



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 9, 1975

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Interfaith Director, Missionaries Appointed

ATLANTA (BP)--A new director of the department of interfaith witness and 20 new missionaries and missionary associates and one US-2 missionary were elected by Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors here.

The directors also accepted the resignations of three staff members.

Glenn Allen Igleheart, northeastern director for the department of interfaith witness since 1968, was named director of the department.

He succeeds M. Thomas Starkes who resigned last December to join the faculty of Southwest Missouri State University.

A native of Owensboro, Ky., Igleheart is a graduate of Murray State College and earned bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He has done additional graduate study at Harvard University.

Igleheart has served several Kentucky churches as minister of music, assistant pastor and youth director and was pastor of Stewart's Creek Baptist Church, Lebanon, Ky., 1958-62, and Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville, 1963-68.

Resignations were accepted from Dan C. McQueen, director of the division of business services; Don F. Mabry, director of the department of survey and special studies; and from F. Russell Bennett, director of associational administration services.

McQueen, who has headed the business services division since 1968, resigned to enter private business with a Georgia manufacturing firm. His resignation is effective July 18.

Mabry, a veteran of 10 years' service with the board has accepted a new position as director of church extension with the Florida Baptist Convention, effective Aug. 1.

Bennett, who has been with the Home Mission Board since 1967, has been named director of field education in the school of theology at Southern Seminary, also effective Aug. 1.

In other action, Executive Secretary Arthur B. Rutledge reported gifts through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions had reached \$6,086,130 by June 4. "This is 25 percent ahead at this time of last year's fine offering," Rutledge said. He also reported funds from the SBC's Cooperative Program unified budget were nearly eight percent ahead of last year.

Missionaries appointed include Darold Wayne Wilcox and Laverne Wilcox of Oklahoma City for migrant missions in the middle atlantic states; and John Henry Thomas and Delores Thomas of New Orleans as missionaries in Louisiana for the department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists and David and Brenda Myers of Canton, Miss., as director of Christian social ministries in Jackson, Miss.; and Donald and Jane Walls as missionaries in northern West Virginia where he will serve as director of area missions for the rural-urban missions department.

Walls, a native of Uniontown, Pa., is a graduate of Eastern Baptist College of St. Davids, Pa., George Washington University in the District of Columbia, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of churches in Missouri and Pennsylvania, and comes to this position from the pastorate of the First English Baptist Church in Frostburg, Maryland.

Wilcox, a native of West Irvin, Ky., is a graduate of Georgetown College, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Oklahoma State University. He has served several churches as minister of music, and, since 1973, has been administrative assistant and educational specialist for the Professional Agency for Correctional Training. From 1968-72 he was under appointment as a home missionary, directing Christian social ministries in Gate City, Va.

Thomas, is a graduate of Southern University and has attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He was pastor of First Free Mission Baptist Church in New Orleans, 1969-72, and has taught in the Baton Rouge and Gretna, La., public schools. Since 1974, he has been associated with the New Orleans Health Corp.

Myers is a native of Jackson and is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. Since 1973, he has been pastor of Center Terrace Baptist Church, Canton. Mrs. Myers, a native of North Carrollton, Miss., also is a graduate of Mississippi College.

The status of two missionary associates, Harry and Robin Hearne, Christian social ministries consultants in Washington, D. C., was changed to missionary.

Missionary associates appointed included the following:

William Hugh Foster and Katherine Foster of Sulphur, La., appointed by the language missions department for seamen's ministries in Baton Rouge, La. Foster is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and New Orleans Seminary, since 1972, has been minister of education at First Baptist Church, Sulphur.

Otis Hawes Jr. and Dorothy Hawes of Poplar Bluff, Mo., appointed by the department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists as a field worker in Missouri. Hawes, a native of Broadwater, Mo., has been a residential advisor in the Mingo Job Corps at Puxico, Mo.

Frances Pearce Jones of Raleigh, N. C., appointed by the department of Christian social ministries to direct Christian social ministries at Raleigh Baptist Association. A native of Wake County, N. C., she is a graduate of Campbell College and Southern Seminary.

Larry Wayne Miguez of New Orleans will serve at Carver Baptist Center, where he has been working as a student intern. A native of Port Arthur, Tex., he is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College and recently received his master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Kennon and Betty Jean Stone were appointed by the Christian social ministries department as minister of pastoral care in Louisville. He is a native of Nash County, N. C., and is a graduate of Atlantic Christian College and Southern Seminary, where he received a master of divinity degree and a degree in clinical pastoral education. Since 1974, he has been minister of pastoral care and Christian social ministries at 23rd and Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville.

