

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

103 Baptist Building, Dallas 1, Texas
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March 6, 1964

HMB Appoints 12 For Mission Work

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has commissioned 12 missionaries to various ministries across the United States and in the Canal Zone.

The appointments raise to 2,279 the missionaries serving under this agency, most in cooperation with state mission boards.

Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hatley were commissioned to study Spanish in San Antonio, Tex. Hatley, a native of Maynard, Ark., is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark.; William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. He has held pastorates in Missouri.

Mrs. Hatley is a native of Hornersville, Mo. She studied nursing at City Hospital, St. Louis, Mo., and attended Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge.

Vernon Clinton Wickliffe, a native of Arkansas, was appointed as superintendent of missions in Royal Oak, Mich. He attended Central College, North Little Rock, Ark.; Ouachita College, Arkadelphia, Ark.; and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. Previous experience includes serving as student pastor in Arkansas and as a pastor in California and Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. James W. Nelson were appointed to work with the Indians in Tinian, N. M., under the language missions department. Nelson, a native of Albertville, Ala., received degrees from Howard College, Birmingham, Ala., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La. He has served as a pastor in East Brewton, Ala., and Picayune, Miss., and in Balboa, Canal Zone.

Mrs. Nelson was commissioned along with her husband to work with the Indians in Tinian. She attended Berea College, Berea, Ky., and Howard College. She is a native of Marshall County, Ala.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. LeClair were appointed to work among the Indians in Oklahoma City, Okla. Born in Tonkawa, Okla., he studied at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. His previous experience includes serving as pastor in Red Rock, Okla. and Plains, Kan.

Mrs. LeClair, a native of Oklahoma City, Okla., is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University.

Mr. and Mrs. I. Clifford Matthews were appointed as missionaries to Balboa, C. Z., under the language missions department. Matthews, a native of Pike County, Ala., studied at Troy State Teachers College, Troy, Ala.; Howard College; and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition he has held pastorates at Troy, McKenzie, Brundidge, and East Brewton, Ala., and Balboa, C. Z.

Mrs. Matthews, a native of Coffee County, Ala., attended Troy Teachers College and Canal Zone Junior College, Balboa Heights, C. Z.

Miss Marjorie Shead, a native of Richards, Tex., was commissioned to serve in the weekday ministry in Whitesburg, Ky., under the metropolitan missions department. She is a graduate of Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Tex., and Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville, Ky. She is a former Baptist missionary.

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Johannes James Spane, a native of Lake Charles, La., was appointed to serve as a rescue missions worker of National Baptists in Crowley, La. He attended Leland College, Baker, La.; Texas Southern University, Houston, Tex.; and Union Baptist Theological Seminary, New York, N. Y. In addition he has served as a pastor in Bunkie and Lecompte, La.

Lawrence Raymond Martin was named as a rescue missions worker of National Baptists in Monroe, La. He was born in Archie, La., and received degrees from Grambling College, Grambling, La., and Inter-denominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Ga.

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Commission Expands Work
On Drink, Dope, Gambling

(3-6-64)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission meeting here heard plans for an expanded ministry in the fields of gambling, narcotics and alcohol, and voted to devote 1965 summer assembly programs to these problems.

The Commission approved the subjects of gambling and alcohol as program topics for the two Baptist assemblies at Ridgecrest, N. C., and Glorieta, N. M., next year after hearing a report by Commission Secretary Foy Valentine.

Valentine expressed gratitude at the prospect of an "expanded ministry" in the field possible if a 1965 budget allocation of \$15,000 already approved by the SBC Executive Committee is adopted by the full convention meeting in Atlantic City.

In other action, the commission unanimously affirmed that the commission's "present work in the general field of peace with justice is in line with the commission's program structure as adopted by the convention."

The action is a result of a motion referred to the commission by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City last year which asked all convention agencies not to promote the United Nations as being "an instrument of peace."

The commission re-elected Orba Lee Malone, an attorney from El Paso, Tex., as its chairman; and re-appointed James P. Craine, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gallatin, Tenn., as vice chairman. Both will serve a second term.

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Commission Told Social
Ministry of Church Dead

(3-6-64)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The editor-elect of Christian Century magazine, Kyle Haselden, told the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission meeting here that the church's ministry to social problems is dead.

Speaking on the death of the social gospel movement, Haselden said that 25 years ago in the area of the church, the social gospel was already dead.

"Now it must be lamented that in the area of social Christianity, the church is dead," Haselden said.

The social gospel movement in the first part of the 20th century emphasized that the way to bring the world to God is for the church to minister to social needs of mankind and improve economic and social conditions.

"We need not mourn the death of the social gospel movement, but we must lament the passing of its spirit and its concern," the religious editor said.

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Haselden, managing editor of the Christian Century who will become editor in September of this year when the present editor retires, was major speaker at the semi-annual commission meeting here.

