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January 12, 1973

**Survey Team Going to Managua  
To Plan Church Reconstruction**

**RICHMOND (BP)**--A three-man survey team will be sent by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Jan. 20 to Managua, Nicaragua, to formulate plans for Southern Baptists to help rebuild six churches destroyed in a Dec. 23 earthquake.

The team will contact Baptist leaders, determine what materials are needed for reconstruction, and work out details for a crew of about 30 Texas Baptist men to assist with the rebuilding.

Of the six Baptist churches in the Managua area, two were reported totally destroyed and the others seriously damaged.

The approximate 2,000 Nicaraguan Baptists are associated with the American Baptist Churches mission board. The Southern Baptist Convention has no formal work in Nicaragua, but it has 36 missionaries in neighboring Honduras and Costa Rica.

The three survey team members are W. Eugene Grubbs, the SBC board's consultant on laymen overseas; Adolfo Robleto, secretary of the general church materials department of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Tex.; and Robert E. Dixon, executive secretary of Texas Baptist Men.

Grubbs will coordinate efforts between the Southern Baptist constituency and the Foreign Mission Board.

Robleto, a former pastor of First Baptist Church, Managua, and a native Nicaraguan, is familiar with the country and culture and knows many of the Baptist leaders and their constituents. He contacted the Foreign Mission Board shortly after the earthquake occurred to offer assistance in whatever way possible.

Dixon will coordinate efforts to recruit Texas Baptist men for the rebuilding project and will appeal to Texas Baptists to send funds for relief operations to the Foreign Mission Board.

The construction team he organizes will be one of volunteers who provide their own transportation, food and lodging. They will probably live in tents pitched near construction sites.

The team will be made up of Texas Baptist men because they have indicated a desire to take responsibility for the project and live relatively close to Nicaragua, said Charles W. Bryan, the board's secretary for Middle American and the Caribbean.

It may be six weeks to four months before construction gets started, said Bryan. He added that the timetable for the project will be determined by where the Nicaraguan government decides to rebuild Managua, its capital.

Former President Anastasio Somoza has stated that the city will be rebuilt with its commercial center about six miles from where it was located when the earthquake struck. Bryan noted that this could mean that churches only partially destroyed may need rebuilding.

"We're offering to help Nicaraguan Baptists in a program of reconstruction," he said. "We want to stand alongside them in a brotherly fashion and help them undergird the responsibilities they are feeling."

American Baptist churches officials have expressed appreciation for the help offered by Southern Baptists. In addition to the six churches, their hospital, primary and secondary

schools, and theological seminary were damaged or destroyed in the quake.

So far, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has given \$10,000 for relief work in Nicaragua. Part of that sum has been used for food and medicine. By Jan. 12 Southern Baptists had contributed an additional \$1,055 in designated gifts for Nicaraguan relief.

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Arizona College President  
Moves to Dallas College

1/12/73

DALLAS (BP)--Arthur Tyson, president of Grand Canyon College, a Southern Baptist school in Phoenix, Ariz., for the past six years, has been named director of development at Dallas Baptist College.

Tyson, a native of Calvert, Tex., was president of Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Tex., 1954-66, and is a former history professor at East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, Tex.

His work at Dallas Baptist, according to the college's president, Charles Pitts, will include fund raising, development and public relations work with many groups and individuals, including pastors, Baptist laymen, businessmen, foundations, civic groups and alumni.

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Annuity Board Raises  
Benefits 6 Per Cent

1/12/73

DALLAS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board here has permanently increased 8,378 annuitant benefit payments by six per cent, board President Darold H. Morgan reported.

This increase became effective with January 1973 payments.

It means a combined net increase annually of nearly \$400,000 Morgan said.

Before the six per cent hike, annual payments to these annuitants was \$6,360,978. Afterward, it rose to \$6,742,645.

Expressed in individual terms, it means an annuitant whose monthly benefit was \$100 before the hike will now receive \$106, Morgan said.

The six per cent increase became possible "because of a new accepted accounting procedure for recording the valuation of the assets of the board," according to Morgan.

"This action reflects once again the concern of all the Annuity Board that we provide our annuitants now with every possible dollar in benefits, being aware of the continuing pressure of inflation," the board president said.

He told annuitants the increase will not affect payment of a "13th check" near year's end. The "13th check" will be paid next December if income from investments of retirement funds is sufficient.

There is some overlapping of individuals in the 8,378 accounts being increased, since some annuitants draw income from two or more plans included in the hike.

The increase applied generally to basic pension income. It does not include education benefits, special supplemental benefits, and relief grants, Morgan said.

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#### CORRECTION

Baptist Press story mailed 1/10/73 headlined "Board Adds to Nicaraguan Relief; Cauthen Reports 1972 Net Loss," graph 23, should read:

Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Laffoon of Independence, Mo., were reappointed to East Africa.