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94-4

MISSISSIPPI -- In this fund-raiser 'no one complained about anything.'

MISSISSIPPI -- Writer's AIDS story yields new friendship.

KENTUCKY -- 13-year-old not waiting for missions future; photo.

KENTUCKY -- SIDEBAR: Shrinking world expands local mission fields.

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INDIANAPOLIS -- He knew minister's nudge to salvation was on target.

HOUSTON -- New Christian donors respond to compassion-based appeals.

NASHVILLE -- Correction.

In this fund-raiser 'no one
complained about anything'

By Tim Nicholas

Baptist Press
1/10/94

BILOXI, Miss. (BP)-- "Nobody came and nobody was disappointed," said Tim Thomas, organizer of a Christmas eve banquet which raised approximately \$7,500 for Mississippi Baptist student summer missions.

The "Not Another Banquet" banquet was sponsored by the Baptist Student Union of Gulf Coast Community College. If anyone had come, it would have started at 7 p.m. on Dec. 24, said Thomas, BSU director at the Biloxi, Miss., school.

The banquet would have taken place at Mary Mahoney's, a restaurant which catered to President Reagan on the White House lawn. "We were glad not to host the banquet," said owner Bobby Mahoney. "We're just sorry everyone missed our Lobster Georgio."

Two noted individuals paid not to entertain. Mississippi author John Grisham, whose novel "Pelican Brief" is a current hit movie, paid "significantly," not to come, said Thomas.

And concert pianist Philip Fortenberry paid not to play. Fortenberry, who performed twice for President and Mrs. Bush -- once when the Gorbachevs were visiting -- is presently director and a performer with the touring company of the Broadway hit, "Cats." He is a former member of the William Carey College musical group, Carpenter's Wood.

Nancy Pasternack, reporter for coast television station WLOX, paid not to cover the event. Former First Lady Rosalyn Carter paid not to attend.

The banquet, designed not to interfere with other Christmas events, attracted 118 participants who paid good money to stay away. Tickets were \$10, but some paid more. One attorney sent \$100, saying he really didn't want to come.

"Certainly there were no complaints about the amount or quality of food and there were no problems with scheduling," Thomas said. "In fact, no one complained about anything.

"It was an idea whose time never came."

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Writer's AIDS story
yields new friendship

By Tim Nicholas

ASHLAND, Miss. (BP)--A young Baptist woman who is HIV positive has shared her life story and her tears with a writer who decided the story didn't have to end with the assignment.

Stuart Calvert of Ashland, Miss., was assigned to write a series for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union magazine Royal Service on various lifestyles. The article for the January 1994 issue was to be about a woman infected with AIDS.

Calvert found Ann in St. Louis and after the interviews were completed and the story written, she couldn't let the friendship end.

Ann told Calvert of her tears -- of losing friends to AIDS and to fear of AIDS. And she passed some of the tears along to Calvert.

"She gave me tears, oh yes," Calvert said. Even when she first began talking with Ann over the phone, "her hesitancy made me cry because I thought I might represent people trying to exploit her."

Calvert convinced Ann of her sincerity in wanting to explain Ann's situation so readers could compassionately understand the problem.

Ann explained that since she contracted the virus, she has become more slow to trust. "What clicked in me for Stuart was when she called me one day ... just called to see if I was OK. Even if I decided not to go on with the story, it didn't make any difference to her, she still wanted to be my friend." Ann added, "She really does care about me."

Ann's story itself is gripping. Adopted as a small child, Ann was emotionally and physically abused by her adoptive father. As an adult, she was a victim of a gang rape. Rescued by neighbors, she contracted the virus called HIV from the rape.

She lost her fiance who said her lack of faith kept God from healing her body. He later apologized for what he said but it was too late for Calvert to put in her article -- and too late for him to take it back.

And Ann lost her home church. She confided her story to her Sunday school class in strict confidence, but someone told. The next week a man approaching Ann's pew said out loud to his family, "We can't sit here! That woman has AIDS!"

She did find a different loving congregation to turn to. Her new pastor, hearing her story, put his arms around her. "I could feel his tears and I felt safe enough to let him see mine," said Ann in Calvert's story.

