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**Board Adds to Nicaraguan Relief;
Cauthen Reports 1972 Net Loss**

RICHMOND (BP)--Major actions of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in its January meeting here included appropriating \$10,000 for relief of Nicaraguan Baptists who suffered losses from the recent earthquake, appointing one new missionary and reappointing a couple who served formerly, and electing a fourth regional personnel representative.

Board members also heard reports on the agency's overseas personnel situation in light of last year's net loss in number of missionaries. Another report reviewed Southern Baptist actions so far in response to the Nicaraguan earthquake.

In his report, executive Secretary Baker J. Cauthen said: "While we rejoice in the appointment of 171 missionaries in 1972, we are grieved because of missionary losses through the year, leaving our total number of missionaries at a lower point than when the year began."

For more than three decades the board has recorded annual net gains. At the end of 1972 the missionary force numbered 2,507, which is 19 fewer than one year earlier.

Louis R. Cobbs, missionary personnel secretary, presented a detailed profile of the personnel situation in a separate report.

Cauthen reminded board members that of the 171 appointments in 1972, 66 were missionary journeymen. "This means that more career missionaries who make up the main body of missionary strength are urgently needed," he said.

Pointing out that the board now has before it requests for 800 new missionaries from the mission organizations overseas, Cauthen declared that Southern Baptists should "aim to go well beyond a staff of 3,000 missionaries by the close of the 1970's," and that the board should anticipate the appointment of more than 200 in 1973.

"We must do everything possible to lay the call of missions upon the hearts of people in seminaries, colleges, churches, youth gatherings, and particularly young pastors, and other workers whose appointment for missionary service could be accomplished at an early time," said Cauthen.

He added that 1972 will be looked back upon with gratitude to Southern Baptists for their stewardship which made possible the strengthening of missionary financial support.

He told board members that "remarkable reports are coming from all parts of the SBC concerning the recent Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

While it is too early to know how much the offering will total, "we must continue to pray for its ingathering and rejoice in those who have done such great service on its behalf," Cauthen added.

Cauthen and his wife were scheduled to leave Jan. 11 for a visit to Southern Baptist Mission in India, Bangladesh and Iran. Cauthen was to speak at the dedication and official opening of a new 78-bed Baptist hospital in Bangalore, India, Jan. 15. They will return to the states Jan. 31.

The \$10,000 relief appropriation for Nicaraguan Baptists included official board action on \$5,000 previously authorized by Cauthen.

A. Clark Scanlon, the board's field representative for Middle America, went to Managua to consult with Baptist leaders and coordinate Southern Baptist relief efforts.

The Nicaraguan embassy in Guatemala provided necessary documents for Scanlon to take a shipment of food and medical supplies to Nicaragua, reported Charles W. Bryan, board secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean.

Ruben Diaz, president of the Baptist Convention of Guatemala, accompanied Scanlon in the first supply convoy from Guatemala City to Managua.

Besides food, blood plasma and medicines purchased and prepared for shipment in Guatemala City, Southern Baptists provided through the board a utility truck which was shipped by plane from San Antonio, Tex.

The vehicle will be used by the Baptist hospital in Managua as an ambulance and supply carrier. The hospital was destroyed in the quake, but quick evacuation of patients and staff members prevented any loss of life.

The utility truck was purchased for the board by Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, and was shipped to Hugh Smith, an American Baptist missionary in Managua.

The SBC has no missionaries in Nicaragua, El Salvador or British Honduras, but it is represented in the other Central American nations.

Bryan said that funds received from individuals and churches designated for relief in Nicaragua will be used to assist Baptists there and, through them, others in need.

Miss Mary Jo French, presently of St. Petersburg, Fla., and formerly of Oneida, Ky., was appointed a missionary to Peru. She expects to be librarian and dean of women at the Baptist Theological Institute in Trujillo, Peru.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Laffoon of Raytown, Mo., were reappointed to East Africa. They were stationed formerly in Mbeya, Tanzania, where he was a staff doctor and administrator at the Baptist Hospital. They returned to the states in 1969 and later resigned in order for Dr. Laffoon to take further training in surgery.

R. Allen Orr, Baptist campus minister at the University of Colorado, Boulder, was elected a regional personnel representative, effective April 15.

As one of four full-time regional representatives of the board, Orr will be based in Kansas City, Mo. His assigned territory covers 20 midwestern and western states and includes Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, and GoldenGate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

He will counsel with persons and groups interested in foreign mission service and will channel qualified volunteers into screening procedures leading toward missionary appointment.

Orr is married to the former Jeannie Mallow. Both served two-year terms as missionary journeymen with the board, he in the Philippines and she in Jordan.

The board approved a recommendation of its committee on Europe and the Middle East that Clifton J. Allen, recording secretary of the SBC, be invited to teach in the Spanish Baptist Theological Seminary, Barcelona, February through May of this year.