

**(BP)****BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 30, 1975

75-85

North Greenville School  
 Picks Silver as President

**GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)**--George Silver of Easton, Md., has been named president of North Greenville College, a Baptist school in suburban Tigerville near here.

Silver, for the past nine years president of Chesapeake College, a community junior college in Wye Mills, Md., succeeds Harold E. Lindsey who resigned.

An active Baptist layman, he is president of the Maryland Baptist Convention's executive board and a trustee at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

A native of Trenton, N. J., Silver is a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University. He earned the master of education degree from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., and the doctor of education degree from Temple University, Philadelphia.

He is a former business manager of Merdith College, a Baptist school for women in Raleigh, N. C.

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S. C. Church Ordains Woman  
 For Chaplaincy Service

Baptist Press  
 5/30/75

**SPARTANBURG, S. C. (BP)**--Helen Lee Turner has been ordained by First Baptist Church here. She is the fourth woman ordained by a Southern Baptist church in South Carolina and about the 20th across the Southern Baptist Convention, although exact statistics are not available.

Miss Turner grew up in the church and she and her family are members there. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University, a Baptist school in Winston-Salem, N. C., and earned a degree in theology at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville.

She said she plans to enter the chaplaincy but would consider a church staff position.

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FCC Will Not Eliminate  
 Religious Broadcasting

Baptist Press  
 5/30/75

By John W. Baker

**WASHINGTON (BP)**--In spite of rumors to the contrary, there is no movement afoot in the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or in Congress to remove existing religious broadcasting from either radio or television.

This could not be done under the First Amendment to the Constitution, and it would constitute political suicide for an elected official.

However, the FCC will be considering a petition which, if accepted, could have an effect on religious broadcasting in the future. The facts are rather simple.

On Dec. 5, 1974 Jeremy D. Lansman and Lorenzo W. Milam filed a petition with the FCC asking that it issue administrative rulings which would prohibit the assignment of any additional educational television or FM radio licenses to individuals or groups which would air only religious or quasi-religious programs.

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In so requesting, the petitioners were acting solely on their own behalf and were not representing any organized groups.

In this petition, which the commission designated as RM 2493, it was argued that because there are a limited number of channels available to the listening and viewing public those channels should serve the interests of the broadest based public possible.

It was asserted that it is contrary to the general public interest to have any additional educational television or FM radio channels devoted exclusively to religious programming.

The petition has generated a strong negative reaction among many people. Some of these have been exposed to only a part of the facts; many have received garbled information.

However, many of those who had their information correct have not known how to make their opposition known to the government officials who will make the final decisions on the petition.

The following may make the process clearer.

Though there is no action on the matter pending in Congress, the members serve as an effective conduit of opinion to the regulatory commissions. Letters to representatives are effective if they contain correct information and a sincere request for help.

The Administrative Procedures Act establishes the steps which an administrative agency must follow in determining what its regulations will contain.

The staff of a regulatory commission conducts a study of the requests made in petitions which are received.

After study the staff may make one of three recommendations to the full commission:

(1) It may recommend a set of proposed regulations, which, if the commission approves them, must be published in the Federal Register. Opportunities must then be accorded to the opposition to make its case. Then revised rules are issued. The rules have the binding effect of law.

(2) The staff may recommend that a "notice of inquiry" be published in the Federal Register asking for further public input into the rule making process. After the staff has considered these new ideas, it will either recommend rules to the commission, or:

(3) The staff can recommend that the requests in the petition be dismissed. The commission usually accepts this recommendation.

Letters to FCC members may be effective in the period after the staff has made its recommendations.

To be effective, these letters, like those to Congress, should mention RM 2493 and should reflect a realization that current religious broadcasting and any religious programming on commercial radio and television would not be affected if the petition were adopted and that the Constitution requires that government be neutral and not antagonistic in its dealing with religion.

There is no cause for any immediate alarm. Those charged with watching government activities must be vigilant.

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John W. Baker is director of research services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C. From the May, 1975 issue of Report From the Capital, published by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

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U. S. Christians Challenged  
To Minister to Refugees

RICHMOND (BP)--It is up to Christians in America to complete the ministry and witness to refugees which the missionaries in Vietnam and Guam have only begun, according to two Southern Baptist missionaries evacuated from Vietnam.

"Much of the soil of the Vietnamese hearts is already prepared for the reception of the Word of God. The spirit with which Americans receive these refugees will determine--to a great extent--the Vietnamese people's response to the gospel message," said William T. Roberson, who has been working in Guam following his evacuation.

Many Vietnamese want to locate in the southern areas of the United States, where the climate is more comparable to that of their native country; therefore, in southern states especially there will be opportunity to serve, he said.

Stressing the importance of the written word, Roberson told of the 10,000 copies of the Gospel of John which had been hastily printed in the Vietnamese language and distributed on Guam.

