

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 16, 1970

**Appointment of Missionaries
Highlights Foreign Board Meet**

RICHMOND (BP)--Appointment of 11 new missionary personnel highlighted the 125th anniversary observance of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here.

The new appointees bring the board's total overseas force--career missionaries, missionary associates and Journeymen--to 2,478 in 71 countries.

About 2,500 people, mostly Baptists from Virginia and neighboring states, attended the appointment service at The Mosque, Richmond's civic auditorium.

W. A. Criswell, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), Mrs. R. L. Mathis, president of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), Mayor Phil J. Bagley Jr. of Richmond, Monsignor John J. McMahon of the Richmond Clergy Association, and a representative of Virginia, Governor Linwood Holton delivered personal greetings to the board.

Telegrams of congratulation from President Nixon and Porter Routh, head of the SBC Executive Committee, were read.

Preceding the business session and appointment service, the choir of Virginia Union University presented a 30-minute concert.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the board, said in his report to the 67-member board, "The unsung heroes of this enterprise are the thousands of men and women in the churches throughout the convention who have loved the cause of missions and have remembered this labor at the throne of grace.

"We express our deep appreciation to pastors, denominational workers, those in the states and in the convention, and those who serve in colleges and seminaries for their partnership in the gospel. The agencies of the convention have been partners in a world task and have strengthened our hands repeatedly," Cauthen said.

Cauthen particularly commended the Woman's Missionary Union support of foreign missions through prayer, missions study, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering which has reached \$14.9 million to date, \$641,139 more than at the same date a year ago. Cauthen predicted 1969 would be a record year in Lottie Moon foreign missions contribution.

"God is at work in these days," Cauthen said. "We could well be moving toward an era of great spiritual awakening. Sometimes vast revivals have come about following eras of great strain, decline, wickedness and decay.

"The very problems that surround us near at hand and that loom upon the horizons far away may be but the early indication that the heart of man is being opened for the reception of the gospel of Jesus Christ," Cauthen said.

Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, declared that it is the Foreign Mission Board's zeal and commitment that keeps the SBC together.

"Were there no Foreign Mission Board, there would be no Southern Baptist Convention," Criswell told the audience, alluding to the historical mission-oriented development of the convention.

Mrs. Mathis read from an 1888 edition of the ~~Richmond Dispatch~~ about the earliest efforts of Southern Baptist women to organize and bring together the energies of diverse mission societies in the eastern and southern states at that time. She concluded her comments by telling the board, "You can count on the Woman's Missionary Union!"

Couples appointed as career missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Harold R. Hancock of Belle Chasse, La., to Korea; Mr. and Mrs. J. Gordon Harris III of Louisville, the Philippines; Mr. and Mrs. John A. Witherspoon of Jasper, Mo., Argentina; and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald M. Workman Jr. of Fort Worth, to Malawi.

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Employed for five-year terms as Missionary Associates were Dr. and Mrs. C. Kenneth Locke of Weatherford, Tex., for Hong Kong, and Miss Betty Vaught of McAlester, Okla., also Hong Kong.

In another session the board approved 72 young adults for training as Missionary Journeymen. They will train for eight weeks this summer at Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C.

This year's contingent of Journeymen will be the sixth since the Journeyman program began in 1965. Overseas missions (organizations of SBC missionaries) requested about 175 Journeymen for 1970.

Four students completing their third year of medical training and indicating a definite interest in medical missions also were approved by the board for "receptorships" in Baptist hospitals overseas.

Approved as receptors are students Lanny R. Copeland, University of Louisville, (Ky.) School of Medicine, for the Baptist hospital in Jibla, Yemen; Bruce D. Fried, University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, Oklahoma City, for the hospital in Gaza; Don G. Hagen, Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans, for the hospital in Bangkok, Thailand; and Ray A. Verm, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, for the hospital in Mati, Philippines.

The medical receptorship program, authorized by the board in 1968, provides travel and living expenses for up to four Baptist medical students at a time. Receptors, who must be in their third year of medical study, spend eight to 10 weeks of a summer helping missionary physicians and dentists.

Recent developments regarding visas for missionaries to Pakistan are encouraging, John D. Hughey, secretary for Europe and the Middle East, reported to the board.

Hughey and Robert S. Denny of the Baptist World Alliance recently presented to the counsellor of the Pakistan Embassy in Washington the cases of two missionary families who have been waiting months for visas.

