

# (BP)

## -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Medical/dental volunteers  
reach remote people group

By Clay Renick

Baptist Press  
8/18/93

LEH, India (BP)--Word spread fast among the Ladakhi people in the Zanskar Valley of northern India's Himalayan Mountains: Volunteers were coming with free medicine.

That's rare in Ladakh. Snow keeps them locked in for nine months out of the year. The elevation extends from 12,000 to 18,000 feet.

"You could go about five steps and you'd have to stop," said team leader Jimmy Huffman. Huffman is a North Carolina Baptist Men's associate director who led one group of medical/dental volunteers to hike 80 miles and set up clinics.

A second team took a bus to Ladakhi communities accessible by road for the medical/dental outreach.

The purpose was to share the gospel in an area that had never been touched by Christianity, Huffman said. His team had three doctors and two nurses from the United States.

"It was stressful," he recalled. "I don't think any of us were prepared for the elevation."

Bennie Norton led the bus group. He's a dentist and member of First Baptist Church in Smyrna, Ga.

His group stopped in the city of Padam and in several villages to treat approximately 2,000 people. It was his second medical/dental trip to Ladakh following the initial project last summer.

One local teacher brought in 22 of his students. The man said he had been searching for the true God and the true religion. Norton helped with their dental problems and invited the group to see a video about Jesus.

Communication was difficult. Translation went from English to volunteers who were Indian nationals. They had to use a local Buddhist who knew both dialects.

Norton left the teacher with some tracts, and the man was grateful.

"If he does become a Christian, he'll be a tremendous witness in that area," Norton said.

Both teams went at the request of Cooperative Services International, a humanitarian aid organization. The Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission of Memphis, Tenn., recruited the volunteers.

"Doctors, dentists and nurses can get into areas a lot of times where evangelists can't go," said Bob McEachern, associate director of volunteer missions at the Foreign Mission Board. Last year about 900 medical professionals went on volunteer trips like the India teams. Most pay their own expenses.

"The situation (in northern India) was rather primitive," McEachern said.

"The place they went was one of the remotest in the world."

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Walter Sandusky got ready for the trip by hiking in the mountains. He's a 69-year-old dentist from Memphis.

"We felt like we were exploring," he said. "These are people who have never come out of this valley."

He extracted a tooth from one woman who later returned to their worship service. She interrupted the sermon and the interpreter explained her comment.

"We don't know the messiah up here," she said. "But from what you're saying, he was good. He healed people. And that's what you've done for us."

Ed Young hopes to go back one day. He's an internist from Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon, Ga. One of his team members placed a wooden cross along a pass to a major trade center.

"They'll see that cross and remember us," Young said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to go back and build on that."

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(BP) photos, including specials, mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Brotherhood Commission.

Quadriplegic artist commissioned  
for painting of RTVC anniversaries

Baptist Press  
8/18/93

By C.C. Risenhoover

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Artist Randy Souders has been commissioned by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission to do a painting commemorating the 35th anniversary of MasterControl and the 25th anniversaries of Country Crossroads and Powerline. The weekly radio shows are produced by the RTVC.

Souders, a quadriplegic, is a native of Oklahoma who was raised in Fort Worth, Texas. He is recognized for his work in acrylic and oil and holds as many as 35 exhibitions a year across the United States. His work has been featured in more than 1,500 print galleries in all 50 states and is included in numerous private and corporate collections.

"Trying to recognize three anniversaries simultaneously in one painting is very difficult except in montages," he said, "and a montage is not something I feel comfortable with."

What Souders does feel comfortable with is painting "realistically, but of things that don't exist," with a subliminal message.

"The painting I'm doing for the anniversaries is both an interior and landscape," he said. "It's looking out a window with an old cathedral-type radio next to it. Two country roads are intersecting and there are old powerlines with vines growing up them. There's also a little church on a hill."

"The radio represents MasterControl, the intersecting roads Country Crossroads and the old powerlines, obviously, Powerline. All of this is done very subtly."