"The gospel has been received by the sick and the well as if it were the last book they would ever be able to read in Vietnamese." He said many were so eager to have the book they offered to buy a copy from others who had received two copies.

Not only in their hunger to read Vietnamese, but also in their mental and emotional turmoil, they are "receptive to the message of Christ's love," Roberson said.

"Isolation, loneliness and abandonment were the everyday problems confronting increased numbers of the refugees," he continued.

"Southern Baptist churches have a fresh opportunity to witness to a transplanted mission field."

He added that churches can organize English classes, Bible classes and help the people find a home and a job.

James H. Lassiter, another missionary who worked in Guam following his evacuation from Vietnam, now assisting refugees at Camp Pendleton, Calif., agreed that helping a family become settled and begin work is one of the best ministries an individual or group can provide.

"People need to realize that the Vietnamese people want to be on their own," he said. "It is not their desire to be dependent on anyone. They want to get a job. Anyone who's not going to help them do this is going to be doing them as much harm as good.

"They don't need a sponsor with an overcoddling attitude," Lassiter said. "Whatever you do for this person, make sure your maximum effort is spent in helping them become self-sufficient in America," he added.

Ironically, at first they will be totally dependent. They will need help in everything--getting food, clothing, learning the language. A sponsor or anyone assisting them should always have in mind that the refugees gradually should become less and less dependent, according to Lassiter.

Lassiter encouraged individuals interested in sponsoring refugees to do so through their church. He explained, "The actual sponsor ought to be a church, even though an individual in that church is actually doing it.

"It looks much better to the people determining the validity of sponsors to find that a group, per se, is assuming responsibility for that family."

Among the problems facing refugees which potential sponsors need to understand include climate adjustments, response to America's affluence, the problems any minority group faces and the anxiety of leaving relatives behind.

Underscoring the importance of Christian sponsors, Lassiter feels it is important for the people who sponsor the Vietnamese to be people who care and who love.

Those who haven't had a great deal of training with the Vietnamese don't know specifically how to help, he said, "And the only thing that's going to overcome a lack of knowledge is a great deal of love."

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Mississippi College  
To Open Law School

Baptist Press  
5/30/75

CLINTON, Miss. (BP)--Mississippi College, a Baptist school here, has announced plans to open a school of law, beginning in the fall semester, 1975, it was announced here.

Named to lead the school as dean is lawyer and educator Arthur A. Weeks, a Baptist layman and native of Hanceville, Ala. Currently heading an accreditation program at D laware Law School in Wilmington, he has been with the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, a Baptist school in Birmingham, as dean and professor of law since 1961.

Lewis Nobles, Mississippi College president noted, "We are especially pleased to open the school at this time," as it "will be the 125th anniversary of Mississippi College as a Baptist-supported college and the 150th as an educational institution."

The school has acquired the Jackson School of Law founded in 1930, with students from that school to become Mississippi College students, should they desire to continue their current study program.

Mississippi College earlier announced plans to open a school of business and public administrations this fall.

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Baptists Ring Liberty  
Bell at White House

Baptist Press  
5/30/75

WASHINGTON, D.C.(BP)--Few people paid attention as 25 Southern Baptists, a few tourists and two Presidential aides gathered for a bicentennial-related ceremony on the White House grounds--that is until the bell was rung.

The event featured a replica of the Liberty Bell, on loan to Southern Baptists from the State of Mississippi, and highlighted 200 years of Baptists contributions in this country.

Southern Baptist Convention President Jaroy Weber of Lubbock, Tex., addressed the gathering, calling the bell the "symbol of the challenge our denomination faces to be on the cutting edge of renewal and revival."

The bell is being transported to the Southern Baptist Convention (June 10-12) and will be rung in each of the opening sessions. On loan to Southern Baptists, the bell is owned by the State of Mississippi and is on a cross-country tour enroute to Miami Beach.

Ceremonies, utilizing the bell, have been held in pre-selected sites important to Baptist history, enroute.

At the SBC in Miami Beach, Weber continued, "The bell will ring out a call to the denomination to return to authority, to a renewed emphasis on separation of church and state, to world compassion and missions, and to an emphasis on integrity...."

"All our freedoms are born out of a relationship with Jesus Christ," Weber said. "Out of this freedom will come peace and freedom for the entire world," he added.

Representing President Ford, who left the same morning for an overseas tour, was John E. Nidecker, special assistant to the President and 46 years a lay leader in the Episcopal church.

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Speaking for Ford, Nidecker said;

"The staunchness of faith of Baptists is well known throughout the world. The effort you have made in countries not gifted with the light of the gospel have brought joy and peace to many people.

"The inspiration you have shown in your lives to give of yourselves to the Lord's service has made you a greatly respected people by your fellow countrymen .

