



BAPTIST PRESS

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June 15, 1972

Bicycle Ministry Projected As New Summer Missions Effort

ATLANTA (BP)--Four students and a Baptist Student Union director from the State College of Arkansas in Conway, Ark., will pedal their way throughout New England conducting a bicycle ministry for Southern Baptists this summer.

The project is one of several new approaches being used by a total of 954 students from 40 states and seven foreign countries assigned as Southern Baptist student summer missionaries throughout the nation, plus Puerto Rico and Canada.

Of the students, 610 are assigned directly through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board while 344 have been assigned by the state Baptist Student Union organizations to work in the homeland under the board's supervision.

The bicycle team will work through two youth hostels in New England, and will make periodic stops at Baptist churches, singing and conducting programs.

"Their main job, however, is witnessing to people," said Emery Smith, associate secretary in the board's department of special mission ministries.

Other new summer projects include two race track ministries where students will serve as chaplains and conduct Bible studies and provide counseling.

In cooperation with the board's department of church extension, eight Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary students will be working in the Northwest. In addition to receiving seminary credit for their work, the seminarians will have the opportunity to train others in the churches to carry on the work of the church, Smith said.

In 1971, assignments reached an all-time high of 960. However, this year's slight drop in the total reflects a recent economic trend that has caused budgetary tightness, Smith noted.

"Out of the student applications, we had nearly 300 well qualified students we had to place on an alternate list because of the lack of funds," Smith said.

Student summer missionaries are usually college upper-classmen, although a few freshmen and seminarians are assigned. Those under Home Mission Board assignment receive \$30 per week from the board.

"The greatest need still continues to be for couples, men and black students," Smith continued.

Areas of work include inner city work, resort area work, and special evangelism teams.

Students from the seven foreign countries are among students who will be working with language groups, including Spanish-speaking, Chinese-speaking, and the deaf.

The greatest bulk of summer workers will be working through Vacation Bible Schools and Baptist neighborhood centers.

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NOTE TO BAPTIST STATE PAPER EDITORS: A story including the list of students from your state participating in the summer missions program has been sent to you by the Atlanta BP office.

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Baptist Student Organization Names
Consultant in Interracial Ministries

NASHVILLE (BP)--A consultant in interracial ministries has been named by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministries, effective Sept. 1.

John H. Westbrook, the newly named consultant, also will become the first black professional staff member for National Student Ministries.

A native of Texas, Westbrook is currently director of the escalator program at Southwest Missouri State College in Springfield, Mo. The program is designed to help students who finished in the lower 25 per cent of their high school graduating classes to improve their learning skills on the college level.

Westbrook, who has appeared with Billy Graham Crusades and the Bill Glass crusades in recent months, has also served on the national staff of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

He is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and attended Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. While at Baylor, he was the first black athlete to play varsity football in the Southwest Conference.

"John Westbrook will assist with the general promotion of Baptist Student work, giving major attention to the development of Baptist Student Unions on the 105 formerly all-black campuses in the country," said Charles Roselle, secretary of National Student Ministries.

"He will work in close cooperation with black churches and conventions and with the SBC Home Mission Board and will assist the state departments of student work when needed," Roselle said.

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BP PHOTO being mailed to state Baptist editors.

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Ransome Swords Resigns As
Annuity VP for Agency Post

6/15/72

DALLAS (BP)--Ransome W. Swords has resigned effective July 1 as vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board here to establish his own general insurance agency in Dallas.

Darold H. Morgan, president of the board, said Swords, who has directed the office of insurance services, will continue to serve the board as an insurance consultant after the resignation date.

At the same time, Morgan announced that Gene P. Daniel, a vice-president of the board, will assume duties as director of insurance services. Daniel has served in the development office, working with retirement and insurance plans for SBC agencies, a post he will continue to administer.

Morgan praised Swords for his effective work in insurance programs. "It is with reluctance that I accept his resignation," the president added.

"We are delighted we can continue to use his professional grasp of the insurance field as it relates to our churches and agencies," Morgan said.

Swords, 38, joined the Annuity Board staff in 1969, coming from the office of the SBC Home Mission Board in Atlanta. He had worked with the Home Mission Board since 1954, and was its secretary of insurance services.

Daniel, 40, worked with an insurance firm in Dallas before assuming his position with the Annuity Board early in 1970.

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Huffman Named Radio-TV
Commission Associate

6/15/72

FORT WORTH (BP)--A businessman with a religious bent has been named to provide a link between the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here and the radio and television industry in general.

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Alvin "Bo" Huffman Jr., of Blytheville, Ark., was elected executive associate director by trustees of the commission, according to its executive director, Paul M. Stevens.