Souders, a member of Wedgewood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, said the work would be a traditional-type piece he hopes will live long beyond the anniversary.

"It has a very nostalgic feel to it and a broad-based appeal," he said. "It's not something people will tire of soon. They'll want to have it framed."

Souders serves on the board of directors of Very Special Arts, the international organization dedicated to providing opportunities in the arts to children and adults with special needs. It was founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith as an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington.

He served on the executive committee of CALL TO RISE, a national exhibition by artists with physical challenges presented in cooperation with Very Special Arts. His work titled "County Seat" was featured in CALL TO RISE and was seen by millions when it appeared on the cover of the 1985 Texas Bell telephone book.

Souders became disabled 20 years ago in a diving accident that permanently paralyzed all four limbs but left him some, severely restricted motor control.

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"It happened on a Saturday," he said. "My best friend, my cousin and I went out to this old swimming hole and I dove in. I hit something under the water head-on and broke a couple of vertebrae in my neck and badly jammed my spinal cord."

Souders, who paints with his left hand, said, "I have just enough tension to get a brush between the first and middle fingers." He also has some gripping ability in his right hand.

"Everyone, I guess, has this feeling of 'Why me?' But, all in all, I look back and think, 'Well, why not me?'"

Souders said after he left the hospital, he stayed at home and cut himself off from society. That fall he enrolled in the University of Texas, majoring in graphic design, and right away went into an internship at an advertising agency.

"I happened to have one of my paintings leaned up against the wall waiting to be photographed," he said. "The director of one of the banks we had been doing work for started commenting on how much he liked it. He asked if I had more, and did I ever do art shows. So I was given an exhibition.

"Much to my surprise, I found that people liked the stuff and would pay hard-earned money for it."

Souders said art provided the motivation for him to get up in the morning and do something, rather than sit in front of the TV all day.

"It's very easy to get sucked into a dependency routine," he said. "You know, this give me, give me, give me kind of attitude. Society has such diminished expectations of the disabled person. It underchallenges us to perform on par with them. And that's what I take the most pride in ... the fact that what I'm doing today is well-received all over. The gallery owners, for example, are flabbergasted that I can do anything."

Souders said the last thing on his mind when he gets up in the morning is that he is in a wheelchair.

"In a strange way, an injury like this, while it greatly complicates your life, also simplifies it," he said.

The artist said the friends he had at the time of the accident were supportive in the beginning but as time passed they drifted away. He said it was because they did not know how to react to him and he did not know how to make things easier on them.

"My new friends know me and like me ... wheelchair and all," he said. "And the common thing they say is 'I don't even see your chair. I don't see you being the least bit disabled.' My disability is a little more obvious than others, but it's all in the eye of the beholder."

Souders said he had planned to kick back and relax this summer but received so much commission work he was unable to do anything other than work.

"I'm doing an Americana scene for Maxwell House that will be on 20 million coffee tins with inserts about me inside each tin," he said. "I've also done a large painting for a doctor, a project for State Farm Insurance and artwork for Disney. I'll be in Anaheim, Calif., in September ... signing posters."

Souders said early in his career he was traveling every weekend, which made it difficult to have much of a church life. "That's all changed," he said. "It's nice to have weekends off ... and to be part of a growing church like Wedgewood Baptist."

The nostalgic print of Randy Souders' RTVC painting commemorating the radio program anniversaries can be pre-ordered by calling 1-800-641-1221. Payment can be made by check, money order or credit card. A print is \$23.95 plus \$6 shipping and handling. The first 500 prints will be autographed by the artist. The 12- by 16-inch image is on 16- by 20-inch 100-pound coverweight paper and is to be shipped in a protective tube.

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(BP) photo of Randy Souders available from the RTVC.