She gave her testimony in the new church one night. After her remarks she said, "I guess now you will want me to find another place to go to church." Calvert recalled what Ann told her they said: "'No way. We are your church. We are going to help you.' That kind of affirmation really buoyed her spirits."

Since then, Ann has worked in AIDS awareness and helps in a support group. So doing the story with Calvert was relatively close to Ann's own aims.

Ann says she has lost 163 friends to AIDS. "That doesn't count people I've met once or twice," she said. She hasn't had pneumonia, a sign of what is known as full-blown AIDS, where bodily functions suffer. But "the fatigue level is incredible," she said. Knowing others with AIDS "is like looking in a crystal ball," said Ann. "I know it's coming, I just don't know when."

Ann said her biggest concern is the pain her family and friends will go through. "Emotionally, I'm mostly OK. A lot of days, I'm not so great." She cries herself to sleep a lot of nights, knowing that she's "in a club that's growing and growing"

That's where friends come in. "My church friends remind me there is someone even bigger than all of us and who is not going to leave me alone. I need reminding because I forget. Stuart reminds me. That's why I turn to her. Sometimes that reminder is what keeps me going."

Ann said it is the most natural thing in the world to pick up the phone and call Calvert. "Sometimes I call her before I call any of my (local) friends."

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Calvert said Ann took the first copy of her story to her counselor who said, "I can't believe you told this to a total stranger. I've been trying to get you to say this for two years."

Calvert said Ann told her she felt God wanted her to tell her story. "It would help Baptist women understand and be like a catharsis for her," Calvert said.

Each of the women said she would like to meet the other in person. It's not a long distance between north Mississippi and St. Louis, they both said. "It seems like Stuart has always been a friend," Ann said. "It's wonderful to feel like I could tell her absolutely anything." Calvert calls Ann to share a burden or a prayer request or a happy thought.

Calvert knows Ann's openness to her is a sign of close friendship. "She includes me concerning her private thoughts," she said, "perhaps because we haven't met. She doesn't think I'll be too hurt ... even though I will be."

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Tim Nicholas wrote this story on assignment from WMU.

13-year-old not waiting
for missions future

By Don Martin

Baptist Press
1/10/94

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)--Parents often worry today's kids are growing up too fast. Not Adam Dedman's.

"He's a 13-year-old going on 40," explained Adam's father, David Dedman. "He has said that he'd like to get this childhood out of the way so he could do some things."

Adam isn't straining to break away from his parents but rather to break through to a culture. He believes God is calling him to Japan.

"I'm only 13 years old, but I have seen God work in my life and I feel I could be of service in Japan," Adam said in a letter to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "I feel that God is calling me to be a missionary to Japan. Japan needs more missionaries. Look at Billy Graham. He's brought millions of people to Christ. I'm not saying that I can bring millions, but even if I just bring one, that's something."

The Lexington, Ky., teen-ager isn't just dreaming. He has learned Japanese and visited Japan twice. He regularly talks about Jesus with Japanese classmates whose religious backgrounds include Buddhism, Shintoism and atheism. In his letter to the Foreign Mission Board, he asked for specific information on evangelizing internationals, especially Japanese.

Adam, who became a Christian at age 9, also wrote about seeing a Lottie Moon missions poster at his church, Calvary Baptist in Lexington. It said "Change the World Now!"

Despite his youth, Adam took "now" very literally.

"A lot of teen-agers think they can't do anything now. They have to wait until they get older," he said in a phone interview. "But I don't want to just hear about God's work, I want to do it. I want to go out and actually help spread God's kingdom."

Adam's exposure to Japanese culture began in 1987 when Toyota opened an auto assembly plant in Georgetown, Ky., near Lexington. Today about 800 Japanese people live in the area because of the plant.

Adam was in second grade in school when the plant opened. He didn't pay much attention to the economic fanfare over the plant opening. But he did notice a slightly dazed Japanese child who was ushered into his classroom one day. The new student, Tonohiro Nakazawa, could only smile. He didn't know English.

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"When he came into our class, I realized that not everyone spoke English," Adam recalled. "I thought that was neat. I went up to him and made friends with him and we've been friends ever since. Later, after Tonohiro learned English, I began to think that since he had made the effort to speak English, I should make an effort to speak Japanese."

Adam began learning Japanese from a neighborhood friend who is Japanese. Soon he was playing with Tonohiro's Japanese friends, who taught him more and more of the language. Today he can keep up with any conversation.

