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ALABAMA--Richard Carnes named first WMU Foundation president; photo.
DENVER--Denver population explosion stirs ministry opportunities; photo.
DENVER--Physician from Vietnam finds U.S. mission field; photo.
NEW MEXICO--In drama, ministry can happen after the curtain is drawn.
TENNESSEE--Seminary Extension names directors of the year.
MISSISSIPPI--64-year-old pastor adds law practice to busy life.

**Richard Carnes named first
WMU Foundation president** By Teresa Dickens & Marv Knox

Baptist Press
7/17/95

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--A 13-year veteran of the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff has been tapped as the first president of the Woman's Missionary Union Foundation. Richard Carnes, president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, will assume the new position Sept. 1.

The WMU Foundation, an independent corporation governed by its own board of trustees, was created to strengthen the ministry of Woman's Missionary Union. The 107-year-old WMU provides missions education and sponsors missions activities for women, girls and preschoolers. It also has been the lead promoter of Southern Baptists' home and foreign missions offerings.

Last January, WMU's executive board voted to begin the foundation to support national missions projects of WMU, to provide contingency funds for its own operations and WMU work within the states, and to assure the financial security of WMU into the future.

Under Carnes' leadership, the WMU Foundation will assume the management of more than \$2 million in WMU assets, including the Second Century and Vision Funds, and various WMU scholarships. Staff members currently serving in WMU's development office also will transfer to the foundation.

"Richard Carnes is the most professionally equipped person we could have found to serve as the first president of the WMU Foundation," said Darold Morgan of Richardson, Texas, chairman of the foundation's board of trustees and former president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. "Equal to his outstanding professional and educational credentials is his deep commitment to missions," Morgan said.

WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien agreed. "We welcome Richard to our WMU Foundation. His support for WMU and love for missions uniquely equip him for this position."

Carnes has served as the Kentucky foundation chief executive officer since December 1988. Prior to that, he was a staff member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board's business division.

During his tenure as its leader, the Kentucky foundation has moved from a section of the business division to an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the staff has doubled, from two to four employees.

In addition, the foundation has received the largest endowment gift in KBC history, and assets have almost tripled, from \$18 million to \$53 million.

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"Richard Carnes will be greatly missed," said Charles Barnes, chairman of the Kentucky Foundation. "He has done an outstanding job for the Foundation and Kentucky Baptist ministries. ... Kentucky's loss is a gain for our national and international mission causes."

"I have been honored to serve Kentucky Baptists," Carnes said. "While I will miss the immediate fellowship with Kentucky Baptists, I am very excited about the opportunity to serve all Southern Baptists through support of the mission and evangelism enterprises of Woman's Missionary Union."

WMU is "the most dynamic channel of praying for and giving to missions, doing missions and missions education in Baptist life," he added.

A native of Alabama, Carnes is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham and holds a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Prior to his work with Kentucky Baptists, Carnes worked in the Birmingham offices of E.F. Hutton & Co., Inc., Merrill Lynch, Inc., and Central Bancshares.

He and his wife Karen, also a native of Alabama, have two sons, Jay and Chip.

In addition to Morgan, other WMU Foundation trustees are Earlene Jessee of Richmond, Va., secretary; Dorothy Sample of Flint, Mich.; June Tate of Huntington Beach, Calif.; Cynthia Schmeltekopf Wilson of Dallas; Willis Meadows of Shreveport, La.; Emmanuel McCall of Atlanta; David Maddox of Anaheim, Calif.; and Catherine Allen of Birmingham. O'Brien and Carolyn Miller, WMU national president, serve as trustees by virtue of their positions.

Members of foundation president search committee were Wilson, chair; Morgan, Sampl, Tate and Meadows.

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(BP) photo available upon request from WMU.

**Denver population explosion
stirs ministry opportunities**

By Sarah Zimmerman

**Baptist Press
7/17/95**

DENVER (BP)--Imagine the population explosion in your city if 34,000 people moved there this year. Then envision it happening three years in a row.

In Denver, there's nothing imaginary about that kind of growth.

According to the Denver Chamber of Commerce, an average of 548 people moved to the Denver area every week last year -- more than the weekly average attendance at most of Denver's Southern Baptist churches.

The local Baptist association has 80 churches and missions whose members account for less than 3 percent of the metro area's 2 million residents.

