

# More Russian trips required to treat boy's sight

By ARLENE VANDERLEUN

A 13-year-old Westland boy is back home after receiving treatment in the Soviet Union for his deteriorating eyesight.

Ralph Ross and his son David, 13, returned home last weekend after spending two weeks in Moscow. David received a series of injections at the Gelmgolt Institute of Eye Diseases in Moscow. The family hopes that the injections will halt the progress of the disease that usually leads to total blindness. The treatment isn't available in the United States.

David now says that his side vision is better, and his left eye seems to be stronger after the treatment. The disease was diagnosed last January. Doctors in Michigan told the family that David, a student at Marshall Junior High School, could go blind in three months to 10 years and that there is no known cure.

Feeling "very uneasy and worried" while he waited in the family home on LaCrosse for the return of her husband and son was Joan Ross. Although

worried Mrs. Ross said she had been receiving encouraging phone calls from as far away as Montreal, Florida and Washington state about the Moscow trip recently came to light.

"I never thought it would reach these proportions," said Mrs. Ross. "Most of them (callers) have the disease, or are eye-witnesses."

Mrs. Ross said that many of the callers have asked about the Soviet treatment plan, which calls for a series of injections of an enzyme over a three-week period. The Moscow treatment plan calls for at least four more visits at intervals of every six or eight months.

"This is a risk," said Mrs. Ross. "All we can hope for is to arrest the disease to keep from further degeneration."

Mixed with worry about David, and concern for her husband, is anxiety about the expense of the Moscow treatment. While the injections are free under a scientific exchange, Mrs. Ross estimates that the trip will cost about \$4,000 for air fare, accommodations and meals, and interpreters. If they continue with treatment, expenses could run as high as \$20,000.

"We're not wealthy," she added. "I think the treatment should be available right here. I know what they say about guinea pigs, but we want to check out everything."

David is the 20th American accepted by Soviet doctors for a treatment program which the Rosses hope will halt the development of Retinitis Pigmentosa—the name given to a group of hereditary diseases that affect the retina (the film-like tissue in the back of the eye).

The disease causes the retina to slowly deteriorate until it loses the ability to transmit pictures to the brain. Retinitis Pigmentosa most commonly strikes children and young adults.

Many doctors discouraged the trip to Moscow, apparently because they don't believe the Soviet treatment will

do any good. Mrs. Ross said the Soviet doctors haven't promised a cure, but they believe the enzyme treatment can halt the disease's development.

Ross, a computer specialist for Ford Motor Company, read of the treatment several months ago in a newspaper article about an English child who had been helped at the Moscow institute. Several months of correspondence with the Soviet embassy followed. U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin also intervened in the family's behalf.

While those negotiations continued, David suffered from night blindness—a symptom which he had experienced since the age of about eight. He also had lost his peripheral vision.

"At first he was confused," said Mrs. Ross. "He cried and was depressed."

"We didn't tell him right off that he could go blind, but I think he knew," she added.

While there still isn't a cure for retinitis pigmentosa, there is a foundation

which raises money for research into treatment or cure.

The national Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation—while sending good wishes to the Ross family—doesn't endorse the enzyme treatment plan. Doctors from the foundation went to Moscow to study the treatment program and feel that the current method is ineffective, said a local volunteer with the foundation.

"We've known about (the enzyme treatment) for a couple of years," said Jean Stanchina of Redford Township,

who works with the Michigan chapter. "It is difficult to evaluate (the effectiveness) because the disease progresses at varying rates in different people."

"We are with this family—we are 100 per cent boosters and we are hoping (it helps)," she added.

Persons wishing more information about retinitis pigmentosa, or wanting to volunteer time or money may write RP Foundation of Michigan, Box 626, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 48303.

## Prof predicts Bakke effect

What effect will the Bakke case, dealing with minority admissions in higher education, have in the area of employment?

A University of Michigan labor law specialist says the ruling appears to give "strong support" for continuation of ratios and quotas in hiring and promotion, "retroactive seniority" measures and other court-ordered actions, provided there is a specific finding of past employment discrimination.

Speaking at Cornell University recently, Prof. Harry T. Edwards noted that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell, who served as the crucial "swing man" in the 5-4 Bakke decision, "expressly approved of pre-

ferential quotas when predicted upon judicial findings of identified discrimination." Four other justices also approved these measures, said Edwards.

But the U-M professor warned that "there is some reason to worry that the court may soon narrow its position." In particular, he cited the first post-Bakke employment case, "City of Los Angeles v. Davis," which will be decided by the supreme court this term.

