



BAPTIST PRESS

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July 31, 1974

July Sets Record for
Foreign Mission Appointments

74-23

RICHMOND (BP)--The appointment of 33 missionaries at Bon Air Baptist Church here during a July meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board brought the total number of additions to the board's overseas staff during July to 148, a record for a single month.

The 33 new missionaries, combined with 77 missionary journeymen, 34 missionaries appointed earlier in July and four reappointments, makes a record increase of missionaries in a given month in the 129-year history of the Foreign Mission Board. The previous record, set in 1973, was 114.

"July, 1974, will be remembered as a remarkable month in the appointing of missionaries," said Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary. "The appointment of such a large number of people during the month indicates the continuing concern on the part of Southern Baptists for an effective worldwide missionary effort in the name of our Lord. These new people will bring much strength to the missionary enterprise."

In other action, W. A. Billy Kruschwitz, a former missionary journeyman to Nigeria and director of the 1974 journeyman training program, was elected as a regional personnel representative for the board.

Based in his hometown of Louisville, Ky., Kruschwitz will counsel persons interested in foreign mission service, channeling qualified volunteers into application procedures leading toward missionary appointment. His assigned territory includes 20 states in the northeastern United States.

Appointed as missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Joe G. Autry of Texas and Washington, to Korea; Mr. and Mrs. Jim J. Bobo of Texas and Oklahoma, to Vietnam; Mr. and Mrs. Michael H. Clendenen of Florida and Kentucky, to Taiwan; Mr. and Mrs. Bob M. Coutts of Tennessee and Oklahoma, to Dahomey; Ray H. Hite of Virginia, to Hong Kong; Mr. and Mrs. James V. Holland of Texas, to Angola; and Miss Barbara Lawson of Virginia, to Indonesia.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. John L. McNair of Mississippi, to India; Miss Marina Menzies of California, to Honduras; Mr. and Mrs. Buddy V. Norville of Texas, to Ivory Coast; Miss Naomi Page of Texas, to Panama; Mr. and Mrs. Dudley A. Phifer of Texas, to Malawi; Mr. and Mrs. W. Stewart Pickle of Tennessee and New York, to Ecuador; Miss Marilyn Pinson of West Virginia, to West Africa; and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Frank Thomas of Georgia and Kentucky, to Upper Volta.

Employed as missionary associates were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Blair of Florida and Georgia, to Ecuador; Mr. and Mrs. Everett H. Croxton Sr. of South Carolina and Texas, to France; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond L. Odle of Illinois, to Yemen; and Mr. and Mrs. Bob L. Twiford of Virginia and California, to Rhodesia.

The board also reappointed Mr. and Mrs. Curtis L. Dixon, who served in Brazil from 1966 to 1972, to Angola, where they will be involved in general evangelism, stationed at Luanda, Angola. Mr. and Mrs. J. Phillip Cole, who served as missionary associates in Liberia from 1969 to 1973, were reemployed for another term of service as teachers at Ricks Institute, Monrovia, Liberia.

Annuity Board Announces New Medical Plan Rates

DALLAS (BP)--New rate adjustment notices for the church medical insurance plan have been distributed to 8,500 participants by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Darold H. Morgan, president of the board, said the new rates will go into effect, October 1. They range from a low of 7.1 to a high of 26.2 percent with the SBC average at 16.1 percent. The rates increase according to the type of plan coverage in the state in which the member resides, Morgan said.

The Annuity Board president cited the rise in inflation, climbing medical costs and larger percentage of claims as reasons for the rate increases, first one since the church medical plan went under Aetna Life Insurance Company on January 1, 1973.

Morgan pointed out that the rate of inflation has exceeded 12 percent since January 1, 1973. During the same period, price controls, which were in effect on providers of medical services, were relaxed. Consequently, medical costs have gone up, he said.

The third factor pertains to the ratio of claims to premiums for the first 18 months. This figure reached a high of 86 percent. "An acceptable maximum ratio, without a rate increase, is 82 percent," Morgan said.

"We wish very much the rates could remain the same," Morgan said, "but we believe that members understand the reasons for the increases when three factors precipitating them are considered."

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A Journalist's View Of Salvation

7/31/74

By Audrey Langdon

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (BP)--Sunday at the stadium here, the press corps at the International Congress on World Evangelization was in a state of hushed anticipation. Just as you might expect from a corps of reverends, deacons, Bible school graduates and born-again broadcasters.

A notable exception was the man on my right, a stranger to me and apparently to others in the press group. He had avoided introductions by studying the program, jotting notes, adjusting his tape recorder. To my American eyes he looked like a fashionably sophisticated Frenchman.

During the first testimony, he lit a cigarette. One cigarette followed another. The recording button clicked on and off and on again. He kept shifting in his seat, twisting the recorder microphone in one direction, then another. Toward the end of Billy Graham's speech he became very still. At the close of the invitation he clicked off the mike and stood up.

"Do you smoke?" he said to me and handed me two packs of Gauloise.

He turned and walked to the railing, the first person to go forward.

For a long time, nobody came to stand beside him. Finally, other men joined him. Then there was a long wait before a counselor appeared, a tall young Swiss.

Along with a reverend journalist from my hometown, I waited for the Frenchman to return. A smiling stranger with a temporary press badge joined us. Through his adequate English and our inadequate French we learned he was the photographer-partner of the man whose cigarettes I was holding.

He and his counselor were the last to leave the track. The photographer beamed at him with pride. The reverend shook his hand. I returned the Gauloise.

"I don't need them anymore," he said. Then he added, "I had to go up. I couldn't resist it."

We said in French, "God bless you."

His smile grew wider. And when we wished him joy in Christ and said we'd pray for him, the smile grew brighter still.

He walked off with the photographer to drive back to Paris. A little unsteady on his feet, grinning with joy, a newborn babe in Christ.

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Miss Langdon is a Presbyterian journalist from Newark, N.J.