He told the Commission, which works in the field of social Christian ethics, it must never repeat the internal weaknesses which killed the social gospel.

"In our concern for the social problems of men," he said, "we must work from solid theological basis."

Recounting four reasons for the death of the social gospel, Haselden said that a major reason for the movement's death was the lack of theological motivation. "I dare not preach about any of the social issues unless I know and am able to state Biblical and doctrinal grounds on which the case is rested," he said.

Haselden, an American Baptist and a graduate of Furman University (Southern Baptist) in Greenville, S. C., warned that Christians today who are concerned about Christian ethics "must be willing and able to withstand critics who would label our Christian passion for the whole of man as some kind of 'ism.'"

"Let us be sure that our goal is the reign of Christ and the glory of our God and not a perfected society," he said. "I do not appeal to the gospel because my sole concern is the world, but I appeal to the world in the name of Christ because my sole concern is Christ."

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Panama Baptists
Cancel Convention

(3-6-64)

BALBOA, Canal Zone (BP)--The annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of Panama, set for March 18-19, has been postponed.

"We feel the meeting should not be scheduled until the situation in Panama becomes normal," said President S. A. Scarlett, pastor of First Isthmian Baptist Church in Cristobal.

The Republic of Panama broke diplomatic relations with the United States in January following rioting and conflict between citizens of the two nations.

The Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting, planned for the same time as the convention, was also cancelled. No new date has been announced for either meeting.

However, churches of the convention conducted an evangelistic crusade the final weeks of February. Pastors interchanged pulpits for the revivals when it became necessary to cancel the participation of 40 ministers from the United States.

"No one can foresee the long range effect on our work nor changes that will be necessary," said L. D. Wood of Balboa, superintendent of mission work for the Home Mission Board of the SBC.

"Travel throughout the Republic has been restricted, and our camp facilities are not being used.

"Many churches have had a drop in attendance. Three Canal Zone churches have had 40 families who were living in Panama City returned to the United States. Some may return later when Zone quarters are available.

"In spite of this, perhaps less change will be necessary for the churches than for the convention or associations," Wood said.

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Annuity Board Creates
New Department, Benefits

DALLAS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Annuity Board has created a new department to study the best means and methods for offering a group program that includes hospitalization, major medical and surgical benefits plus sum death benefits.

Executive Secretary R. Alton Reed said the board's aim is to have the program in force by Jan. 1, 1965. Plans call for the department headed by a director, to be in operation by April 1, Reed added.

Reed said the department was created by action of the local board of trustees in a called meeting to comply with the Annuity Board's program structure approved by the Southern Baptist Convention last May in Kansas City, Mo.

The new benefits in the group program would be offered to any Southern Baptist pastor, church or denominational employee in state headquarters, agencies, boards and institutions who hold a certificate with the Annuity Board.

Adding this new group program would be another step in improving benefits offered by the board, Reed said.

Last year, a major step was taken when the added death benefit was given to members under age 40 in the Southern Baptist Protection Plan.

The added death benefit is a lump sum amount equal to the average salary on which the widow's annuity is figured. This benefit could be as much as \$4,000 for a natural death and doubled if accidental death.

Nine widows collected the benefit in 1963 in addition to their regular widow's annuity, Reed said.

The board's program structure as defined by the convention states in part:

"The Annuity Board should support the convention in its objective of the proclamation of the gospel by... (3) serving the churches and the convention and its agencies as counselor and, if necessary and desirable, as trustee or agent of any annuity fund, group hospital, or insurance plans."

At the SBC Executive Committee meeting in Nashville in February, the committee also authorized the Annuity Board "to place any plan in action by February, 1965, if feasible."

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Mississippi Board Says
Loud 'No' to U. S. Grants

(3-6-64)

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in a special called meeting voted its overwhelming disapproval of any Mississippi Baptist institution accepting grants under the recently passed U. S. College Aid Bill.

T. R. McKibbens, Laurel, Miss., president, declared that the act was "an expression of feeling" of the board members and not an official binding action.

(Although the board's action was not technically "official," traditionally in Mississippi such action has the effect of being binding.)

The meeting was called "to discuss the College Aid Bill," and the action was the result of the morning-long gathering.

The motion, which was not adopted unanimously, was introduced by N. F. Davis, Aberdeen, Miss, who stated:

"I move that the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board go on record as looking with disfavor upon any Mississippi Baptist institution receiving a grant or grants under the education bill recently passed by U. S. Congress, public law 88-204."

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A substitute motion, which would have referred the matter to the convention's long-range study committee for further study and a report to the state convention in November, was defeated.

The boards of trustees and administrative staffs of the six institutions as well as members of the convention's education commission, long-range study committee and government loan policy committee, attended the board meeting.

All those in attendance were free to enter the discussion with the final action taken by the convention board, which is the convention ad interim (between annual sessions).