"Nidecker continued, "The President feels that as we approach the treshold of one-tenth of the history of the Christian faith, we should rededicate ourselves to the principals of faith, liberty and justice, that all people in our nation might enjoy life in this country.

"We must dedicate our future to the freedom of faith and patriotism that has made our nation as great as it is today," Nidecker said.

John Borling, a representative from the White House public liaison office, remarked about Weber's emphasis on separation of church and state.

"Although we must keep government out of religion, we must not keep religion out of government," Borling said.

Following the ceremony, it was time to ring the bell, with V.O. Vaught, of Little Rock, Ark, who presided, and Weber manning the ropes.

It slowly began to rock back and forth. As the clapper made its contact with the two-ton bell, faces began to appear in the White House windows. Workers peered around walls and out-of-doors to see where the sounds were coming from.

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An earlier celebration/Philadelphia commemorated the signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776, the ratifying of the U.S. Constitution, Sept. 17, 1789, and the founding of the first Baptist association in 1707. It was also in Philadelphia that the Triennial Convention (first nationwide body of Baptists) was founded May 18, 1843.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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#### CORRECTION

On BP Feature of 5-28-75, the headline should read-- "King Smith--Child . . ." -- instead of Ken.

Thanks,

BAPTIST PRESS

**Baptists Increase in All South American Nations**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP)--Baptists increased in number this past year in each of the 11 South American nations, the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) reported here. Totals for the continent went from 470,722 reported a year ago to 512,379, the world Baptist agency noted.

The largest number of Baptists on the continent are in Brazil, which has 442,217. Brazil has long been the fourth ranking country among Baptists of the world.

The greatest percentage increase from an established Baptist base was in Bolivia, but an increase of 3,000 there (over last year's 5,400) is largely a correction of the previous figure, BWA officials said.

In 10 of the 11 South American nations, the principal Baptist body is affiliated with the BWA. Ecuador is the only South America country without a BWA affiliate.

Beyond totals for the South American nations, Baptists are reported in one of the three continental dependencies--Surinam, a Dutch possession where 213 Baptists are counted.

The other two dependancies, the Falkland Island and French Guinea, are without Baptists, the BWA report said.

Baptist churches in South America total 4470.

Statistics by area are as follows:

	Church 1975	Church Members 1975	1974
Argentina	396	24,732	24,264
Bolivia	156	8,400	5,400
Brazil	3,417	442,217	408,325
Chile	166	13,200	11,918
Columbia	85	7,561	7,200
Ecuador	46	2,315	1,777
Guyana	27	2,093	2,031
Paraguay	25	2,376	2,061
Peru	47	3,381	2,688
Uruguay	52	2,501	2,358
Venezuela	49	3,390	2,700
Surinam	4	213	--
Total	4470	512,379	470,722

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**Baptist in Central America Caribbean Islands at 200,000**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP)--Baptists in Central America and the Caribbean Islands continue to number about 200,000, statistics released by the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) here show.

There are 1,572 Baptist churches in 19 nations and 12 dependencies in the combined areas.

This year's figure is given at 199,042 while last year's report showed 202,414. The main difference is in Trinidad and Tobago, where it appears a BWA release notes, that a Baptist community of 7,000 was reported in 1974, instead of the baptized believers (generally around 2,250) as reported, correctly, in 1975.

For the 26 jurisdictions included in the report, Baptists increased in 14, declined in 3 and remain unchanged in numbers in 9.

Haiti is now, as last year, the country with the largest number of Baptists, accounting for 38 percent of the regional total. Jamaica is second and the Bahamas third.

The newest nation in the area to gain independence, Grenada, has a Baptist mission, but no church or church members as yet.

The figures are:

	Churches	Church Members	
	<u>1975</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1974</u>
Bahamas	278	25,688	26,688
Barbados	5	167	70
Costa Rica	50	4,573	4,350
Cuba	192	14,924	14,744
Dominican Republic	14	2,806	2,806
El Salvador	42	3,252	3,117
Grenada	--	----	----
Guatemala	83	5,836	5,377
Haiti	179	77,468	77,889
Honduras	82	3,504	3,287
Jamaica	380	32,508	31,985
Nicaragua	60	5,108	5,060
Panama (and Canal Zone)	52	6,905	6,578
Trinidad and Tobago	24	2,263	7,000
Antigua	2	120	115
Belize	7	300	300
British Virgin Islands	2	120	35
Dominica	3	83	30
Guadeloupe	4	72	58
Martinique	9	500	500
Puerto Rico	73	11,450	11,039
St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla	4	240	231
St. Lucia	5	90	90
St. Vincent	4	80	80
Turks and Caicos Islands	10	785	785
U.S. Virgin Islands	<u>8</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
Total	1,572	199,042	202,414