

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 1, 1975

75-70

**Missionary Return to Saigon
Aids Vietnam Baptist Exit**

SAIGON (BP)--Vietnamese employees of the Baptist Mission of South Vietnam and their families, plus other Baptists, were among the final refugees evacuated from Saigon by the U. S. government, as a result of efforts by Southern Baptist missionaries H. Earl Bengs Jr. and Gene V. Tunnell.

The two missionaries, who had previously evacuated to Singapore, returned to Saigon on April 24 on a final mission--an attempt to arrange for the evacuation of this group.

Bengs and Tunnell went to the South Vietnamese government--then still in power--with the list of names of the Baptist employees, their families and others. They requested permission for their evacuation, according to a telephone conversation with R. Keith Parks, the board's secretary for Southeast Asia, who was in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China.

The American Embassy in Saigon agreed to evacuate the refugees on the list and plans were made for the evacuation, Parks said.

Bengs and Tunnell were among the last to leave Saigon on commercial flights, Saturday, April 26, just days before the South Vietnamese surrender was announced.

It is not certain whether all persons listed by the missionaries have been successfully evacuated. Reports indicate that some arrived safely at Clark Field in the Philippines, and others are in Guam. Attempts are being made to determine the total number evacuated and their present location, according to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond.

Southern Baptist Missionary Parkes Marler, stationed in Guam, is directing missionary efforts to assist refugees there. Missionaries are helping to register and process the thousands of refugees from Saigon.

Baptist missionaries in the Philippines are also involved with registration and recreational activities at Clark Field.

In the United States, staff members of the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission Boards, the denomination's Brotherhood Commission and other Baptist groups are consulting with government officials, churches in areas where the evacuees will be received and relief agencies to determine a possible course of action when the refugees arrive.

-30-

**Georgians Support Church-
Minister Relations Office****Baptist Press
5/1/75**

ATLANTA (BP)--Roy W. Hinchey, who retired May 1 as the first secretary of church-minister relations for the Georgia Baptist Convention, played a key role in establishing a major Baptist milestone.

One of his most treasured letters came from an associational missionary who wrote: "When you were elected to lead the new department of work with Georgia Baptists, your program had almost solid opposition in my particular section of the state. Only a few of us felt we could support such a work.

"During these intervening years, your quiet, gentle way of moving among our people has produced a change . . . I can now say I find practically no opposition to your work."

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Other comments from across Georgia, reports Jack Harwell, editor of Georgia Baptists' state paper, the Christian Index, have followed a similar vein in reflecting on Hinchey's ministry in one of the most sensitive areas of Baptist life—helping ministers and church staffers find churches and helping churches find them.

The idea of a denominational office to help ministers and churches get together was brought up several times in Georgia and other states before it became a reality. Now, about 10 state conventions have created similar programs, with differing approaches.

After nearly four years of existence, the Georgia Baptist church-minister relations office receives about 60 calls a month from churches and an equal number from ministers. In the beginning, totals ran about 15 monthly calls from churches and 60 from ministers.

Critics felt such an office would tend to create a "Baptist bishop," who placed all ministers in the state in violation of local church autonomy, circumventing work of the Holy Spirit and creating political blocs in denominational life.

When the Georgia convention authorized the office in 1971, it spelled out detailed guid lines which have prohibited any of the above from developing.

Hinchey said, "I have tried hard not to be a 'recommending' or 'endorsing' agency. I give factual information on men and women who from every human judgment might b possible candidates for that particular church, leaving all final decisions to local churches under prayerful guidance of the Holy Spirit. If this office ever gets to be more than an informational or counseling center, it's headed for trouble."

James W. Waters of Macon, now president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, chaired the committee which recommended Hinchey's ministry in 1970.

Waters recently wrote: "Initial skepticism, and perhaps some fear of a centralized authority which I had, quickly gave way to a strong interest in and support of this program. I saw too many churches and ministers who needed a channel for consultation and assistance to think otherwise."

"The gentle, gracious and compassionate ministry of Roy Hinchey in this position, together with the sympathetic and concerned support of Georgia Baptists, have caused this service to become well established. The value of this program has proven itself many times," Waters added.

Hinchey has had considerable success in counseling with churches and ministers to settle church troubles before they become serious ruptures.

"Many churches have called on our office to help counsel about staff problems before they became church splits," he said. "I hope this will accelerate under Dr. Ethington." (W. Howard Ethington, area missionary from Columbus, Ga., will succeed Hinchey.)

"It has been my observation that most serious church problems come about because of bull-headed pastors or bull-headed deacons, who thought they were the president and the board of directors of a religious corporation, rather than the shepherd and under-shepherds of God's precious flock," Hinchey said.

