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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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75-135

Home Board Will Keep  
 CWS Link; Consider Contract

By Toby Druin

**ATLANTA (BP)**--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will continue to work through Church World Service (CWS) in resettling Vietnamese refugees, a board spokesman said here.

But he said the possibility of the board getting its own resettlement contract is still being considered. The ultimate decision will depend upon a recommendation of the Home Mission Board's administration.

Representatives of the board and officials of CWS met in New York City to discuss their future relationship in refugee resettlement.

The New York meeting was prompted by a resolution approved by Home Mission Board directors July 23 asking that the board's relationship with CWS be re-examined so that the board could be "more actively and effectively involved in refugee resettlement."

CWS is one of nine agencies which contract with the federal government for the resettlement of refugees. The Home Mission Board has dealt with the agency in previous resettlement efforts involving Cubans and Ugandans.

But W. Trueman Moore, pastor of East Side Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Ark., and a Home Mission Board director, is critical of the current relationship and its results. Offering the resolution approved by the board's directors, he said the CWS effort "had not gotten off the ground well."

His resolution, besides asking for a re-examination, stated that if no satisfactory new arrangement could be worked out with CWS, the board might seek its own contract with the government to work as its own resettlement agency.

Four representatives of the Home Mission Board's administration met with the CWS officials in New York City. They were assistant executive director, Fred Moseley, missions ministries division director, Wendell Belew, language missions director, Oscar Romo, and Irvin Dawson, who heads the board's office of immigration and refugee service.

CWS officials at the session included executive director, Paul McCleary, and John Schauer, director of the immigration and refugee program, and their assistants.

Romo, to whose department the Southern Baptist Convention has assigned the responsibility for refugee resettlement, said the meeting was a "good one, excellent--open from the beginning."

He said the CWS officials assured the Home Mission Board full cooperation in providing all necessary information for matching sponsors with refugee families at each of the refugee camps.

Moore had been critical of the CWS operation at Fort Chaffee, stating that he had offered the CWS director there a staff of more than a dozen people to facilitate refugee-sponsor matching but had been denied access to CWS files.

Romo personally visited Fort Chaffee and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., before the meeting with CWS officials and checked with Home Mission Board representatives at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He said all the reports were positive and the sponsor operation was working smoothly.

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He said that based on those reports and the meeting in New York, the immigration and refugee service will continue to work through Church World Service.

"However, we will also continue to look into the possibility and advisability of getting our own contract," he said. He said that the ultimate decision about that would be up to the board's administration.

CWS officials said they would assist in getting such a contract, if the Home Mission Board wanted one, Romo said. The process of getting a resettlement contract would not take very long, he added, "but it would take more time to make it operable."

Romo said that through Aug. 27 some 352 units, or about 1,760 persons, had been resettled by Southern Baptists through Church World Service.

Thousands of refugees still are awaiting sponsors, he said, and the big need now is for sponsors for single men or for relatively large families.

Churches wishing to sponsor refugees, Romo explained, can contact the immigration and refugee service office in Atlanta or can make direct contact with the CWS office or Southern Baptist representative at each camp.

Southern Baptist representatives at the camps are Wayne Eurich, director of missions for San Diego Baptist Association (area code 714-583-9183), at Camp Pendleton; and Jerry Edwards at Fort Chaffee, (wats line, toll free, 800-643-9750). Eglin is being phased out. No SBC representative is at the camp at Indiantown Gap, Pa., but the CWS number there is area code 717-872-4946.

Romo said Lewis Myers, foreign missionary to Vietnam, who has been serving as coordinator of efforts at Eglin AFB, has been assigned temporarily to the Home Mission Board by the Foreign Mission Board to work in post-resettlement efforts among the refugees. He will be stationed in Atlanta and have offices in the Home Mission Board building.

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Cambodian Refugees Find  
New Hope in Thailand Camp

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PONG NAM RON, Thailand (BP)--As refugees continue to flee from Cambodia to Thailand, Southern Baptist missionaries find themselves faced with ministering to people who have lost homes, personal possessions, loved ones and hope.

But in this setting of despair, with inadequate food supply and limited tin housing, refugees are beginning to find a new hope.

