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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 29, 1972

**Inflation May Reduce
SBC Home Mission Force**

ATLANTA (BP)--The expansion era of national missions for Southern Baptists, personnel-wise, has been slowed and may level off completely unless more financial support is received.

That is the prediction of Warren Woolf of Atlanta, director of the Personnel Division for the denomination's Home Mission Board.

A mission force of more than 2,200 is dispersed by the agency throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Panama, Woolf reported. But for nearly two years the total has hovered at 2,200, he observed.

In March the mission corps was reported at 2,229, an increase of only seven above last year. This small increase came despite the fact that other groups, like state Baptist conventions, help pay salaries and some have increased their percentage of support.

Adding to the pressure in enlisting mission workers is the fact that hundreds of candidates who have applied for appointment now cannot be financed, Woolf said.

Many of these candidates have been approved by the agency for appointment, and mission spots throughout the nation continue to ask for personnel, but funds are not available, he observed.

Woolf said inflation is the major culprit. Southern Baptists continue to give the agency more money, but slight increases in salaries and fringe benefits have eaten away at expansion. The agency budgets \$15 million a year for its work.

Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the mission board, said during the past two years income has increased by approximately 3 per cent per year, while operating costs have increased by 6 per cent annually.

In the area of working with career missionaries, Cecil D. Etheredge, the board's secretary of missionary personnel, said his staff finds themselves having to discourage individuals who are completing their seminary training and wanting to serve in home missions.

"The hardest 'no' we have to say is to the mission interns who have prepared themselves for years for just this type of service," he said.

Etheredge said 105 applicants this year asked for appointment to the US-2 (a Peace-Corps-type service) where college graduates serve for two years in the U.S.A. Of these applicants, 69 were approved, but the mission departments came up with funds to use only 28.

Don Hammonds, secretary of the department of special mission ministries, said the student summer missions work, which each year places more than 900 students in mission work for 10 weeks, will have between 300 and 400 qualified students unused after they appoint the 900 plus.

"The students left will include some couples and men," Hammonds said, "and in the past we had such a demand for these that most of them were appointed."

The same type of financial pinch is also being felt in all mission work, forcing mission leaders into greater use of laity, low-cost facilities, fields of churches, and other ways to stretch the mission dollar, Rutledge pointed out.

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"Much of this might be a blessing in disguise," Rutledge said.

He indicated the SBC Executive Committee has responded to the problem with some projected relief for 1973. The committee is recommending to the convention this year a budget including a 9.8 per cent increase for the mission agency.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering promoted by the SBC Woman's Missionary Union this year also holds strong promise of some relief, Rutledge said.

The special sections of the offering, which go into effect after the first \$5,650,000 is given, will strengthen Christian social ministries and church extension. Both of these areas support a large number of mission personnel.

Rutledge expressed hope that churches stay with the offering until they reach their goals, and that many will go beyond the goals.

Wolf added that his staff of personnel workers have encouraged seminary graduates to support themselves in secular work while serving as pastors in new growth areas.

"Hopefully, they will build a strong self-supporting work by themselves," he said. "Some are responding to this suggestion, especially those well qualified for secular work," he said.

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Nine Baptists Among 32
At White House Briefing

3/29/72

WASHINGTON (BP)--Nine Southern Baptists were among a group of 32 religious leaders given a detailed briefing on current foreign policy at the White House by President Nixon's foreign policy advisor, Henry A. Kissinger.

The briefing was "off the record," but dealt primarily with President Nixon's Peking and Moscow trips, and with policy decisions during the India-Pakistan conflict.

Persons who attended said there were "no startling revelations" by Kinssinger.

Most of those attending were Evangelicals invited by Evangelist Billy Graham, who assisted in setting up the briefing. Graham and four of his staff members were among the group.

Other Southern Baptists attending were Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee; Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the SBC Foreign Mission Board; and Robert Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

Two Baptist laymen and two state editors also were present: Dewey Presley and Bill O. Mead, both Dallas laymen; and John J. Hurt, editor of the Baptist Standard, Dallas; and J. Marse Grant, editor of the Biblical Recorder, Raleigh, N.C. Other Southern Baptists were Graham and Grady Wilson, a member of Graham's staff.

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London's "Baptist Times"
Names Locks New Editor

LONDON (BP)--Geoffrey Locks, assistant editor of the "Baptist Times," will become the editor of the weekly publication of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland when Editor Walter Bottoms retires next year.

Locks, chief reporter of a secular newspaper before becoming assistant editor of the Baptist Times in 1963, is a layman and deacon in his church. He is 32. In naming Locks editor, the paper's board of directors said it planned to name a theological advisory group to whom the new editor can refer.

