



BAPTIST PRESS

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June 15, 1970

SBC Missionaries Leave
Jordan; Most To Beirut

RICHMOND (BP)--As the voluntary evacuation of foreigners from Jordan got underway on June 12, most of the 13 Southern Baptist missionaries stationed in Jordan went to Beirut, one of the missionaries told a SBC Foreign Mission Board official here.

Foreigners left Jordan voluntarily and not at the request of the Jordanian government, according to an Associated Press story.

One missionary family left in a plane; the others piled into taxis and drove through Syria. Three missionaries stayed in Ajloun, Jordan, location of a Baptist hospital, where the situation was described as normal.

Two families who were stationed in Amman, scene of recent fighting between Jordanian troops and Palestinian guerrillas, were the J. Wayne Fullers, who flew out, and the Paul S. C. Smiths.

Smith telephoned J. D. Hughey, secretary for Europe and the Middle East for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, June 13 to advise him that the missionaries had left Jordan and arrived safely in Lebanon.

The others, all of whom were stationed in Ajloun, are Dr. and Mrs. Dean T. Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. Graydon B. Hardister, Mrs. John A. Roper Jr., and Miss Jeanine Grisham, a Missionary Journeyman. The married missionaries were accompanied by their children.

Hardister, who is administrator of the hospital in Ajloun, planned to return there Sunday, June 14, after his family left Beirut for an early furlough in the United States. The Fitzgeralds had already planned to leave the Middle East on Monday for a vacation in Europe.

Dr. Roper, Miss Anna Cowan and Miss Violet Popp stayed at the Ajloun Hospital, where Dr. Roper is medical director and Miss Popp is head of nursing services. Miss Cowan is a Baptist school principal.

The missionaries who went to Beirut will remain there or they will move on to Nicosia, Cyprus, to wait for conditions to settle down in Jordan, according to Hughey.

Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Hern were already in Beirut on their way to the states for furlough. Assigned to Egypt, they previously were stationed in Amman.

Three other missionaries assigned to Jordan, Dr. and Mrs. L. August Lovegren and Miss Maurine Perryman, have been in the U.S. on furlough during the current strife in Amman.

Smith told Hughey that Beirut is quiet, but people are advised to stay off the streets whenever possible. On June 12 a mob of youthful leftists and guerrillas burned the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut and shouted "Death to Hussein" (Jordan's King) and "We want a republic," the Associated Press reported.

The scene in Amman, by contrast, was said to be grim. Smith lived near the U.S. Army attache who was killed in his home by Palestinian guerrillas recently.

Five days of intense fighting in Amman between Jordanian troops and Palestinian guerrillas left an estimated 700 persons dead, news reports indicated. Maj. Robert P. Perry, who was attached to the U.S. Embassy in Amman, was slain at his home there.

Sixty-two foreign hostages, including 21 Americans, were released by the popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and a cease-fire was in effect following concessions by King Hussein. However, scattered firing broke out in Amman again June 13 as foreigners were being evacuated.

Southern Baptist missionaries first entered Jordan in 1952. They have carried on a combination of educational, medical and evangelistic work. Besides the hospital in Ajloun, Baptist ministries include a school of nursing and primary and secondary schools. In Amman a Baptist Book Store and a ministry to students are emphasized.

Smith is from West Monroe, La.; Mrs. Smith is the former Virginia Walker of Farmington, Mo. Fuller is from Walker, Minn.; Mrs. Fuller is the former Frances Anderson of Wynn, Ark.

Fitzgerald is from Tulsa, Okla.; Mrs. Fitzgerald is the former Dona Walls of Bartlesville, Okla. Hardister is from Pine Bluff, Ark.; Mrs. Hardister is the former Betty Williams of Bauxite, Ark.

Miss Grisham is from Kress, Tex.; Miss Cowan from Urich, Mo.; and Miss Popp from Cumberland, Md. Dr. Roper is from Six Mile, S.C.; Mrs. Roper, also a medical doctor, is the former Ruth Atkinson of Athens, Pa.

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Pastor Named Editorial Consultant
For SBC Church Training Department

6/15/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--A Southern Baptist pastor from Knoxville, Tenn., has been named editorial services staff consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department here.

Nolan P. Howington, pastor of South Knoxville Baptist Church, will serve as an advisor and consultant on publication content dealing with assigned curriculum areas within the board's church training department.

He also will work with other departments of the Sunday School Board in planning curriculum and periodical content.

