



**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

**BUREAUS**

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
**DALLAS** Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996  
**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-5461  
**RICHMOND** Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Carrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

October 16, 1972

**Missionaries Who Will Evangelize  
Said Needed Now in Latin America**

RICHMOND (BP)--Not the quantity but quality of missionaries appointed is the principal consideration among Latin American Baptists, according to a report filed with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board by six missionaries who studied Baptist work in Central and South American during the past four years.

The six filed their seven-page "Report of the Latin American Depth Study Committee" during a meeting of the full board here. They had been named in the spring of 1968 to learn all they could about factors affecting the growth and development of Baptist churches in Latin America.

While here for the board meeting, they participated in a panel discussion of their report. The document is a summary of a 132-page report presented to administrative officials of the board.

The committee found the "overwhelming viewpoint" of Latin American Baptists is that more missionaries are needed. But the "kind and quality of missionaries sent," not the number, is the principal factor in an increasing missionary force, they said.

"These missionaries should go only with the assurance of divine calling to the place of assignment," stated the report.

The current scene in Latin America calls for missionaries who will specialize in the establishment and development of local congregations, and "who will do the work of evangelism as well as recommend it to others."

While the missionary's role in denominational administration will continue to lessen in Latin America, he has "an open field" for starting new churches.

"Future missionaries will have to be increasingly flexible about their place of service and be willing to respond to places of pressing opportunities," the report added.

They must rely first of all on spiritual and not material resources. "The committee questions the attitude found among some missionaries and nationals that insists on providing the present mission force with adequate funds before sending out more missionaries. The missionary, with his redemptive experience in Christ, is the key resource for missions."

Although money is important, said the committee members, the priority must be for God-called personnel.

Vast strides have been made in Latin America, but the committee members said they "do not believe that the results thus far achieved are equal to the opportunities that have been presented."

In gathering information, the committee made an on-the-spot study in each country covered by the report, interviewing as many missionaries, pastors and laymen as possible. Members also talked with many non-Baptists to gain a wider perspective.

During the four years of study, the committee received and tabulated 1,198 questionnaires, interviewed 1,222 persons and spent 32 man-months in on-the-field research.

Separate reports were prepared on Baptist work in 13 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Separate reports were done on Brazil's three administrative areas.

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Committee members were A. Clark Scanlon, chairman, William W. Graves, Donald R. Kammerdiener, James P. Kirk, Alan P. Neely and Vance O. Nernon.

Their summary report said Baptists in Latin America are characterized by a strong sense of denominational consciousness and loyalty which some other denominational groups have not attained, and this loyalty is due to the effective work of Baptist publishing houses.

At times, however, Baptists have overemphasized structures and organizations, and in some cases these have been too large for national Baptist constituencies.

And, while Baptists generally maintain a strong emphasis on evangelism and new work, this emphasis still depends "to an alarming degree on foreign funds," said the report.

Baptist pastors in Latin America are called "outstanding" as a group, but the report noted "some evidence of a ministerial professionalism that both limits their effectiveness and shuts the door to the vital ministries of the laymen."

The committee found that Baptists as a denomination are growing in Latin America but at varying rates in different areas. Based on the percentage of missionaries, however, Pentecostals have shown the greatest increase over the past 25 years.

The phenomenal growth of Pentecostal churches in Latin America was attributed in part to "dynamic charismatic leadership" by pastors and other leaders, and to the expectation and assumption by Pentecostals that their congregations will grow.

Among negative factors affecting Baptist church growth in Latin America, the report cited secularism, the practice of concubinage, lack of transportation and the isolation of some communities from hearing the gospel, and the exodus of pastors to the United States and other countries.

Insufficient attention to strategic planning has characterized all levels of denominational life, continued the report. Also, an overdependence on foreign funds has sapped the vitality of many churches.

Salary scales for pastors and enlarged denominational structures have at times risen above the ability of churches to provide for them, and the availability of outside money has tempted some to be lax in emphasizing stewardship.

Baptist churches in Latin America have a poor record in conserving the results of evangelism, according to the report, adding that this loss stems in part from legalism and the excessive use of severe church discipline.

Although Southern Baptist missionaries usually go to their fields equipped by education and experience for their work, some lack preparation at two points: they don't know how to start a church in a new area or a city, and they consider strategic planning either unimportant or unattainable, the report claimed.

The study committee also found that missionaries become involved in administration to the point of being removed from participation in the life and growth of churches.

"Missionary identification with national culture and Christians deserves more emphasis in preparation and adaptation to the field," said committee members. "Where a missionary shows little inclination to identify with national Christians, his ability to help churches grow is largely negated."

In charting Baptist growth in the 13 Latin American countries, the report showed 1,221 churches with 114,443 members in 1950 and 3,177 churches with 389,606 members in 1971. The number of missionaries assigned to those countries grew from 274 to 770 in the 21-year period.

Geographical expansion of Baptist work has been accelerated by the presence and numbers of capable missionaries in Latin America, especially in areas where strategic planning has been practiced, the report stated.

A trend toward nationalization of Baptist work in recent years has occurred in most countries, often with the assistance of missionaries.

