



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 14, 1968

Home Missionary Appointees  
Boost Language Missions

**ATLANTA (BP)**--A young woman who in 1964 initiated Southern Baptist work among Polish youth in New York has been appointed a career missionary by the denomination to return to this work at First Polish Baptist Church in Brooklyn.

A native of Germany, Nella Popow recently obtained a masters degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. A graduate of Louisiana Baptist College in Pineville, she had worked in the children's program of several churches in Fort Worth.

Others appointed as career missionaries during the May meeting of the board of directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board were:

Roderick Nicholas Alfred Loney of Trinidad, West Indies, for work with internationals in New York; James Luther Daves of Pinebluff, N. C., as director of the Baptist City in Kansas City; Ronald Lee Rogers of Hanover Park, Ill., as superintendent of missions for the northern zone of the Chicago Southern Baptist Association; Connie Alexander Dabney of Denver, Colo., as superintendent of missions for the East Bay Association in California.

Alvin Kenneth Chadwick, an associate missionary who has been serving as pastor of the First Southern Spanish Baptist Church in Hanford, Calif., also was elevated to career status.

A graduate of Wheaton (Ill.) College and Columbia University in New York, Loney had been with the Associated Community Teams Inc., in New York. He also has worked as a research supervisor in New York and St. Petersburg, Fla.

A native of Ellenboro, N. C., Daves has been serving as pastor of Ives Memorial Church in Pinebluff. A former vocational rehabilitation counselor, he is a graduate of Wake Forest College (Baptist) in Winston-Salem, N. C., and of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C.

Rogers had been pastor of Tri-Village Baptist Church in Hanover Park. He is a graduate of Union University in his native town of Jackson, Tenn., and of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

The former assistant executive secretary and superintendent of missions and stewardship of the Colorado Baptist Convention, Dabney had been pastor of Applewood Baptist Church in Denver. A native of South Carolina, he is a graduate of Furman University in Greenville and of Southwestern Seminary.

Chadwick is a graduate of California Baptist College in Riverside, Calif., and of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley. He also has served as pastor of the First Spanish Baptist Church of El Monte, Calif.

Mrs. Chadwick, Mrs. Daves and Mrs. Loney also were appointed to assist their husbands in their respective fields.

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Literacy Workshop Offers  
Southern Seminary Credit

5/14/68

**LOUISVILLE (BP)**--For the first time in three years a convention-wide literacy workshop will be sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board June 17-25 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The workshop is a training ground for persons who will conduct similar workshops on a community level, training teachers to work with adult nonreaders and non-English speaking persons.

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These are the most intensive training sessions offered in the Home Mission Board's literacy ministry, according to Mildred Blankenship, an assistant in the department of Christian social ministries, who will direct the workshop.

"The Theology of Helping," a discussion of the sociological aspects of a literacy ministry, will be led by Bill Amos, who recently joined the Christian social ministries department as consultant on Baptist centers.

"If we don't understand the people and their context, we are not helping them," Amos said. "We are superimposing a prescribed standard of society upon them."

According to Miss Blankenship, "A Christian literacy class is able to offer friendship and a personal contact that sometimes an ordinary class is unable to offer."

Seminary credit will be awarded upon completion of the 32-hour workshop. Reservations for the workshop and for campus housing, which will be available at a cost, should be made through the seminary.

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Mississippi Baptists Lead  
In Rebuilding Burned Church

5/14/68

MEREDIAN, Miss. (BP)--A conscience-stricken Baptist pastor here has led in the formation of a county-wide Committee of Conscience to rebuild a burned-down Negro church that was fired on Easter Sunday, two weeks after the death of Martin Luther King Jr.

"I got all shook up about it" when the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church was burned to the ground, said Harold E. O'Chester, pastor of the Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church.

O'Chester expressed his concern to the Baptist Pastors Association of Lauderdale County, where there have been about 11 Negro church burnings in the last few years, and a resolution was passed urging creation of the county-wide Committee of Conscience to raise funds to rebuild the church.

The committee has already raised about \$1,000 and is planning for a county-wide "Day of Restoration" on May 26, when it hopes to raise about \$25,000.

In a strongly-worded article in his church's bulletin the week after the burning, O'Chester said he was deeply troubled by the "veil of silence over the entire matter by most people since it happened."

He wrote that it wasn't just another burned church, but "another nail in the coffin of liberty, another encroachment on the part of bigoted people."

Meredian is located in Eastern Mississippi about 30 miles from Philadelphia, Miss., where three civil rights workers were killed several years ago. The area has reportedly had the highest percentage of church burnings in the state, said one Baptist pastor in Meredian.

O'Chester contacted the Mississippi state-wide Committee of Concern which has rebuilt about 40 burned-out Negro churches since 1963, but it was decided that more benefits would accrue to the local community if a county-wide committee were organized and the money raised locally.

Three Baptist pastors and the associational superintendent of Baptist missions were among the 32 original members of the committee. O'Chester was named chairman of the committee. A Negro Baptist pastor who works with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, C. O. Inge, is also on the committee.

O'Chester said he had received very little opposition to his stand, only a few crank phone calls and one or two "hate" letters. He said he felt frustrated because numerous young people had thanked him for what he was doing, but expressed concern because the purpose of the committee was so narrow.

Another Meredian pastor, Beverly Tinnin of First Baptist Church, said that there was not so much overt opposition as there was "muttering" among the people.

Both Tinnin and O'Chester said that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was investigating the burning, and that there was strong evidence of intentional arson.

When asked why the church was burned, Tinnin said he had heard that some people just wanted "to get those Negroes off the hill because they were a nuisance, since white people live around there."

O'Chester, in his article in the church bulletin, wrote: "Apparently, some southern patriot has put the torch to another House of Worship in the Meredian area. He must feel real proud of himself. It surely took intestinal fortitude to douse a darkened church building with gasoline on Easter morning, and set it afire."

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**RECEIVED**  
MAY 15 1968  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

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