The counsellor agreed to communicate with his government, and he subsequently informed Hughey that visas were being granted one of the couples. But the government's decision on the second couple is not yet known, Hughey told the board.

Both couples are replacing missionaries formerly stationed in Pakistan.

"I have the impressions that there will be no difficulty in sending replacements," Hughey said, "but there may be problems when we try to enlarge our missionary force.

"Sending in replacements will be enough for a while. We are ready now for new appointments to Pakistan," Hughey added.

On the other hand, a missionary couple who served an English-speaking congregation in Ankara, Turkey, since 1966, "have definitely been denied permission to remain in Turkey," Hughey continued.

They probably will have to leave the country immediately unless the authorities will permit them to remain until their children are out of school, he said.

The Turkist counsellor in Washington, whom Hughey and Denny also consulted, explained that Turkey is a lay state and that all religious propaganda is forbidden. Turks may attend religious services if they so choose, but they may not be urged to attend.

There are especially strong objections to distributing religious literature, the counsellor added. But, if a missionary strictly observes Turkish law, there are no objections to the existence of an American church in Ankara, he told Hughey.

Hughey said that someone stationed in Beirut will probably serve as interim pastor of the church in Ankara. "I hope a missionary already under appointment can be transferred to Turkey as permanent pastor," he said.

Acting on a committee recommendation, the board voted to "take steps toward placing missionary personnel in Upper Volta, following a period of language study in France, on condition that permission of the government can be secured to begin a program of mission work in that West African republic."

A couple now assigned to Nigeria will be transferred to Upper Volta, effective June 1. After a year of studying French, they will probably be stationed in Ouagadougou, capital of Upper Volta, according to H. Cornell Goerner, secretary for Africa.

Upper Volta, slightly larger than the combined areas of Alabama and Mississippi, has a population of just over five million. Evangelical Christians number less than 20,000.

In Ouagadougou, Upper Volta, there is a fairly strong Baptist congregation of Yorubas, whom a missionary stationed in neighboring Ghana has been visiting once or twice a year, Goerner said.

This and other small Yoruba groups will provide helpful points of contact, Goerner explained, "but our aim will be to develop work among the dominant More tribe, using French and the More dialect."

Goerner also reported that morale among the missionaries in Ghana is "surprisingly high, despite the loss of approximately 80 per cent of the membership of the Baptist churches because of the exodus of settlers from Nigeria.

"The absence of Yorubas has created an atmosphere in which local Ghanaian people feel more welcome, and prospects are good that many of the church buildings will soon be filled with indigenous peoples, worshipping in their own language and according to their own custom," Goerner continued.

"What seemed a tragedy may turn out to be in the long run a blessing and the beginning of a new era of indigenous development for Baptists in Ghana."

Upon recommendation of the committee for Middle America and the Caribbean, the board voted to establish a Caribbean Baptist Theological Seminary "to provide university-level training for Baptist ministers." A minister training center will be operated in connection with the seminary.

Two Southern Baptist Seminary professors are to be invited by the board to carry out special assignments this year. J. W. MacGorman of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, will be asked to speak to missionaries in five missions of West Africa during their annual mission meetings in June and July, and Francis M. DuBose of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., is to make an urban survey of Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Manila.

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Kentucky Interracial Head,
Herman Ihley, Dies Golfing

4/16/70

PINE MOUNTAIN, Ga. (BP)--The Kentucky Baptist Director of Interracial Cooperation, Herman Ihley, 56, died of a heart attack on a golf course here April 15.

Ihley was attending an annual conference and retreat for state directors of work with National Baptists at the resort center Callaway Gardens. The conference was sponsored by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"He was one of the more creative men that we have had in this type of work," said W. R. Grigg, of Atlanta, associate secretary of the department of work with National Baptists, "and he was setting patterns that will be followed by others."

Ihley had led Kentucky Baptists both black and white, to hold recent joint meetings of their state conventions. One meeting of youth groups attracted more than 10,000 participants. A number of churches of both racial groups had become dually aligned with the state convention of the other in efforts to heal racial tensions.

Ihley, a native of Furman, S.C., had lived most of his early life at Adel, Ga., and Mercer University, Macon, Ga. He earned a doctorate at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He was the first to serve in this position in Kentucky, holding the office since 1967. For 10 years before that he was secretary of the Sunday School department of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Funeral services were held April 17 in Adel, Ga. He is survived by his wife, the former Bernice Juhan of Georgia.



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