Yet associational director of missions E.R. Cagle is undaunted. He calls Denver's growth "doors of opportunity that are wide open right now. It is our wonderful privilege and responsibility to enter those doors."

One key is finding ways to do "missions without money," Cagle says. Denver's growth has inflated prices, making buying land out of the question for most new congregations.

Sharing facilities is one solution to the church building dilemma. Brentwood Center, which is owned by the Colorado Baptist General Convention, hosts an Anglo, Hispanic and Vietnamese congregation. Denver Temple Baptist Church is home to Anglo, Hispanic, Korean and predominantly black congregations.

At Denver Temple, leaders "go by the calendar religiously" to avoid conflicting schedules for weddings, seminars and special events, says Rod Viera, pastor of the Anglo and Hispanic congregations.

At 44, Denver Temple is Denver's oldest Southern Baptist church. The building is debt-free, but like most churches, it always needs money for operating expenses. Funds sometimes come from unexpected places, such as the steeple. A cellular telephone company rents the church steeple to house an antenna.

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In addition to creative financial assistance, local churches need personnel. "We need lay volunteers to come and stay," Cagle says. "We need bivocational people to start Bible studies. One couple could make a difference in some of our missions and small churches."

Jack McAskill, for example, is volunteer minister of education at Parkway Baptist Mission in Franktown, formerly a farming community that is becoming suburban Denver. McAskill has helped churches in the Denver association for 28 years, and he currently serves on the association's missions development council.

McAskill shares Cagle's optimism about opportunities from Denver's growth, while noting making the most of those opportunities will require some changes.

"We will have to find some way to reach non-Baptist people," McAskill says. Denver churches used to grow by reaching uprooted Southern Baptists, he explains. "We have got to become quite a bit more non-traditional because we're ministering to non-traditional people."

That may mean eating egg rolls instead of fried chicken at church pot luck suppers, ministering to the person who rides a motorcycle as well as those who drive a BMW and accepting leaders with an Hispanic accent instead of a Texas drawl, says Rick Ferguson, pastor of Denver's Riverside Baptist Church.

Riverside is a "Key Church," meaning it participates in the Home Mission Board strategy to start congregations and ministry programs. The church sponsors six language congregations and other satellite groups that meet in 14 locations.

Earlier this year the association hired a church extension director who has identified 30 places or people groups needing churches. The associational goal is to begin work in 10 of those places this year.

Two areas where Cagle wants to see new ministries are the Hispanic community and mobile home parks.

Hispanics comprise one of the largest ethnic groups in Denver -- one of six residents, or 300,000 total, Cagle says. The association has five Hispanic congregations with a combined Sunday morning attendance of less than 300. Cagle says he would like for the association to have a staff member whose main responsibility is starting churches among Hispanics.

Forty mobile home parks in Denver are home to more than 40,000 people, Cagle says. He dreams of volunteers starting Bible studies in those mobile home parks.

Cagle says he knows Denver churches alone can't reach all the city's unchurched residents and newcomers. So he's counting on fellow Southern Baptists to pray for God to send workers and resources.

"To ask for prayer sounds glib, but it's the first and last thing people can do for us."

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(BP) photo (vertical) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press. Cutlines on SBCNet News Room.

Physician from Vietnam
finds U.S. mission field

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press
7/17/95

DENVER (BP)--Vinh Le's voyage to freedom became a journey to missions.

The Christian physician who fled Vietnam in 1982 is now a home missionary serving as a pastor and church starter in Denver.

Le's grandfather was the first person in his family to leave Buddhism for Christianity. The grandfather made his decision when he was in his 60s, and it resulted in his wife and all but one of his seven children deserting him. The one child who also embraced Christianity was Le's father.

Le became a Christian at 16, and he began to lead music groups at his church while he studied medicine. He graduated from medical school in 1966 and began his medical practice.

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As Le treated patients, he also talked to them about Christ. He witnessed without constraints until 1975 when communists took over Vietnam.

"They put pressure on me to keep my mouth shut," Le says. "In the hospital I talked to patients about the Lord. The director of the hospital hated that."

Le and his family prepared to leave Vietnam in 1975, but "the Lord did not let us. God wanted us to stay, so we stay."

When government leaders threatened to put Le in a concentration camp because of his Christian witness, he says, "I realized it was time God wanted me to go out."