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Computer Users Plan
Cooperative Savings

3/29/72

RICHMOND (BP)--A newly formed association of Southern Baptist management and administrative personnel who utilize computers may save cooperating agencies and institutions thousands of dollars annually, according to the association's president, William K. Dawson of Richmond.

Members of the new Southern Baptist Computer Users Association hope agencies of the convention will share their different systems so that projects attempted by one group won't be duplicated by another, Dawson said.

In some cases it would be possible to save thousands of dollars on a single project, he adds. A particular system used by one organization could be adapted by another, saving time and money necessary to research the system a second time.

Dawson is manager of information processing systems at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here.

Presently, computer users in the convention develop their own systems and work singularly on projects. Regarding this duplication of effort, Dawson said it's as if "everyone got a computer and then rediscovered the wheel."

Another goal of the association is to provide technical information and viable working procedures to SBC organizations who want to start using a computer.

The association also hopes to encourage understanding and fellowship among those engaged in data processing. Members will get to know the personnel involved in the work, each group's stage of development, and what each might offer to the others. Thus they will form an information pool.

The first action of the association will be to organize a training seminar for the heads of agencies and state executive secretaries to explain what computers can do for and among them. This action will be in direct response to a request by the Southern Baptist Inter-Agency Council.

The seminar will be organized by the program vice president, Harvey H. Kennedy of the Annuity Board, Dallas. Other officers of the association are Harvey C. Whatley of the Radio and Television Commission, membership vice president, and William H. Sellers, business manager of the Baptist Record (Miss.), secretary-treasurer.

Any individual employee of a Southern Baptist organization who directs or supervises a computer or data processing function may become a member, Dawson said.

The association will meet each year parallel with the Southern Baptist Business Officers Conference at Annuity Board offices in Dallas.

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Midwestern's Doctor of
Ministry Degree Accredited

3/29/72

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools has granted full accreditation of the Doctor of Ministry degree program to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The association, accrediting agency for colleges and universities within an eighteen-state area extending from Michigan to Arizona, had accredited the seminary at the Master's level during their 1971 session.

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According to Roy L. Honeycutt Jr., academic dean, the Doctor of Ministry degree is a graduate theological degree designed to assure superior achievement in the practice of Christian ministry. As such, its principal focus is upon the practice of ministry as opposed to research in the theory of ministry.

Entrance requirements and other determinants have been established in order to assure academic excellence, Honeycutt emphasized.

The Doctor of Ministry degree was described in a report by the committee recommending accreditation as "carefully planned from both educational and fiscal viewpoints."

The program is to be inaugurated in September 1972.

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Baptist College Professor
Named Missouri Mother of '72

3/29/72

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)--Mrs. C. DeWitt (Futh) Matthews, assistant professor of English at William Jewell College here, has been named Missouri Mother of the Year by the Missouri Mothers Association of the American Mothers Committee.

Mrs. Matthews, the mother of two sons and two daughters ranging in age from 17 to 25, is the wife of a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City.

She is the second member of the William Jewell College family to be selected as a Missouri Mother of the Year. In 1959, Mrs. Walter Pope Binns, wife of the late president of William Jewell, was selected for the honor.

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Superintendents of Missions
To Examine Association's Role

3/29/72

PHILADELPHIA (BP)--Superintendents of missions for Baptist associations throughout the country will examine the association's role in the denomination, the theological base for associational missions, and new frontiers in associational missions during their annual meeting here June 4-5.

Sessions will be held at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Sunday afternoon and Monday morning, June 4-5, prior to the sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Theme for the Southern Baptist Conference for Superintendents of Missions will be "Our Heritage, a Trust and a Challenge," according to Harold D. Gregory, superintendent of missions for the Nashville Baptist Association and president of the organization.

Gregory said the missions superintendents would pay special tribute to the 265th anniversary of the founding of the Philadelphia Baptist Association here in 1707, the first Baptist association organized in America.

G. W. Bullard, superintendent of missions for the Delaware Valley Association, which includes Philadelphia, will welcome the associational missions workers, and Wm. L. Johnston, executive minister of the Philadelphia Baptist Association (American Baptist), will bring greetings.

Three major addresses and a symposium are scheduled during the two sessions of the conference.

Russell Bennett, assistant director of the Division of Associational Services for the SBC Home Mission Board, will address the group on "The Theological Basis for Associational Missions," in the opening session, and will later lead a symposium on resources and helps in associational missions work. Reactor in the symposium will be Thomas Roote, superintendent of missions for the Northeast Baptist Association, Jacksonville, Fla.

Albert McClellan, program planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee, will address the group on "The Association's Role in the Southern Baptist Convention."

Gregory will close the conference with the annual president's address, dealing with "New Frontiers in Associational Missions."

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