



BAPTIST PRESS

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September 22, 1969

**Church Ministries To Aged
Seen In Volunteer Program**

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Richard M. Nixon has signed into law a measure that will increase opportunities for churches to develop programs of volunteer community service involving elderly needy persons.

The new law extends the Older Americans Act of 1965, increases its appropriations and strengthens the state agencies on aging. A key provision authorizes a "National Older Americans Volunteer Program."

Under this new section grants may be made to private, nonprofit agencies and organizations to develop and operate training programs and volunteer service projects to use the talents and time of elderly programs.

The grants to nonprofit organizations must be for projects "other than...the construction, operation, or maintenance of so much of any facility used or to be used for sectarian instruction or as a place for religious worship."

Under the new title relating to volunteer efforts, the four-year old "Foster Grandparent" program will be transferred from the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. This program, now operating in 40 states and Puerto Rico, employs elderly retired persons to give one-to-one attention to disturbed or disadvantaged children.

The new law specifies that all new participants, ~~excluding~~ directors and teachers, ~~must~~ be low-income persons aged 60 or over who are no longer working.

The volunteer program also authorizes a "retired senior volunteer program" (RSVP) to recruit individuals aged 60 or over to provide services needed in their own, or nearby communities. No compensation will be paid under this program, but expenses for transportation and food will be reimbursed. This program would be administered by the state offices on aging.

Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr., chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, described these volunteer activities which he said are possible under the new measure signed by the President.

* Person-to-person services by the elderly for children in foster homes, institutions or other temporary shelters.

* Tutorial and other services by the elderly to children in day-care centers, nursery schools and similar institutions, with special emphasis on children from low-income families.

* Services by the elderly for other elderly persons who are incapacitated by age or infirmity.

When the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare reported the bill for final action, it said that during the four years the Older Americans Act had existed, more than 600,000 elderly citizens had been served.

About 40,000 have participated as volunteers in ministering to other aged persons. The remainder benefited from the various home and health services authorized under the program.

There are presently 68 "Foster Grandparent" projects using the services of 4,000 foster grandparents. It is estimated that about 16,000 retarded and emotionally disturbed children are served by this program during the course of a year.

Betty Bock Leaves WMU
For Birmingham Church

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Miss Betty Bock, Young Woman's Auxiliary director for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) with offices here, has resigned to become minister of youth activities at Birmingham's First Baptist Church.

She has been active in the downtown church's youth program since joining the WMU staff in 1966, working in such church ministries as literacy work, conversation English classes for internationals, tutoring, and apartment house Bible classes.

Her work on the staff will be to involve young people in extensive ministries to persons in these areas, devoting full time rather than "marginal time" to the work, said Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of the WMU.

A native of Missouri, Miss Bock is a graduate of Central Missouri State College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Crusade Theme Used For New
Texas-Mexican Radio Program

9/22/69

DALLAS (BP)--A new Spanish-language radio program designed to follow-up and enlarge the beneficial effects of the Crusade of the Americas has been launched by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Entitled "La Unica Esperanza," ("The Only Hope"), the program is being produced through the joint facilities of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, and the state Baptist public relations department here.

The 15-minute program has been booked on eight radio outlets near the Texas-Mexico border for a 15-week trial run. Funds were provided by the state convention's budget surplus from 1968.

Format of the program includes, poetry, children's stories and short inspirational messages. Those responding to the program will be enrolled in a special Spanish-language Bible study, and follow-up will be made through Southern Baptist missionaries in Mexico and through pastors working in the convention's Rio Grande ministry.

Announcer for the series is Hugo Ruiz of the SBC Radio-TV Commission. Rudy Hernandez, pastor of Primera Baptist Church, Corpus Christi, Tex., will supply the inspirational messages.

Texas radio stations carrying the program are located in Harlingen, Carrizo Springs, and Alpine, Tex.; while Mexican stations include those in Matamoros, Nuevo Laredo, Piedras Negras, Acuna, and Juarez, Mexico. Station XELO in Juarez boasts 150,000 watts and reaches 27 countries. Many of the other stations claim almost complete coverage of Mexico.

"As denoted by the name of the program," said Texas Baptist Public Relations Director, Billy Keith, "the river ministry radio project will attempt to maintain the enthusiasm generated by the Crusade of the Americas along our border.

"Our convention leadership has detected a genuine response to the crusade and the theme, "Christ-The Only Hope" among our Latin-American population in Texas. We hope that these programs will speak to the hearts of approximately two million people along the Rio Grande," Keith said.

He indicated that if the current test program of 15 weeks is successful, the contracts will be renewed for 1970.

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Illinois Board Sets Up
New Communications Office

CARBONDALE, Ill. (BP)--The Illinois Baptist State Association Board of Directors, in quarterly session here, established an office of communications for the state Baptist body and elected two new staff members, one to work in the new office.

The board also voted to recommend a Cooperative Program budget goal of \$1,375,000 to the annual state association meeting, and accepted the resignation of a long-time employe.

In creating the new office of communications, the board elected John M. Whitman as an associate in the new office, working under Robert J. Hastings, editor of the Illinois Baptist paper, and director of the newly created communications office.

Whitman, minister of education for the First Baptist Church of Marion, Ill., for the past six years, will also serve as associate editor of the Illinois Baptist, and handle public relations and publicity for other newspapers, radio and television throughout the state.

The other new staff member named by the board is Roddy Lee Kersey, a native of Oklahoma and pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Niles, Mich., who was elected as pastoral missionary in the Rock Island-Moline area of Illinois.

In other action, the board accepted the resignation of Bluford Sloan after honoring him for 15 years service as secretary of the association's church training department. Sloan plans to do graduate study at Southern Illinois University. The board also recognized George Wheeler for 15 years as Brotherhood secretary.

The proposed \$1.3 million Cooperative Program goal for 1970 would provide 63 per cent for work in Illinois and 37 per cent for Southern Baptist causes. Final approval of the budget must come from the state association when it meets in Mt. Vernon, Ill., Oct. 28-30.

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Pearson Named To San
Angelo Baptist Post

9/22/69

SAN ANGELO, Tex. (BP)--Alton Pearson, assistant administrator of Hillcrest Baptist Hospital in Waco, Tex., has been named executive director of Baptist Memorials Geriatric Center in San Angelo, Tex.

He will succeed H. D. Bruce, who will retire in October.

The Waco and San Angelo institutions are two of nine hospitals owned and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The geriatric center encompasses a 248-bed hospital, a 200-bed hotel for elderly and a 70-acre area of cottages and living units for retired persons.

Pearson, a native of Port Arthur, Tex., holds bachelor and master degrees from Baylor University in Waco. He served at Hillcrest Baptist Hospital for 16 years.

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