



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 24, 1970

FMB Appoints 16; Approves
New Fields; Sets New Policy

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board meeting here appointed its first missionaries to Laos, named Barbados and Surinam as new mission fields, and adopted a new uniform term-of-service policy for missionaries.

The board also elected a new regional personnel representative and accepted the resignation of its first missionary field representative.

Two Louisiana couples, Mr. and Mrs. Jerald W. Perrill of New Orleans and Mr. and Mrs. J. Murphy Terry of Buras, are the board's first appointees to Laos. Both couples expect to start ministries in Vientiane, the administrative capital, probably concentrating on university students.

Laos was approved as a mission field during the March meeting of the Board, but no missionaries were appointed for Laos until the annual Foreign Missions Conference held at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly.

Other new appointees are Mr. and Mrs. Jack S. Branan of Gordon, Ga., going to the Philippines; Mr. and Mrs. Orlynn R. Evans of West Lafayette, Ind., to Liberia; Mr. and Mrs. Jerry A. Rankin of Sadler, Tex., to Indonesia.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry G. Simon of Hattiesburg, Miss., to Uganda, Kenya or Tanzania; Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Williams Jr., of Eastman, Ga., to Honduras; and Mr. and Mrs. James L. Wootton of Kankakee, Ill., employed as missionary associates for one term in Korea.

Barbados, a West Indies island, was designated a mission field (the 74th after Laos and Upper Volta) and the location of a proposed Caribbean Baptist Theological Seminary and a training center for ministers.

Mr. and Mrs. Weldon E. Viertel were assigned to start the new work in Barbados in August. They were formerly missionaries in Nassau, Bahamas, where Viertel directed the Baptist Theological Institute and a high school. A second couple is being sought to work with them.

The first phase of theological training will be carried out through a minister training center, according to Charles W. Bryan, secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean for the board.

Bryan listed as purposes of the center: To further theological extension schooling in the Caribbean, to provide training seminars for Baptist leaders, and to prepare and recommend theological literature for English-Speaking areas of the Caribbean.

He told the board that Barbados was recommended as the site of the new Baptist educational center because of the island's strategic location, stable government, favorable immigration laws and ample opportunity for a Baptist witness. Also, Bridgetown, the capital, is the location of a College of Arts and Sciences of the University of the West Indies.

Surinam, also known as Dutch Guiana, on the northern coast of South America, was approved as a mission field, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Lewis were transferred from Trinidad effective June 24 to begin work in Surinam following language study.

They are believed to be the first Southern Baptist missionaries who will study Dutch, the official and commercial language of Surinam. The native language is Taki-Taki, a pidgin English. The population is a mixture of Creoles, Negroes, Asians and Amerindians.

The board approved a new policy regarding terms of service and furloughs for missionaries, "to apply uniformly to all fields," effective Jan. 1, 1971. As outlined by Winston Crawley, director of the board's Overseas Division, the regular term of service in all mission fields will be four years, followed by one year of furlough.

Instead of one short furlough option, the missionary will have three options, with length of furlough depending on number of months spent on the field.

The three options are: (1) for 30 months on the field, four months will be allowed on furlough; (2) 35 months on the field, six months on furlough; (3) 40 months abroad, eight months at home.

Missionary associates whose service begins after Jan. 1 will be employed for one four-year term.

As of that date, missionaries "actually on the field" where three-year terms have been the policy will be allowed to take their next furlough on that basis (three on the field, one on furlough), and they will be subject to the new four-year policy in their next term of service.

"Transportation and communication are much improved, and modern life has reduced the differences between different climatic areas," Crawley said in his report to the board. "Furthermore, we have come to feel that the pattern as we have known it does not represent the degree of equity we desire in our arrangements for missionaries."

Don A. Reavis, director of the Baptist Student Union and an instructor of Bible at Angelo State University, San Angelo, Tex., was elected a regional representative for missionary personnel.

Reavis will counsel with persons interested in foreign missions and channel qualified volunteers into the screening procedures leading toward missionary appointment. Headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., he will represent the board at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary there and in 19 states west of the Mississippi River.

With Reavis' election the board has four regional representatives. The others are Robert C. Covington in New Orleans, Roger C. Duck in Fort Worth and Ralph A. West in Atlanta.

The resignation of James D. Crane as missionary field representative for Middle America was accepted by the board. He and Mrs. Crane were reassigned to conduct a city mission in Guadalajara, Mexico, where they are stationed.