Some of those conversations turned toward God.

"My Japanese friends are just like anybody," Adam explained. "They have questions about who they are and what they believe in. And I've found that a lot of my Japanese friends don't believe in anything. So I just talk to them and witness to them because the good news is too good not to share with others."

Adam will get another chance to take his Christian witness to Japan when he visits friends this summer in Toyota City.

Besides seeing his friends, what's Adam excited about?

"I'm going to be staying with friends that live just one block from Southern Baptist missionaries (Mark and Wendy Hoshizaki) in Toyota City. Isn't that neat?"

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(BP) photo (horizontal) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Outline available on SBCNet Newsroom.

SIDEBAR:

Shrinking world expands
local mission fields

By Don Martin

Baptist Press
1/10/94

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)--Adam Dedman knows just how small the world has become. In 1987, Adam became intrigued with Japanese classmates who came to America when a new Toyota plant opened near his hometown of Lexington, Ky.

Since then the 13-year-old has learned Japanese, traveled to Japan and shared his faith in Jesus Christ regularly with Japanese friends.

A foreign mission field landed in Adam's backyard, and he responded. Such experiences likely will multiply in other parts of the United States as the world economy expands.

The United States now leads the world in playing host to foreign firms within its borders, according to a 1991 business survey. Investments from abroad usually bring foreign workers and managers who temporarily move to America. The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board estimates nearly 2.3 million foreign professionals work here.

Last fall, Alabama Baptists became well aware of this trend when their state won the bidding war for a new Mercedes-Benz plant. The German car maker announced in September it plans to build a \$300 million plant near Vance, Ala.

Mercedes-Benz joins Honda, Nissan, Toyota, Mazda, Mitsubishi and BMW in building plants in the United States. But access doesn't necessarily translate into acceptance of the Christian message, warns Bill Wakefield, vice president for the Foreign Mission Board's new international outreach department.

"It's very difficult to develop ministries with foreign workers like the Japanese at the Toyota plant (near Lexington)," Wakefield said. "Often these are extremely busy people who work long hours. Some don't have a lot of time for people outside their work. Many have also been warned Americans will try and push their Christianity on them."

Wakefield moved from directing the work of Southern Baptist missionaries in Asia as the region's vice president to his new position in January in which he will help link churches to existing Southern Baptist ministries that focus on reaching internationals living in the United States.

Southern Baptist churches looking for ways to reach out to these new foreign communities, he advised, should look first for ways to minister, not preach.

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"If people feel that all we want to do is make Christians out of them, they will stay away," he explained. "But if they sense we as Christians want to help, then there's openness."

Churches interested in ways to develop such ministries may call Wak field at the Foreign Mission Board at (804) 353-0151 or Joel Land, associate director of special ministries at the Home Mission Board, at (404) 898-7495.

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Increasing number of churches
taking security precautions

By Toby Druin

Baptist Press
1/10/94

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptists' commitment to the "security of the believer" is well established as one of the linchpins of Baptist belief. Unhappily, however, they are learning more and more about another kind of "security of the believer" -- securing in this case the physical well-being of pastors, church members, church facilities and the ability of the denomination and its institutions to operate.

The problem was highlighted recently in Houston when an investigation surfaced into the alleged improper use of concealed weapons by security guards at Second Baptist Church.

According to a Houston Chronicle story, the State Board of Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies, the state licensing agency for security operations, is investigating a report that non-police guards in plainclothes improperly concealed weapons while working at the church.

Texas law allows only full-time, paid police officers to carry concealed weapons. Security guards who are not certified police officers must be in uniform and wear weapons openly.

The Chronicle story stated David Dixon, security director and minister of family life at the church, had given a deposition in a lawsuit in which he said he had carried a concealed weapon while guarding pastor Edwin Young because "he's been threatened many times over the years."

Neil Martin, a lawyer and former FBI agent and spokesman for the church on the issue, told the Texas Baptist Standard the church maintains a security force, "some of whom are armed," at the church 24 hours daily. They serve on a volunteer basis, he said, and some are armed and some are not and provide security for the church campus in general.

The volunteer force grows out of the church's ministry to the law enforcement community, Martin said.

