



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 11, 1973

Foreign Board Reports 171
Appointed, Net Loss in '72

RICHMOND (BP)--In 1972 the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board sent out 171 new missionaries. This figure is down from the 226 sent out during 1971, and along with a high number of personnel losses, accounted for the first annual net loss in the board's missionary force since 1937, the board's trustees were told here.

Louis R. Cobbs, secretary for missionary personnel, attributed the 1972 figure to a reduced number of church vocation volunteers among Southern Baptist college and university students in recent years and a slump in seminary enrollments in the mid and late 1960s.

An upward trend in the number of volunteers and seminarians improves the outlook for appointments during the mid-70s, Cobbs told board members here in their January meeting.

"There is now a change in mood among college and seminary students," he said, pointing to participation in youth revivals, WIN evangelism clinics, student mission projects, Bible study groups and evangelism programs, sponsored by Southern Baptists.

Dobbs reported that the 1972 appointees included 83 career missionaries, 11 missionary associates, 66 missionary journeymen, one special-project physician and his wife, and nine reappointed missionaries.

Career appointments were down 37 from last year, Cobbs said. There were 17 fewer missionary associates and one less journeyman employed. Cobbs added that 58 of the career appointees were assigned to general evangelism.

Approximately 80 per cent of the men, excluding journeymen, were appointed for field evangelism. Thus the smaller number of appointments in 1972 was not at the expense of evangelism and church development, he observed. Cobbs said the sharpest decreases came in the number of persons for secondary teaching, seminary teaching, student work and business management.

At the close of the year the Southern Baptist foreign missionary force included 2,203 career missionaries and 304 auxiliary personnel--174 associates, 128 journeymen and two special-project workers.

Profile studies of the 1972 outgoing missionaries going overseas yielded these facts: among the career missionaries, the men averaged 32 and the women 31 years of age. The average family had two children. The missionary associates averaged 40 years of age for the men and 39 1/2 for the women. Missionary journeymen averaged 23 years of age.

The appointees came from 29 states. Leading the list were Texas with 37, Kentucky and Oklahoma with 15, and Florida with 12, Cobbs said.

The new missionaries were assigned to 28 categories of work, including general evangelism (58), secondary teaching (25), seminary teaching (5), youth and student work (9), pastors of English-language churches (6), physicians (6) and nurses (7).

Mission Board Administrator
Urges 'Aggressive Expansion'

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board secretary for West Africa, H. Cornell Goerner, has called upon the board to "initiate an aggressive program of expansion in West Africa," where there has been a gradual decline in the number of Southern Baptist missionaries over the past five years.

At the same time, said Goerner, "We should certainly continue to take full advantage of the rising tide of interest in Eastern and Southern Africa," where the missionary force has been increasing.

He said the responsiveness of people in Eastern and Southern African countries to evangelistic preaching partly accounts for the comparatively large number of missionary volunteers for that area.

Goerner's remarks were made in an eight-page report presented to members of the board during their January meeting here.

After reviewing Southern Baptist work in Africa in recent years, Goerner turned to the future and suggested some goals and strategies for 1973 and the mid-'70s.

He was secretary for all of Africa south of the Sahara for 15 years. At his request, last June the board divided its administration of Africa into West Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa, and named Goerner secretary of the former, effective Jan. 1.

A secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa is expected to be named later this year. Meanwhile, Goerner will remain as administrative head of both areas.

In comparing and contrasting the two areas, Goerner said: "West Africa is hot, humid, typically tropical. It does not have the healthful highlands, the game preserves, and the responsive peoples which are characteristic of many parts of Eastern and Southern Africa.

"But it has people--people with fears and agonizing needs. People for whom Christ died," he continued.

"It is my conviction that we as Southern Baptists should be doing far more than we have done to present the claims of Christ to the peoples of West Africa."

The total mission staff in West Africa reached its high point in 1966, with 323 missionaries assigned to five countries. This number held steady through 1967.

Then, despite the beginning of work in new countries of the area and the appointment of a small number of new personnel, the Southern Baptist force in West Africa began to drop.

This decline was due to the attrition of the missionary staff in Nigeria, said Goerner.

By the end of 1966 there was an all-time high of 252 Southern Baptist missionaries in Nigeria. The eruption of civil war in 1967 and the intensified spirit of nationalism since the war have "created problems which make it extremely difficult to get new personnel into the country," Goerner said.

Consequently, the missionary staff in Nigeria has declined to its present 151, of whom 100 are on the field and the others in the states on furlough or medical leave.