Crane, who became the board's first missionary field representative Jan. 1, 1961, expressed a desire earlier this year to devote the remainder of his career to preaching and teaching in the Spanish language.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the board, said that Southern Baptist missionaries in the Middle East "have demonstrated again high quality of dedication and faith as they have met emergencies in recent weeks."

Nine of the 13 missionaries who were in Jordan voluntarily left the country June 12, in the wake of fighting between Jordanian troops and Palestinian guerrillas in Amman, the capital. Four missionaries remain in Ajloun, Jordan, where a Baptist hospital is located.

Cauthen also called attention to the plight of victims of a recent earthquake in Peru and to "the vast missionary responsibility" to the missions of Indians living in the Peruvian highlands.

"It is our hope that we will be able to extend more widely ministries among these highland people," Cauthen said.

Missionary Keith D. Shelton, stationed in Trujillo, Peru, wrote in a letter to a board official that missionaries have long wanted to establish such ministries among the Peruvian Indians. "How can we be forgiven for our failure to these dead thousands?" Shelton asked.

A controversial Baptist hospital which is being built in Bukittinggi, West Sumatra, has received unexpected support in a document written by a high-level Indonesian government figure, the board was told.

The document's main points include: A sound legal basis exists for establishing the hospital; the Christian institution would spotlight Indonesia's legal guarantee of religious freedom and would not threaten the religious faith of Muslims; essential medical needs of the area's 1½ million inhabitants are not now being met; the Baptist presence would bring cultural and economic stimulation to the area.

Texas Baptist Contemporary
Church Ads Win Top Award

DALLAS (BP)--A series of six contemporary church advertisements produced by the Texas Baptist public relations department has won a "silver award" in the newspaper advertising series of the Southwest Exhibition of Advertising and Editorial Art.

The award is the second major recognition given the ad series in the last four months. Earlier, it won a first place award in the advertising category of the Baptist Public Relations Association awards competition.

The ads were designed by Mrs. Lynn Yarbrough, art director for the public relations department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

There were more than 1,300 entries from throughout the Southwest in the competition sponsored by the Dallas-Fort Worth Society of Visual Communications. Of the entries, only 400 exhibits, including the ads, were selected for display and judging. From the 400, judges granted four gold awards, 14 silver awards, and 35 bronze awards.

The contemporary ads were sold to churches by the Texas Baptist public relations department. They are designed to catch the eye of persons oriented to secular society and communicate the message of Christ in a unique manner, according to Billy Keith, director of the department.

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Centurymen Choral Group
Featured on July 4 TV

6/24/70

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Centurymen, a 100-voice Southern Baptist men's choir, will participate in two nationally televised "Honor America Day" programs originating from Washington, D.C., on July 4.

The singing of the Southern Baptist ministers of music will serve as a choral background for the "Honor America Day" programs as a special Independence Day celebration at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

Evangelist Billy Graham and Entertainer Bob Hope are co-chairmen for the "Honor America Day" programs, and President Richard M. Nixon is expected to appear on at least one of the programs, if his schedule permits.

Honorary chairmen for the observance are Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, and former Presidents Harry S. Truman and Lyndon B. Johnson.

The two live telecasts of the programs will be carried on all three television networks at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (EDT).

The Centurymen will stand on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial directly behind Graham during the programs, according to Paul M. Stevens, executive director of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here which organized the musical group.

They are expected to sing several numbers, including "America the Beautiful."

The Centurymen are directed by James Woodward, professor of church music at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee. Musical director for the group when performing with orchestration is Beryl Red, senior music editor for Holt, Rinehart, and Winston Publishing Co., in New York.

Immediately preceding the morning telecast, the Centurymen will take part in a 30-minute concert accompanied by the United States Army Band.

The invitation to the Centurymen to participate in the special programs came as a direct result of their singing during the closing session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Denver, according to Stevens. Graham, who was speaking in that session, heard the Centurymen and recommended that they be invited to the program.

At the convention in his speech, Graham made the announcement of plans for the "Honor America Day" program, and invited the 13,500 convention messengers to come to Washington for the event.

Miss Joe Ann Shelton, program music director for the commission and organizer of The Centurymen, met in Washington with the "Honor America Day" committee and with network officials, to consult on arrangements for the telecasts.

According to the committee, the purpose of "Honor America Day" is to rekindle the American spirit of patriotism.

Present plans call for the morning telecast to last one hour, and the evening program, one hour and a half.

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JUN 5 1970

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