



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 15, 1972

## Home Mission Board Names Three New Missionaries, Promotes Nine

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board meeting here appointed three new home missionaries and promoted nine missionary associates to full missionary status.

Named as new missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Chiles, of Tennessee to serve in Huron, S.D.; and Mrs. Richard Lee Ashworth, to serve with her husband in Richfield, Utah. All three will work under the board's Division of Associational Service in associational missions.

Chiles, former pastor of Central Baptist Church in Knoxville, will be superintendent of missions in Huron, S.D. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and both Mr. and Mrs. Childs are graduates of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

A native of Missouri, Mrs. Ashworth will serve with her husband who is superintendent of missions in Richfield, Utah.

Ashworth previously had been a missionary associate, and was appointed by the directors to full missionary status, and transferred from the board's department of church extension to the Division of Associational Services.

A graduate of Northeastern State College, Tahlequah, Okla., Ashworth attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Linda and James Pruett, formerly missionary associates in the department of church extension, serving in Charleston, W. Va., were given full missionary status by the Christian social ministries department. They will now serve as director of the Dawson Baptist Center in Atlanta. Both are graduates of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Betty and William McCormick, directors of the Baptist Center in Omaha, Neb., were also promoted to missionary status. The McCormicks have been at the Nebraska Baptist Center since 1968, under the Christian social ministries department. He is a graduate of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Also promoted from Missionary associate to missionary status were Nita and R.T. Blackstock. Blackstock is Christian social ministries director in Jacksonville, Fla. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary. She is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

The board's department of language missions promoted a couple from missionary associate to missionary status, Helen and Cephias Wong, natives of Hong Kong, who came to the United States in 1968. Wong, a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, is pastor of the First Chinese Baptist Church, San Antonio.

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College Dull: So Sophomore Skips to Senior in Three Days

9/15/72

DALLAS (BP)--Jimmy Grau, a 21 year old student at Dallas Baptist College, felt that his college career was moving at a slow pace, so he decided to do something about it.

In a furious whirlwind of final exams, Grau earned 39 semester hours credit, advancing from sophomore to senior in three days.

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Grau studied textbooks for approximately six weeks before taking ~~final~~ Old Testament, New Testament, two semesters of second year Greek, hermeneutics (science of inter-

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pretation), world religions, Christian doctrine, Christian life, literature of Paul, contemporary theology, and the Book of the Revelation in the three-day period.

He intends to graduate from Dallas Baptist College next May and enter seminary. His goal is to become a seminary professor.

Fred White, chairman of the Christianity Division at the college, says Grau's performance was no fluke.

"He took some of our most difficult exams and scored in the high 90 percent area on all of them. Jimmy is so advanced that classes would bore him to tears," White said.

"I'm not a genius or even an especially fast reader," Jimmy commented. "I give a lot of credit to the outstanding Sunday School program at First Baptist Church in Dallas. I kind of grew up in that Sunday School.

He also holds a deep love for the classics and for classical languages. He was an outstanding student in Latin while enrolled at Garland High School in a Dallas suburb. He graduated in 1970 as salutatorian.

"God has given me a talent for memorization, study, contemplation, learning," Grau contends. He claims to have memorized all but four of the New Testament Epistles.

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Associations Have Helped SBC  
Grow Numerically, Cooper Says

9/15/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--The numerical growth of Southern Baptist churches depends more on the association than any other unit of Baptist life, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention said in an address to Nashville Baptist Association leadership here.

Owen Cooper, industrialist from Yazoo, City, Miss., and the first layman in 13 years to head the Southern Baptist Convention, said here the association is a key unit in Baptist growth because it relates itself more closely to the local church in the area of church growth and in the organization of new missions and churches than any other unit of Baptist life.

Unfortunately, the Baptist association faces some problems, Cooper said. With the growth and strengthening of state conventions coupled with better transportation permitting people to go farther faster, the associations lost some of their prominence.

"There is the problem of visibility," he said. "We live so close to the association that we are like the man lost in the woods who cannot see the forest for the trees."

Other problems he cited include the wide variation between the 1,192 associations in the SBC, differences in approaches and leadership, the problem of adequate finance, etc.

Recently, however, the associations seemed to have "taken on a new vitality, a new enthusiasm, and a new meaning," Cooper said.

He identified several factors which he said he felt make the association a peculiar and necessary unit contributing to Baptist life.

The associations offer the best place to involve the laity, Cooper said. He added that most laymen may never go to a pioneer or urban area on a mission venture, or to a foreign country. But they can be active in associational mission thrusts.

The association offers the best opportunity to involve large numbers of laymen in such activities as lay witness schools, home Bible study, juvenile rehabilitation programs, literacy programs, senior citizen programs, lay renewal weekends, drug rehabilitation programs, family service programs, interracial activities, etc.

The association also offers a unique opportunity for providing a means to systematically plan for Baptist growth, and the best means of planning and establishing new churches, missions and chapels.

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The association is the best place, he said, to promote evangelism and missions, because it is the point nearest the local church.

It is also the most appropriate place to give emphasis to doctrinal unity among the churches, he said. "Baptists must always provide a place for diversity, but diversity taken to the extreme becomes division.

"Since a church joins the association, but does not join a state convention or the Southern Baptist Convention, the association offers the most appropriate forum for reconciling doctrinal differences, and creates unity of purpose and spirit among the churches," Cooper said.

"If Southern Baptists keep their association strong, their faith Bible-based, and their evangelistic commitment and mission zeal paramount, God will bless and we shall prosper," he concluded.

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#### CORRECTION

On PB story headlined "Foreign Mission Board Leader Urges Middle East Peace Effort," mailed 9-11-72, please correct figures in graph 11, line 1, to read: "Since February the board has appropriated \$116,499 for relief in Bangladesh. . ."

#### INSERT

On BP story headlined, "Former Baptist Executive, T.A. Holcomb, Dies at 89," mailed 9-14-72, please insert the following as a second sentence of graph 5: Before going to Oklahoma City, he was for one year the executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.



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