The attrition of the missionary staff in Nigeria must be checked, said Goerner. Hopefully, the Nigerian government's policy will be changed to make it easier to get entrance permits for new missionaries replacing those retiring or otherwise ending their service and leaving the country, he added.

"Despite the rapid transition to indigenous Nigerian leadership, there is still much that can be done by qualified missionary personnel, and we should not despair of strengthening our Nigerian mission staff," Goerner said.

Meanwhile, missionaries who have served in Nigeria and cannot re-enter, for whatever reason, should be redeployed to other mission fields, he continued.

The board should first try to relocate them in another West African country, Goerner said, but if that is impossible, then to a country of Eastern and Southern Africa. In some cases, experienced personnel from Nigeria might be reassigned to another part of the world, he added.

Apart from Nigeria, Southern Baptist work needs to be expanded and strengthened in other West African nations, with major emphasis on the Francophone, or French-speaking, countries, Goerner said.

Of the total of 268 Southern Baptist missionaries now assigned to West Africa, only 33 are assigned to the five countries in which French is the dominant language.

"In every one of these lands, we have almost complete freedom of missionary operation," said Goerner. He noted that missionaries going to these countries (Dahomey, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Togo and Upper Volta) must learn French before beginning their work, and they should learn one or more African languages after arriving on the field.

Besides the five in which Southern Baptists have work, there are 10 other West African countries in which French is the prevalent language. Southern Baptists must be ready to begin work in these lands at the appropriate time, Goerner told board members.

Meanwhile, they also must expand their work into additional countries of Eastern and Southern Africa "while doors are open and the climate is right," he said.

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SBC Missionaries Begin Work In Windward Islands Mission

1/11/73

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (BP)--With the arrival of a Southern Baptist Convention couple to begin a ministry here, missionaries of the SBC Foreign Mission Board are now represented in every English-speaking country of the Caribbean area.

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Womack, missionary associates of the board, arrived here in December as the first missionaries of the newly formed Windward Islands Mission.

They will be responsible for a Baptist outreach not only in Barbados but on four more islands in the mission, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada and Dominica. They will begin their work through an existing evangelical church near here.

The five islands have a combined population of about 700,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Womack were employed as missionary associates of the board in April 1971, but until recently they had been unable to get residence permits for Barbados. They served in Antigua for most of 1972, before relocating in Barbados.

Womack was previously pastor of the First Baptist Church in Bermuda for more than seven years. Both he and his wife are natives of Fredericktown, Mo.

Charles W. Bryan, SBC Foreign Mission Board secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean, said there are 3,035 students enrolled in a Baptist-sponsored Bible correspondence course in the eastern Caribbean area, and they will be contacted regarding the beginning of work in the new mission.

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January 11, 1973

All-Male Soccer Team Calls Ann, 'Coach'

MURFREESBORO, N.C. (BP)--Coed Ann Alexander looks like a college cheerleader, but an all-male team of international soccer players at Chowan College here call her "Coach."

Ann is Mrs. Clifton Alexander, a sophomore at the Southern Baptist school, who insists her association with soccer isn't an expression of defiance or an act of liberation.

Rather, she admits she became the team's coach as a "last resort" but takes her duties seriously.

She said the idea for a soccer team came up last summer when a group of internationals began playing the sport on the front lawn at the college.

A soccer club was suggested and Mrs. Alexander, assistant head resident of Belk Hall, women's dormitory at Chowan, volunteered to help.

"I told them I didn't know anything about soccer but was willing to try," she said. Hector Cuellar, of Bethel Park, Pa., and a citizen of Columbia, helped her schedule games and transportation and make other arrangements.

The players soon learned she was no "figurehead."

Mrs. Alexander bought a book on soccer and followed the instructions for training a team, stressing conditioning, including running and calisthenics.

"I can't say the players fully appreciated a woman telling them how to train," she said, "but they knew it was for their own good and went along with it."

Cuellar agreed that even now the players "may gripe a little bit when she tells us to do something, but we do it knowing it'll help us when we play another team." The team's two co-captains, Ahmad Reza Zifan and Shahram Sharanizadeh, both of Iran, help with coaching duties.

The team's success surprised Mrs. Alexander, even though she knew the players came from countries where soccer is the national sport.

She began to realize their potential as they compiled a won-loss-tied record of 1-2-1 and were invited to join the winter league in Tidewater, Va., for which Chowan's administration gave approval.

"Soccer is a demanding, tough sport, and we need some reserves," said Mrs. Alexander, who began recruiting additional players.

