



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 344-4226

January 19, 1970

Home Mission Board Names
Church Loan Field Worker

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board elected a staff member for its church loans division, approved a status change for one missionary couple and appointed three career missionaries.

Bob M. Stidham, a staff member of the Michigan state convention, was elected field representative in the Division of Church Loans.

Mr. and Mrs. George E. Shore were approved for the new position of associational directors of youth and family services in the Pilot Mountain Association of Winston-Salem, N.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Moratto will continue to direct youth and family services in Wichita, Kan., as full missionaries, and Roddy Lee Kersey will become a pastoral missionary in Rock Island, Ill.

Stidham, now assistant to the executive secretary of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan will assume his new position on March 1.

His responsibilities will include counseling and instructing churches applying for loans, appraising property and building plans, and serving delinquent loans in an assigned area.

Speaking of the new staff member, elected at the board's monthly board of directors' meeting, Bob Kilgore, director of the division said:

"Stidham is acquainted with finances and business operation as it pertains to mortgage loans areas. In addition he has denominational experience and the call and feeling of missions."

Stidham is a native of Hodges, Ala., but was educated in Michigan in the area of business studies. He was previously employed by the Ford Motor Company as a systems analyst, and by Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company.

Shore will serve under the department of Christian Social ministries.

A native of Winston-Salem, he was pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church there before his appointment. He has had three other pastorates in North Carolina.

Shore received his training at Duke University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Mrs. Shore, the former Louise Simmons, will serve with her husband. She is also a native of Winston-Salem. The couple has two children.

Harry Moratto has been director of youth and family services in Wichita, Kan., since 1968 but was an associate missionary.

The Gainesville, Fla., native was educated at Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Texas, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. He had been pastor of churches in California and Kansas.

Mrs. Majorie Moratto was appointed to serve with her husband.

The mother of four children, she is originally from Healdton, Okla., and graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University and Golden Gate Seminary.

She has been editor's assistant on the "Baptist Digest", the Kansas Baptist Paper.

Kersey will be a pastoral missionary in Rock Island, Ill. He has been pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Niles, Mich., and four other churches in Michigan, Texas and Oklahoma.

Kersey is a graduate of Northeastern State College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a native of Canton, Okla.

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SBC Radio-TV Commission
Reports Statistical Growth

1/19/70

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here has reported statistical increases in almost every area of its work during 1969, prompting the commission's director, Paul M. Stevens to call it "a cause for rejoicing throughout the Southern Baptist Convention."

At the end of the year, the commission was producing and syndicating a total of 2,750 radio and television programs weekly, an increase of nearly 300 programs. Most of the increases were in the area of radio programming, Stevens said.

Biggest advances were made by two new programs introduced by the commission during the year, he observed.

POWERLINE, a teen music program with commentaries on teenage life from a Christian perspective, was distributed to 287 stations across the nation by the year's end. POWERLINE was started in February of 1969.

A music program for country-western fans called COUNTRY CROSSROADS reached 134 stations after being introduced in October before "budgetary limitations" forced a halt to its expansion, Stevens said.

Religious news programs, prepared especially by and for 14 state conventions, increased from 315 radio stations in 1968 to 426 at the end of 1969.

"Radio spots represent another new type of programming with which the commission made great inroads in 1969," said Stevens. Thousands of discs and tapes on such themes as drug abuse, highway safety, church attendance, and Christmas were distributed to radio stations throughout the nation, he said.

Syndicated television production of such programs as THE ANSWER series, the JOT cartoons, and THE ADAMS SPOTS was held to a slight increase by a shortage of funds, Stevens said, but network cooperative productions more than doubled.

During 1969, the commission produced 9½ hours of programs televised nationally in cooperation with three networks--the American Broadcasting Co., the Columbia Broadcasting System, and the National Broadcasting Co. In 1968, the total was four hours of such nationally televised programs.

The networks also agreed to experiment with religious musicals for the first time in 1969, Stevens noted. Such musical programs involved The Centurymen, a new 100 voice singing group of Southern Baptist ministers of music; the Texas Boys Choir, and a Baylor University group performing for the first time on national television a Christian folk musical called, "Tell It Like It Is" (NBC-TV, Feb. 1, 1970).

An upsurge of audience response also was noted during 1969, Stevens said. JOT, the five-minute television color cartoon for children, prompted more than 200,000 letters, many of them from children. POWERLINE and COUNTRY CROSSROADS accounted for an increase of more than 1,200 letters per month.

Stevens observed that another significant expansion occurred in the area of mail follow-up, with "scores of persons" being won to Christ through such efforts.

He noted that a prominent pastor and personal counselor, J. P. Allen of Fort Worth's Broadway Baptist Church, had joined the commission staff full time primarily because of recent expansion of the agency's evangelistic outreach on the air and through the mails.

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Carolina Baptists Urged: Give
Christian Response To Integration

1/19/70

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--Noting increased tensions to public school desegregation in some areas, the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee of the South Carolina Baptist Convention called on Baptists and all Christians to express "Christian attitudes" in the face of school integration.

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In a statement adopted at its quarterly meeting here, the committee noted that Baptists through the years have received much from the education of their youth in public schools and that there has been strong support for a public school system to provide education for all youth.

"We urge therefore, that all Baptists be aware of these traditions and our responsibilities for the future of the public schools of our state," the committee said.

The statement commended administrators, teachers, and students who are striving diligently to create wholesome conditions of personal relationships in the public schools.

It urged all Christians in the state to "express Christian attitudes in personal relationships and to show responsible citizenship in the support of those seeking to strengthen public education."

The statement observed that a major point of Baptists' recent Crusade of the Americas, a hemispheric evangelistic campaign, was for "establishing true moral and spiritual bases for the betterment of mankind's economic, social, and physical welfare."

"Certainly our support of public education and our acceptance of every individual as a person to be treated with dignity are crucial steps toward that objective of world evangelism," the committee said.

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Dehoney, Landry To Teach
Evangelism At SBC Seminary

1/19/70

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Wayne Dehoney, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Sabin P. Landry, professor of religious education at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will offer courses in evangelism at the seminary here while a successor is sought to fill the seminary's Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism.

Kenneth L. Chafin, since 1965 the first professor to occupy the endowed chair, was named director of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in December.

Plans are also underway for Billy Graham to be on the campus during the semester for dialogue with students and faculty. In addition, many seminarians will participate in the school of evangelism to be conducted in Knoxville, Tenn., during Graham's crusade there.

Dehoney, who is pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky's largest congregation, brings to the interim assignment a broad experience in evangelism, including service as North American Co-ordinator of the Crusade of the Americas project.

While president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1964, Dehoney had talked with Graham about the possibility of helping establish a chair of evangelism at Southern Seminary, and it was Dehoney who brought Chafin and Graham together in an initial discussion at Graham's home in Montreat, N.C. A \$500,000 endowment campaign followed Chafin's election to the chair in 1965, with Dehoney leading the special gifts program of the campaign.

Landry has for many years taught a course in evangelism directed to the professional needs of the minister of education. While Chafin's successor is sought, this course will be expanded to include students from the school of theology as well.

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460 James Robertson Parkway
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DAVIS G. WOOLLEY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203

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