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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 12, 1970

Two Missionary Couples
Appointed by Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has approved the appointment of two missionary couples to full time missionary service.

The new missionaries are Gary and Zelma Halbrook, Ft. Worth, Texas, and Minor and Mary Davidson, Grandfield, Okla.

Halbrook's work will take him to Macomb, Ill., where he will be pastor of University Baptist Church. The Dallas, Tex., native is a graduate of East Texas State University, Commerce, and received his Th.M from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, in 1966.

Halbrook's wife, Zelma, is a native of Springfield, Colo., and a 1960 graduate of Colorado State University, with a major in history. She has experience teaching elementary and junior high school.

A 1949 graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, with a Th.D from Southwestern Seminary, Davidson leaves his present residence in Ft. Worth and will be working with the inter-nationals in Washington, D. C. A former missionary to Malaya, Davidson is a native of Grandfield, Okla.

Mrs. Davidson attended Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary and is a native of Caddo, Okla.

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Everett Hullum Elected
To Home Board Staff

6/12/70

ATLANTA (BP)-- The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has approved the appointment of Everett Hullum to its department of editorial service.

Effective August 1, Hullum will become assistant secretary of the department. His responsibilities will include directing the Board's news service and assisting editor Walker L. Knight in the production of Home Missions magazine.

Speaking of the new staff member, Knight said: "Hullum brings a professional journalist's skills and committed Christian's insight into missions which uniquely equip him for a leadership role in communications with the Home Mission Board."

He replaces Dallas Lee who resigned a few months ago to complete a book on the late Clarence Jordan, founder of Koinonia Farms, an inter-racial community in south Georgia.

He joined the Brotherhood Commission's editorial staff in 1965. He has also been a reporter for the Waco News-Tribune and the Austin, Tex. American-Statesman.

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Ben C. Fisher Named
to Education Commission

6/12/70

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (BP)--Ben C. Fisher of Raleigh, N. C., was elected here to succeed Rabun L. Brantley as executive secretary of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Brantley retires at the end of September and Fisher will take up his duties October 1.

Since 1962 Fisher has been executive secretary for the Council on Christian Higher Education of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

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Previously Fisher had been administrative assistant to the president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary for eight years.

From 1952 to 1954 he was executive secretary of the Department of Christian Education of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Earlier Fisher had been a pastor in North Carolina, then chairman of the English department and later public relations director of Gardner-Webb Junior College.

He was chairman of the Southern Baptist Education Commission at the time of the annual Commission meeting held at Georgetown College.

Elected as the new chairman of the Education Commission is William K. Weaver, president of Mobile College.

The Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools met in annual session here also.

Newly elected officers of the Association are: President Earl Guinn, president of Louisiana College, Pineville, La.; Vice President Budd Smith, president of Wingate College, Wingate, N. C.; and Secretary-Treasurer H. I. Hester, retired college and seminary official, Liberty, Mo.

Fisher is a native of Webster, N. C., and a graduate of Wake Forest University and Andover Newton Theological School. He was awarded an honorary LL. D degree by Campbell College in 1968.

Mrs. Fisher, the former Sara Gehman is from Amber, Pa. They have two children, David Lincoln and Ruth Robert.

(NOTE: Photo being sent to Baptist state editors. Available to others on request.)

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Religious Publishers
Protest Ban Commentary

6/12/70.

NEW YORK, N.Y. (BP)--The Religious Publishers Group of the American Book Publishers Council has protested the action of messengers to the recent Southern Baptist Convention meeting in ordering the withdrawal and re-writing of a new commentary on the Book of Genesis that casts doubt on some traditional views of Genesis.

The commentary, part of volume one of The Broadman Bible Commentary published by Broadman Press, the publishing arm of the Convention's Sunday School Board, was ordered withdrawn by a 5,394 to 2,170 vote of the Convention's representatives meeting in Denver June 1-4.

The protest came in the form of a statement authorized by the Executive Committee of the Group:

"The Religious Publishers Group of the American Book Publishers Council deplors the action of the Southern Baptist Convention in ordering the withdrawal of G. Henton Davies' commentary on the Book of Genesis. As publishers of religious books, we are committed to the proposition that it is our responsibility to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions including those which are unorthodox or unpopular. To suppress or bowdlerize a book on the ground that it questions traditional thought is to deny the value of thought itself. Those who would resort to such methods threaten our democracy by limiting the freedom of citizens to change society by exercising their right to choose widely from conflicting opinions offered freely to them."

The Religious Publishers Group is a membership organization which represents more than 50 publishers of religious books and includes the major general and denominational houses.

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