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October 1, 1973

**FMB Reviews Requests
For More Missionaries**

By Jesse C. Fletcher

RICHMOND (BP)--A growing need for overseas workers was evident as the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's administrative staff completed its annual review of new missionary requests.

Despite the promise of over 200 new missionary appointments during 1973, the personnel secretaries, looking to 1974, were faced with calls for approximately 900 missionary additions to the board's overseas force of just over 2,500 missionaries assigned to 77 countries.

Several fields are in critical need of reinforcements, according to Louis R. Cobbs, secretary for the department of missionary personnel.

"We are convinced God is calling men and women to join hard pressed missionaries in these areas," Cobbs said. "If we can communicate the needs, perhaps this call can become clear."

Winston Crawley, director of the overseas division, pointed out that a major need exists for replacements as well as for capitalizing on unprecedented opportunities to begin new work and to continue advance in established work. Over 150 missionaries have to be replaced each year due to rotation of short-term personnel, resignations, deaths and retirements.

General evangelism headed the "type of work" request list. Cobbs explained this is perennially true because evangelism and church development are at the heart of Southern Baptists' overseas strategy.

Despite the priority given to requests for general evangelists in the past, Cobbs indicated that Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Colombia, Peru, and Uruguay have not been reinforced in this category in over two years.

Forty-one missions filed requests for general evangelists. Language study is imperative for missionaries meeting these needs, Cobbs stressed.

Other requests included calls for a total of 14 pastors for international English-language churches. Cobbs expressed hope that these vacancies will be filled quickly.

"Some of the congregations include overseas Americans, others English-speaking internationals and others a combination," Cobbs explained.

Requests for religious education workers, music workers, women's workers and theological teachers were processed for missions in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Ministries for university students constituted the largest single "type of work" request after general evangelism, according to Cobbs. He noted that the growth of this work overseas has been rapid, but response to student worker requests has lagged noticeably.

Christian education headed a series of needs including school administrators, elementary, secondary and college teachers. Asia, Africa and Middle America fields filed such requests.

Shortages of physicians, dentists and nurses continue, according to Franklin T. Fowler, the board's medical consultant. Other requests in the medical field included hospital administrators, medical technologists and technicians and chaplains.

Calls for specialists in a variety of technical fields were prevalent in the lists compiled from the seven administrative areas. Cobbs pointed to agriculture, radio and television and business as areas of special need.

Cobbs and Crawley both indicated that the Foreign Mission Board's strategy puts priority on new missionary personnel. Financial pressures resulting from dollar devaluation and inflation are requested in decreased operation and capital budgets rather than holding back on funds to send new missionaries.

"But we must keep before Southern Baptists the problems created for mission programs when adequate operating and capital funds fail to arrive," Crawley said.

Summarizing the findings of the group, Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive secretary, said, "The obvious implication is that we must call Southern Baptists with new intensity to give both life and substance to the task. Opportunities must be matched by lives and lives must be matched by dollars."

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Jesse C. Fletcher is director of the mission support division, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and chief of the

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Groups Ask Voting Rights
For Overseas Personnel

10/1/73

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptists have joined a number of bipartisan groups in asking Congress to enact a law guaranteeing the right of U.S. citizens living overseas to vote in federal elections.

Some 750,000 Americans living overseas have been prevented from voting because of the variety of state election laws. These citizens include missionaries, teachers, retirees, business men and women, news correspondents and a variety of others.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Privileges and Elections of which Sen. Claiborn Pell (D.-R.I.) is chairman. He asked the Senate to act favorably on S. 2101, a bill to make it possible for overseas citizens to vote in federal elections.

Wood testified on behalf of six Baptist foreign mission boards that requested him to represent their viewpoint before the Senate committee. These were foreign mission boards of the Southern Baptist Convention, American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., Baptist General Conference, North American Baptist General Conference, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., and Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

Sen. Charles M. Mathias Jr. (R.-Md.) explained to the subcommittee that the 750,000 citizens abroad were disenfranchised because of many state election laws.

Some of these states require a voter's actual presence or maintenance of a home in the state as a requirement for voting. Some raise a doubt of voting eligibility for nonresidents because their return date is uncertain. Some citizens are unsure that they will return to the state of their last residence.

Many citizens abroad refrain from voting because of fear that they will then become subject to state income taxes in the state where they vote.

S. 2101 and H.R. 9023 would:

--Allow the otherwise qualified citizen to vote in the state in which he or she had last voted or registered to vote, or if the citizen had not voted or registered, in the last state in which he or she maintained a domicile before departure from the U.S.A.;

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--Assure the American citizen overseas that exercising the right to register and vote absentee would not jeopardize tax exemptions from state income tax laws and

--Recommend that a uniform application form, similar to the federal post card application, be used for application registration.

Wood stated that Baptist support of S. 2101 is motivated by commitment to three propositions: (1) The right of all citizens to vote in federal elections is a basic right of U.S. citizenship and integral to American democracy;

(2) The right of suffrage should be compatible with basic American concepts of equity and justice as applied to all without discrimination between private citizens and those associated with government and military service; and

(3) The right of a private citizen to movement and travel (as guaranteed by the 14th Amendment), including the maintenance of a permanent residence overseas for legitimate purposes, should not be the basis of a citizen's disenfranchisement.

In addition to the Baptist spokesman, the National Association of Evangelicals was represented by Floyd Robertson of the NAE Office of Public Affairs. He took a similar position to that of the Baptists in support of voting rights of overseas citizens.

Other senators testifying for the bill were Barry Goldwater (R.-Ariz.) and William V. Roth Jr. (R.-Del.).

These were joined by William G. Whyte of the Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., Nathan Lewin, former Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the U.S., Sargent Shriver, former ambassador to France and other notable citizens groups.

The two-day hearing is but the beginning of the legislative process on a bill for voting rights. The measure must be cleared by the subcommittee, then the full committee on Rules and Administration, then a vote in the Senate.

The same procedure must be followed in the House of Representatives. Then, if there are differences in the Senate and House bills, a conference committee must iron out the differences, present an identical bill to both houses of Congress. If a favorable vote is secured, the bill must be signed by the President before it becomes law.

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Bagley Named to
Alabama Ethics Post

10/1/73

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--George E. Bagley, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist Convention, has become the first appointee to the State of Alabama's newly-created Ethics Commission.

The Ethics Commission was created as a result of a tough new ethics bill passed this year by the Alabama legislature.

Commission members will be called on to interpret the new ethics law, some provisions of which are already under fire.

A controversy already wages over a section of the law requiring press personnel to make financial disclosures and obtain a special pass from the commission to attend state government meetings. The provision has been challenged in Federal Court as unconstitutional.

Bagley, who also serves as president of the organization of state Southern Baptist Executive Secretaries, was appointed by Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Howell Heflin.

CORRECTION

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In Baptist Press story mailed 9/27/73, headlined Methodist Congregation Gets Ex-SBC President "On Loan," please change the first line to read

WASHINGTON (BP)--Brooks Hays, former president... (not Books as sent). Thanks.

--Baptist Press