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Students Accept Pastors' Positions

GRACEVILLE — Four Baptist Bible Institute students have accepted calls to pastor churches.

The Rev. Laverne F. Musser began last week as pastor of the New home Baptist Church, Graceville Rt. 3. Today the Rev. David Rich will begin his ministry at New Bethel Baptist Church, Cuthbert, Ga.

The Rev. Leon T. Odom became pastor of the Victoria Baptist Church, Victoria, Ala., last Sunday. That same day, the Rev. Bobby W. Richey began his first pastorate at Florida Town Heights Mission, Pace,

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Fla., a mission of the First Baptist Church of Milton.

Mr. Musser was a department store manager before entering the ministry. He served in the Navy during the Korean Conflict. He and his wife have two daughters, Shirley Ann, 17, and Carolyn Sue, 12.

Mr. Rich, a former insurance salesman, expects to complete his pastoral course in May 1970. His wife is employed in the Citizens' Bank of Marianna. They are living in a mobile home with their daughter, Jodie, 1.

A plumber for ten years, Mr. Odom has continued to work parttime at that trade while attending school. Mrs. Odom is in charge of the nursery at BBI. The couple lives in a mobile home on the campus.

Mr. Richey is a former aircraft electrician. He and his wife have two children, David, 12, and Deborah, 9.

Collect cash for that gun you don't want. Dial 792-5312 and sell it with a Classified Ad. ADV

Jackson County Floridan
Wed, Sep 11, 1968 · Page 2

Rev. David Rich Named Minister In Georgia

GRACEVILLE—Rev. David Rich of Orlando, Florida, will begin as pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church, Cuthbert, Ga., Sept. 15.

A former insurance salesman, he entered the ministry in 1964. He expects to complete the three-year apstoral training course at Baptist Bible Institute here in May, 1970.

Mrs. Rich, who was Carol Biggs of Orlando, works in the Citizens' State Bank, Marianna.

The have a daughter, Jodie, age one year. They have bought a mobile home, and will put it in the new BBI trailer park for the present.

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Daytona Beach Morning Journal
Wed, Sep 12, 1979 · Page 105

By DANA GREATREX
JOURNAL Correspondent

OAK HILL—The Rev. David Rich and his family have a unique ministry and they are sharing it with the community of Oak Hill this week.

They have evangelistic services at the First Baptist Church each evening through Sunday. They begin at 7 p.m. with a children's session. During this first 30 minutes he performs some "gospel magic," his wife does a "chalk talk," his children — Jodie and Amy — sing and Del Ellis, an assistant from Orlando where he serves as Minister of Music for Lockhart Baptist Church, teaches new songs and choruses. At 7:30 p.m. the adult service begins, featuring special Christian music and a message given by Rich.

In order to provide such a ministry, the family has adapted a unique lifestyle. "I knew it was required of me to serve God in this way, but I did not want to be separated from my family," said Rich. "It was the decision of my wife, Carol, to sell everything we had, pack up and travel with me."

* * *

THE RICHES are one of four traveling families with a ministry in the entire Southern Baptist Convention, and they travel throughout the United States sharing their special message. Both Rich and his wife having traveled quite a lot in their childhood as military children and they like the mobile lifestyle and look forward to sightseeing in every place they stay.

Rich committed his life to God while serving in the United States Navy, and attended the Baptist Bible Institute after his honorable discharge. He later attended Luther Rice Seminary and worked in the pastorate for 13 years. During that time he was pastor of three churches in Florida and one in Georgia. When the Riches made the decision to leave the pastorate and travel as an evangelistic team, they moved only the essentials into a 28 foot trailer pulled by a van.

"Four months after we were traveling as a team, we were able to buy a Greyhound Bus," Mrs. Rich said. "And David converted it into our new home." He built a private bedroom in the back, a room complete with bunk beds for the girls and a portable crib for their son Eric, a living room, a dining room (complete with table), a kitchen, a bathroom, a laundry area, and a TV area. "I tried to include space for the things we missed the most while we lived in the trailer, such as a private bedroom, a washing machine and dining table. We use to eat all our meals on TV trays and Carol and I slept on the living room couch that made into a bed." David did all the work himself, assisted, of course, by his wife and children. They now have hopes of getting a larger bus because the girls and their son will soon require separate bedrooms. Carol also would like to have an area to set up a sewing machine—one of the things she misses most.

This lifestyle demands a great deal of self discipline and organization. "There is a place for everything, and everything must stay in its place," according to the Riches.

* * *

A TYPICAL DAY begins with 8 a.m. school for the girls. They study through the Calvert School of Correspondence in Baltimore, Md. Jodie is in the seventh grade and Amy is in the third. They are taught by their mother from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and then they study individually until noon. Meanwhile, Mrs. Rich holds Wisdom for Women conferences from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during a conference week for the ladies of the church. After lunch, the girls relax, play, visit with new friends they have met and the baby naps. Mama cleans house, washes and irons clothes, studies and practices the piano, while dad visits in the commuity, studies, plays golf and works on repairs of the bus. When the baby is awake, all members of the family rehearse the music for the services.

The girls enjoy meeting new friends and visiting in their home, where there is often a swimming pool or horses to entertain. They love adding new pen pals to their address books. "It is especially fun to see the friends that we have made and written to on a return trip to a church," said Jodie, 12.

* * *

RICH IS a member of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists and is active in the Southern Baptist State Convention. He is working on his masters degree. "Continuing my studies has become very important to me. In my ministry, it's important to keep fresh," he said.

Living in such close quarters seems to have brought this family of five closer toether. The atmosphere is one of harmony and happiness. According to the Riches: "We believe that God gives special abilities for his ministries, and to us he has given compatibility."

Their dream is to build a family ministry, and, at 35, Rich plans to live in this bus and travel for the Lord until he retires. "Many people retire to a trailer, but Carol and I will someday retire to a house."

MOBILE RICH FAMILY POSES IN FRONT OF TRAVEL MEANS: THE BUS
The Rev. and Mrs. David Rich and three children

The Tampa Tribune
Sat, Mar 14, 1981 · Page 90

First Baptist Church of Jasmine Lakes, 308 W. Jasmine Blvd., Port Richey, will hold revival services March 15 to 20 at 7 p.m. nightly with the Rev. David Rich preaching.

The David Rich evangelistic team travels across the United States conducting family-oriented revivals. Everyone is invited.

The Florida Times-Union
Sat, Nov 29, 1975 · Page 7

East 44th Baptist Calls Pastor

East 44th Street Baptist Church has called as its pastor the Rev. David Rich. The Rev. Mr. Rich is now attending Luther Rice Seminary.