Although two of the denomination's colleges, Mississippi College, Clinton, and William Carey College, Hattiesburg, did borrow funds from the U. S. government for building purposes several years ago, as a matter of convention policy all such loans now have ceased.

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Two New Workers Names
By Texas Baptist Board

(3-6-64)

DALLAS (BP)--Two new associates were named by the Texas Baptist Executive Board, filling long-standing vacancies on the staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Weston Ware, Baptist Student Union secretary for the Hawaii Baptist Convention, was named associate in the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, succeeding Bill Pinson who resigned to teach at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Robert A. Harty, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Canyon, Tex., was named associate in charge of children's work for the Texas Baptist Training Union department.

The 192-member board also praised and commended the work of two Texas Baptist leaders, J. Woodrow Fuller and L. H. Tapscott, who resigned to join the staffs of Dallas churches. Fuller was state missions secretary, and Tapscott was Brotherhood secretary.

In other action, the board filled vacancies on the boards of trustees for two Baptist schools, two hospitals, a committee and two commissions.

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Missouri Baptists Launch
Ministry to the Retarded

(3-6-64)

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--The Missouri Baptist Convention is developing a new ministry to help the mentally retarded people of the state.

The new program of work is believed to be the first of its kind in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Missouri Baptists have conducted a state-wide clinic on ministering to the needs of the mentally retarded, and selected a "Task Force" of six persons to formulate a new program for the convention.

The six-member "Task Force" will seek to solve such specific problems as determination of the need, church involvement, physical plant, procedures of teaching, public relations, and relationship of ministry to other agencies.

Objective of the "Task Force," said Roy L. Cissna, Missouri Baptist special ministries director, "is to formulate a suggested program of assisting churches in extending their ministry to include the mentally retarded."

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Cissna said the program would seek to minister to both the severely retarded in the church, the profoundly retarded in their homes, and the families of retarded persons.

The six members of the "Task Force" include a teacher in a training program for the mentally retarded, Mrs. Robert Eberting Jr., of St. Joseph; William B. Harrison of St. Louis, curriculum consultant; Elwood Kelly of Richmond, pastor of a church with a ministry to the retarded; Mrs. Russell Newport of Springfield, parent of a retarded child; Mrs. Wanda Poston of St. Louis, a teacher of a Sunday school class for retarded children; and Cissna.

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Gabhart, Lee Named
Summer Radio Preachers

(3-6-64)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Two prominent Southern Baptist leaders have been named speakers for the Baptist Hour radio program during the months of June, July and August.

Herbert Gabhart, president of Belmont College (Baptist) in Nashville, Tenn., will present a seven-week series of messages beginning June 7, and Dr. R. G. Lee, pastor emeritus of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., will conclude the summer program with a six-week series, beginning July 26.

Regular preacher for the Baptist Hour, broadcast over 515 radio stations and produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here, is Herschel Hobbs, pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City.

Radio-TV Commission Paul M. Stevens said it has become customary to allow Hobbs a three-month leave during the summer each year.

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North Central Alabama
Ends Religious Survey

(3-6-64)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--A religious survey in a four-county area of north central Alabama has revealed a total church membership of 213,000 out of a population of 512,937.

The survey, largest ever held in Alabama, was the cooperative effort of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the state Baptist department of associational missions, and six Baptist associations. Other denominations also participated.

Active members of local churches in the four counties numbered 150,000 with 45,000 inactive members and another 18,000 belonging to a church somewhere else.

About 62 per cent of the white population in the area was included in the survey, said George Ricker and Leonard Irwin, co-directors of the effort.

Ricker, Alabama Baptist secretary of associational missions work, said that preliminary survey results showed a total Baptist strength of 99,500, with another 28,000 indicating Baptist preference.

An additional 14,000 children under nine years of age were included in Baptist Sunday schools, while 8,800 children of Baptist preference are not enrolled.

Ricker said, "We see here the tremendous potential for our churches, and find that the survey has been well-worth the effort to locate the lost and unenlisted people who may be reached as a result."

Irwin, director of the department of survey and special studies for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, said that about 7,500 persons worked in the survey.

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Five Baptists on Jury
For Jack Ruby Trial

By Jim Newton
Baptist Press Staff Writer

DALLAS (BP)--The life or death of Jack Ruby, on trial here for the murder of the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, may lie in the hands of five Baptist men and women.

Five of the 12 jurors sitting in judgement of the Dallas nightclub owner are Southern Baptists.

The other jurors include two members of the Church of Christ, a Christian Scientist, an Episcopalian, a Presbyterian, a Methodist, and a member of the Assembly of God.

Ruby, a Jew, is charged with the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald on Nov. 24, 1963. The shooting occurred in the basement of the Dallas City Hall while television cameras relayed the scene to a nation-wide audience.

