



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 29, 1972

Foreign Board Appoints 22,
Makes Administrative Changes

RIDGECREST (BP)-- The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here appointed 22 new missionaries, elected two persons to staff positions, and approved the administrative division of Africa into two new areas.

The board met at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly during the assembly's Foreign Missions Conference, which set a record high in attendance and in the number of persons making Christian life and work decisions.

Trustees also approved "A Guide for Overseas Involvement" regarding overseas projects promoted among Southern Baptists, allocated \$38,500 for relief efforts in five countries, and voted to invite Apollo 15 Astronaut James Irwin to visit several mission areas as a speaker.

Registration reached 3,203 by the last day of the conference. The previous high was 2,904 in 1969.

A total of 417 persons registered life and work commitments following two preaching services Sunday and a missionary appointment service Tuesday. Last year, 220 persons registered such decisions during the conference.

Included in this year's total were 18 persons making professions of faith in Christ, 172 re-dedicating themselves to the Christian faith, 168 persons who said they were interested in foreign mission vocations, and 59 others who hope to work in home missions or other church-related fields.

The majority of those registering decisions were young persons responding to an invitation by the board's executive secretary, Baker J. Cauthen.

During the service for appointing new missionaries, Cauthen challenged Southern Baptists "to provide 12 million pairs of hands to 'hold the ropes' for missionaries doing the work of Christ around the world."

Cauthen told the 22 new missionary appointees, "Surprises, tests and battles await you, but you stand here in the assurance that your help comes from the Lord, and you are going in response to His mandate.

"When you need Him more than you ever thought you could," continued Cauthen, "He will be with you, and you will remember 'my help cometh from the Lord.'"

The new missionaries are Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie K. Bostick of Big Spring, Tex., appointed to Uganda; Mr. and Mrs. Norman N. Burnes III, of Lynchburg, Va., Israel; Mr. and Mrs. Alvin L. Gary of Evant, Tex., Guadeloupe, Leeward Islands; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Kirkpatrick of Livingston, Calif., Bangladesh; Mr. and Mrs. J. Shannon Long of Whitmire, S.C., Chile.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry E. L. Moye of Louisville, Ky., Hong Kong; Mr. and Mrs. James A. Park of Paducah, Ky., Liberia; Mr. and Mrs. Duane B. Partin of Zebulon, N.C., Brazil; Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Siebenmann of Fort Worth, Dominican Republic; Mr. and Mrs. David R. Wallace of North Bellmore, N.Y., Uganda; and Mr. and Mrs. Ted E. Yarbrough of Pleasant Grove, Ala., Guatemala.

Elected by the board as field representative for Southeast Asia, effective Sept. 1, was William R. Wakefield, missionary in Manila, the Philippines. He will serve as a personal

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link between some 395 missionaries in Southeast Asia and administrators of the board headquarters in Richmond, Va.

Dwight A. Honeycutt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Platte City, Mo., was elected as an associate secretary in the board's department of missionary personnel, effective Aug. 1.

As one of three associate secretaries in the department, Honeycutt will interview and counsel persons interested in becoming missionaries and assist them in completing application to the board.

Based in Richmond, Honeycutt will work with missionary volunteers in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois and the northwestern states. His territory will also include the Southern Baptist Theological seminaries in New Orleans and Kansas City, Mo.

Administration of Africa as a mission territory will be divided into two areas as of Jan. 1, 1973. According to a recommendation approved by the board.

The administrative area now known as "Africa south of the Sahara" will be divided into "West Africa" and "Eastern and Southern Africa." At his own request, H. Cornell Goerner, the board's secretary for Africa, will become secretary for West Africa, and a new secretary will be elected for Eastern and Southern Africa.

The two new areas, as outlined by Goerner on a map, will be of approximately equal size and population. His territory now encompasses 19 countries in which 618 missionaries are assigned.

In a detailed proposal, Goerner said that the area is too vast and the number of missionaries too large for him to administer in the kind of attentive way he would prefer.

He said that the two new areas should soon be able to absorb "effectively and constructively" as many as 500 new missionaries.

Taking note of the growing number of overseas projects, such as evangelistic campaigns, being promoted among Southern Baptists, the board approved a written "guideline for overseas involvement" which includes the following statement:

"It is our conviction that mission ministries and witness can best be strengthened when this involvement is planned with and coordinated through the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, its staff and its related mission organizations overseas. Dissipation of resources in fractionary movements can be avoided and maximum effectiveness experienced through the channels of the Foreign Mission Board, its missionaries, and the national Baptist bodies with whom it works in closest cooperation."

The board earmarked an additional \$30,000 for relief work in Bangladesh. This amount is a part of the final allocations of the 1971 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

Appropriations for relief in other countries include \$5,000 for refugees in South Vietnam, \$2,500 for refugees in Tanzania who have fled from neighboring Burundi, \$500 for victims of the Wanke mine disaster in Rhodesia and \$500 for flood victims in Guyana.

Joseph B. Underwood, the board's consultant in evangelism and church development, outlined plans for evangelistic and stewardship emphases in countries around the world where Southern Baptist are working.

Of 46 missions (organizations of missionaries) reporting, 18 are planning evangelistic campaigns, either regional or national; 19 are stressing revivals in churches without particular plans for large-scale campaigns; 13 are giving special attention to training laymen for personal witnessing; 12 have definite plans for stewardship promotion.

Underwood said that, based on correspondence and conversations he has had in recent months, he believes that many more than 13 missions are devoting special attention to the training of lay witnesses.

"In fact, this is one of the most exciting emphases around the world today," said Underwood. He added that more than 100 missionaries on furlough have participated in WIN (Witness Involvement Now) leadership training schools, and many of them will conduct similar schools in their missions when they return.

Baptists of more than 80 countries plan to be involved in the World Mission of Reconciliation through Jesus Christ, according to Underwood, who is chairman of the five-year world mission project of the Baptist World Alliance.

Col. James Irwin, Apollo 15 astronaut, will be invited to visit missions in the Middle East, East Asia and Africa this fall and early next year, according to recommendations approved by the board.

Irwin will participate in evangelistic rallies, radio and television appearances and other speaking engagements in East Asia in October and November, in the Middle East in December, and in West Africa next January or February.

Irwin has left the national space program and announced his intention to spend his time speaking and witnessing as a Christian.

Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, was invited by the board to visit missions in the Middle East in September and October in connection with a trip to Ethiopia for the United Bible Societies.



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