In the Bakke case, the supreme court ruled that the University of California-Davis Medical School could not use race as the sole criterion in setting aside 16 places in its entering class for

minority students, at the exclusion of non-minority applicants.

"In view of Bakke, the courts are likely to continue to award preferential remedies—including preferential hiring quotas—in cases where previous discrimination has been proved."

"The courts, as in earlier rulings, will not allow a minority person, even if the minority is a specific victim of discrimination. Thus, such a measure as 'fictional seniority' (which could interfere with vested seniority rights of non-minority persons) has not and will not be awarded by the courts to minority persons."

"On the other hand, such measures as 'back pay,' 'retroactive seniority' and 'front pay'—designed to compensate victims of past discrimination without affecting the job status of non-minority persons—are more likely to be awarded by the courts."

"The most serious problem now raised by Bakke case is the continued legality of 'voluntary' affirmative action taken by employers and unions to comply with federal Executive Order 11246 (which required affirmative action programs to be established by federal contractors). The voluntary programs, said Edwards, 'may not stand up now without specific findings of discrimination.'"



DAVID ROSS

## Pastor's wife begins study for ordination

By MARGARET MILLER

Mary Mowery Taylor has begun her journey toward ordination as a minister of the Church of the Brethren, and, in so doing, she is fulfilling a dream.

But she can't say for sure whether the dream began way back in her girlhood or came into being with the changes that the women's liberation movement brought.

Probably it's a little of both, thinks this daughter of a minister, wife of a minister and mother of three young children.

"I've trained for church work all my life," said Mrs. Taylor, who in a special service Nov. 19 in Trinity Church of the Brethren, Redford Township, was licensed to the ministry in that denomination.

"Because my father was a minister, I was always involved in church projects and teaching Sunday school. But until about five years ago I thought of church work in terms of being a minister's wife, or perhaps sometime a missionary. My 'enlightenment' in terms of thinking I might consider ordination came about five years ago as I saw women's roles changing."

MRS. TAYLOR'S husband, the Rev. Glen F. Taylor, is pastor of Trinity Church and has encouraged her move toward the sharing of his profession. He was on hand when Lowell Cook of Middleton, Ohio, representing the Michigan District Commission on Ministry for the Church of the Brethren, did the official licensing.

Also present was Mrs. Taylor's father, the Rev. John Mowery of Newville, Pa., who isn't entirely sure that his daughter or any woman has a place in the pulpit.

In that position the older man, a retired pastor, represents the thinking of many people in the denomination, especially in the Pennsylvania area, according to Rev. Taylor. "But he came to the service," the couple was glad to report.

They also emphasized that members of the Redford Township church are most supportive of Mrs. Taylor's plans.

"At the tea they held for me afterwards, one woman was wondering why we had to say so much in the service about the role of women in the church," the new licensee said.

mented, "our denomination had before it a proposal for licensing women to preach and turned it down, giving as justification that it would cause them to leave their families."

THE LICENSE in the ministry is the first official step toward ordination for Mrs. Taylor, but in practice she has already begun the needed study.

A graduate of Elmhurst College in Illinois, where she majored in English and prepared to teach high school, she took several courses at Lancaster Theological Seminary while the Taylors were living in Pennsylvania. Her husband served an earlier pastorate there.

"At that time I was interested in seeing how I would like the study," she said. "I did, and since then I've been coming closer and closer to a decision to go toward ordination."

Currently she is enrolled in a study series offered by her denomination as an alternative to attending seminary. Called a reading course, it is a three-year program divided into 12 units, and completing it qualifies the candidate for full ordination.

Mrs. Taylor also is taking a course in homiletics at St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth. She is one of several Protestants enrolled in the studies not too long ago open only to Catholics.

THE TAYLORS are not quite sure what they hope to find at the end of her road to ordination.

"A team ministry is certainly a possibility sometime," said Rev. Taylor. "We know of one couple who share responsibilities of a church quite completely."

His wife sees other possibilities too. "I would be interested in working as a chaplain in an institution, or in counseling," she said. "Perhaps counseling for women—I see that as a growing need in the church. Housewives home all day with their children need a spiritual dimension to their lives. Women who see their lives changing often need help in adjusting."

There also is a frequent need for supply ministers on a fill-in basis, and now that she is licensed Mrs. Taylor is qualified to do that.

She has had some practice in preaching. "As people in my homiletics course, I had to do a series of short sermons," she said, "so we tried something rather interesting." For six weeks, Glen picked the scripture each week and we both preached on that passage without comparing notes. It was interesting to see the different perspectives we gave to the same biblical passage."

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