



BAPTIST PRESS

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**Brotherhood Withdraws Plan
For Subsidiary Corporation**

MEMPHIS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission here has withdrawn its request for permission to create a subsidiary corporation to coordinate its lay renewal and lay ministries programs, and to publish a mass circulation newspaper.

Instead, the agency has authorized employment of a full-time department head to direct the commission's lay ministries department, and has beefed up its existing publication, The Baptist Men's Journal.

The proposal, submitted last September to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, called for taking over publication of a Lay Ministries Inc. tabloid format newspaper Mission Action News, as well as for Brotherhood Commission sponsorship of lay renewal ministries.

James E. Johnson, a computer expert from Arlington, Tex., who heads Lay Ministries, Inc., was employed on a part-time basis as director of the Brotherhood Commission Lay Ministries Department.

Editorials in several Baptist state papers opposed creation of the subsidiary corporation and the takeover of Mission Action News. Last February the commission asked the Executive Committee to hold the proposal in abeyance, until an advisory committee made an in-depth study of the plan.

The advisory committee, and the commission's executive committee, recommended that the commission employ Johnson on a full-time basis, or that someone else be employed if Johnson would not accept the position full-time.

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, said that the work of the department has expanded at such a fast pace during the past year that the advisory committee felt a full-time director is needed.

Johnson, however, declined to accept the position full-time. He said that Lay Ministries, Inc., would continue independently as sponsor of lay witness mission programs, and as publisher of Mission Action News.

Johnson will continue on a part-time basis as head of the commission's lay ministries department until October 1, and serve after that on a consultant basis. "In my role as a consultant to the commission and other SBC agencies, I expect to be a part of an ever-expanding functioning lay ministry," Johnson said.

McCullough commented that he had no regrets about the approach the commission had made. "It was the only option we had at the time. It has opened some doors and raised some questions that we had to find answers to that have really been helpful to us."

McCullough praised Johnson's leadership in getting the lay renewal program of the Brotherhood Commission off the ground and running, and in helping the commission revise a computerized listing of Baptist laymen and their talents which would be matched with needs in disaster relief projects.

A new department director has not been recruited, but the commission hopes to fill the role as quickly as possible to meet the growing demand for lay renewal weekend leadership, according to W.J. Isbell, director of the commission, Baptist Men's Division.

41 New Appointees
Added to HMB Missions

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Forty-one new mission workers, who will serve from Hawaii to New York City, were commissioned by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for two-year missionary terms through its US-2 program.

The appointees will be serving in goodwill centers, on Indian reservations, in resort areas, on college campuses, and in local church programs.

All college graduates, the young adults join a mission task force of more than 2,200 mission workers serving throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and Panama.

More than one-half of the new US-2ers are former student summer missionaries, and others were active during college in Baptist Student Unions and summer Christian recreation camps.

Many of the US-2 participants use the two-year mission service as a transition period, which sometimes leads to career missions, seminary or other graduate studies.

Kitty Blessit of Athens, Ga., will work during the next two years in Rochester, N.Y., Baptist Church where she will be helping direct the church's Christian social ministries.

"The most important thing I'll be doing during the next two years," Miss Blessit said, "is just relating to people and loving them and trying to help them realize their worth as people."

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1,016 Baptist Students
Work in Summer Missions

8/6/73

ATLANTA (BP)--The annual summer mission program of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board drew 1,016 students to mission points throughout the United States, Panama and Puerto Rico this summer.

The record high resulted from an increased number of summer missionaries assigned through Baptist Student Unions, according to Emery Smith, associate secretary in the Department of Special Mission Ministries.

"We had 608 board supported summer missionaries, down from 629 in 1972 and more than 100 below the peak years of 1969-1970," Smith said.

"We are sending out fewer students because transportation and other costs have gone up, while budget allotments have not kept pace proportionately with the increases."

Smith said one of the greatest strengths of mission work this summer came in resort ministries.

One newly-wed couple, Bill and Lois Gambrell of Kentucky, spent their "honeymoon" on Hunting Island, Frogmore, S.C.

The Gambrells conducted a 30-minute service every Sunday morning. They also had a children's hour four afternoons a week and organized a children's choir.

A nursing graduate, Lois made herself available for first aid for campers. She bandaged cuts, treated twisted ankles, headaches, toothaches and helped boys who had been finned by catfish.

"After I offered my nursing services, and tried to show them I cared, I invited them to become part of our Christian activities, and explained what we are trying to do," Mrs. Gambrell said.

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For many of the summer missionaries, inner-city work brought culture shock. Myra Kampen of Southwest Baptist College, working in Washington, D.C., described inner-city people as "a breed of their own."

"I learned that just caring is the key to the whole communication system," she said.

Barbara Holden of Muncie, Ind., worked at Highland Avenue Baptist Church in Queens area of New York City.

"For the first time in my life I was a part of a minority race," she said.

A team of seven summer workers--four of them Indian--toured the Southwest attending Indian pow-wows. "They lived in teepees, sang and spoke at the meetings, and did a good bit of person-to-person witnessing," said Smith.

Other summer missionaries were involved in coffeehouse ministries, touring shows and dramatic performances. Four construction teams were sent out.

Three workers helped establish a communications program for the Northern Plains Baptist Convention.

Many were involved in backyard Bible schools, usually held in parks, recreation centers or other areas outside the church building.

Eastern Kentucky University student Nancy Tassie reported on some of her problems.

"Working in New Mexico with Indian people really meant I had to adjust to cultural differences," she said.

Anna Coday reported that her pow-wow team encountered some harassment from members of the militant American Indian Movement before they found their niche.

"Our biggest shock," said Elizabeth Jeter of University of Maryland, "was a Pentecostal group's bus ministry. They sent people from door to door offering children candy if they would come to their Sunday school. We were told by one child that whoever got the most riders would get a 10-speed bicycle."

Yvonne Bryan, a Belmont College student, Nashville, Tenn., who served in Connecticut said, "I learned this past summer to deal with people as people and not as 'prospects.'"

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Snedden, West Virginia
Executive, Has Heart Attack

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (BP)--John I. Snedden, executive secretary, West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, suffered a "massive" heart attack August 1 and is listed in serious condition in the Charleston General Hospital.

Snedden is the first to serve in his post. He was elected executive secretary in October, 1971, after 13 years as an area missionary under the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

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