"Second Baptist has a ministry for law enforcement that meets once a month. It is part of the outreach ministry of the church," Martin said. "There's a close relationship between the church and law enforcement. Often when the death of an officer occurs the services are conducted here if the officer doesn't have a church."

The monthly services are led by Dixon, who is a peace officer with The Village Police Department, Martin said.

Use of security guards and other measures such as video camera surveillance, controls on doors and burglar alarms are commonplace in the 1990s. The Baptist Building in Dallas has a mesh gate that controls entrance to its underground parking garage. Visitors have to identify themselves and the purpose of their visit. A security guard sits at the reception desk in the foyer. The Southern Baptist Annuity Board in Dallas has a similar arrangement and visitors have to sign in at a central desk overseen by a security guard. Locked doors, opened only after a visitor's identity and purpose are determined, are becoming the rule rather than the exception at more and more churches.

The need for security was underscored in Dallas Dec. 28 when a man robbed the members of a church (not Baptist) at gunpoint at an evening service.

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First Baptist Church of Dallas has a security department that maintains a 24-hour presence at the church and its five blocks of buildings in downtown Dallas, said Tim Hedquist, church administrator. Guards patrol the buildings, which also house the church's academy during the week, on a daily, round-the-clock basis and additional off-duty police handle traffic control on Sunday. None of the church's security guards is armed, Hedquist said.

It's not so much that they perceive a threat of robbery, Hedquist said in commenting on the need for security. "We have the problem of people causing disturbances or someone perceiving he is sent from God to speak.

"We have two high profile people (pastor O.S. Hawkins and senior pastor W.A. Criswell) for whom we have responsibility. We don't want to become an armed camp. What security we have is discreet; we don't put uniformed guards on the front pew. We want our people to see our security measures as means to help them."

Phil Lineberger, pastor of First Baptist Church of Tyler, Texas, said his church has armed and licensed officers patrol the church buildings and parking lots during any evening service. The church has a contract for security of its property and the guards are Tyler police officers.

Lineberger is well acquainted with the need for security. When he presided over the 1991 meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Waco he wore a bullet-proof vest because of threats he had received and three security guards patrolled the platform area during the convention.

"But I have been threatened at every church where I have been pastor," said Lineberger. In Little Rock, he said, a paroled mental patient was arrested after he brought a gun to the worship service. In Wichita, Kan., a woman "street person" handed him a note telling him she would "blow my guts out" with a shotgun.

The Southern Baptist Convention paid more than \$6,600 for security personnel at the annual meeting in Houston last summer, "a little less" than has been the case in recent years when President George Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle have spoken to the convention, said Herb Hollinger, SBC Executive Committee vice president for convention news.

The Executive Committee itself provided armed guards for its special meeting in Nashville in July 1990 when Baptist Press news editor Dan Martin and vice president Alvin Shackelford were fired.

Of course, in some areas security has been a problem for years. George Moser, pastor of Beckley Hills Baptist Church in south Dallas, a high crime area, said the church has been broken into six times in the four years he has served there as pastor.

"It's only a matter of time until someone hits us (again)," he said.

The church has taken drastic measures to secure its property, including installing a steel door that rolls down over the doors to the auditorium.

Moser said it was installed last year after he drove up to the church one day and discovered all the handles on the doors to the auditorium were missing. Someone apparently had driven up to the door, attached a chain to the door handles and yanked them off.

He sat down and cried, Moser said. "It was disappointing to know that people to whom we are trying to minister will steal from the church."

The church's youth choir is widely known for its ministry in state correctional institutions, but currently is using a sound system gleaned from pawn shops after losing its own system a second time. They haven't found any of their own sound equipment in pawn shops, Moser said, although they did recover a window air-conditioning unit.

The church has two men who watch the campus at all times during services and, if anyone goes to the educational area to use a restroom, someone has to accompany him or her.

**He knew minister's nudge
to salvation was on target**

By Joni B. Hannigan

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--Sanford Peterson went to Indiana for a degree in speech communication, never realizing he would end up with a connection to the Great Communicator.

Last November Peterson, a vice president at Indianapolis' Major Tool and Manufacturing, became only the second layman to be elected president of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

Peterson's quest for spiritual things began in Wisconsin, where he was elected to represent his church in a major convention that took place only once every 10 years.

