

July 11, 1963

Whitten Accepts
Post In Liberia

NASHVILLE (BP)--W. A. Whitten of the Extension Department of Southern Baptist Seminaries will spend two years in Liberia working with the nation's foreign aid program.

He planned to resign his post of 7-1/2 years with the Baptist department to accept the new employment with the Agency for International Development, effective immediately.

With the federal agency, Whitten will be an area adult education supervisor stationed in the interior of Liberia, on the west coast of Africa. Liberia was founded in 1822 by freed slaves who returned from the United States.

Whitten has been associate director and curriculum editor for the Seminary Extension Department, during its location in Jackson, Miss. (Whitten said the department's move to Nashville coincided with his new appointment but did not influence his change.)

His wife and 21-month-old son were to accompany him to Africa, after Whitten completed six weeks of briefing and instruction in Washington and Boston before flying to Liberia.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College (Baptist) in Clinton and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has completed residency for a doctorate in adult education at the University of Indiana.

Whitten said he planned to write his thesis on his work in Liberia.

Prior to joining the Seminary Extension Department, Whitten was pastor of Richland Baptist Church, Florence, Miss.

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Completes Yellowstone
Trip After 38 Years

(7-11-63)

ALBUQUERQUE (BP)--In 1925, a young man started through New Mexico, en route to Yellowstone National Park. He was sick, and disabled as a result of service to his country in World War I.

A Baptist leader persuaded that young man to stop over a few days and preach for a small new church in Gallup, N. M. The young man stayed there 13 years and built a good church.

Then the Baptist Convention of New Mexico beckoned, and he has served as its executive secretary more than 25 years.

This summer, Executive Secretary Harry P. Stagg of Albuquerque completed that trip--his first and only--to Yellowstone, 38 years after he stopped off in New Mexico for a few days to preach.

He and Mrs. Stagg were spending a few days of vacation time in Wyoming with relatives when they went to the park.

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Furman Reaches Halfway

Furman University's \$2 million Greenville, S. C., area development campaign has passed the halfway mark, with contributions and pledges now standing at \$1,071,090, the general chairman of the campaign announced. The Baptist school is located at Greenville. The Greenville area development campaign is to obtain funds to construct a student center and two additional wings to the science building. (BP)

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Satellite Sermon
Gets Real Effects

(7-11-63)

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (BP)--An unexpected streak across the night sky made the sermon almost too realistic at the new outdoor chapel of First Baptist Church here.

Pastor Jess C. Moody was launching into the main part of his Sunday night sermon, called "Angels and Astronauts," when about half the congregation began looking up, up, up.

Engineers from a local plant which manufactures parts for American spacecraft told Moody after the service that the Echo satellite, on one of its orbits, passed almost directly overhead as he started his sermon.

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Wrestler, Music Group
Appearing At Congress

(7-11-63)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Selection of an Olympic wrestling champion and a 40-voice Baptist youth choir has rounded out the program for the Third National Royal Ambassador Congress here Aug. 13-15.

Edward Hurt Jr., Congress director, identified the wrestler as Shelby Wilson of Fort Worth, Tex., a Southern Baptist evangelist, and the musical group as the Eastlawn Youth Choir of Pascagoula, Miss.

Wilson will give a wrestling demonstration for the boys the night of Aug. 14 and follow with a challenge for the youths to commit their daily lives to Christian living.

The 25-year-old former Oklahoman, native of Ponca City, won his Olympic gold medal in free-style wrestling in Rome, Italy, in 1960. He competed in the 147-pound class. He's a graduate of Oklahoma State University at Stillwater and a former Sunday school teacher at Southside Baptist Church, Ponca City.

The Eastlawn Youth Choir, directed by Dr. S. D. Douglas, an optometrist, will perform as a group the night of Aug. 14 and provide solos, duets and quartets at other sessions.

The Congress appearance before an estimated 6,000 Royal Ambassadors is one stop on an eight-state tour for the singers from Eastlawn Baptist Church.

Dr. Douglas, the director, holds a bachelor's degree in music from Mississippi College (Baptist), Clinton. He studied one year at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary before attending optometry school. He also directs eight other choir groups at Eastlawn.