Le's family could not leave the country together. Four of his children came to the United States in 1981, Le escaped in 1982, and his wife and two youngest children came seven years later.

Le says he left Vietnam "on a small boat that was very dangerous at sea." On the journey, Le shared Christ with his fellow passengers, and 35 of the 39 people on board became Christians. Despite bad weather conditions, "we arrived with celebration."

Le was in a refugee camp in the Philippines before arriving in Denver in 1983. In the United States, he took an exam that would allow him to work as a physician, but could not pass it because he had not mastered the English versions of medical terminology.

Instead, he earned a master's degree from Denver Seminary, a Conservative Baptist institution. He is currently working toward a doctorate from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California.

In the meantime, Le became concerned for Vietnamese people in Colorado who were not Christians. Since 1983, he has started seven Southern Baptist missions, and he currently serves as pastor of Vietnamese missions in Aurora and Colorado Springs.

Le says he hopes someone else will become pastor of the Colorado Springs mission because he would like to start another mission in Littleton. He has identified needs for Vietnamese churches in Bloomfield; another site in Colorado Springs; Omaha and Lincoln, Neb.; and New Mexico.

He's also concerned about people still in Vietnam. "There's only one Baptist church in Vietnam officially," Le says. "People there need the Lord. I am burdened for how to do that." Yet Le says he has no long-term goals other than to "walk with the Lord one step at a time."

His motivation is love. "When we love the Lord with all our heart, we want people to know him and come to him."

One way Le and the Vietnamese missions reach out to newcomers is through refugee assistance. Le converted his carport to a storage area for household items to give to families arriving from Vietnam.

At 57, Le says he has no plans to slow down. "I don't believe in burn-out. When we depend on him, he renews our strength. The more we do, the more strength we get from him."

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(BP) photo (horizontal) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

In drama, ministry can happen
after the curtain is drawn

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press
7/17/95

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Christian drama offers ministry and a witness while the characters are on stage. But it may be after the symbolic curtain is drawn at the end of the performance when real ministry happens.

Matt Tullios wants people who perform Christian drama to know ministry does not end with the drama, but that the final curtain may signal the beginning of the event's most personal, Christian ministry.

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During sessions on drama at Church Music Leadership Week at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Tullos, drama consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, said he believes drama can prepare people in the audience to receive ministry from the actors.

"Go out into the audience and meet some people after the drama," he encouraged. "Accept their comments and compliments, and then engage them in conversation about the drama topic.

"Ask them how the drama ministered to them or what part touched them most," he said. "Many times persons who relate to the message of the drama really want to talk about how it affected them. And sometimes people think the actor has had experience with the problem portrayed through the character. They may want your advice, and you have to be prepared to respond."

While Tullos agrees most actors in church productions are not trained to give advice on emotional issues, such as divorce or sexual abuse, they can listen and offer to pray with the concerned person right then.

"Drama is emotional, and sometimes it can draw out more emotions than a sermon," he said.

"Just listen to the person. Don't feel you have to have any objective for solving their problem," he urged, adding referral to someone better qualified for counseling is an option, along with attentive listening. "For some persons, there is healing in being able to verbalize problems to someone they feel will hear them and understand.

"In conventional, secular drama, the stage and life are viewed separately," Tullos observed. "Actors have no sense of owing the audience anything. In Christian theater, I believe it is an obligation for the performer to step out of their role and get down into the audience."

This is especially good for children, who may want to talk with the person as an actor and to understand the character is different from the person, he said.

"I try to disciple actors and help them realize the performance is just the beginning of ministry. You haven't accomplished anything until the audience responds to you."

Church Music Leadership Week, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's music department, was July 8-14 at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

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Seminary Extension names
directors of the year

By Leonard Hill

Baptist Press
7/17/95

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Stewart Lane, director of the Santee Extension Institute, Santee Baptist Association in South Carolina, has been named "Seminary Extension Center Director of the Year" for east of the Mississippi. J. David Fite and Bill Vinson, who administer the Seminary Extension Center at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, were named "Seminary Extension Co-directors of the Year" for west of the Mississippi.

In announcing the awards July 17, interim Seminary Extension director Doran C. McCarty, said, "These men were honored for their commitment to continuing theological education and to training people for ministry, and for their outstanding leadership in the Extension Centers where they serve."

