



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 3, 1974

### First Sojourners Appointed By HMB

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) has assigned its first group of 19 Sojourners to 10-week terms of mission service beginning in June.

Begun this year by the HMB's department of special mission ministries, the Sojourner program will provide mission service opportunities for high school students entering their senior year and high school graduates under age 25. The project is strictly a volunteer effort with the Sojourner and his or her home church or parents paying expenses.

After orientation in Arlington, Tex., June 5-7, young people will work in seven states and will be assigned either to a state Baptist office, an area missionary or a local church pastor for service in a variety of mission activities such as vacation Bible schools, backyard Bible clubs, recreation programs and surveys.

Alice Martina Tadlock, 17, daughter of Mrs. Edna Tadlock of Columbus, Ohio, will work in Middlefield, Ohio, to oversee youth activities and do some counseling on a one to one basis with youth at First Baptist Church of Middlefield.

In Youngstown, Ohio, will be Daniel Deon Tucker, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tucker Jr. of Huey, Ill., and Karla Anne Knost, 16, daughter of Mrs. Juanita Knost of Denham Springs, La.

Sherry Darlene Tew, 20, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Tew of Montevallo, Ala., will be in Burton, Ohio.

Janet Ellen Howell, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Howell of Levelland, Tex., will work in Freeport, Ill. Allison Glyn Moore, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Moore of Fairhope, Ala., will work in Gadsden, Ala., along with Louise Faye Hogge, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Hogge of Ordinary, Va.

Susan Gayle Mitchell, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Mitchell of Durham, N. C., will be assigned to Florida, along with Sarah Lawrence York, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William B. York Jr. of Statesville, N.C.

Diana Sue Swain, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Swain of Phoenix, Ariz., will work in the Kansas-Nebraska Baptist Convention, along with Oma Jane Adams, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Adams of Bowling Green, Ky.

Four Sojourners will work in New Mexico: Cheryl Ann Bradley, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Bradley of Alameda, N. M.; Ernie Yvette Poole, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Poole Jr. of Jena, La.; Robert Woodyard, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Woodyard of Amarillo, Tex.; and Steven Hunker, 17, son of James and Edith Hunker of Lubbock, Tex.

Diana Kay Gipson, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben J. Gipson of Longview, Tex., will work in the Utah-Idaho Baptist Convention along with Carol Ann Lindsay, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Lindsay of Phoenix, Ariz.

Carla Gaye Newman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Newman of Levelland, Tex., and Nina Jane Gay, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Gay of Big Lake, Tex., have been appointed to the Sojourner program, but are as yet unassigned.

Director and developer of the Sojourner ministry, Clay Price, says that this year the HMB has scheduled a debriefing after the summer of service to help determine success in this

first venture into short term ministries for individual high school students.

Price says that though no one has been appointed to the alternate term of service in Sojourners (one year for a high school graduate under 25 years old), several inquiries have been made.

Price began the Sojourner ministry a year ago when he took the one year job to develop it after serving a term as a US-2er (two year term for college graduates) doing student work in San Jose, Calif.

He will return to graduate school and will be replaced in the fall by Debbie Patterson, a US-2er from San Angelo, Tex.

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BWA Youth Event Serves  
World Peace Cooper Says

5/3/74

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--The gathering of 8,000-10,000 young people for the 8th Baptist Youth World Conference here, July 31-Aug. 4, 1974, will serve the interests of Christian progress, world fellowship and peace, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) said.

Owen Cooper, a layman from Yazoo City, Miss., and president of the 12.3 million member SBC, said, "It's a great thing that each generation of Baptist young people have an opportunity to fellowship with other Baptist youth throughout the world." The Baptist World Alliance-sponsored event is open to young people ages 16-25 and their leaders.

"I feel this gives them a knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the problems, attitudes and ideas of other people that can be helpful."

Cooper continued, "As Christians, we are all world citizens; If we are going to function as Christians, we need to know the other people and their problems. And they need to know ours."

No nation has a "monopoly on how to perform as Christians," Cooper said. "Sometimes we think we do, but that isn't true."

The SBC president said four of his five children had attended at least one of the previous Baptist Youth World Conferences.

Cooper said he would "commend any pastor and church to make it possible for some of their young people to make plans to be in Portland and to participate in the Baptist Youth World Conference.

"The young person will come back with a broader Christian concept, more understanding of people from different lands and a better appreciation of our complex foreign problems which arise," he said.

The youth conference was first held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1931. This will be the first time it has been held in the United States.

