



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 10, 1972

**Virginia Chaplain Becomes Third
Woman Ordained to Ministry in SBC**

RICHMOND (BP)--Miss Marjorie Lee Bailey, chaplain at the State Industrial Farm for Women and Pinecrest Center here for the past six years, has been ordained to the gospel ministry by Bainbridge Street Baptist Church.

She is the first woman to be ordained by a church affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and apparently the third woman ordained to the ministry by a church in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Historical records indicate the first woman ordained to the ministry by a Southern Baptist church was Miss Addie Davis, ordained in 1964 by Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., and promptly called as pastor of an American Baptist church, First Baptist Church of Readsboro, Vt.

In October of 1971, Kathwood Baptist Church of Columbia, S.C., ordained Miss Shirley Carter, then chaplain at the South Carolina State (mental) Hospital, who in January of this year became a religious and family counselor at the South Carolina prison for women in Columbia.

Both Miss Bailey and Miss Carter are chaplains at the state prison for women, in Virginia and South Carolina respectively.

A native of Abingdon, Va., Miss Bailey has been a resident of Richmond since she was two years of age. For the past six years she has been chaplain at the State Industrial Farm for Women and Pinecrest Center in Richmond.

Previously, she was director of the South Richmond Baptist Center for 15 years. She recently completed a year of clinical pastoral education at the Medical College of Virginia, and is a graduate of Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss. She has also done graduate work at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Jere Allen, pastor of Bainbridge Street Baptist Church here, presided over the ordination service. He said the 23 ministers who constituted the presbytery called to examine the candidate for ordination were unanimous in their recommendation that she be ordained. Both the deacons and the congregation of Bainbridge Street Church endorsed the recommendation without a dissenting vote.

During the ordination, George F. Ricketts, executive director of the Chaplain Service of the Churches of Virginia, Inc., gave the charge.

Recalling his experience of working under Miss Bailey's supervision at the South Richmond Center, Ricketts said: "As one who has learned from your ministry, I charge you to continue with renewed dedication.

"Forgive us for so long delaying this act which recognizes you in the fullest sense as a minister of the gospel," Ricketts said in the charge. "Hold us to the commitment we make today to lovingly and officially participate in your ministry as the church."

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Baptist Press

Deep Snow Destroys Alaska
Baptist Ranch Buildings

KETCHIKAN, Alaska (BP)--A five foot snow destroyed two buildings and caved in another at the Orton Ranch, a camping center owned by the Alaska Baptist Convention here.

Pastor Ernest Lilley of First Baptist Church of Ketchikan said the effects of the heavy snow were "disastrous."

The Orton Ranch, owned by the state convention, is operated by the Tongass Baptist Association.

Troy Prince, executive secretary of the Alaska Baptist Convention, said that the convention is seeking funds to provide additional structures for a camping program which will begin in early May. He asked that special contributions be sent to the convention at Star Route A, Box 1791, Anchorage, Alaska, 99502, designated for the Orton Ranch.



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