



## *What do you do as the BCM Director?*



Sometimes we get to handle real live Gators like Augie here! And no his mouth is not taped! Eddie Gilley, BCM director!

### UP NEXT

Send in pics of your children, spouses, grandchildren for a photo edition

I am often asked that question by people who are not familiar with our ministry. It honestly is a tough question to answer. For those of you who were a part of our ministry you know the answer is both simple and complex.

The simple answer is we get to demonstrate God's love to college students on a daily basis. The complex answer is that every day the way that works out is very different.

BCM directors are sometimes surrogate parents, crisis counselors, academic advisors, pastors, teachers, denominational

representatives, janitors, cooks, and chief bottle washers depending on the day.

Our roles change sometimes minute by minute to meet the needs of the students, churches, academic community, and alumni whom we happen to be talking with at the moment. Seminary training is helpful to deal with the theological side of the job but nothing can prepare you fully for all the roles you will fill as a BCM director. Only God can place the love for the crazy life of college students and their issues within the heart of those of us who are blessed to be given this calling.

I am thankful to be serving in a

long line of such men and women who have served here at the University of Florida dating all the way back to 1926!

In this and subsequent issues of the Legacy we hope to honor those who answered that question like I often do with "we help college students grow in their faith and experience the love of Christ in a real way during their collegiate years!" Keep sending your stories in of how the directors and the BCM/BSU was used by the Lord during your days at UF and SFC! And don't forget to tell us what is happening now in your lives as well!



## *Donald Roy Crane '54*

The BSU at the University of Florida was home to me for two years while I worked on a graduate degree.

When I needed a person to help with all the pressures, I would enter the doors of the BSU and Ray Koonce would welcome me with a smile. There were endless opportunities available: Daily devotionals, vespers, prayer mates, mission trips to First Baptist, Alachua, Fl. as well as "bull sessions" with the many Christians that Ray had available. He and his wonderful family made a room for me at their house. I could never give enough "thanks" to the angel of BSU, Ray Koonce



## *Jake '54 and Anne Herndon '55 Mottayaw*

The Baptist Collegiate Ministries (We called it the BSU) was a very important part of my life (Anne Herndon) and my husband's (Jake Mottayaw) .

I was a Freshman in Sept. 1951 and had grown up in a Presbyterian background in Miami, so the first Sunday at UF I went to the Presbyterian church and loved the preacher----- Preacher Gordon. On Saturday a group from the BSU came through the dorm where I lived (Yulee) inviting everyone to church and offering transportation. They were all so friendly and enthusiastic and I was hooked!

In early spring the college students were having a picnic at Lake Warburg and we were all urged to invite someone so my girlfriend, Joan Schmid, and I each invited a date, but we had no transportation. We had met Jake at one of the Sunday evening fellowships and knew he had a car, so we asked if we (all 4 of us!) could ride with him and his date. We didn't realize that his "back seat" was just open space with two small fold-down "opera seats" and Joan and I thought the

whole thing was so awkward and crowded that we giggled all the way to the lake and back. Much later Jake told me he was so aggravated with our giggling that he thought, "If I ever get these silly girls out of my car, I hope I never see them again!" Little did he realize God was introducing our life-time mate to each of us and in April we will celebrate our 59th anniversary!

We were both very active in the BSU and served in many of the offices of leadership. Ray Koonce was the Director and Audrey Evans (Cowley) his assistant. Jake and I attended Audrey and Bill's wedding the summer of my junior year which was performed by Ray in the lovely chapel. We understand this later was changed to the pool/ Ping-Pong room because of the need for an activity area.

We attended a BSU reunion honoring Ray in 1998 which was so much fun and lots of "old" BSUers were there. The organizers had asked what part Ray had played in our lives, and I thought of all the spiritual guidance and loving support he gave us. But I hadn't realized until after dealing with a difficult situation and needing to seek his advice how WISE Ray was and how valuable that was to the inexperienced students he mentored!



The BSU was truly a "home away from home" and a place where students who felt like we did about God and His marvelous love could come away from "the madding crowds" and feel at peace.

Jake and I have desired to stay close to the Lord and follow His plans for ourselves and our family of two daughters and a son, and 4 grandchildren.

A great joy for both of us is that we both teach Bible classes --Jake who is an Elder, teaches at Springhill Baptist Church, Fernandina Beach, and Anne weekly shares the Scriptures with "a captive audience". We both thank the Lord for all the experiences -- all the Blessings-- He has brought into our lives!

## *Diane Wroge '81*

Otto called everyone "beloved" and everyone got hugs from him. He was chaplain of many of the UF teams. I held off getting involved in a Christian ministry until I tried out for the Lady Gator basketball team. I didn't make the team, but God knew I needed a set of Christian friends. A bunch of us women from the BCM spent a weekend on the Whisenant Farms. As a northerner, I had heard of grits but never had eaten them. Mr. Whisenant told me to go out and pick the grits from the trees. Otto never forgot that and every time I would share about my literacy and education work in Papua New Guinea during a furlough, Otto would tell the grit story.

When I considered trying out for the UF softball team, I asked him about it. He said that I would touch people with Christianity that the church or BCM could not. My BCM friends came to all of our home games and my teammates saw Christians can have fun. When my mom was going to share at a Thursday night dinner, Otto invited the whole team for a free dinner. I didn't expect many to come. They all came but 5 and 2 of those were Christians already.

Thank you Otto, and the Spangler family, for making the BCM (like a fraternity house) such a positive experience for me and all of those whose lives you touched for the Lord.