"The greatest conflicts in our churches don't come from doctrines or programs, but from personal relationships. A minister who has conflicts in one church will have conflicts in another church, unless he learns to relate to people. The same is true of deacons."

He added: "My biggest frustration has been trying to help ministers who can't be helped, because they won't accept their own need for a healthy personality and a right relationship to folks."

"A man doesn't become a pastor just because the church votes for him. He has to earn that right," he declared.

"A minister can't move every two years and earn that blessed right, either. People will love their pastor in direct proportion to how much he loves them and how long he stays at their church."

Hinchey said he has noted one "d cidely healthy" trend in his nearly-four years in his pioneering position.

"Four years ago all the churches wanted a flashy young minister with the wisdom of Solomon and the experience of Job, but he couldn't be over 35 years of age," he said.

"Today, more churches are rejecting chronological barriers on the Holy Spirit and are willing to consider an older, more mature minister. Many churches got 'burned' by calling the angry young men of the sixties and are taking a more careful look at maturity now."

He added: "Some churches have stopped the silly practice of jumping in cars and running all over the Southeast to hear every preacher recommended to their committee.

"More and more are sitting down and making thorough, careful, prayerful investigations of all the data they can get about possible ministers, before they go to hear them preach. I applaud this trend; it is overdue."

Hinchey paid warm tribute to associational missionaries and to other Georgia Baptist employees for support in his sensitive ministry.

"Dr. Roy Hinchey's achievements are of memorable significance," responds Searcy S. Garrison, Georgia Baptist executive secretary-treasurer. "He came to this position with commitment to Christ, concern for the churches and those who serve in them and with an und rstanding of the principles and policies of Baptists."

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**Baptist Film Wins Film
Festival Citation**

**Baptist Press
5/1/75**

CHICAGO (BP)--"The Mountain Within," a documentary film about the work being done by the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, was awarded the Silver Screen Award at th 8th annual international awards competition of the United States Industrial Film F stival here.

The citation is the second highest award given at the festival for public service films produced in 1974.

"The Mountain Within" competed against 500 other film entries and was judged by 200 judges from nine different countries.

The film was submitted for judging by the TimeRite division of the Southern Baptist Convention's Radio and Television Commission, which produced the agency's film.

The motion picture also recently received a certificate of special merit from the Religious Public Relations Council, at the national, interfaith group's meeting in Washington, D. C., in early April. The film tied for the honor with another production entered by the national Salvation Army. The RPRC is made up of public relations practitioners from all religious denominations.

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**Dean; Acting Administrator
Named By S. C. College**

**Baptist Press
5/1/75**

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--The board of trustees of North Greenville College, a Baptist school in the suburb of Tigerville, have named the school's vice president of development, Ryan Eklund, as chief administrative officer while a new president is being sought.

In March, Harold E. Lindsey, president of the school since 1970, resigned in the wake of controversy among faculty and students concerning his actions as president. The last trustee action relieves him of all administration, other than on an advisory and consultative basis.

A committee, headed by Dr. Bruce Tollison, an Easley, S. C., physician, reported to trustees that the committee has made steady progress toward a recommendation for a new president.

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In another action, the board named S. C. Brissie as academic dean, succeeding Clarence Carder. Brissie returns to a post he held for three years before becoming dean of admissions last summer. In the midst of the controversy, the trustees dismissed Carder.

The controversy at the 750-student school, one of four colleges operated by South Carolina Baptists, became public in February when 16 of 22 faculty members signed a petition calling for Lindsey's resignation. The petition accused Lindsey of being "arrogant, dictatorial, self-serving, unChristian . . ." Two principal grievances centered around a stepped up teaching load and a charge the president bought land from the college at less than market value.

Eklund, when the controversy broke, quickly resigned, saying the school could not raise money in the midst of controversy. At the time a \$4 million campaign was nearing the half-way point.

At the request of the trustees, Eklund later agreed to withdraw his resignation.

During the controversy, students went through a week-long class boycott and the entire faculty was placed on probation (an action later rescinded by the trustees). Carder was dismissed by the trustees' executive committee, which said he violated a stipulation by the board that called for all faculty to refrain from "further action that would heighten the confrontation."

The appointments of Eklund and Brissie relieve Charles V. Bruce, business manager, of additional duties he carried for two months in the administrative and academic areas.

Board Chairman A. Jack Blanton reported that Lindsey, whose resignation officially goes into effect July 31, is ill, having spent some time in a Boston hospital receiving treatment for "coronary insufficiency."

The trustees also approved issuing all remaining faculty contracts, without probation as earlier considered. They had approved contracts in their March 8 meeting for all but three faculty members. These three were approved at the latest meeting. The trustees rescinded an earlier decision to withhold tenure from the faculty during 1975-76.