



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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July 25, 1973

Successor to Sullivan
Sought by Board

NASHVILLE (BP)--Trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board meeting here elected a five-man committee to nominate a new president to succeed James L. Sullivan on his retirement in February, 1975.

Gene Wofford of Texas is chairman of the committee. Other members are Mahlon Morley, Kansas; James Neyland, Alabama; Hankins Parker, Florida; and Paul Henry, Maryland. Ex officio members are Scott Tatum, Louisiana, trustee chairman, and DeVaughn Woods, Nashville, trustee vice-chairman. Morley, Henry, and Woods are laymen. Neyland is a minister of education, and the other committee members are pastors.

The committee invites any member of a Southern Baptist church who so desires to send a nomination to the committee chairman, Dr. Gene Wofford, 6211 East Grand Ave., Dallas, Tx., 75223.

In other business, a motion concerning Baptist Book Store discounts which was passed at the SBC meeting in Portland was referred to the administration for continued study looking toward a recommendation at the February trustees meeting.

The trustees also approved long range plans for completing facilities at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Approval was also given for an expenditure of \$2,850,000 for a two-story addition to the West Wing building in Nashville.

Printing contracts for church literature for 1975-80 were approved with Baird-Ward Printing Company and Williams Printing Company of Nashville.

The board awarded a typesetting contract for 1975-80 for all church literature to Western Publishing Company, St. Louis.

Page makeup contracts for 1975-80 for several categories of church literature were approved to Gulbenk Graphics of Nashville.

The trustees authorized a cost-of-living salary structure increase for board employees.

Scott Tatum of Shreveport, La., was re-elected trustee chairman. DeVaughn Woods of Nashville is vice-chairman and chairman of executive committee, and Norris Hite of Nashville is secretary.

The board likewise adopted a 1973-74 budget which calls for total sales of \$51,784,000, to finance the fifteen programs of work assigned by the convention to the Sunday School Board and to provide for capital needs.

Major building projects scheduled for the period are a west wing addition to the board's headquarters in Nashville, plus hotel-type housing and related parking and access roads at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C.

In presenting his report to the trustees, Sullivan expressed a spirit of optimism and encouragement as churches appear to be showing increased concern for reaching more people and for Christian growth. He pointed out the highest level of employee productivity in the history of the board, citing an 80 per cent increase in dollar volume of business from 1958-1973, with only a 7.7 per cent increase in the number of regular employees.

POW-MIA Families Told
To Be Good Neighbors

GRANBY, Colo. (BP)--Thirty-nine families of former prisoners of war and men missing in action in Southeast Asia attending a retreat here asked for help on matters ranging from how to be kind to neighbors to integrating a husband back into the family.

Asked to identify their three most pressing problems, the military related families totaling 119 men, women and children also listed the removal of bitterness from their lives, accepting the fact that a son is missing in action, and a need for a deeper faith for mapping out a future without a husband.

The families, eleven of them ex-POWs, were guests at an all-expense paid, week-long spiritual retreat at Snow Mountain Ranch. High Flight, a non-profit foundation begun a year ago by former Apollo 15 Astronaut James Irwin to share a Christian witness, footed the bill.

During conferences at the remote 3,000-acre resort operated by the YMCA of the Rockies, specialists in religion, psychology, and psychiatry tried to help the families find answers to their problems.

POW-MIA families attended conferences during the morning, took part in recreation during the afternoon and were entertained in the evening.

Norma Zimmer of the Lawrence Welk show sang for the guests two nights and give her Christian testimony.

During the afternoons the families unwound with horseback riding, fishing, hiking up 10,000-foot Snow Mountain, and other sports.

Children followed special routines developed and conducted by YMCA staff members.

Durward Davis, leader of a conference on what the Bible says about facing problems, acknowledged the problem of overly solicitous neighbors.

"Unfortunately, neighbors don't know how to act natural around POW and MIA families. My advice to these neighbors is to try to be a friend and to give POW or MIA families the opportunity to share but to leave the decision up to them.

"Beyond that, people need to let their POW-MIA neighbors become a natural part of the community like everyone else."

A wife of an ex-POW said she became very embarrassed by overly sympathetic neighbors and expressed the hope they would permit her family to return to a normal life.

David, pastor of Rock Baptist Church at Rock, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta, told the POW-MIA families they needed to realize they can be a source of strength to their neighbors.

About 1,300 members of 310 POW-MIA families have attended the retreats since High Flight started them in late June in an effort to minister spiritually to this group.