Huffman is a member and immediate past chairman of the board of the Memphis branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. He is president of Huffman Brothers, Inc., a Blytheville building materials firm, founded in 1905 by his father.

In addition to his business interests, he is director of higher education development for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Under his direction, Arkansas Baptists have raised more than \$4 million to provide additional capital for Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia and Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark.

Stevens said that as a layman and businessman, Huffman will be able to provide "a valuable link between the Radio and Television Commission and the radio and television industry."

Huffman said he looked forward with excitement to becoming a staff member of the commission, describing the opportunity as "one of the most challenging Christian ventures of our time."

One of 20 men in the nation to attend a recent Washington conference for an exchange of views on Phase II economic controls, Huffman has served on the boards of directors for the Blytheville Federal Savings and Loan Association and the Southwest Lumbermen's Association in addition to serving the Federal Reserve Bank board.

Active in civic affairs, Huffman has been past governor of District 615 of Rotary International, former president of the Blytheville Rotary Club, a former president of the Blytheville Chamber of Commerce and the Blytheville Development Council, and general chairman of the city's United Fund. He has also been a board member for the county Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases Association, the county American Red Cross chapter, and the Blytheville Country Club.

A deacon at the First Baptist Church, he has been chairman of the building committee for the present church sanctuary, a member of the board of trustees of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, a member of the Radio-TV Commission, and a member of the Southern Baptist Foundation.

Huffman will join the commission staff "as soon as he is able to complete his obligations to the Arkansas State Baptist Convention," Stevens said.

He will continue to maintain his home and business interests in Blytheville, but will have an office at the commission's headquarters here and an apartment in the Westover Hills area of Fort Worth.

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Truett-McConnell President
To Head Florida College

6/15/72

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (BP)--Warner Earle Fusselle, president of Truett-McConnell Junior College in Cleveland, Ga., since 1964, has been named president of Palm Beach Atlantic College here effective immediately.

Palm Beach Atlantic College has been open for five years, under sponsorship of the First Baptist Church here. Jess Moody, pastor of the church, has been serving as president. Moody recently presented diplomas to the school's first graduating class.

Fusselle said he would commute between Cleveland and West Palm Beach for several weeks before moving here with his wife around July 1 following the marriage of their daughter, Alicia, on June 24.

Fusselle, the first full-time president, said Palm Beach Atlantic has plans to move to a new location in the suburbs of West Palm Beach. It now occupies buildings downtown, and has met for classes at First Baptist Church here.

In accepting the position, Fusselle will be returning to his home state. He is a graduate of the University of Florida, and a native of High Springs. He earned the master and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He was pastor of Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va., before going to Gainesville, Ga., as pastor of the First Baptist Church, where he served for 10 years before assuming the presidency at Truett-McConnell.

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During his eight years as president, the Georgia Baptist school has erected six new buildings and doubled its enrollment. For the past three years, however, the school has had financial deficits and enrollment has declined to about 225 students.

In 1964 he was named Gainesville's citizen of the year. Active in civic affairs, he has been president of the Heart Association in Virginia, regional chairman of the Cancer Society in both Georgia and Virginia, and vice president of the Association for the Mentally Retarded in Gainesville.

Ronald E. Wietman, chairman of Truett-McConnell's Division of Social Sciences, has been named acting president while the trustees seek a new president.

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Cuba Missionary Dies;
Fails to Realize Dream

6/15/72

WAYCROSS, Ga. (BP)--Christine Garnett, Southern Baptist missionary to Cuba for 46 years, died here June 9 without realizing her dream.

All her life, she wanted to be buried, not in her native land, but in her adopted home--Cuba.

She went to Cuba as a Southern Baptist home missionary in 1918 and worked on the island for 46 years. Although she was officially retired from the SBC Home Mission Board in 1952, she continued her mission work there until 1964 when she was forced to leave Cuba by Fidel Castro's communist regime.

She died here at Baptist Village after abdominal surgery, and was buried, not in Cuba, but in Savannah, Ga., where she grew up.

After leaving Cuba in 1964, she wrote the following for the Home Missions Magazine of June, 1965: "Now it seems that there is no way to return (to Cuba), but I, like Livingston, would wish that my heart might be taken back and buried in Cuba when God calls me on. This is the result of 46 years and four months across the Gulf. I still have a small hope of returning."

She continued to work with the people she loved, however, helping Cuban refugees in Jacksonville, Fla., in 1965, and serving as a special assigned missionary for the SBC Home Mission Board in world missions and other conferences.

Before appointment as a missionary in 1918, she taught school for 12 years. She was a graduate of Georgia State Normal College, Athens, and Woman's Missionary Union Training School, Louisville.

