

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Former Astronaut Plans  
Retreat for Vietnam POWs**

COLORADO SPRINGS (BP)--Apollo 15 Astronaut James B. Irwin, working through his High Flight religious foundation, plans to schedule a renewal retreat program for American prisoners of war returning from Vietnam in an effort to help them readjust to life in America.

Irwin, a Baptist layman who has traveled throughout the world telling others he felt God's presence when he walked on the moon, said in announcing the plans that some of the returning prisoners of war did not even know man had been to the moon while they were in prison.

Exact time and place for the retreat program he hopes to sponsor has not been set, although tentative plans call for the retreat some time in June after the former prisoners have had some time with their families and have gone through official debriefings, High Flight officials said.

To coordinate plans and handle details for the retreat, Irwin has set up a separate office in High Flight. Charles Farr, minister of education at First Southern Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, will be "on loan" to help coordinate the POW program, Irwin said.

Farr spent 20 years in the Air Force and is well qualified in the field of retreat ministries, Irwin said.

Irwin, a retired Air Force Colonel, said there has always been a desire to establish a retreat ministry by High Flight, the religious foundation he established last August when he resigned from the space program. The retreat program he wants to share with the returning POWs cannot wait on construction of permanent facilities, Irwin added.

"We have already been in touch with some of the personnel in the Pentagon who are involved in the work with returning men, and they have expressed their delight with the idea of this way of sharing with these men we have in mind," Irwin said.

William H. Rittenhouse, vice president and executive director of High Flight, knows first hand the trauma of readjustment that will face these men since he was a prisoner of war in Rumania during World War II, Irwin pointed out.

Rittenhouse said he and Irwin were deeply concerned about the problems of readjustment the returning Vietnam POW's. "We want to provide these men and their families with a retreat that will let them have recreation, information and inspiration," he added.

Irwin said that High Flight will seek to underwrite all expenses so there will be no charge to the former prisoners or their families.

Rittenhouse said the program would be non-denominational in approach, with a person-to-person emphasis. Personalities, including astronauts and religious leaders across the country, will be enlisted who can share what their faith has meant to them in times of stress, trauma and readjustment.

Rittenhouse is author of a book entitled "God's POW," telling how his faith was a source of strength during his imprisonment in Rumania during World War II.

**30 New Home Missionaries  
Named To Join 2,200 in US**

ATLANTA (BP)--Thirty new missionaries and missionary associates have been appointed to join the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board force of more than 2,200 serving in the United States.

The 10 missionary and 20 missionary associate appointments were announced when the Home Mission Board's directors met here recently. Most of the missionaries were appointed jointly with state conventions and the board.

The Board's Division of Association Services appointed Joe and Lucy Turner to the Delaware Association in Maryland where he is superintendent of missions.

Also appointed by associational services were James and Ellen Abernathy, superintendent of missions in the Delaware Valley Association in the Pennsylvania-South Jersey Convention.

Turner, a native of North Carolina, was graduated from Limestone College, Gaffney, S.C., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. A South Carolina native, Mrs. Turner attended both Limestone College and New Orleans Seminary.

A native of Hiddenite, N.C., Abernathy was graduated from Catawba College, Salisbury, N.C., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. His wife is a native of Concord, N.C.

Oris and Donna Smith were appointed by the board's Christian social ministries department as directors of Christian social ministries for the Bowie Association in Texarkana, Tex. He is a graduate of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. His wife is a graduate of Lamar University, Beaumont, Tex.

Named as a pastoral missionary, John Tanner and his wife Pat serve in Kailuaa Kona, Hawaii, where he is pastor of Kona Baptist Church. They are Texas natives and graduates of Baylor University, Waco, Tex. He also graduated from Southwestern Seminary.

Bill and Pat Wideman, appointed pastoral missionaries by the board's church extension department, serve in La Mirada, Calif., where he is pastor of the La Mirada Baptist Church. He was graduated from Tennessee Temple University, Chattanooga, and Southwestern Seminary. Both are natives of Missouri.

Missionary associates appointed include Joe and Betty Jean Peterson, working in the First Baptist Church of Yampa, Colo.; Fernando and Terry Downs who head a pilot project with College Park Station ministries in Little Rock, Ark., as director of church extension; Ed and Fay Onley, who direct Christian social ministries in the Capital Association of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma; and three student interns appointed by the Christian social ministries department, Carol McCall and James Alley, both serving in New Orleans, and Donald Williams in California.

The department of language missions, the largest single body of Home Mission Board missionaries, appointed six missionary associates to Texas: Mrs. Olive Troy, in Goliad; Natalia Camarillo in McCallen; Bernardo and Anita Maraga in Goldthwaite; and Isidro and Linda Druz in Brownsville.

The language mission department also appointed five other missionary associates to work with Spanish-speaking people throughout the United States. They are Lupe and Janie Rando in Hollis, Okla., David and Francisca Anguiano in San Diego, Calif.; and Robert Bell in Philadelphia, Penn.

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**Tallant Moves From West  
Virginia to Kentucky Post**

2/12/73

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (BP)--Francis R. Tallant, director of the Religious Education Division for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, has resigned to become executive director of the Warren Baptist Association here.

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Tallant had helped establish the West Virginia convention, coming to the state in 1964 from Kentucky where he had served as an associate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday School department.

In West Virginia, he served for a time as co-executive secretary of the convention, and has been editor of the convention's state paper.

He is a former pastor of Baptist churches in Henderson, Central City and Gleanings, Ky.; and in Jellico, Memphis, Stantonville and Counce, Tenn. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

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WMU Restructures  
Birmingham Staff

2/12/73

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--The Southern Baptist Women's Missionary Union (WMU) Executive Board has restructured the program design, editing and field services staff of its national office here.

Effective February 5, the Promotion Division of WMU headquarters was renamed the Education Division, with June Whitlow continuing as director.

Alma Hunt, executive secretary of WMU, explained that the staff was reorganized to unify all aspects of work relating to age-level organizations. The four department supervisors will consult with the Education Division director to give continuity to overall program design and implementation.

The division's two former departments, editorial and field services, were cross-cut to place all personnel related to a given WMU age-level in an age-level department.

Adrienne Bonham, who directed the editorial service department, and Mary Hines, who directed the field services department were transferred to supervisory positions in the new structure.

The general administration department will deal with overall church WMU work. Bobbie Sorrill was promoted to supervisor of this department, and Ethalee Hamric will be editor of general WMU materials.

The adult department, supervised by Adrienne Bonham, will coordinate work of Margaret Bruce, Baptist Women consultant; Rosanne Osborne, editor of Baptist Women materials; Aline Fuselier, Baptist Young Women (BYW) consultant; Laurella Owens, editor of BYW materials; and Doris Diaz, language missions consultant and editor of Spanish WMU materials.

The youth department will include Evelyn Tully, Acteens consultant, and Oneta Gentry, editor of Acteens materials. The supervisor's slot for this department remains vacant at this time, WMU officials said.

Mary Hines will be supervisor of the children and preschool department. Members of the department are Mickey Martin, Girls in Action and Mission Friends consultant; Mrs. Jesse A. Tucker, editor of GA materials; and Mrs. Helen M. Allan, editor of Mission Friends materials.

Other phases of work at the Birmingham office, organized under the Business Division and the Administrative Division, were unaffected by the changes.

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