**Lee named director  
of seminary program**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Andrew Lee has been named director of Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Lee, a native of Hong Kong, is on the ministerial staff of Trust in God Baptist Church in New York City. He has served on the faculty at NEBSM since 1989 and also has taught at New York School of the Bible.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Nyack (N.Y.) College, a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and the Ph.D. degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

NEBSM offers classes leading toward the M.Div. or M.A. degree from Southern Seminary. It conducts classes in New York, Northboro, Mass., Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Silver Spring, Md.

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EDITORS' NOTE: (BP) dated 8/17/93 mistakenly carried (BP) Brites from 7/27/93. Below is the set of (BP) Brites that should have been printed 8/17/93.

(BP) Brites  
Compiled by Art Toalston

Baptist Press  
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**John Wayne site now home to new hero**

MOUNT MERV, Tanzania (BP)--One of the buildings seen in John Wayne's African classic, "Hatari," now houses the first church planted by Lazarus Ngarenyanjuki, a Tanzanian Christian who became burdened for people in the Mount Merv region at the country's northern border. Through Lazarus' efforts, the church has launched 16 other churches and preaching points. Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., recently met Lazarus during a missions trip. "Since I was a boy, John Wayne had been one of my heroes, and I had seen the old movie 'Hatari' made on that location," Welch recounts. "But I'm no longer a boy, and for me the hero of 'Hatari' has become an unnoticed crusader for Christ named Lazarus."

**Nearly 500,000 fed after his challenge**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)--Calvin Horn challenged his Sunday school class back in 1978 to feed the hungry each Wednesday for four weeks. In preparing to teach the week's lesson from Isaiah 58, he discovered a promise: "If we feed the hungry and care for the poor God will take care of us." He decided "to claim it." The four-week challenge has since become the Noon Day Ministry of First Baptist of Albuquerque, which began in the church's fellowship hall and now has its own building and board of directors. To date, the ministry has fed and ministered to nearly 500,000 people.

**Montana Baptists draw rich mix of people**

McLEOD, Mont. (BP)--The Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship's 1993 family camp drew one of the richest assortments of people imaginable. They included: Dave and Lisa Green, who accepted Christ as Savior in pastor Bruce Adkins' first visit to their home three years ago. Pastor Ed Taylor, his wife Virginia, two of their three daughters and their pastor sons-in-law and seven grandchildren -- 13 in all. Marnie Howard, camp nurse 33 consecutive years; Roger Hill, camp director 25 years; and W.L. Findley, chief cook some 20 years.

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#### His date's parents aren't suspicious

DAVIS, Okla. (BP)--Beyond biblical obedience to avoid premarital sex, there are other benefits to the "True Love Waits" campaign launched by Southern Baptists. For example, Bo Hague, an Oklahoma youth, says, "the parents of the girls I date don't ask questions because they know I've made a commitment." Traci Bixler, another Oklahoma youth, says she has written a sealed letter to whomever her husband will be saying "I love him enough to wait for him. I will give it to him on our wedding night." Hague and Bixler were among youth who gave testimony to their abstinence commitments at Falls Creek Baptist Assembly this summer.

#### Church rejoices with its first sign

DUBUQUE, Iowa (BP)--A church sign may not seem so important, but it is to Dubuque Baptist Church in this Iowa city of 65,000 people. The 30-year-old church recently got its first-ever sign to highlight its presence on a hillside along busy U.S. 151. "Statistics tell us that 51 percent of these people who drive by never attend church anywhere," notes Karen Hooten, whose husband, Mel, is pastor of the church. "Somewhere within every person who passes by there is a soul that knows there is more to life than making a living and amassing material things, property and wealth." She hopes the 10-foot-long sign will help the church "stir that soul."

#### Couple launches work at U. of Wyoming

LARAMIE, Wyo. (BP)--"There are almost as many bars in Laramie as there are Baptist churches in Wyoming," says Rhett Ivey, who, with his wife Denise, is launching a student ministry at the University of Wyoming, the state's only four-year college. "A lot of students are searching for answers and we want to be there to give them those answers," says Rhett. Adds Denise of the pioneer work, "It's an awesome responsibility, but we know with God all things are possible." The Iveys are Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteers.

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