Richard and Neomi Vera, appointed by the department of language missions as pastor of Primera Mission Bautista in Flagstaff, Ariz. Mr. and Mrs. Vera are natives of San Antonio and Big Spring, Tex., respectively. He previously was pastor of a mission in Ogden, Utah.

James and Betty Jean Walker were appointed by the Division of Associational Missions as director of missions in the bay area of Michigan. A native of Franklin, Ark., Walker is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and for the last 10 years has been pastor of Niles Avenue Baptist Church, St. Joseph, Mich. Mrs. Walker, native of Flora, Ill., also is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and also has a master of arts degree from Western Michigan University.

The US-2 missionary appointed is Mary Lou Vorsten of Jane Mo., who will work in Chicago. Miss Vorsten is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University.

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Missions Consultation Produces
Abundance of Suggestions

Baptist Press
6/9/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--A vast array of suggestions calling for greatly enlarged resources, both in missionary personnel and finances, surfaced as about 300 Baptists from around the world met here to propose "bold new plans" for foreign missions during the next 25 years.

The consultation, held just prior to the 1975 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, was sponsored by the convention's Foreign Mission Board. Denominational and church leaders, missionaries and nationals met with administrative staff and members of the board.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the board, characterized the consultation as "a major contribution to the important studies now being made of our foreign missions efforts. It reflected the deep commitment to the missionary task that characterizes Southern Baptists. We are deeply grateful for the time, thought, work and prayer of those who participated," Cauthen continued.

Consultation participants were divided into 10 discussion groups, each making suggestions and recommendations. Results are being compiled by a findings committee comprised of 15 participants and will be referred to the board. Studies of the material will be made,

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along with recommendations from mission organizations in more than 80 countries, as well as many ideas arising from numerous dialogue sessions with Baptist leadership groups during the last 12 months, a board spokesman said.

The board is projecting plans for the next 25 years in keeping with action taken in the 1974 session of the denomination in Dallas. This work is being paralleled by that of the Convention's mission challenge committee. Reports will be presented at the 1976 meeting of the convention in Norfolk, Va.

A preliminary report of the findings committee suggested that the biblical basis for foreign missions be reemphasized and major stress on evangelism be continued and enlarged.

The committee further suggested giving high priority to greater involvement of lay persons, more extensive use of technology and mass media, strengthened foreign mission administration as may be needed for an enlarging task, adequate facilities for research and development, a restructuring of orientation for missionaries, close partnership between national bodies and missionary organizations, greater response to physical needs, a reassessment of medical missions, greater emphasis on missionary education in local churches, and intensified efforts toward increased financial support through the SBC's Cooperative Program unified budget and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Seven formal study papers and three panel discussions stimulated the small group discussions along with many ideas and suggestions presented to the entire group during open discussion periods.

Contributions made by Baptist nationals from countries where Southern Baptists have mission work added to the consultation.

During the 11 sessions of the consultation, hundreds of widely varying ideas were expressed. There was consensus, however, that if the challenge of the next 25 years is to be reached, the full potential of Southern Baptists must be developed by bold churches, bold associations and bold conventions fully committed to the missionary mandate.

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WMU Changes Presidential
Guard: Mathis for Gregory

Baptist Press
6/9/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Mrs. R. L. (Marie) Mathis wound up 12 years as president of the national Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and Mrs. A. Harrison (Christine) Gregory assumed the presidency.

Mrs. Mathis, of Waco, Tex., retired to the round of accolades from other Baptist leaders and friends at a dinner in her honor in Miami Beach.

Mrs. Gregory, of Danville, Va., was elected at the second-day session of the WMU's annual meeting in the South Hall of the Miami Beach Convention Center. The wife of the chief engineer for Dan River, Inc., she is current president of the statewide WMU in Virginia.

Born in Greenville, S. C., Mrs. Gregory taught school at Cowpens (S. C.) High School, 1942-43, and Greenville (S. C.) Junior High School, 1944-48.

Mrs. Gregory also served as religious education director at First Baptist Church of Greer, S. C., 1943-44 and held the same post at First Baptist Church in Danville, 1948-50.

Currently, Mrs. Gregory is president of the WMU in Virginia and a member of First Baptist Church, the Wednesday Club, Book and Art Club and the Ladies Benevolent Society.