"I remember it being a neat experience to be there with all those pastors and laymen," Peterson recounts, "but I was still only involved peripherally in church."

Things changed quickly for Peterson when he began his studies at Indiana University and developed a friendship with Ward Patterson, a campus minister.

"We ate supper together and talked for two to four hours a night," Peterson recalls. "Obviously, the conversation went to religion."

Eventually Patterson told Peterson he "really need(ed) to get saved."

"I knew he was right," says Peterson, but realizing the importance of a lifelong decision, "I did not want it to be another fad."

But later, when a friend needed advice about a significant matter, Peterson says he felt inadequate.

"I really didn't know what to do," he says, so he talked to Patterson who advised him to think about the way God would have him respond.

Finally, Peterson's prayer about his response to his friend began a prayer life that culminated in his decision on April 15, 1973, to follow Jesus Christ.

"On the day most people pay their taxes," chuckles Peterson, "I gave my life to the Lord."

The irony of it, according to Peterson, is that his friend Patterson wasn't the one who eventually led him to the Lord.

"We might plant seeds that others harvest," he points out, "but we don't always get to see the results."

Not surprisingly then that the campus ministry has a special place for Peterson who not only was saved on a campus but met his wife, Elizabeth, at a prayer meeting on campus; married her in Beck Chapel on the Indiana University campus; and for years has been involved in the Indianapolis-based interdenominational Indiana Office for Campus Ministries for years; in addition to his impressive church, association and state Baptist convention work.

Also not surprisingly that Baptist Student Union work landed on Peterson's priority list of ministry goals for his state.

"The college campus holds a special place in my heart. I know what it's like to be a student on a secular college campus I want student ministry to grow and flourish and become one of our major focuses of tomorrow in terms of outreach."

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**New Christian donors respond
to compassion-based appeals**

By David Winfrey

Baptist Press
1/10/94

HOUSTON (BP)--Compassion, not commitment, is more important to Christians practicing stewardship in today's consumer society, said Bob Roberts Jr., pastor of NorthWood Church for the Communities in Keller, Texas.

"A lot of guys get the impression you cannot talk about money at all in the worship service," said Roberts, addressing all w Southern Baptists during a conference called "Leading the Innovative Church."

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"You can talk about money," he said. "It's how you talk about it."

While long-time Southern Baptists may tithe out of a sense of loyalty to their church and missions, new Christians give for other reasons, he said.

"You and I are going to give more out of commitment and challenge. But that's nowhere near why they're giving," he said. "You've got to talk to them from the aspect of community and compassion because that's what they care about."

Roberts said his studies found members of today's generation give 2.5 percent of their income to charities while their parents gave 8.5 percent.

Debt and the fear of going broke were reasons some new Christians cited for not giving to the church, said Roberts, quoting a survey his church took of members who had become Christians within two years.

Despite those and other reasons, new Christians sometimes give at levels double those of long-time Southern Baptists, he said.

Churches should have clear accountability for their spending, said Roberts. Every month, NorthWood mails offering envelopes and a newsletter to its members, he said. In the newsletter are five things done with offering money last month and five things planned for next month.

Roberts also recommended churches offer consistent emphasis on stewardship as a part of discipleship and worship as opposed to "panic appeals."

Classes on financial freedom also could encourage members to be more fiscally responsible to the church, he said. "We don't expect people to start witnessing immediately. Why do we expect them to start giving immediately?" he asked. "It's going to take time."

Roberts warned pastors against basing the success or failure of their churches on money. "I've got good news for you. There's enough money out there for you to do what God wants you to do."

More than 1,000 people attended the conference, co-sponsored by the Home Mission Board and a group of 10 Southern Baptist pastors. It featured pastors who are using non-traditional techniques to reach people with little or no church background or who are not attracted to traditional church services.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "'Condom campaign,' critics charge of AIDS advertising," dated 1/7/94, please make the following addition:

After the 16th paragraph, please insert the following two paragraphs:

The ad featuring Kiedis was pulled by the CDC Jan. 7 after it was revealed he had been convicted in 1990 of misdemeanor charges of indecent exposure and sexual battery. The incident occurred in 1989 after a concert in northern Virginia, according to news reports.

"We do not feel he is an appropriate spokesperson," CDC Director David Satcher said in a prepared statement.

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