The committee suggested that results can be greater if Southern Baptists will: keep informed about missions, be concerned about missions and the worldwide proclamation of the gospel, have faith in the Holy Spirit to work among national Christians and in young churches, and keep people and money at their proper level of priority.

On the latter point, the report said: "The greatest contribution Southern Baptists have made to Latin America is the dedicated and talented lives they have sent. We believe that the majority of financial resources available to Latin America should be used in providing personnel.

"Southern Baptists' greatest undergirding is specific, knowledgeable and sacrificial intercessory prayer. Our greatest needs and problems can be met only by spiritual power," the committee members concluded.

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Home Mission Board Names  
Seven National Missionaries

10/16/72

ATLANTA (BP)--Five new missionaries were appointed and two missionary associates were promoted to missionary status at the October meeting of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here.

Appointed jointly by the Home Mission Board and the various state conventions involved were the following new missionaries:

Lionel and Anna Laura Chaddick, to work in youth and family services in Los Angeles; Fermin and Mary Flores for the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute, San Antonio; and Mrs. James Irby, to serve in Richland, Wash.

In addition, the board promoted from missionary associate to full missionary status, Frank and Nancy Thomas, who serve in the neighborhood center, Albuquerque, N.M.

These seven are part of a national mission force of more than 2,200 serving in all 50 states of the nation, plus Puerto Rico and Panama. Two-thirds of the 2,200 are jointly employed by the SBC Home Mission Board and one of the 33 state conventions.

"We welcome these additions to the missionary force at work in our homeland," said Warren Wolf, director of the Home Mission Board's Division of Personnel in a statement following their appointment.

"With calls for help from every area of our nation," he continued, "we look forward to the possibility of appointing many more to work alongside those who now serve."

Chaddick, now area director of youth and family services for the board's department of Christian social ministries, works out of Los Angeles. Formerly, he was a social worker for the state of California, and was pastor of churches in Kentucky, Texas and California.

A native of Beaumont, Tex., Chaddick is a graduate of Louisiana Baptist College, Pineville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. Mrs. Chaddick is a native of Stowell, Tex., and attended Lamar College, Southwestern Seminary, and Fresno City College.

Flores, a faculty member of Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio, was appointed to serve under the board's department of language missions. A native of Sonora, Tex., Flores is a graduate of University of Corpus Christi and Southwestern Seminary. Mrs. Flores, a nurse, is a native of Smithville, Tex.

Mrs. Irby, a former school teacher who is a native of Colorado, will work with her husband, Galen, who is superintendent of missions in Richland, Wash., for the board's department of associational services. She is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and attended Southwestern Seminary.

Thomas, a native of Tacoma, Wash., is serving as pastor-director of the Neighborhood Baptist Center in Albuquerque, N.M. He is a graduate of the University of Washington and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

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Mrs. Thomas, appointed to work with her husband, is a graduate of Furman University, Greenville, S.C., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. A former missionary journeyman to Oshogbo, Nigeria, she later taught school in Louisville. She is a native of Walterboro, S.C.

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Jacksonville Baptist Hospital  
Gets \$2 Million Contribution

10/16/72

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Baptist Memorial Hospital, an independent institution formerly owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Convention, has received a \$2 million contribution toward construction of its new seven story doctors' building.

The gift was made by Mrs. Laurette J. Howard, wife of the late J. Arthur Howard who helped found the Independent Life and Accident Insurance Co., of Jacksonville.

Mrs. Howard was honored at an appreciation dinner here when the gift was announced. More than 150 business, civic and community leaders attended.

Clyde B. Lipscomb, president of the hospital's board of trustees and pastor of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church here, was master of ceremonies for the dinner.

The new seven-story \$4 million doctors' building, will house offices and related services for about 80 physicians.

The new building is part of an overall hospital complex expansion program, and is in keeping with a national trend toward hospitals offering doctors office locations adjacent to the hospital where their patients are treated, according to George Mathews, executive director of the hospital.

The hospital was until 1970 owned and operated by Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, with hospital units located in Jacksonville and in New Orleans. The convention meeting in Denver in 1970 voted to release the hospitals to a private, self-perpetuating board of trustees.

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Board Names Promotion Men  
For Ridgecrest, Glorieta

10/16/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--Two Southern Baptist Sunday School Board employes have been named to positions as program and promotion specialists for Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers.

Larry Haslam, consultant in the church recreation department, will be the specialist at Ridgecrest; while Bill Lowry, supervisor of food services at Glorieta, will assume the new responsibilities there.

In their new positions, Haslam and Lowry will promote the use of the conference center facilities by board personnel, Southern Baptist Convention agency personnel, other Baptist groups and church leaders, and other appropriate groups outside the denomination. They also will be responsible for designing, promoting and conducting programmed activities and conferences.

A native of Alabama, Haslam was formerly employed by the Kentucky Baptist Convention as assistant manager of Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad. He also was pastor of Alpine Baptist Church, Alpine, Ala., and assistant manager of Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly, Talladega, Ala.

Lowry, a native of Arkansas, served as minister of education for the First Baptist Churches of Muskogee, Okla.; San Antonio, Tex.; and New Orleans, La., before joining the board in staff in 1969.

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LYNN MAY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 9TH AVE. NO.  
NASHVILLE TN 37203