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January 14, 1972

Half Deacons Resign Atlanta
Church; Protest Pastor's Role

ATLANTA (BP)--More than half the active deacons at First Baptist Church here have resigned in protest of actions by the pastor, Charles F. Stanley, and his supporters, charging them with bypassing established church committees and creating a division which has destroyed church fellowship. The deacons said they likely would lead in formation of a new church in Atlanta.

The resignations of 36 of the church's 60 active deacons brought to a head a division which has been increasing since Stanley was called as pastor last September. Although a majority of the members attending a business session voted to call him as pastor, a majority of the deacons and pulpit committee voted against him.

In their resignation statement, the 36 deacons made three charges which they said necessitated their resignation.

First, they said, "the church in conference has created a staff study committee and given them powers which have the effect of bypassing the board of deacons and the administration, finance, personnel and education committees."

Secondly, they charged that "the church in conference has also passed a resolution which gives the pastor and superintendent of Sunday School power to appoint all officers of the Sunday School."

Finally, the deacons' statement charged that "the pastor has perpetuated a division within this church which has virtually destroyed the fellowship."

Tensions were so high the week before the deacons resigned that one person struck the pastor in the jaw during a Wednesday night debate. The next Sunday morning, another person tried to sieze the microphone during worship services and had to be restrained.

The 36 resigning deacons include all three officers of the active deacon board, the chairman, vice chairman and secretary. Ken Mattison, deacon chairman, has held that position for 10 years.

Also resigning were three former deacon chairmen, and the chairmen of seven church committees: finance, education, recreation, administration, music, building and child development center.

Stanley, who came to the church as associate pastor in the summer of 1969, responded to the charges made by the resigning deacons, saying the resignations were triggered by "a change of leadership and a change of direction that the majority of the church members have chosen.

"My emphasis is on evangelism, which is the emphasis of the whole Southern Baptist Convention," Stanley said. "Some people don't like that approach."

He added that the church membership, in business session, had indicated a strong desire for some changes in Sunday School leadership. Stanley charged that "no deacon-appointed education committee should be allowed to elect leaders of the church and require of them that which they themselves have refused to do."

Stanley's prepared statement for the Christian Index, Georgia Baptist newspaper, concluded: "Although I was not called by unanimous vote, I have tried to cooperate with all people in First Baptist Church. I am genuinely sorry that things have not worked out. Nobody regrets the tragic incidents of the past few days more than I do."

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Stanley was named "acting pastor" by the church a year ago wh n Roy O. McClain resigned. For nearly a year, the pulpit committe searched for a new pastor.

Last September, the pulpit committee and deacons asked the church to remove Stanley from consideration as a possible pastor. During a business session described as "raucous, a motion from the floor to call Stanley as pastor passed by a slim majority.

About 250 members of the church have been holding separate worship services for several months in the Fulton County Medical Society Building, about one or two blocks from the church. The worship services have been led by E. A. McDowell, retired seminary professor, who was on the church staff for several years.

The group was to meet in the near future to discuss the possibility of starting a new church, or dissolving their fellowship and joining churches in their own neighborhoods. The church was expected to act on their resignation at regular church conference on Jan. 19.

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Baptist World Alliance Seeks
$100,000 Relief for Refugees 1/14/72

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance relief committee has urged Baptists of th world to contribute $100,000 to provide life-saving food, shelter and clothing for r fugee people in India and Bangladesh.

Chester J. Jump, chairman of the committee, said the appeal is being made in letters to officials of the alliance's 91 member bodies in 75 countries.

The appeal was issued after Theo Patnaik, an India-born associate secretary of the international Baptist fellowship, made a personal visit to the area where an estimated 10 million Bengalese refugees had fled into India during civil war in the former East Pakistan.

Patnaik said that approximately one million of these refugees are now returning to the new nation of Bangladesh, but they and the other nine million still in India are desperately in need of life-sustaining aid. Thousands are dying daily for lack of proper food and medical care, he said.

Reporting to alliance officials on his first day back in Washington, Patnaik said that the new nation of Bangladesh is the most densely populated area of the world, with 1336 persons per square mile. The war-disturbed people are living in sewer pipes and any other temporary shelter they can find available, he observed.

V. Carney Hargroves, president of Baptist World Alliance, said that the $100,000 objective is a ten-fold increase over the $10,000 originally set in the relief program's 1972 goal for refugee work in India. "The committee had no way of knowing last July that the need would become so acute," he explained.

The alliance has sent $53,000 in relief funds to India and Pakistan representatives since the Pakistan revolt began developing in November 1970, reported Carl W. Tiller, the tr asurer and associate secretary-elect for relief.

In addition, several Baptist bodies in America, Europe and Australia have directed special gifts to the India-Pakistan area during 1971.

Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the alliance, said that the relief funds being sought will be dispensed by leaders of Baptist conventions in India and Bangladesh, by American, Canadian, Australian and British Baptist missions, and also through the Mennonite Central Committe which has established relief stations in the affected area.

Five Baptist unions in India and two in Bangladesh hold membership in the Baptist World Alliance. Statistics show about 21,000 Baptists in Bangladesh's 75 million population. There are 635,000 Baptists in India.

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14 Missionaries Named
By Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)--Twelve new missionaries were appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and two others re-appointed during the agency's January board of directors meeting here.

New missionaries appointed by the board are Walter and Marjorie Grant of Colorado; Jerry and Nava Jane Jones of Texas; Rosalinda Grijalva of Texas; John and Majorie Johns of Oregon; Claudemiro and Donna Sue Mariottina of California; Frank and Mary Joy Scott of Pennsylvania; and Alva C. Wiley of Indiana.

Re-appointed as missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Victor L. Nichols, who were named to lead in developing new Christian social ministries in the Guadalupe Baptist Association in the Victoria, Tex., area where he is superintendent of missions. Previously, Nichols was a missionary for the board as director of Christian social ministries in Nederland, Tex.

Two of the new missionaries appointed by the board, Mrs. Grijalva and Mrs. Wiley, were named to serve with their husbands. Joshua Grijalva is presently a language missionary in San Antonio, and Cletus Wiley is superintendent of missions in Indianapolis.

Jones, a native of Pirtle, Tex., will work in language missions, particularly at the Spanish language school, Guadalajara, Mexico. He is a graduate of Texas Wesleyan College, Fort Worth; and Southwestern Seminary.

Mr. and Mrs. Grant will serve in Cortez, Colo., where he is superintendent of missions for Mesa Verde Baptist Association. A native of Ennis, Tex., he is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Johns was appointed a superintendent of missions in the Northwest Baptist Convention (Oregon-Washington). A native of Sylvan, Tex., he is a graduate of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Tex., and Southwestern Seminary. She is a graduate of West Texas State College, Canyon, Tex., and Southwestern Seminary.

Mr. and Mrs. Mariottini will serve as missionaries to the Portuguese in Mountain View, Calif. Both are graduates of California Baptist College, Riverside, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. He is a native of Brazil; she is from Cassville, Mo.

Scott is a pastoral missionary at Gateway Baptist Church in the Greater Pittsburgh, Pa., area. Both Mr. and Mrs. Scott are natives of Syracuse, N.Y., and are graduates of Syracuse University. He also is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

In another board action, Wilson C. Deese was approved as director of chaplaincy ministries in Arkansas in cooperation with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

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Maude B. Dozier, Retired SBC
Missionary to Japan, Dies 1/14/72

SAN ANGELO, Tex. (BP)--Mrs. Maude B. Dozier, 90-year-old emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Japan and Hawaii for 45 years, died here Jan. 13.

The funeral was to be held Monday, Jan. 17, at Robert Massie Funeral Home here. After cremation, her ashes were to be sent to Japan for burial. Her late husband, C. K. Dozier, died in 1933 and is buried in Japan.

A pioneer Baptist missionary to Japan, Mrs. Dozier sailed with her husband of three months to Japan in 1906. She helped him found Seinan Gakuin, a Baptist school in Fukuoka and the first such educational institution in Japan. Seinan Gakuin now includes a school system for boys from junior high through university level, a coeducational college, a seminary and a women's training school for kindergarten teachers.

Mrs. Dozier taught at the school from 1916 to 1941, and also led in the development of women's work, youth work, and kindergartens in Japan. During World War II she transferred to Hawaii where she was professor and dean of women at a Baptist Bible school. She retired in 1951.

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After "retirement" she went back to Japan, built a small house near the home of her missionary son in Tokyo, and was active in witnessing, church work and writing. Her son was the late Edwin B. Dozier, chancellor of the school his parents founded, until he died in 1969. He also is buried in Japan.

Since 1964, Mrs. Dozier had been living at Baptist Memorials Geriatrics Hospital here.

Affectionately called "the Mother of Seinan," Mrs. Dozier received two awards from the Japan se people--the West Japan Cultural Award in 1961 for her contribution to religion and education, and the Fifth Grade of the Order of the Sacred Treasure in 1966 on recommendation of friends and alumni of Seinan Gakuin.

A native of Statesville, N.C., she attended Normal Collegiate Institute, Ashevill , N.C.; Meredith College, Raleigh,N.C.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Sh is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Timothy Pietsch, a missionary to Japan, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Edwin B. Dozier, is also a South rn Baptist missionary to Japan, stationed in Fukuoka.

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