Lane, a layman who retired and moved to Sumter, S.C., in 1992, revived the dormant Seminary Extension program of the Santee Baptist Association. Last spring more than 50 students were enrolled in nine courses. Lane said he views Seminary Extension as a tool provided by God to help him carry out the Great Commission to "teach all nations."

Both Fite and Vinson are on the staff of Southwestern Seminary and have duties in addition to administering the seminary's Extension Center. Fite, an assistant professor, is director of continuing education and off-campus programs. Vinson is program coordinator and instructor for continuing education.

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Last year their center had 354 students taking courses, making it one of the largest of the approximately 400 Seminary Extension centers in the United States. Southwestern uses Seminary Extension courses to train bivocational ministers, lay people and spouses of students enrolled in the seminary. They attend classes provided in the campus and at certain churches in the area. Other classes are offered in distant locations in the state, such as Amarillo.

Seminary Extension is sponsored cooperatively by the six Southern Baptist seminaries and this past year had 7,457 students enrolled in one or more courses.

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64-year-old pastor adds
law practice to busy life

Baptist Press
7/17/95

OXFORD, Miss. (BP)--Try taking on three years of full-time law school while commuting 400 miles on weekends to pastor a local Baptist church and carry on a media ministry.

Better than that, wait until you have passed age 60 to tackle the challenge. Oh, and be sure you go to Honduras on a mission trip each January.

Joe Lovelady did it all in just that way and is a living testimony that such feats can be accomplished.

At the University of Mississippi law school's commencement earlier this summer, the 6-foot-5-inch, 230-pound Louisiana Baptist pastor and former college football player added a juris doctorate to his bachelor of arts, master of divinity, master of theology and doctor of ministry degrees.

During his three years of law school, Lovelady made the trek from the University of Mississippi in Oxford to New Orleans each weekend to pastor the small East Edgewater Baptist Church and carry on a successful television and radio ministry. He preached to an estimated 25,000 people by television and another 250,000 by radio, in addition to his church congregation.

Also throughout law school, Lovelady put his law books aside on Wednesday evenings to teach a Bible study in Oxford, and he and his wife, Betty, continued to go to Honduras each January with a Christian mission group.

The preacher-turned-law-student says he received mixed reactions about his endeavor from his religious friends and followers. He tells of one man writing to ask, "Joe, how can you go from the highest profession in the world to the lowest?" On the other hand, a woman listener regularly sent him money to help with his law school expenses.

Lovelady says spending weekends studying the law of Christianity, via the Bible, then hitting a whole library of secular law books during the week was a challenge.

"At first law school was overwhelming," he acknowledges. "I would spend six to eight hours a day in the library wading through an abundance of information. If I ever thought I understood the law, I was wrong. But it turned out to be a very enjoyable experience, though quite demanding."

Eventually, he says he found age and experience to be advantages in law school. "I think the diversity of my background gave me a good perspective and an edge," he maintains.

That diversity includes almost six years as an intelligence specialist in the Air Force before he and his wife returned in 1953 to his hometown of Oxford for him to enter the University of Mississippi as a freshman pre-pharmacy student and a walk-on football player. While at the university, however, he felt the call to preach and transferred to Mississippi College, where he earned master of divinity, master of theology and doctor of ministry degrees. Later, he also racked up another 24 academic hours toward a masters degree in history at the University of New Orleans.

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Then, during the last 17 of his 35 years in the ministry, Lovelady served as a government liaison for the New Orleans Federation of Churches, testifying before Louisiana House and Senate committees in Baton Rouge. Through dealing with the state Legislature, he says he learned that "for good or bad, the real movers and shakers in this country are lawyers." That realization again whetted his insatiable desire to learn.

Like most decisions he makes -- always with his wife's blessings -- Lovelady never wavered in his resolve to get a law degree. Prayer had led him to two clinchers.

"One, I decided that if I passed the Law School Admission Test after being out of school for so long, it would feel right," he says. He passed.

Second, Lovelady applied to only one law school and was accepted.

Delighted to be back home in Oxford, Lovelady says he plans to "hang out a shingle" and practice law now. He says he will be available as legal adviser to his only child, a son, who promotes several Christian musical artists.

He also plans to continue his church ministry. "I've come to realize that you can't change the world, but you can work at it by helping people."

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Reported by the University of Mississippi's media relations office.

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