Howington was a professor at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., from 1950-51 and later became professor of ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, from 1957-67.

A native of Winder, Ga., Howington was reared in Shelby, N.C. He earned the bachelor and master of arts degrees from Wake Forest (N.C.) College and the master and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Seminary, Louisville.

He was later pastor of Round Hill Baptist Church, Union Mills, N.C. He served South Knoxville Baptist Church from 1951-53 and First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark., from 1953-57. He was called again as pastor for South Knoxville Church in 1967.

Philip B. Harris, secretary of the church training department, said, "Dr. Howington's training and experience provide the unique qualities needed to assist the department in developing training materials to meet the needs of all the churches. Coming directly from the pastorate we have a leader who is in touch with current thought and practices in the churches. We feel that Southern Baptists will welcome the influence of this pastor upon church training materials."

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Seminary Plans Extensive
Auditorium Renovation

6/15/70

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees have announced plans for the extensive renovation of Truett Auditorium, the seminary's major worship and assembly center.

Most of the improvements will be made in the areas of acoustics and lighting, seminary officials said.

Present plans include: reshaping of the ceiling and removal of acoustical tile; placement of acoustical shutters over the auditorium windows; building of an acoustical shell for use in choral productions; installation of new stage lighting and dimmer equipment; reworking of the sound system; and renovation of the organ.

Additional plans call for new stage curtains, off-stage dressing rooms, and increased storage space.

"These alterations will not only improve our daily worship services, but will enhance the quality of choral and dramatic productions," said Wayne Evans, the seminary's business manager.

Improvements in Truett Auditorium are expected to be completed by early fall.

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Ural Clayton Named To Head
Arkansas Music Department

LITTLE ROCK (BP)--Ural Chester Clayton, minister of music at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, has been named secretary of the church music department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, effective Aug. 1.

Clayton has been on the staff of Immanuel Church since 1966. Previously, he had served as minister of music at Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock, and at First Church, Bartlesville, Okla.

A native of Fort Worth, Tex., where he was born 39 years ago, Clayton received his education at Texas Wesleyan College, from which he received the bachelor of music degree, and at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received the master of church music degree.

Active in denominational church music circles, Clayton taught for several years at the annual church music conference at Glorieta, N.M., and is presently writing for publications of the church music department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville.

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Jewish Businessman Gives
SBC Seminary Biblical Coins

6/15/70

LOUISVILLE (BP)-- A Jewish businessman from New York City has given the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary an ancient biblical coin collection valued in excess of \$10,000.

The collection contains select specimens of coins issued by Herod, Archelaus and Antipas as well as numerous other Jewish rulers.

The coins in the collection date from the second century B.C. to the second century A.D.

Harry Denberg, the donor, has previously given archaeological remains to the Seminary Museum. Within the past eight years, he has given lamps, papyri, coins and other donations.

The collection will be housed in the Eisenberg Museum on the seminary campus. The museum was the gift of another Jewish collector, Jerome Eisenberg of New York City.

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Baptist Standard Awards
Two Journalism Scholarships

6/15/70

DALLAS (BP)--Two journalism students at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., have been designated winners of the E. S. James--Baptist Standard scholarships awarded by the weekly newspaper published by Texas Baptists here.

The scholarship winners are Miss Nancy Flowers of Sulphur Springs, Tex., and Miss Sandra Simmons of Plains, Ga., both senior journalism majors at Baylor University.

The \$800 scholarships were set up by the board of directors for the Baptist Standard for Baylor students interested in some aspect of religious journalism.

Both young women have been staff writers for the Baylor Lariat, the Baptist school's daily newspaper, and both will be summer interns this year at daily newspapers. Miss Simmons is working at the Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer, and Miss Flowers is an editorial intern on the Dallas Morning News.

Last summer, Miss Simmons was a summer intern on the Christian Index, Georgia Baptist state paper. She was editor of the Norman College newspaper before transferring to Baylor where she also is a news writer in the Baylor public relations office.

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Negro Pastor Receives
Honorary Doctoral Degree

6/15/70

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--A prominent Negro Baptist pastor, S.M. Lockridge of Calvary Baptist Church, San Diego, received the honorary doctor of divinity degree from California Baptist College here recently.

College officials said it was believed to be one of the few times a Southern Baptist College has awarded an honorary doctorate to a Negro Baptist pastor.

Lockridge, who was pastor of churches in Texas and Iowa before going to California 19 years ago, delivered the baccalaureate sermon and spoke to the college's alumni during recent graduation exercises here.

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