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Missionary Declared  
"Citizen of Recife"

5/3/74

RECIFE, Brazil (BP)--Southern Baptist Missionary David Mein was declared an honorary "Citizen of Recife" by the city council here.

Mein, appointed to Brazil by the Foreign Mission Board in 1944, is pastor of Cordeiro Baptist Church and president of the North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary here. The "Citizen of Recife" title was presented at a public ceremony.

Born in Grand Rapids, Mich., he spent his childhood in Maceio and Recife, Brazil, where his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. John Mein, were Southern Baptist missionaries.

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Mein succeeded his father as president of the seminary in 1953.

He came to the United States as a teenager but stayed only long enough to prepare for a missionary career. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown (Ky.) College and the master and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He is married to the former Lou Segers of Cornelia, Ga., and they have three grown children.

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Report Says 186 Baptists  
In Soviet Internment Camps

5/3/74

SYDNEY, Australia (BP)--A list was revealed here which indicates that 186 Russian Baptists are being detained in Soviet internment camps, according to The Australian Baptist, weekly newsmagazine of Australian Baptist churches.

The newsmagazine said that Michael Bordeaux, director of the International Centre for Study of Religion and Communism, London, England, displayed the list during a 16-day visit to Australia.

The direct and continuing persecution of Christians in the Soviet Union is a "major blot on human rights that cannot be ignored," The Australian Baptist quoted Bordeaux as telling newspaper reporters.

The publication said Bordeaux "reserved his strongest criticism for the ill-treatment of minority groups."

These included Russian "dissident Baptists" and also Ukrainian Catholics--whose plight, the paper quoted him as saying, the Vatican largely ignored.

"Since the Centre was set up in London in 1970," the Australian publication said, "it has become the focal point for a vast amount of information and research into the state of many religious forms within communist countries.

"This international reputation has precipitated a flow of documents, manuscripts and other material from behind the Iron Curtain to Michael Bordeaux's desk," the paper continued. "The Centre arranges publication for this material, much of which would otherwise never reach the light of day."

The Australian paper said that a "series of letters to the Centre from Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn expressing his religious views became a lifeline of communication between him and the Western world.

"When Solzhenitsyn was expelled from Russia earlier this year," the report continued, "one of the first people he requested to see" was one of the Centre's counselors, Janis Sapiets. Sapiets, the paper said, broadcasts religious services over BBC Radio into Eastern Europe.

"With Russia and its satellite countries adopting a policy of detente with the West, Michael Bordeaux believes that the work of his Centre in highlighting and mass publicizing the activities of various religious groups within these countries is likely to ensure that their religious activities are not curtailed," The Australian Baptist reported.

Citing books written by Bordeaux, the publication said, "His frank and penetrating studies of Russian life and the repression of cultural and religious freedom has earned him praise and admiration throughout the world.

"His latest book, 'Aida of Leningrad,' recounts the story of a young Russian girl who was gaoled (jailed) three times for 'subversive' religious activities, including distributing religious literature on the streets and organizing Sunday School activities for young children.

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"He believes that one of the reasons for the Centre's great success has been its ability and desire to help any group or individual religious order in its fight for human rights and religious liberties," The Australian Baptist said.

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Leroy Cleverdon, Retired  
Baptist Leader; Dies at 79

5/3/74

SUMMERDALE, Ala. (BP)--Leroy G. Cleverdon, 79, a retired Southern Baptist educator and pastor, died here.

Cleverdon retired in 1961 after almost 20 years as pastor of First Baptist Church, Savannah, Ga. Before that he had served for 10 years as president of Judson College, a Baptist woman's institution in Marion, Ala.

He is also former head of the religious education department at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, former chairman of the trustees of Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, and was a contributor to the original Southern Baptist Encyclopedia.

Cleverdon, who also held pastorates in Louisiana and Connecticut, was buried in Summerdale.

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Group Urges World Action  
On Hunger and Population

5/3/74

NEW YORK (BP)--The United Nations secretary general, Kurt Waldheim, has received a Declaration on Food and Population from a Washington-based non-profit educational group which calls for world wide action on the problems of population and hunger.

Among signers of the declaration, drawn by the Population Crisis Committee, was Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, who gave approval to the document "because of the Christian Life Commission's deep interest in this grave moral issue of world hunger."

Valentine joined some 1200 signers from 102 countries, including representatives of a number of religious organizations.

A spokesman for the Population Crisis Committee in Washington said the declaration will be presented at two U.N. affairs, the World Population Conference in Bucharest in August and the World Food Conference in Rome in November.

