



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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75-74

Home Mission Board Approves Refugee Work of Missionaries

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors unanimously passed a motion encouraging continued efforts by the board to minister to Vietnamese refugees in the resettlement camps and assistance to them in relocating in the United States.

Board president, Russell H. Dilday, presiding over the regular monthly meeting of the directors executive committee, praised the staff and missionaries for moving swiftly in response to the situation and said he was impressed with the cooperation of the Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board in the matter.

Dilday himself suggested the motion that the directors encourage the staff to "sick 'em" in pursuing continued efforts to assist the refugees.

In other action, the directors elected a new staff member and appointed 11 missionaries and missionary associates. James Lewis, director of work with internationals with the Baptist Convention of Maryland, was elected assistant director of the department of language missions.

The board's executive director, Arthur B. Rutledge, reported receipts of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and the national Cooperative Program unified budget both were showing significant increases.

The Annie Armstrong Offering total through May 8 was \$2,347,000--up 30 percent from the corresponding date in 1974, and Cooperative Program receipts through the first seven months of the fiscal year are up 7.52 percent, Rutledge said.

"This is extremely encouraging and exceptional in light of the national economy," he said. "We should be grateful and humble in the interest our people are showing for missions."

Most of the meeting centered on reports of the board's involvement with the Vietnamese refugees.

Oscar Romo, director of the department of language missions, and Paul Adkins, director of the department of Christian social ministries, told the directors that missionaries already are active in the three resettlement camps in Camp Pendleton, California, Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, and Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

They will work with Southern Baptist foreign missionaries at each camp. Both Adkins and Romo have consulted with Eugene Grubbs, the foreign mission board's disaster relief coordinator, to coordinate the effort. Two foreign missionaries are already at work in the camps and two more have been requested.

Home Mission Board efforts at each camp will be in conjunction with the Foreign Mission Board and will assist efforts by state Baptist conventions. The state conventions have appointed local coordinators--James Roamer, director of Coronado Baptist Center, in California; W. Trueman Moore, a Home Mission Board director and pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas; and James Monroe, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

The language missions department, through its immigration and refugee service, is outside the camps in helping relocate the refugees. Christian social ministries missionaries, such as Roamer, are working in various ministries inside the camp.

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Romo's department is working with Church World Service in resettling some 10,000 of the refugees. Southern Baptists' part of that figure will be about 400 families, he said, and already many phone calls have been received from churches, associations and state conventions offering assistance.

He said that his staff had set almost everything else aside to respond to the refugee resettlement effort. They have prepared three packets of materials to assist refugees, sponsoring churches and associational and state conventions.

"We are compiling a list of people who want to help," he said, "churches and people with varied expertise."

Romo said that many of the refugees speak Chinese as well as Vietnamese, and Chinese language missionaries will be used in the effort.

He cautioned that sponsorship of refugees will mean more than providing just food, housing and money. "It will also mean witnessing to these people and expressing continued concern," he said.

Romo added that his department has also arranged for a supply of Vietnamese scriptures from the American Bible Society for distribution to the refugees.

Adkins said the Christian social ministries missionaries are involved in education efforts, assisting in the Americanization process of the refugees, and providing day care services for all age groups. They have also offered to coordinate volunteer services at all three camps.

Three men from the Washington, D. C., area, Ector Hamrick, Harry Hearne and Al Oliver, had lead efforts to involve Southern Baptists at the camp, Adkins said. Hearne, Christian social ministries consultant for the District of Columbia Baptist Convention; Oliver, pastor of Hillandale Baptist Church of Adelphi, Maryland; and Hamrick, CSM director in Mount Vernon Baptist Association, Alexandria, Va., through contacts with the Department of State, gained access to all three camps.

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Churches Advised on Steps For Refugee Sponsorship

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ATLANTA (BP)--Churches wishing to sponsor a refugee family from South Vietnam were advised here of the necessary steps to follow.