The new WMU president is a graduate of Winthrop College in Rock Hill, S. C., with a bachelor of science degree, and the mother of three sons.

At the dinner, Mrs. Mathis, a fixture on the national Southern Baptist scene, received a check from Miss Carolyn Weatherford, WMU executive secretary, and greetings from Miss Mary Ann Ward, editor of Contempo magazine at the WMU headquarters in Birmingham, who represented the WMU staff.

Mrs. Mathis received a service plaque from the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. Porter Routh, executive secretary, made the presentation.

W. O. Thomason of Nashville, Tenn., executive vice president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, told Mrs. Mathis her leadership of the WMU served as a challenge to 20 SBC agencies. He gave her a toy plow which, he said, represented "all the plows you've cleaned during your years with denominational leaders."

Mrs. Robert Fling, president of the New York WMU, praised Mrs. Mathis for inspiring persons to become more involved in missions through well coordinated meetings.

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Miss Sara Ann Lobb of Raleigh, executive secretary of the North Carolina WMU, presented Mrs. Mathis with an urn containing a cup of soil from every state with a WMU organization.

Miss Alva Hunt of Birmingham, former executive secretary of WMU, called Mrs. Mathis "the most honored woman in Southern Baptist life."

Robert Denny, executive director of the Baptist World Alliance, brought greetings from the world fellowship organization which Mrs. Mathis also serves as president of the women's department.

Mrs. Mathis earns her livelihood as director of the Student Union Building at Baylor University.

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Joint Pastors'-WMU Session
Urged to Greater Commitment

Baptist Press
6/9/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--A standing-room-only crowd of almost 10,000 persons attending a joint session of the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting and the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference at Convention Center here witnessed the commissioning of 18 missionaries to serve overseas and heard Florida Governor Reubin Askew call for greater commitment to Christian witnessing in the United States.

In urging the crowd to take more initiative in expressing their faith, Governor Askew said, "Time and time again we call upon ministers and missionaries to do our job."

He said Christians are willing to sell almost anything--automobiles, washing machines--but sometimes we're too reluctant to share the greatest thing that ever happened to us.

"I wouldn't get by without Christ, and I wouldn't try," he said. "We try to run our lives without the greatest thing Christ has given us--prayer."

He related his own experiences with prayer when he first began to feel the pressures of the governorship.

"I was spinning my wheels trying to do too much myself."

Askew told of rising early in the morning to pray.

Then I started realizing how much I had missed in trying to carry it all myself. I have found that starting off in the morning made a great difference during the day.

While acknowledging his strong belief in the separation of church and state, Askew reminded that "citizenship cannot be separated from Christianity. What may be wrong with this nation is the sum total of what's wrong with us as individuals."

"I stand before you not as the governor of Florida but as a Christian," he said.

Baker J. Cauthen of Richmond, Va., executive secretary of the SBC's Foreign Mission Board, opened the missions emphasis by presenting red roses on behalf of his agency to Mrs. R. L. Mathis, of Waco, Texas, outgoing president of WMU. She is completing her 12th year as head of the Baptist woman's auxiliary.

Cauthen challenged the crowd to support the 18 missionaries and examine their own relationship with God for their own personal response to needs overseas.

Surely as these lay their lives on the altar, it's a moment for us to commit ourselves afresh to God, Cauthen said. How do you know that Christ isn't saying to you, I want you too? The answer might be to be a more faithful pastor or worker wherever you are. Somebody here in this congregation one year from tonight may well be standing here.

Among those commissioned were Gwen Crofts of Phoenix, Ariz., appointed to Hong Kong; Mr. and Mrs. James E. Crittendon of Ninety Six, S. C., to Philippines; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Townsend of Valparaiso, Fla., to Indonesia; Mr. and Mrs. Michael O. Canady, of Maplewood, La., to Malawi.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Banks of Coweta, Okla., to Guadeloupe; Mr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Harris of San Jose, Calif., to Windward Islands; Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy L. Barrentine of Crystal Springs, Miss., to Paraguay; Robbie Crissey of Kingsland, Ga., to Brazil; Mr. and Mrs. W. Ronnie Reynolds of Milton, W. Va., to Argentina; and Mr. and Mrs. Luther Williams of Danville, Va., to Brazil.

They join about 2,600 other foreign missionaries currently serving in 83 countries.

