**Company president
finds true success**

By Kim Grueser

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Fred Shultz had made it. He had 27 years of expertise in key management positions for one of the nation's largest companies, as vice president of two banks and owner of a computer consulting firm.

Now that his children had their own families and his future was secure financially, it was time to begin enjoying some of life's pleasures with his wife. He had earned it -- right?

Popular opinion would agree, but when has following Christ meant doing what is popular?

"Many people feel Sandy and I have given up everything we have worked hard for in life. We feel just the opposite. The more of (ourselves) we give to Christ, the more of life he gives back to us."

Now students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Fred and Sandy Shultz' sentiments reflect many second-career students' view of their call from Easy Street. Preparing for the challenges of becoming foreign missionaries, the Shultzes reject the idea they are losing anything by following a different path to the future than the one they had planned for so many years.

"For 27 years I helped people extend the life and effectiveness of their computer systems," Shultz said. "Now God has called us to tell people about Jesus and how they can come to a life-saving experience. God is not having us throw away our business background and experience. He is simply asking us to use it as a means to his end, not as a benefit just for personal gain."

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Shultz's own life-saving experience happened while on a Christian Business Men's retreat in 1976. In 1977, his wife came to know the Lord and by 1985 God's calling to full-time Christian service became apparent. In June 1990 Shultz's employees were in shock and disbelief when he told them of his plans to leave the company they had built together.

After his six-month notice to his company, the Shultzes finalized their plans to attend seminary. There was never any doubt God's call meant eventually a foreign mission field. Shultz was impressed to move from his home in Knoxville, Tenn., and enroll at New Orleans Seminary after his first visit in August 1990.

"I'll never forget the expression on my roommate's face the morning I knocked on his door at the dormitory and introduced myself. I think he felt as if his father was moving in with him," Shultz said. Six months passed before his wife could join him in New Orleans but he wasted no time immersing himself in opportunities to serve the city's needy. For the Shultzes, the prospect of becoming foreign missionaries at this stage in life created an urgency to get involved in opportunities for Christian service.

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The same day he began as a seminary student Shultz joined the staff of New Orleans Rescue Mission. As a chaplain he encountered numerous occasions to lead people to the Lord, counsel those addicted to drugs and alcohol, provide a pair of shoes for someone without, serve food to the hungry and disciple new Christians.

In addition to spending 10-15 hours per week at the rescue mission, time was set aside weekly during their first year at seminary for tutoring children from inner-city schools who struggle with the fundamentals of learning.

Their concern for others found another avenue for expression through the local church ministry of Eastview Baptist Mission Church in New Orleans. Discipleship training and bus ministry gave the Shultzes opportunities to interact with not only an unchurched community but also with a church family.

"I believe helping each other become a better person, citizen and disciple of Christ is what life is about," Schultz said.

But the Shultzes are quick to note that although their lives now center on serving others, for them, the blessings received have been far greater than those shared. Also, the intensity for giving is balanced with times of enjoying the many opportunities New Orleans offers for recreation and fellowship with other Christians.

The Shultzes recently heard from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board concerning a possible place to serve. The news confirmed their decision to leave all they had worked for in 27 years as part of God's plan, that their years in the business world were effective training and preparation time for the mission field.

"God has blessed Sandy and (me) in many, many ways. Allowing us to have our own company for almost 10 years was a tremendous blessing," Schultz said. "The company provided many opportunities for me to develop skills in performing on-the-job witnessing. These skills will be beneficial as God leads us to new mission fields."

With Shultz's experience in the computer industry and his wife's skills as a special education teacher, the couple soon will begin their new life by starting a computer consulting business on a foreign field. Now, however, their measure for success is not based on where they stand in the corporate world but where they stand in God's plan.

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Kim Grueser is a staff writer at New Orleans Seminary. (BP) photos available on request from NOBTS.