## Don and Barbara Pearson '61

Myungsung Christian Medical Center (MCM) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia opened in 2004. The hospital is a mission of a large South Korean Presbyterian Church in Seoul, Korea. It is sustained by the church financially and staffed with administrative volunteers. To locate in Ethiopia was a desire to care for the needy, bring "The Good News" but also was a deep appreciation of the support Ethiopia provided during the Korean civil war in 1950.

My wife and I had previously visited the hospital for short term stints. When I retired from Orthopaedic practice in Orlando in 2008, the hospital asked if I would come and help develop an orthopaedic program. This would be a life changing move! What ensued was an exciting and rewarding period of our lives.

The Baptist Student Union played an important part in our lives at the University of Florida. Barbara and I met at the B.S.U. while undergraduate students and Rev. Jim Stines married us in the chapel. Medical school, Navy, 4 children now grown, and 35 years of medical practice, it was now time for giving back to the most needy. With prayerful consideration and encouragement from our children and church, we accepted the challenge, locked up our home and moved into a 850 sq. ft. apartment on the hospital campus (really nice-can sit at the table and reach the fridge, stove, sink and no endless walking!)

Ethiopia is a large African country with severe health care problems. There is a paucity of modern teaching in surgical techniques and preventative strategies. Perhaps the most alarming problem is the mass exodus of trained healthcare professionals out of the country frustrated over lack of resources and training. The World Health Organization recently ranked Ethiopia 180 out of 190 listed nations. Trauma is the number one cause of morbidity and mortality and there is virtually no adequate trauma care in the country. These events too frequently render a family income provider into a non provider.

Issues with Orthopaedic care are complex. Surgical equipment and implants are not manufactured in country. Visiting surgeons bring in suitcases of supplies donated by benefactors, often in limited quantities and incomplete. Volunteers from all over the world have responded to help.

Not only did we see cases that we had never seen in the States, we encountered social issues of human trafficking, women's issues (female circumcision, child brides), and complications of the traditional medicine men (Wogeshas).

But what about this place in Africa? Addis Ababa, sits in the highlands at over 8,000 ft elevation and even though close to the equator it is cool year round. The population is well over 5 million and is the home of the African Union. Consequently all the heads of state in Africa as well as world leaders frequent our city. Amharic is the national language but some 60 different dialects exist

The people are handsome with strong middle eastern features and extremely poor with the major industry agriculture. It is the home of coffee and the coffee ceremony is an intimate part of their culture.

Ethiopia has a long and storied Christian history. It is the home of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and a monarchy dating back to the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon in Judea. This dynasty ended with the assassination of Emperor Hiale Selassie in a coup in 1974. This was followed by a decade of brutal Marxism, the Derg. They were ousted in the early 90's and now Ethiopia is led by a progressive leader.

Our personal mission goal was to establish a caring and loving relationship with the Ethiopian, and Korean staff and that we, who have so much, care about those in need. Frequently we would be asked "why do you come?"

My work included not only seeing patients in the clinic and performing the needed surgeries but obtaining medical equipment through donations from Western sources. In addition, teaching students and residents was part of the job description. Cultural roadblocks are a challenge for change as well as many other cultural challenges. We saw untreated diseases that would be addressed early in The States, such as rampant TB, HIV, fractures and congenital deformities. The patients travel hundreds of miles and wait long hours to be seen and are very appreciative of the care. The children are beautiful and irresistible.

Barbara was a school teacher and domestic engineer which prepared her well for a hospitality role. We had many visitors from Europe and The United States. Barbara prepared many dinner parties, 4<sup>th</sup> of July parties, birthday parties, or whatever the celebration in our home, with western foods brought from home. The visitor would be overjoyed with a hamburger or a piece of chocolate cake in Africa! In addition Barbara taught conversational English to the young Korean volunteers.

We feel God has blessed us with such an incredible opportunity to serve in an unexpected way. To be with people just like us on the other side of the world with hopes and dreams but with few resources or opportunities. We have been humbled that we were allowed this privilege in our retirement years. It has been the most exciting and rewarding 4 years of our lives. We have been immersed in the Ethiopian and Korean culture and learned to love each one as an opportunity to encourage and share life's experiences.





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### *Century of Ministry Club*

We've reached the \$150,000 mark in the Otto Spangler Director's Fund and we received gifts last year to get the Mission's Fund started. We are praising the Lord that we are on our way to reaching the 3.6 million dollars that we need to fully endow the three funds to help us hire a full-time associate director, provide scholarships for mission trips, and to provide for major renovations of the BCM facility.

If the BCM/BSU impacted your life in a significant way, would you pray about joining in this campaign to meet these needs prior to our Century of Ministry celebration in 2017? If you need some help in deciding the best way to give for your family, let us know. We have experts in the field that have agreed to help structure your giving and can provide valuable advice on how to give generously to this campaign. Please call or email Eddie if you would like to take advantage of this service.

#### Century Club Levels

##### Gators Level

\$100 total gifts by '17—100 members

##### Baby Gators Level

\$1000 total gifts by '17—100 members

##### Mama Gators Level

\$10,000 total gifts by '17—50 members

##### Papa Gators Level

\$100,000 total gifts by '17—10 members

##### Big Gators Level

\$1,000,000 total gifts by '17—2 members

You can also create your own level  
anywhere along the scale as the Lord leads!

Leave a legacy for the next generation of students who will call the BCM their home base for ministry during the next Century of Ministry! Let's do our part to provide a perpetual source of income for the future students to be able to reach and impact the world for Christ from The University of Florida and Santa Fe College! Send Eddie an email at [eddie.gilley@ufbcm.org](mailto:eddie.gilley@ufbcm.org) to claim your membership in the Century of Ministry Club today!