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"Grass Cutter" Registers
As 500,000th SBC Messenger

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Sam R. Eden, a Rome, Ga., layman who manages an associational Baptist camp, became the 500,000th elected messenger to a meeting of the 130-year-old Southern Baptist Convention when he registered here, June 9 prior to SBC's opening meeting June 10.

Startled by all of the attention, Eden, a retired grocer in the Seney community 10 miles south of Rome, identified himself as a mere "grass cutter for the Lord."

Eden was the 481st messenger registered at the 118th session of the three-day SBC at Miami Beach Convention Center.

The 51-year-old layman is one of five messengers sent to the SBC by Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, a rural congregation of 350 located six miles south of Rome.

At Pleasant Hope, a community of about 1,200, Eden serves as a deacon and teaches a Sunday School class of boys 10-12.

Eden retired from the grocery business three years ago to become the resident manager for the 34-acre Floyd County Association Baptist Camp.

"During the last three years I've seen 170 boys and girls accept Christ at the camp," Eden said.

Eden said he agreed to manage the camp at the insistence of his wife, Geraldine (Jerry) and after a visit to Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Center.

"Frankly, I'm trying to make the camp a little Ridgecrest for the Baptists in Floyd County.

"If we had had a camp like this when I was a boy, it wouldn't have taken me 33 years to decide to start serving the Lord."

Born and reared in Floyd County, Eden worked for six years in North Miami Beach, Fla., as a foreman for Moczik Tool & Die Co., before moving back to Georgia in 1960.

Eden spends the rest of his time working with cerebral palsied children in Rome.

"My wife directs the Cerebral Palsy Center and I drive one of the buses. I've installed a lift on the bus for the children in wheel chairs.

"We decided to close our grocery store when my wife started working with handicapped children and expanded the project into a full time center.

"My wife said our two daughters were grown and it was time for us to get more involved in Christian service."

Mrs. Eden, whom the layman describes as a prodder and the backbone of his efforts, is a member of the executive board for Woman's Missionary Union in Georgia.

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New WMU President Says
Women Should Have Free Choice

Baptist Press
6/9/75

By Theo Sommerkamp

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--The new national president of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union said she respects the right of women to seek ordination as pastors when they feel this is God's will for their lives.

Mrs. A. Harrison (Christine) Gregory of Danville, Va., in her initial news conference after being elected to lead 1,115,000 Baptist women and girls, also described objectives for the WMU to pursue and discussed the women's rights movement.

Speaking "as an individual and not as president of WMU," Mrs. Gregory said "I would never seek ordination (for myself)."

She added, however, "God created every individual with the right of choice. We do not have the right to judge them on their purpose in choice" when women follow what they see as God's will in seeking ordination.

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"If a woman feels she is called to be a pastor, this is between her and God, and it should not be our prerogative to deny her," Mrs. Gregory continued.

She acknowledged this viewpoint would not be shared by all WMU members, and insisted she was speaking as an individual rather than a WMU officer.

One of her personal friends, she pointed out, is a Southern Baptist woman in Virginia who has been ordained to the ministry and serves as chaplain in a penal institution.

Mrs. Gregory, president of the statewide Woman's Missionary Union for Virginia Baptists, succeeded Mrs. R. L. (Marie) Mathis of Waco, Tex., who has served 12 years as president during two non-successive terms.

As her husband looked on at the news conference, Mrs. Gregory said she would prefer to be known as "Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory" rather than "Mrs. Christine Gregory."

She said she had lived "in a male dormitory for a number of years," referring to her husband and their three sons. Her husband is chief engineer for Dan River, Inc., a large textile factory in Danville.

She said women in the churches should first use the abilities they have to the utmost before seeking greater responsibilities in church life.

Greater responsibilities will come to women when they exercise their abilities to the fullest extent, she believed.

"I hope women will be accepted for their ability and not just because they are women," Mrs. Gregory went on.

While she anticipates no change in the WMU chief emphasis on praying, giving, and studying, Mrs. Gregory said, "One of the basic aims of WMU will be on flexibility.

"The president of WMU does not make individual goals for the organization," she explained, but pointed out that the organization will explore new ways of meeting the needs of people around the world, as well as new means of attracting young women into membership and participation.

Rather than constituting a change in the nature or purpose of WMU, this is simply another way of affirming what WMU has been about all along, she contended.

Hundreds of young women are becoming involved in WMU and other church activities as they see the church as an organization reaching out into the world, becoming involved in every segment of society, Mrs. Gregory said.