William Rittenhouse, vice president of High Flight, said his organization did not have a dime in the bank when they began offering the conferences, but that they had since received \$50,000 in donations to apply against estimated costs of \$250,000.

The remainder will be raised in a fund drive in ten strategic cities during the next three months, Rittenhouse said.

Alabama Church-Minister
Relations Post to Granade

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--Sam A. Granade, 55, pastor of Evergreen (Ala.) Baptist Church for the past 25 years, has been elected director of church-minister relations for the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Granade, who begins his new post August 15, will become the first person to fill the position which was approved by the convention's executive board in 1972.

His primary duties will be to "process any request for information from churches seeking pastors or pastors seeking churches." Information will be given to a church "when an authorized person or committee requests it," and to pastors "by permission of the churches involved."

The director will maintain files on Alabama Baptist ministers and churches desiring or willing to have such on record. The file will also contain names of students preparing for church related vocations and retired ministers who are available for interim pastorates.

Granade is a native of Frankville, Ala. He is a graduate of Howard College (now Samford University), Birmingham, from which he later was granted an honorary doctor of divinity degree; and Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He served in World War II as a chaplain in the military transport and airborne division.

He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for six years and a member of the Alabama Convention Executive Board for 12 years, serving one year as chairman.

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Seminary Book Store Managers
Named; Golden Gate, New Orleans

7/25/73

NASHVILLE (BP)--Book store managers have been named at two Southern Baptist theological seminaries, effective August 1, according to W.O. Thomason, book store division director, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Glynn Mathis, currently manager of the Baptist Book Store at Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., will manage the store at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary; while P. Wayne Power, May graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, will remain as manager of that seminary's book store.

Mathis, a native of Louisiana, served as seminary sales-coordinator in the New Orleans store from 1968-70 before going to the Southwest College managerial position. He is a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, and earned the B.D., Th.M. and Th.D. degrees from New Orleans seminary. He served as pastor of two Louisiana churches while in seminary--Twin Bridges Baptist Church, Alexandria, and Head of Island Baptist Church, Head of Island.

Power, who served the Home Mission Board as summer missionary to Jacksonville, N.C., in 1969, recently earned the M.R.E. degree from Golden Gate Seminary. A native Missourian, he was graduated from Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, in 1971.

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Roberts Switches Book
Store Manager Duties

NASHVILLE (BP)--Joe D. Roberts, five-year manager of the Baptist Book Store in Savannah, Ga., will become manager of the Lubbock, Tex., book store in mid-August.

Roberts will fill the vacancy left by J.D. Dawson, who became manager of the newly opened book store in El Paso, Tex.

Roberts has been employed by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board since May, 1965, when he became office supervisor in the Broadman book department. A year later he was named supervisor of the administration services staff awards section. In November, 1977, he enrolled in the book store managers' training program.

A native Tennessean, he received the B.A. degree from Belmont College, Nashville, and the M.R.E. degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

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Board Told Blacks Value
Baptist Education Programs

7/25/73

NASHVILLE (BP)--A black Baptist youth leader told the board of trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board here of a "tremendous open door in dealing with black churches in the Southern Baptist Convention."

"One thing that is very complimentary to Southern Baptists," said Sydney Smith of Carson, Calif., "is the feeling of every black pastor I know that Southern Baptists have the best religious education program in existence today."

In 1968 there were 127 black churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. By 1971 these had increased to 170. The total now is approximately 300, according to Baptist Home Mission Board officials.

Smith, a Baptist missionary, was one of six youth guests at the board meeting.

He challenged the board of trustees to encourage a greater ministry to the needs of minority churches.

Smith proposed that the board consider having a regionally representative advisory committee of minority group personnel.

The college youth expressed surprise at the scope of the work of the Sunday School Board and voiced appreciation for the trustees and the administration.

One of them, Kathy Dykstra of Frederick, Md., said, "I don't agree with everything I have heard here, but I appreciate more than ever the complexities of operating such a large agency."

Other youth participants included Meredith Mynatt, Auburn, Ala.; Ronald M. Pratt Sacramento, Calif.; Richard Lynn Lowry, Miami, Okla.; and Steve Wooderson of Jefferson City, Mo.

Board President James L. Sullivan said, "We believe that youth and minorities should be involved in Sunday School Board decision processes. These guests have every privilege of a trustee except the right to vote."

The board of trustees has made a regular practice of inviting such youth guests to participate in the deliberations.

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