



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593
DALLAS R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

August 21, 1967

713

98

Forrest Watkins Named BSSB
Training Union Consultant

NASHVILLE (BP)--Forrest H. Watkins, a Florida pastor, has been named a consultant in the general administration unit of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Training Union department, effective Sept. 1.

In his new work, Watkins will have special responsibilities in the area of New Church Member Orientation.

Watkins has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Stuart, Fla., since 1964. He served as pastor of Coral Baptist Church in Miami from 1952-64 and was minister of education at Riverside Baptist Church in Miami from 1950-52.

A native of Albany, Ga., Watkins has a bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi (Baptist) College, Clinton, and a bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Watkins and his wife, the former Marian Caldwell of Curwensville, Pa., have two daughters.

-30-

Note to editors: BP photo of Watkins is being mailed to you separately.

Pioneer US-2ers Return;
Third Group Takes Field

714

8/21/67

448

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--In addition to adjusting to married life, two newlywed Baptist couples also will spend the next two years adjusting to the problems and opportunities that confront US-2 missionaries.

Two couples who only recently have married are on the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's 1967 roster of 24 new US-2 volunteers, college graduates who have agreed to postpone careers or further study to devote two years to a mission task.

The "honeymooners" are Michael and Elizabeth Brown of North Carolina and Phillip and Pat Sitton of Texas.

The 24 young missionary appointees (maximum age limit, 27) were recognized officially during Home Missions Week at the Baptist assembly here, where they met for orientation before departing for assignments across the U.S., Panama and Puerto Rico. They are the third annual US-2 Task force.

As the new appointees prepared to begin their two-year assignments, 18 of the original 20 US-2ers (two dropped out) gathered at the Home Missions Conference in Glorieta, N.M., to wrap up their two-year campaigns by evaluating the US-2 program. The US-2 program is intended to supplement the work of career missionaries as well as to provide experience to young Baptists.

Home Mission Board leaders already had reflected their evaluation of the program by depending on these inexperienced but eager "temporary" missionaries to fill pulpits, initiate youth work, construct mission buildings and tackle tenants of high-rise apartments in cities such as New York and Chicago.

"Don't let materialism take a mighty grip on your lives and thinking," said Norman Harrell, who took a new bride to Alaska where they learned to purify water, cook on a portable gas stove and wash clothes on a scrub board.

-more-

713-714

"We had to depend more and more on God. This has meant more to us than anything," he said, and the other US-2 veterans unanimously accepted this summation. "We believe that God's plan to call us to Alaska was for us not only to serve Him but also to learn things about Him and ourselves that we never could have learned anywhere else."

A new honeymooning couple, the Browns, will replace the Harrells in the northwest Alaskan villages of Kobuk and Shungnak, where it seldom climbs above 50 in the short summers and often tumbles to 50 below zero in the harsh winters.

They will have to make a transition, however, from their summer missionary assignment in scorching New Mexico.

The other honeymooning couple, the Sittons, has been assigned to the winter garden recreation area in Fraser, Colo., where they will work in a resort missions pilot project.

Illustrating the caliber of US-2 volunteers, 17 of the original 18 who just wound up their two-year stints are entering graduate school or seminary for further study.

Five of the recent corps will be serving the pioneer missions department; seven, Christian social ministries; four, metropolitan missions; four, rural-urban missions and four, language missions. They will be serving in 14 of the 50 states.

Upon completion of their assignments, the US-2ers receive severance pay of \$50 per month (or \$75 for married couples) and a 25 percent bonus if they continue their education. They live expense-free on the field.

-30-

Attention State Paper Editors: A complete list of names and individual biographical information is being mailed to you, noting those who are concerned with your state. Note also, on the list of US-2ers, Miss Sylvia Ann Toone will be working in Sells, Ariz., rather than Winslow, Ariz., as listed.

100 Volunteers Needed
To Aid Alaska Baptists

715

8/21/67

700

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--An urgent appeal for a minimum of 100 volunteers to help repair flood-ravaged church buildings in Fairbanks, Alaska was issued here Sunday during Home Missions Week.

