

Missionary tells stories of American Indian life

By CARL STODDARD

Gordon Taylor is a Baptist minister, a college graduate and a missionary. He thinks of himself as an Indian, but he's not. And on reflection, he admits that he and his family have become unstuck in the flow of time and cultures.

"We might be here talking in a nice office," Taylor said during an interview last week. "In half an hour we could be writing to a woman living in a four-foot-high adobe home. She's in a wheelchair and doesn't need a house any higher than that. The only running water is what runs from the ceiling to the floor when it rains. And then tonight we could be dining with an auto executive."

Taylor and his family were in Southfield last week to attend the 1977 Missionary Conference at the Highland Park Baptist Church on Lahser. The 34th annual conference drew more than 100 missionaries from all over the world, including Gordon, his wife and four children.

The return was something of a homecoming. Taylor married his wife, Alice, in the Southfield church. She is a former Farmington resident.

Now, their home is the small community of Salem, Ore., where they administer a correspondence Bible program for Indians living throughout North America.

IN TRUTH, they spend little time at home. More than 11 months out of the year are spent traveling by car, train, ski plane, jet and snow mobile. Much of the time, they home away from home has been a six-foot by eight-foot house trailer. They do it all on \$4,200 a year and what ever, help is available from Taylor's sponsors, the American Indian Crusade Inc.

Taylor began working with Indians when he was 17. He was in British Columbia, Canada, and planning to go into college, study law and become a judge. His concern and fascination with the Indians changed all that. In college, he received training in anthropology and sociology and quickly returned to work with the Indians.

His work with the Indians also brought him into contact with Alice, a graduate of Detroit Bible College and Henry Ford Hospital School of Nursing. Five weeks after they met, they were engaged. Four months later, they were married.

Together with their four children, the Taylors have spent the last 10 years as missionaries to the Indians.

"I could have become a local pastor," Taylor said, "but I choose to work with the Indians. There is such a need in the Indian culture. We know that best, so we stay with them."

They have visited Indians in Maine, Florida, Arizona, northern Canada

Some Indians have taken on the ways of other Americans, he said. Others, like some Navajo, are so isolated they have never seen a white person. "They consider themselves very lucky," Taylor said.

FOR MANY YEARS, the U.S. government had a policy that called for assimilating Indians into the mainstream American culture. "The Indians called it annihilation."

"The Indians who want to be in the mainstream are there. But there's still a hard core, maybe 40 per cent, who live on reservations. They don't want to be assimilated," he said.

"Americans have got to be big enough to accommodate the Indians who want to be assimilated and friendly and outgoing enough to help those who don't want to be assimilated."

A major problem, Taylor said, is that many Americans have little understanding of how Indians live. A group of school children were amazed last week, he said, when he told them

"there are Eskimos today eating raw caribou and spitting out the fur."

The Indians have an easier time understanding the white people, in part, because the white culture pervades so much of the continent. But that's not the only reason, Taylor said.

"Indians are tolerant, not materialistic, and not in a hurry. They find it easy to accept outsiders. About 95 per cent accept white people."

Despite — and because of — their culture, American Indians still have many problems.

Many are hurt by poverty, lack of educational opportunities, inadequate or inaccessible medical facilities, alcoholism and a continuing history of ignorant or vicious treatment by the government.

It was President Andrew Jackson who first noted that "The only good Indian is a dead Indian," Taylor said. And it wasn't until 1968 that Congress finally got around to granting the American Indians full rights as citizens.



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Area artists take part in Earth Festival

Several Farmington artists will play a part in "The Earth Festival," a three-day event sponsored by the congregation of Birmingham's Nativity Episcopal Church, May 20-22.

Both the visual and performing arts will be offered as a part of the outdoor celebration of the earth and its gifts, with emphasis on the simple pleasures of a largely by-gone era.

Butterflies and dried flower arrangements will be brought to the festival by Nadine Justusson of Farmington Hills, and Marie Robertson of Farmington, will bring oil paintings.

The theme of the festival centers on sharing of hand-made crafts, toys, skills and music of the Appalachia region. Hand-made musical instrument will be featured to hear, to play and to purchase.

Though much of the celebration is scheduled for out-of-doors, the festival will continue indoors, at 2120 Fourteen Mile, in case of rain.

CPAs granted certificates

Three Southfield Certified Public Accountants have been granted CPA certificates by the Michigan State Board of Accountancy. Those receiving the certificates have met the educational and experience qualifications of the Michigan Accountancy Law and have passed the uniform CPA examination which is given in all states. They are Ronald P. Chick, Robert J. Daddow, and Roger J. Manning, all of Southfield.

Festival hours are from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day, but on Friday night, a square dance gets under way at 7:30 p.m.

ARTS AND CRAFTS demonstrations will run continuously, along with troubadours who tell stories, sing, give puppet shows and involve children in games.

Strolling musicians and clowns will stroll among the artists and craftsmen who will show metalwork, weaving, pottery, wool dyeing, spinning, photography, creative stitching, woodcarving, and handcrafted toys.

Light snacks and beverages will be on sale.

A 10:30 a.m. Sunday, eucharist and worship service will be held inside the church, and the Kingswood Cranbrook Dances will perform in the spirit of worship and celebration. A folk-mass for guitar and organ will be used for the service with the choir, and Farmington organist Diane Apsey.

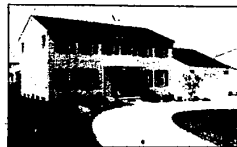
A Blue Grass Festival begins at 5 p.m. Saturday with mandolin, banjo, guitar, dulcimer, autoharp, spoons and fiddle. The congregation invites anyone who'd like to join in the music making to bring their instruments.

More entertainment will come from madrigal singers, a barbershop quartet and a men's wandering singing group.

The church on Fourteen Mile, is located between Lahser and Evergreen. Parking will be available at Berkshire Junior High School, across the street and just west of the church.



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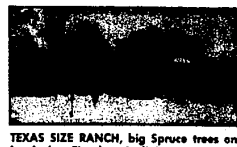
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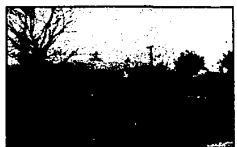
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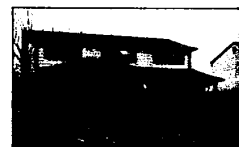
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