

June 24, 1962

Peace Corps Official
Takes Diplomat Post

WASHINGTON (BP)--Paul F. Geren, deputy director of the Peace Corps here, is the new United States consul general for the federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

For the past nine months, Geren has been second in command of the Peace Corps under Director Sargent Shriver. A career diplomat, Geren was "on loan" from the State Department to the Peace Corps. In his new position, he will be the chief diplomatic officer in Salisbury, federal capital of the virtually self-governing British protectorate.

Geren spent nine years, 1947-56, in government foreign service, with assignments in Bombay, Damascus and Amman. He was executive vice-president of Baylor University (Baptist), Waco, Tex., 1956-58, and executive director of the Dallas (Tex.) Council on World Affairs, 1958-61.

In April, 1961, Geren joined President Kennedy's new frontier administration when Secretary of State Dean Rusk brought him to the State Department's Office of International Finance and Development.

The son of a Baptist minister, Geren has made his own place as a Baptist layman. He has been active in church and missionary work all his life. Books he has written include "Burma Diary," and "Christians Confront Communism," a new study course book published by Convention Press, Nashville, book publishing arm of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Geren was a main speaker at the Southern Baptist Convention in San Francisco. He discussed the Christian approach to communism.

With his wife, the former Elizabeth Powers, and three children, Geren left by boat on June 20 for London. They will go by train to Rome from which they will fly to his new African post.

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Mission Board Names
Bennett For City Work

(6-24-62)

(picture to come for Baptist editors)

ATLANTA (BP)--Harold C. Bennett of Nashville has been asked to direct Southern Baptists' national mission efforts in metropolitan areas as an employee of the Convention's Home Mission Board.

The mission board elected him secretary of its city missions department. Bennett has served for the past two years as the superintendent of new work for the Baptist Sunday School Board, with offices in Nashville.

In city missions, Bennett will be responsible for formulating and projecting a mission program to establish new churches and missions and to minister to people in spiritual and physical need. He will supervise such efforts as juvenile rehabilitation, mission centers, rescue missions, good will centers, and evangelism with special groups.

Bennett succeeds Fred B. Moseley, now of Portland, who moved from the post here to become executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington.

In announcing his appointment, Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board, said, "Harold Bennett's education, experience as a pastor and

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chaplain, and his service with the Sunday School Board qualify him, in a unique way, for leadership in this important mission field. America has become an urban nation, and our denomination will fail unless we minister adequately to the metropolitan centers.

"We feel he can make a distinct contribution to our city mission program at this time."

The new city missions secretary is a native of Asheville, N. C., educated at Wake Forest College (Baptist), Wake Forest, N. C.; Duke Divinity School, Durham, N. C., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He held pastorates in Wake Forest; Westport, Ky.; Shreveport, La., and Texarkana, Ark. He was a chaplain at the Kentucky State Reformatory in LaGrange, Ky.

He and his wife, the former Phyllis Jean Metz of Joliet, Ill., have three children: Jeffery, 13; John, 7; and Cynthia, 6.

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Ray Of Colorado
Retiring Oct. 15

(6-24-62)

DENVER (BP)--Willis J. Ray of Denver, executive secretary, Colorado Baptist General Convention, has announced he will retire Oct. 15. He is 66 years old.

As of Aug. 1, Ray will have served 28 years as a servant of Southern Baptist groups, 10 years in denominational work in Texas and 18 years in pioneer missions in other states.

He was missionary for District 8 and later of District 6 for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Also he was an associate to the executive secretary with duties of evangelism in the rural church.

In 1944, Willis Ray became executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Arizona (now Arizona Southern Baptist Convention), a post he held for 11-1/2 years. He also edited the Arizona Baptist paper.

On March 1, 1956 he moved to Denver with the Colorado convention as executive secretary. For most of his time here, he also has been interim editor of the Rocky Mountain Baptist, the convention's newspaper.

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Arkansas Board Gives
3 Projects Approval

(6-24-62)

LITTLE ROCK (BP)--The executive board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, meeting here, approved three items--a hospital debt, a new worker and a change in site for its 1962 convention session.

It gave unanimous approval to Arkansas Baptist Hospital, Little Rock, to borrow \$1.2 million for a building program.

Ernest Adams, formerly of Little Rock and now of Fort Worth, was employed to direct a pilot project of the board's religious education division. He comes Aug. 1.

The board also voted to change site of the next convention session--Nov. 6-8--from Eldorado to Little Rock, with First Baptist Church here being the host.

In order for the hospital to borrow funds the debt must be approved by the November convention session also. Funds would be used to build more patient rooms.

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Baptist Press

Adams was formerly associate secretary of the board's Sunday school department, but resigned to study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. At Fort Worth, he served the Haltom Road Baptist Church as education director.

The pilot project he directs will be to coordinate and promote Brotherhood (men's work), church music, Sunday school and Training Union in churches in the West Central District of the Arkansas convention. The area includes the cities Russellville, Mena, and Fort Smith.

The ElDorado church requested the change, according to S. A. Whitlow, Little Rock, convention executive secretary. First Church, Little Rock, invited the convention after ElDorado withdrew.

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