The Home Mission Board also announced a moratorium on church loans interest and payments due for six congregations that hold loans with the board.

Glendon McCullough of the Home Mission Board staff returned from Alaska late Saturday evening with the report that eight out of nine Baptist churches in Fairbanks were under water "up to or above the pews." The ninth, the First Baptist Church downtown, had a basement full of water and ruined records and hymnals.

The homes of Baptist church members, McCullough said, either were flooded or destroyed and few Baptists would be free to spend time on damaged church buildings.

Thoughts of sub-freezing weather, only weeks away, compounded the dimensions of the crisis. Furnaces must be repaired and insulation and foundations of homes and buildings somehow must be dried out. There was fear, too, that the foundations of churches were severely damaged and that several might have to be condemned.

"Plumbers, electricians, furnace workers, carpenters, masons and other specialists are needed by Labor Day for a minimum of two weeks, possibly as many as six," McCullough told a Sunday evening audience of about 2,000 pastors and church leaders.

Warren Wolfe, director of the Home Mission Board's Christian Service Corps Ministry, said the appeal for men was being issued jointly with the Southern Baptists Brotherhood Commission. Home Mission Board executive secretary Arthur Rutledge and Brotherhood director George Schroeder sent letters to associational missionaries, asking them to request pastors in their areas to appeal for volunteers on Sunday, Aug. 27.

-more-

715

Rutledge said churches, associations or individuals are asked to cover the expenses of the volunteers, freeing the Home Mission Board to use its emergency funds to assist with pastors salaries and building materials.

The volunteers are asked to work without pay and to bring their own basic tools. (Materials are available.) Alaska Baptists will provide room and Board.

McCullough reported Sunday that \$9,000 of the \$10,000 sent immediately by the Home Mission Board to assist Baptists was spent for transportation fares and incidentals such as razors and toothbrushes for those leaving the flood-racked city for Anchorage and other safety points.

Paul Adkins, director of Christian social ministries for the Home Mission Board, flew to the area with the funds to investigate the extent of need.

At last word, only military transportation or communication was operative and evacuees were just beginning to return to homes through thick muck and slime.

Communication was eliminated immediately by the flood when the walls of the telephone exchange collapsed. One radio station that managed to stay on the air broadcasted the message that tickets were waiting at the airport for the families of Baptist pastors. E. W. Hunke Jr., executive secretary of the Alaska Baptist Convention, arranged this with the emergency funds brought by Adkins so that pastors could get their families out and turn their attention to their communities.

Hundreds of Baptists either were in Fairbanks for the state convention or heading that way at the time of the disaster, including denominational leaders such as McCullough, director of the Home Mission Board's personnel division, and Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention. Nine student summer missionaries also were in town and two of them were not accounted for until Friday, Aug. 18.

The Convention had been scheduled to begin Monday, Aug. 14 at the First Baptist Church. The Chena River, however, which winds through the heart of the city of 30,000, began its quick, fatal rise the Sunday evening before.

McCullough and those in his hotel were wakened and shuttled off in U. S. Army trucks to a grammar school on higher ground. Before long, water was rolling into the school and the crowd graduated quickly to the high school, on still higher ground. Officials were optimistic each time that the water would rise no higher. The group had to be evacuated again, however, this time to the airport, from where they were flown to Anchorage.

McCullough got out only with his briefcase and the clothes on his back. At last report, his luggage still was on the seventh floor of the downtown hotel.

Routh was in tan slacks and tennis shoes when evacuated. Warm, dry socks were distributed at one point and, as luck would have it, Routh, undoubtedly one of the largest men in the crowd, got one man-size sock that was too small and one that appeared to be about the right size for a five year old boy.

Perhaps as many as 10,000 people were evacuated to the highest ground in Alaska's second-largest city, the University of Alaska. McCullough said reports were that the food line at the university was blocks long and took nearly four hours per meal.

-30-

Editor's Note: At the time of this writing it had rained for 24 hours straight at Ridgecrest. Glendon McCullough, the last time seen, was keeping a wary eye on the creek that trickles through the assembly grounds. "It has never flooded here," he said, "But it never had in Fairbanks, either."