Other program personalities are:

Carl Erskine of Anderson, Ind., Baptist layman and former pitcher for the Los Angeles dodgers.

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Major Gen. Robert Taylor of Washington, a Southern Baptist minister and chief of Air Force chaplains.

Gregory Walcott of Canoga Park, Calif., Baptist lay leader and television actor.

Edward Kemper of Washington, an inspector for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Barry Morris of St. Louis, ventriloquist and former president of Royal Ambassadors in Missouri.

Eighteen Southern Baptist missionaries, 11 home and seven foreign, also will share experiences with the boys, Hurt said.

Other Congress features include exhibits and demonstrations in space science, atomic energy and satellite communications.

An address by the winner of a speakers contest for Royal Ambassadors will help open the Congress. The youth will be chosen from state entrants Aug. 11.

General sessions of the Congress are scheduled nightly at the Sylvan Theater near the foot of the 555-foot Washington Monument.

Morning sessions for Pioneers (boys 12-14) will be at the Sheraton Park Hotel and for Ambassadors (boys 15-17) at the International Inn and Statler Hilton Hotel.

The Congress is held every five years under the auspices of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and state Brotherhood departments. Its aims are to help Royal Ambassadors grow spiritually and to broaden their concept of world missions, Hurt said.

Registration information is being provided by state Brotherhood departments, Hurt said.

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First SBC Church
Founded In Vermont

(7-11-63)

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. (BP)--Constitution of the South Burlington Baptist Church has given the state of Vermont its first Southern Baptist church.

Vermont was the last of the 50 states to be without a Southern Baptist church.

The 32-charter-member church meets in a rented house, but is already doing mission work in the form of services in a rest home, and is talking of starting a new mission.

David F. Perkins is pastor of the church, which grew from a mission he helped begin in February, 1961. Perkins, then pastoral missionary, assisted in its organization and secured sponsorship of the Plattsburg Baptist Church of upper New York state.

South Burlington has a population of 60,000, and is a part of the larger Burlington area on Lake Champlain. The town, which is the site of the University of Vermont, has only one other Baptist church.

A building fund of more than \$3,000 has been raised by the church. It expects to have \$5,000 by the end of July to buy a building site.

Some 60 persons attended the constituting ceremonies, with Courts Redford, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Atlanta, bringing the message.

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Others participating were J. N. Evans, Baltimore, superintendent of missions of the Baptist Convention of Maryland, which sponsors Southern Baptist work in the Northeast; Paul S. James, pastor-director of the greater New York area; and Elmer Sizemore, area missionary of the Northeast Association, which includes the new church. Also taking part were Thomas G. Hathcote, pastor of Rice Memorial Baptist Church, Northboro, Mass., and R. L. Anderson, a Baptist from Florida who helped start the mission in 1961.

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put in our (BP) book
BAPTIST PRESS

July 11, 1963

Theo Sommerkamp, *assistant director*
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville 3, Tennessee

Dear Editor:

No matter where the editor of the paper stands on the race issue, the success of Southern Education Reporting Service and other such agencies has proven the fact editors want current information on racial matters in a factual way.

The Baptist Press--of which you are a vital part--likes to keep abreast of the effects of the racial issue within our own denomination.

One of the queries we send out from time to time asks you for factual information on the integration of churches in your state convention.

Question 1, of course, is: Do you have any churches which have accepted Negroes as members? If you can name them, please do. Please also give us the total number of churches, in the event you can not name all of them.

Question 2 follows: How many other churches admit Negroes to their worship services, yet do not have them as members?

Question 3 is: Do any of the Baptist colleges in your state convention (if you have no colleges skip this one) have Negro students? Are they American Negro or foreign students?

We have enclosed the stamped, self-addressed envelope for your early reply. Please indicate the name of your state convention clearly on your reply. This inquiry is in the interest of having up-to-date facts at hand to answer frequent questions. We will share the results with you when replies have come in--either through a news story or as editors' note information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Theo Sommerkamp

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Enclosure