"As it is, most of the players have to play all the way, and when you're exhausted you can't give your best," she said. Three students from the United States had joined the team, according to latest reports.

There is no betrayal of the woman's touch in the team's name, "Winged Warriors," suggested by Mrs. Alexander. The school's nickname is "Braves," but the soccer activity isn't an official part of the athletic program at Chowan, she explained.

Mrs. Alexander is now looking for a qualified man on campus or in the community to coach the team but insists she will continue to help in any way possible.

The players apparently aren't too bothered by having a woman coach. As a measure of respect and affection, they now call her "Coach," when they see her on campus, Cuellar said.

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January 11, 1974

**Changes Eyed for Sunday
School Board, 12 Agencies**

By W. C. Fields
Director, Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)--An evaluation group has called for continuing improvement in service to Southern Baptist churches by the Sunday School Board and a dozen other agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 129-page report of a four-year analysis by the "Committee of Fifteen" will be presented to the February 18-20 meeting here of the SBC Executive Committee.

E. W. Price Jr., of High Point, N. C., is chairman of the study group composed of eight ministers and seven laymen.

While stressing that the Baptist agencies have each had notable achievements over the past 15 years, the report specifies some "areas of concern" which need attention by trustees.

The Nashville-based Sunday School Board, which publishes literature and develops educational programs for the 34,500 SBC churches, is cautioned against capital over-expansion and against literature price increases which might work undue hardships on the churches.

The report raises a question about more direct involvement in the board's program budget allocations by the Southern Baptist Convention, in keeping with requirements for all other SBC agencies.

The Sunday School Board, unlike other agencies, receives no allocations from the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified budget. Its income is largely from literature and book store sales, which amounted to \$44 million in 1971-72.

The report also asks the board to work with the four SBC mission agencies "to include once again a strong missions emphasis in its materials," to revise the task statements for church organizations, to take a stronger lead in coordinating SBC programs related to the organizations of the local church and to give more attention to critical issues in the churches.

The report, which deals with all SBC-related agencies, if approved by the SBC Executive Committee, will be passed on mainly to the respective groups of agency trustees for their consideration.

The Committee of Fifteen, a sub-committee of the SBC Executive Committee, recommends that a special SBC committee of seven be named by the new 1974 SBC officers to study the Executive Committee itself and report back to the Southern Baptist Convention session at Miami Beach in June, 1975.

The study group asks the Annuity Board, Dallas, to do a depth study of its various retirement plans to insure maximum flexibility for Baptist workers.

The group urges the Annuity Board to make an all-out effort to enroll all eligible Baptist workers and to secure the best possible yield from the \$336,439,081 currently held in trust for approximately 43,000 annuitants.

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The Committee of Fifteen recommends that the SBC Executive Committee approve a recommendation to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas June 11-13, which would permit the Southern Baptist Foundation to work more actively with Baptist state foundations to raise money from private sources for SBC causes.

The report requests the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, Nashville, to reduce unnecessary duplication between its services and the six SBC seminary libraries and to increase its specialization in areas not covered by other Baptist libraries.

The Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, should exercise caution in over-secularizing its programs, especially on television, according to the report.

The study committee reminds the commission that basically "it is not a public relations organization" and therefore should guard against an undue investment in "peripheral services such as public and station relations as over against the services of the purchasing and distribution of a product."

A recommendation calls for development of clear-cut procedures for marketing certain Radio and Television Commission products through the Baptist Book Stores.

The study group requests the Christian Life Commission, Nashville, and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C., to work out duplication and overlapping in their respective emphases on Christian citizenship and church-state relations.

The Christian Life Commission and the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, are also asked to secure clearer understanding between them of their kindred roles in Christian social concern and Christian social ministry.

The report suggests that the Christian Life Commission work in closer cooperation with other SBC agencies to secure implementation of Christian social concerns.

The Committee of Fifteen calls on the commission to be more active in presenting commission-approved statements on moral and ethical questions for the information and approval of the Southern Baptist Convention in its annual sessions.

The eight other Baptist bodies in North America which share in the operation of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs are challenged by the report to join the SBC in more adequate financial support for the agency.

An earlier recommendation of the Committee of Fifteen that the Stewardship Commission, Nashville, be dissolved and its functions turned over to the SBC Executive Committee, was turned down by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1972.

This final report of the study committee calls on the Stewardship Commission to involve the SBC agency heads and Baptist state executive secretaries more fully in its efforts and asks the commission to revive the 50/50 division as a goal of Cooperative Program sharing between the state conventions and the SBC.