Irvin Dawson, who heads the immigration and refugee service for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, suggested a three step plan:

- Vote in church conference to sponsor a family.
- Prepare to provide temporary housing, foodstuffs and other essentials and assist the wage earners in the refugee family in securing a job. Many have professional skills.
- Notify the missions director of the state Baptist convention or Dawson's office in Atlanta of the decision to serve as a sponsor.

"We will notify the church of a family needing sponsorship," Dawson said, "and provide a dossier about the family, their religious affiliation and occupational background."

Dawson said he was confident that Southern Baptist churches will play a responsible role in helping the Vietnamese refugees begin a new life in America.

The Home Mission Board is working with Church World Service (CWS) in the refugee resettlement program as it has done previously in efforts with Hungarians, Cubans and Ugandans.

Church World Service is one of seven voluntary religious organizations which the Federal government recognizes as channels for refugee resettlement. CWS has representatives at each of the temporary refugee housing centers in California, Arkansas and Florida.

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**New Staffer, 11 Mission
Personnel Named By Board**

ATLANTA (BP)--A new staff member, four missionaries and seven missionary associates were appointed at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's directors meeting here.

The missionaries and associates will serve in five states in language missions, Christian social ministries, cooperative ministries with National Baptists and in directing associational missions.

James N. Lewis Jr., was named assistant director of the department of language missions, effective June 13.

A native of Porterdale, Ga., Lewis has been a missionary associate of the Home Mission Board since 1973, directing work with internationals for the Baptist Convention of Maryland.

He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he earned master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees.

He served churches in Nashville and Louisville as minister of youth and was pastor of North Fork Baptist Church, Frankfort, Ky., from 1967-73.

Missionaries appointed were Robert and Janet Allensworth of Richmond, Va., to work at Community House, a Baptist neighborhood center in Roanoke, Va.; and William and Lucille May Campbell of Nashville, Tenn., who will direct cooperative missions ministries with National Baptists in the Nashville, Tenn., area for the Home Mission Board's department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists.

Allensworth, currently associate pastor of Pine Street Baptist Church, Richmond, is a native of Fredericksburg, Va. He is a graduate of the University of Richmond and has a master's degree from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond. Mrs. Allensworth is a graduate of Westhampton College of the University of Richmond.

Campbell is a native of Delaware and is a graduate of Scarritt College and American Baptist Seminary. Mrs. Campbell attended Franklin University and American Baptist Seminary.

Missionary associates appointed were Alicia M. Bolanos of San Antonio; Frank and Rosella Bullock of Ishpeming, Mich., to direct missions in Michigan's upper Peninsula; Dortha Newman of Goliad, Tex., to work as a Spanish language kindergarten worker in Goliad; Viola Rendon of San Antonio to work as a kindergarten teacher in Dallas. Robert Lewis Gilbert, a student at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, California, appointed a missionary associate by the department of Christian social ministries to conduct social ministries in San Francisco.

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**Duck Resigns Foreign
Mission Board Post**

Baptist Press
5/9/75

ARLINGTON, Tex. (BP)--Roger G. Duck has announced his resignation as associate secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's department of promotion and furlough ministries to join the staff of the Union Baptist Association's center for counseling in Houston, effective July 15.

Duck, who has been associated with the board for nearly 18 years, will be joined at the center by his wife, the former Lavonia Redden of Abilene, Tex., presently a counselor in the Arlington Independent School District.

From his base in Arlington, Tex., Duck has assisted the board's departmental secretary and staff in interpreting foreign missions through promotional efforts and the ministries of furloughing missionaries. His primary relationship has been to furloughing missionaries living west of the Mississippi River.

Before becoming associate secretary on June 1, 1972, Duck served as a regional representative in the board's department of missionary personnel, counseling qualified Southern Baptists interested in missionary careers. He is a former missionary to Colombia and former pastor of churches in Cranfills Gap, Tex., and the Abilene area. A native of Abilene, Duck attended Texas A & M University, College Station, and was graduated from Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. He is a clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Counselors and a professional affiliate in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

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