"With these two conferences only a few months away," the declaration states, "we urge governments acting before, at and after these two global conferences, to consider realistic and purposeful measures."

The declaration outlines growing food, fertilizer and energy shortages, escalating food prices, proliferating poverty and starvation and failure of food production to keep up with population growth.

"Food is crucial because literally tens of millions of lives are suspended in the delicate balance between world population and world food supplies," the declaration states.

"Growing populations, denied sufficient food for survival, resist all efforts to secure a peaceful world. With increased production and more equitable distribution of food, the future could provide a prospect of less misery and more hope for countless people now deprived of the basic necessities that are their right."

The declaration makes five specific proposals, including development of a World Food Plan and a World Population Plan.

The five recommendations are:

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"1. Give high priority to programs in each country which will increase the production of grains, legumes and other staple food crops; ensure the availability of protein-rich foods, particularly to the more vulnerable population groups; expand the production of fertilizer; and improve the opportunities for small farmers to make a reasonable living. Develop a comprehensive World Food Plan for adoption at the World Food Conference.

"2. Support sound population policies relevant to national needs which respect national sovereignty and the diversity of social, economic and cultural conditions; accept and assure the human right of each couple to decide for themselves the spacing and size of their families; and recognize the corresponding responsibility of governments to provide their peoples the information and the means to exercise this right effectively. Embody these policies in a World Population Plan of Action to be agreed upon by governments at the World Population Conference.

"3. Recognize the interdependence of the world community creates an obligation to assist in the necessary funding of food and population programs by both the developing and developed countries. This calls for the elaboration and implementation of a global strategy by the United Nations and its family of agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

"4. Establish sufficient food reserves through national and international efforts to provide continuing vital insurance against food shortages.

"5. Recognize that, in our finite world where resources are limited, the family of man must one day, and hopefully fairly soon, bring the birth rates into reasonable balance with the lowered death rates that have been achieved. Many governments see the need to guide national policy toward this objective."

"In the name of humanity we call upon all governments and peoples everywhere, rich and poor, regardless of political and social systems, to act--to act together--and to act in time," the declaration concluded.

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Feature

5/3/74

Resigning Churches Means  
Success to Georgia Pastor

By Jack U. Harwell  
Editor, The Christian Index

DECATUR, Ga. (BP)--Leon Piper made one of the hardest decisions of his life when he resigned the pastorate of Highland Park Baptist Church in Conyers, with no other place to preach in sight.

For most ministers, that is a sign of problems or trouble. But for Piper it is a sign of success. Piper is a minister-businessman who feels that his ministry for Jesus Christ is to start mission churches from the "ground up" and build them until they are ready for a full time pastor. Then Piper steps out so the congregation may call a full time leader.

That's what happened at Highland Park Church, the fourth congregation Piper has led to requiring a full time pastor.

Remember, however, Piper is also a businessman. He manages a shoe store in DeKalb County and lives in Decatur. His employers are generous with his off-time, so he is able to devote time to members of a church.

His wife is also generous with her time in Christian work. In fact, Piper says, she is "the most helpful wife a pastor could possibly have. She has spent many hours helping me build churches, run a shoe store and raise our three children.

"She has given up a lot for us to serve small churches, but God has richly repaid our entire family."

Piper went to Highland Park Church 5 1/2 years ago when it was a mission of Conyers First Baptist Church. The mission had 105 members and received \$8,000 that first year.

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Under Piper's leadership, the church has grown to 235 members, averages 135 in Sunday School and has a 1974 budget of \$27,000. The congregation erected a sanctuary and educational building in 1972. In 1973, a tornado demolished the sanctuary and most of the educational facilities.

The church's insurance coverage wouldn't cover even half the loss, but the congregation rallied and rebuilt their buildings. The new facilities were re-dedicated recently, a year after the tornado struck.

Two weeks after the dedication, Piper submitted his resignation, saying the decision was "the hardest I have ever made in my life."

He continued, "But the Lord told me in clear terms that I had fulfilled my mission at Highland Park. The church is now ready for a full time leader. If I remain, I will keep them from calling that pastor they need on the field."

Piper terminates at Highland Park Church on June 1. He doesn't know where he will serve next. But he says, "God told me 22 years ago he wanted me to be a businessman-preacher and that He would always open a place for me to serve.

"I am still true to my commitment and I know God will honor his promise to me."

Proof that the Highland Park congregation appreciates the Pipers was the church's Leon Piper Appreciation Day in late April. The couple was also given a thank you gift of a long awaited trip to Israel.

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Adapted from The Christian Index, news publication of the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia.

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