The study raises questions about the propriety of continuing the commission's field program of providing personnel to assist churches in building fund drives.

The SBC Executive Committee voted earlier to release the Committee of Fifteen report so that it might be studied carefully by all interested groups prior to action on it in Nashville, February 18-20.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last of four articles on the Committee of Fifteen Report.

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Moral Leadership Question
Skirted by Gerald Ford

1 / 11 / 73

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--Vice President Gerald R. Ford skirted the problem of moral leadership by the Nixon administration during a question and answer session with Baptist college students during a student seminar on political involvement here.

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Sixty-seven students from 40 colleges in 15 states attended the week-long seminar, sponsored jointly by the National Student Ministries of the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The vice president, during a 35-minute appearance, was asked what he intended to do to bring back moral leadership for the United States by government officials.

Avoiding a discussion of the Watergate scandal and the role of highly-placed government officials, Ford reminded the students that he had recently gone through two months of intensive investigation by congressional committees, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and others. "I come to the job with reasonably clean hands. That should help," he said.

Ford then said that much misinformation had been given out about moral standards in the federal government. While stating that he hoped all who are guilty of law violations in the Watergate scandal would go to jail, he said that there should not be a blanket condemnation of public officials.

The executive branch of the federal government employs about 2,300,000 of whom about 300,000 are civilian employees in the military, Ford said. "These as a whole should not be condemned for what a handful did wrong in the re-election of the president," he declared.

Ford responded to a question on the need for election reforms in the light of Watergate and related scandals. He opposed (1) changing the term of office for U.S. representatives and senators, (2) changing the presidential term of office from four years and a maximum two terms to a single term of six years and (3) public financing of elections.

"We darn well better take a hard look" at taking taxpayers' money to finance election campaigns, he said. Even so, he admitted that the Election Reform Act of 1972 needed further revisions to prevent such abuses in campaign contributions as occurred in the Watergate scandals.

Other speakers during the seminar were not as cautious in their assessments of the moral leadership of the Nixon administration.

Brooks Hays, former congressman and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, proposed an alternative to impeachment of President Nixon. He said that he would prefer that some way could be devised for the nation symbolically to say to the president that the time had arrived when he could no longer do the job and that he should resign.

There is a great tragedy in President Nixon's failure to exercise moral leadership which would have prevented such conduct in the White House, Hays said. "The element of consistency in the crimes connected with Watergate is that there was no guiding principle in the lives of the men involved in the crimes," he said.

C. Welton Gaddy, director of Christian citizenship development for the SBC Christian Life Commission, told the student group, "As a patriot, the Christian citizen affirms the value of diversity, seeks solutions not scapegoats to problems and offers honest criticism of the government as an expression of patriotic love."

Attacking "American messianism," Gaddy told the seminar, "It is not surprising that this concept is perpetrated by an administration which has attempted to institutionalize civil religion."

"After all," he said, "this is the president who used the pulpit of an evangelistic rally as the podium for a campaign-related speech. It was the previous vice president of this administration who referred to the United States' involvement in Viet Nam as 'our finest moral hour.' This is the administration which had substituted periodic 'White House worship' for regular worship in a local church."

Urging the students to political action, Gaddy said, "The question is whether the power of the contemporary church will be that of a thundering silence and clanging abstention in relation to the pressing issues of the day or an ethical exercise of power in order to do whatever amount of good that might be possible."

James M. Dunn, executive secretary of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, declared, "If Jesus is Lord of all life, then he is Lord of our politics."

Dunn then charged the White House with committing "spiritual offenses, not just legal and ethical blunders." They are spiritual offenses against the spirit of the nation," he said.

"This is true," Dunn declared, "because democracy cannot survive long in a nation unless the majority voluntarily abide by the law, unless a substantial portion of the population is basically honest and unless a significant percentage of the people share the spirit of democracy."

Dunn continued, "It is precisely this spirit and these values that have been violated. We, a democratic nation, have been stabbed in the heart. We must call to account the president that permitted and participated in this violation if the presidency is to maintain respect."

Other speakers on the program included Rep. John Buchanan (R.-Ala.), Delegate Walter E. Fautroy (D.-D. C.) and Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R.-Ore.).

At the seminar, coordinated by Nell Magee, a National Student Ministries consultant, the students worked in study groups on the political aspects of civil rights and civil liberties, the economy, national priorities and budget allocations, environmental concerns, family concerns and international relations and national defense.

Some of the colleges represented gave the students from one to four credit hours for work during the week, depending on the amount of work done, papers prepared and follow-up studies.



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