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Baptists Unhurt in Rapid City
Floods; Mount Extensive Aid

6/15/72

By Everett Hullum

RAPID CITY, S.D. (BP)--The week after the worst flood in the United States in 35 years, Southern Baptists in Rapid City were digging out while convention-wide efforts were being staged to extend help to the flood-ravaged South Dakota city.

The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis rapidly grouped a task force of 25 carpenters, plumbers and electricians to move into Rapid City "as soon as they are ready for us," said Glendon McCullough, commission executive secretary.

The SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, sent \$3,000 from its emergency relief fund for immediate aid. The board will also provide "additional funds as they are needed," said Jim Barber, associate secretary in the board's Christian social ministries department, who flew to Rapid City early in the week.

Southern Baptists, who suffered comparatively minor losses in terms of property damage and lives of church members, were quick to mount relief efforts.

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Food and clothing needs have been met, but the need for shelter still exists, Barber said. Churches at first opened their doors to the flood victims but most people found refuge in homes of friends--or total strangers.

"Of the 1,000 or so people without a place to stay," said John Baker, executive secretary of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention, headquartered in Rapid City, "only about 200 stayed at the shelters. People just took in folks they didn't even know. It's fantastic what has been done."

Baptist laymen helped in the rescue operations and Baptist pastors stood mortuary duty--the awesome job of comforting families and relatives who came to identify the dead.

Mass burials were frequent. On the Sunday after the flood, an interdenominational memorial service was held.

Knollwood Baptist Church opened a child care service for parents busy digging out or carrying for the urgent business relating to the loss of their homes.

"There is a spirit of determination and helpfulness amid the sorrow and loss of loved ones and personal property," reported Barber.

The flood hit Rapid City, a tourist center with 44,000 residents, Friday night (June 9), following 10-inch rains over a 24-hour period that mushroomed usually shallow Black Hills Creek and swelled Rapid Creek over its banks.

The normally placid Rapid Creek became a raging Mississippi River, gouging an ugly swath through the city, uprooting homes, washing away whole trailer parks, wiping out electric lines, telephone poles, and automobiles in its path.

By the following Thursday more than 200 bodies had been discovered--and hundreds more people were still missing. There were 1800 injured, and estimates placed property damage at \$100 million.

The buildings of Southern Baptists' three churches in Rapid City were undamaged, and no Southern Baptists lost their lives. Personal property damage was high, however.

Les Crozier, chairman of the Northern Plains Convention Executive Committee, and his wife spent a frightful night on the roof of their house. When the water receded, they found the body of a man wrapped around a tree in their front yard.

Others had similar experiences. Nicy Murphy, the convention Woman's Missionary Union executive secretary, was returning from the Southern Baptist Convention when floodwaters swamped the airport limousine in which she was riding.

Unable to open the doors, she and a male passenger climbed out a window and walked across the tops of floating cars until they reached knee-deep water through which they waded to the safety of higher ground.

Another Baptist woman, 72-year-old Blanche Davis, was hurried out of her house by a neighbor, only to watch her home float off its foundation as the water reached ceiling height.

There are approximately 500 Southern Baptists living in the Rapid City area.

Church buildings of the religious community were largely unhurt by the flood, but one Catholic priest was drowned. Personal property loss was high among members of all religious faiths.

Southern Baptists cooperated with the local ministerial association in mortuary duty and other programs. Wendell Mosser, pastor of Knollwood Baptist Church, had been especially active in the aftermath of the disaster, Barber said.

Twenty-two SBC Home Mission Board summer missionaries assigned to work throughout the Northern Plains Convention had not yet arrived in Rapid City for orientation. Had their orientation been planned for the same dates as most other states in the SBC, they would have been in the middle of the flood.

Baker, who was on his way back from the Southern Baptist Convention in Philadelphia when the flood hit, found the scene "unbelievable."

"I had been in areas during a hurricane and afterwards, and in areas struck by cyclones and by floods, but I don't believe in all my life I've ever seen anything to equal this," Baker said. "Thirty to 40 per cent of the town has been damaged and all income levels were hit.

"People watched helplessly as others drowned in the swirling waters," Baker said. He told of people watching helplessly as a trailer with a man hanging on top floated by. It hit a bridge and both the trailer and man disappeared.

They watched as children were swept past, crying for help; but the people were powerless to help them because the water was so swift, Baker related.

The bodies often were mutilated from being banged around in automobiles, against trees, and debris floating along. Identification has been very difficult, he said.

"Some people have called me and asked, 'Is this as bad as the radio and press make out?'" Baker said. "And I've had to say, 'It's worse.'"



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