The jury, described as a "cross section of the city of Dallas," was selected after attorneys questioned a total of 162 veniremen during a two-week period.

The first juror chosen, Max E. Causey of Garland, Tex., a suburb of Dallas, is a fairly active member of the First Baptist Church of Garland. His wife is a Sunday school worker at the church.

Causey, an electronics analyst, told the court he did not see the televised slaying of Oswald because he was attending services at the First Baptist Church of Garland when it occurred.

Allen W. McCoy, the second juror selected, is a Baptist who searched for an answer to the question of capital punishment in the Bible just before he was named to the jury panel.

McCoy's wife told newsmen following his selection that she saw him sitting up late at night with the Bible, looking for an answer to the disturbing question. Both are active members of the First Baptist Church of Irving, Tex., where they attend "as regular as clock-work," according to a church staff member.

All 12 of the jurors stated they had no religious or moral scruples about meting out the death penalty if the evidence warrants it.

Their statements came during a week when the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission was beginning a study of the moral and Biblical questions involved in capital punishment. The commission is studying the issue at the instruction of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Other Baptists selected for the jury panel included:

--Luther E. Dickerson, 27, vice president of a tile manufacturing company who said he is a member of the Vickery Baptist Church, Dallas. Dickerson lives in Mesquite, a Dallas suburb.

--Mrs. Gwen English, 45, a bookkeeper for an oil company who said she attends Second Baptist Church.

--Mrs. Louise Malone, 58, the last juror chosen, an accountant for another oil company, who told the court she was a Baptist but gave no church membership. A sister living in Dallas said she believed Mrs. Malone "used to be a member of Highland Baptist Church," but was not sure.

A sixth juror, J. G. Holton of Grand Prairie, said he is a Church of Christ member, but attends Eighth Street Baptist Church in Grand Prairie with his wife. The church is affiliated with the Baptist Missionary Association, not the Southern Baptist Convention.

Other Ruby-trial jurors and their religious affiliations include Mrs. Mildred McCollum of Garland, Assembly of God; Douglas J. Sowell, Church of Christ; Robert J. Fletcher, of Richardson, Christian Scientist; James E. Cunningham, Richardson, Episcopalian; J. Waymon Rose, Presbyterian; and Mrs. Aileen B. Shields, Methodist.

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(3-6-64)

Baptist Radio Program
To Originate in Prison

MOBERLY, Mo. (BP)--"The Baptist Hour," weekly radio program produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television in Fort Worth, Tex., will originate from a medium-security prison here, on Sunday, May 24.

Herschel H. Hobbs, preacher on "The Baptist Hour" and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, will speak to the prison inmates here on April 16 in a special service.

The sermon and music by the Baptist Hour Choir will be tape recorded for the radio program for broadcast May 15 over more than 500 stations.

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Huge Religious Survey
Planned For Los Angeles

(3-6-64)

LOS ANGELES (BP)--First steps toward what may be the most comprehensive religious survey ever taken were made here by leaders of the religious community.

The survey, expected to be made by telephone, is set for Jan. 29-Feb. 5 next year and will include all of Los Angeles county, according to William A. Powell of Atlanta.

Powell, a survey specialist with the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, said the largest survey on record contacted less than two million in Detroit. Los Angeles county has a population of some seven million.

Powell, who directed the Detroit survey, will also direct the Los Angeles effort.

Announcement of the expected survey came from a committee meeting attended by representatives of a number of the denominations of the area.

"These leaders voted unanimously to encourage their churches and other religious groups to cooperate and participate," Powell said.

The survey will give churches the name, location, age, and religious preference of those contacted. It will also reveal the religious character of the community, both by denominational affiliation and no-church affiliation.

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Four Premiers Slated
On Apostle Paul Film

(3-6-64)

FORT WORTH (BP)--A total of four premier showings of a new Baptist-produced film on the journeys of the Apostle Paul, including two press premiers and two showings at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlantic City.

The new film, "Walk Beside Me," was produced by the National Broadcasting Company religious program unit in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here.

The first premier of the film, which tells of the ministry and travels of the Apostle Paul through Asia Minor, will be April 20 in New York City in the RCA Building. The premier will be attended by magazine writers and editors.

Another press premier for newspaper writers, columnists and editors will be held May 25 at the same place.

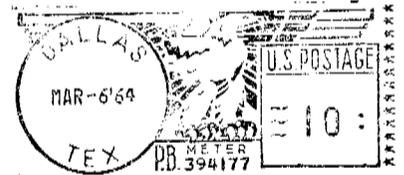
Two premiers will take place in Atlantic City, N.J., for persons attending the Southern Baptist Convention. Both will be in the Casino Theater on the Steel Pier, May 18 and 19 following sessions of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

The film was shot on location in Turkey and Greece last year at the actual settings and scenes mentioned in Paul's New Testament letters.

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