A new generation of WMU members must be permitted to try new and different ways of doing things. They are entitled to their successes and their failures, just as the older generation has encountered its own successes and failures, she declared.

Concerning the women's rights movement, Mrs. Gregory said she believed this effort has given women confidence in themselves.

A woman sees that "she has all the abilities in the world at her fingertips," Mrs. Gregory explained.

Questioned about her attitude toward women's movements stressing the necessity for women to be submissive to their husbands, Mrs. Gregory countered without hesitation:

"You remember the Bible also says husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church. If a husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church, she will be submissive to him any day."

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SBC Messenger Suffers
Heart Attack in Miami Beach

Baptist Press
6/9/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Thomas R. (Bob) Allen, Jr., 69, of Scottsdale, Arizona, retired superintendent of buildings and grounds of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., suffered a heart attack in the exhibit area of the convention center here June 9 and died a short time later.

Allen, a messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention, was given cardio-pulmonary resuscitation by Baptist Sunday School Board personnel who were working at a nearby exhibit, and who had taken a CPR course at the Board.

The Miami Beach Fire Department Rescue Squad arrived shortly, and worked for about an hour before Allen was taken to Mt. Sinai Hospital.

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SBC Pastors Elect Adrian
Rogers To Presidency

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., was elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference here.

Rogers won the presidency in a run off against William Self, pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta. Six persons were nominated.

Rogers, chosen for a one-year term, succeeds James Pleitz, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pensacola, Fla.

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Charles Colson Says God,
Not Men, Prevents Immorality

Baptist Press
6/9/75

By Theo Sommerkamp

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Charles W. Colson, an aide to former President Nixon who spent seven months in prison for disseminating derogatory information about Daniel Ellsberg, said here that only dependence on God, rather than man, can prevent a recurrence of political morality in America.

Asked at a press conference how to forestall future abuses of political power, Colson replied, "Stop expecting so much from men, thinking that men can do it all."

Colson said he would "love to see a spiritual revival in America," and added that every President of the United States needs to bend his knee and acknowledge his dependence of God.

However, it is difficult to achieve this because of "all the regal trappings of the Presidential office," Colson conceded. He called the Executive Office a hard place to make a witness for Christ.

Colson fielded questions following his address to the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Miami Beach Convention Center. The 6,000 pastors gave him a standing ovation.

Colson declared he has "absolutely no political aspirations" and will not have any in the future.

The former presidential aide admitted he might not have found Christ as Saviour had it not been for Watergate and his subsequent imprisonment. He was converted during this period.

Would he still advise young people to enter politics?

"If they are called to enter government service, then they should do it and give it their very best," Colson responded.

If they detect a Watergate-type situation developing in their place of service in government, then they will have to follow the dictates of Christian conscience rather than politics, he continued.

"Whenever there is a conflict between Christ and political obligations, there must never be a compromise, the individual should get out of political office."

Colson said he was not doing any legal counseling at present. He said he is working on a book. He is supporting his family from his past earnings as an attorney and from the advance from the publisher for the book he is writing.

Colson reported he was disbarred in one state and, as a convicted felon, has lost his voting rights.

He reemphasized his concern for prison reform, a concern that grew out of his own imprisonment.

He said he is speaking to senators and congressmen about such reform. "I have seen what internal corrosion imprisonment causes," Colson explained.

"About one million people a year in the United States go through some prison or jail," he said. "The prison environment increases their bitterness and makes them more dangerous to society."

He stressed his interest in creating some kind of Christian environment and hope for prisoners.

In response to a query, Colson said prisoners with good records should be allowed to visit on weekends with their families. -more-

Being granted such privileges will not increase their likelihood of escaping, since no prison is escape proof, he said. On the other hand, experiences outside the prison will make it easier for them to adjust to society, he explained.

"Men in prison have a sense of being cut off from everything. They need to be in touch with the world. They need a sense of perspective," Colson stated.

Colson said when he attends church he usually goes to a Roman Catholic Church in McLean, Va., accompanied by his wife. He comes from an Episcopal parental background.

A Southern Baptist and a Congregationalist were instrumental in his conversion and Christian growth, he said.

Colson said he realizes many people are skeptical about the genuineness of his conversion. "I don't blame them," he added.

He said he is active in prayer fellowships in Washington and in the Fellowship House, an organization committed to prison reform and Christian ministries to prisoners.