A Cambodian pastor recently baptized 71 people at Thailand's Pong Nam Ron refugee camp, including several members of the camp committee, a camp medical doctor and a veterinarian. For two weeks, these refugees have received intensive biblical instruction--as much as four hours each day.

A number of others have requested baptism and are receiving further instruction and counseling to help them understand the commitment to Christ as symbolized in baptism.

Besides ministering to the spiritual needs of the refugees, Southern Baptist missionaries attempt to meet some of the physical and emotional needs. For example, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald C. Hill, stationed in Chantaburi, Thailand, drive 40 miles to deliver the weekly loads of food and clothing to Pong Nam Ron. They return several times a week to minister to the Cambodians.

Many of the refugee families become separated while traveling, and Communists often shoot them as they try to flee their homeland. Through tears, one mother of four told of becoming separated from her husband and six-year-old son and of friends who later saw the man and the child killed.

Although the future for these refugees is uncertain, one thing is sure; they will not be allowed to remain in Thailand.

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The new policy in Thailand, which has had over 50,000 North Vietnamese refugees since World War II, is that all recent refugees must eventually return to their homes or go to other countries.

And among those who will be leaving Pong Nam Ron will be 71 new Christians.

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Astronaut Pogue Will Resign,  
Join Irwin's 'High Flight'

Baptist Press  
9/2/75

HOUSTON (BP)--Astronaut William R. Pogue, co-holder of the record for time spent in space, has announced his resignation from the space program and plans to join another former astronaut's evangelistic organization.

Pogue, a native of Okemah, Okla., and a Southern Baptist deacon, will join High Flight, headed by another Southern Baptist layman, Jim Irwin, and headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo. Pogue will continue to live in Houston.

The Oklahoma Baptist spaceman was one of three crewmen on Skylab 3 which set a record of 84 days in space in 1973.

"I was tired of the space program and was looking for something challenging," said Pogue, who will join High Flight in November. He added that the space program is currently concerned with tedious details in preparation for the space shuttle program.

Pogue has worked with Irwin's organization in the past, helping give guidance for some of the materials expressing its purpose and also designing the foundation's logo. In his new work, Pogue said he will be speaking to church and civic groups and making trips with the group's mobile space museum.

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E. Y. Mullins Award  
Goes to W. O. Vaught

Baptist Press  
9/2/75

LOUISVILLE (BP)--W. O. Vaught of Little Rock, Ark., was presented the E. Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award for 1975 during the founder's day ceremonies at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The award, the highest recognition given by the seminary's board of trustees, was given first in 1963. It was presented by Duke McCall, seminary president, to Vaught, who addressed the founder's day audience. Founder's day celebrated the 75th anniversary of the school's W. O. Carver Chair of Christian Missions, the oldest chair of missions in the world.

Vaught, a Southern Seminary graduate and pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, is immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. He has been active in state and national denominational affairs.

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Murphree Named to Head  
Eastern Religious Educators

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--T. Garvice Murphree, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Florence, S. C., was elected president for 1975-76 of the Eastern Baptist Religious Education Association (EBREA) here.

Other officers named by the EBREA, a professional religious education organization which covers the eastern portion of the United States, were Perry Q. Langston, professor of religion, Campbell College, Buie's Creek, N. C., president-elect; Wendell Sloan, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C., vice president; R. Clyde Hall, consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn. registration secretary-treasurer; and Miss Mary Catherine Black, director of adult and youth work, Maryland Baptist Convention, Lutherville, Md., recording secretary.

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Because Church Cared, Cuban  
Refugee Becomes Journeyman

By Teresa Shields

RICHMOND (BP)--Temple Baptist Church in Ruston, La., showed Cuban refugee Rebecca Rosell a lot of love. Now she will have her chance as a two-year missionary journeyman to Peru.

When she was eight years old, Miss Rosell's father fled Cuba and the Castro regime.

"My father was involved in the Cuban revolution, Castro's revolution," she recalls. "But, he became disappointed with the revolution and dissension is not permitted. He was forced to flee the country. He had to leave in just a little boat and hope they would hit the Florida Keys or be picked up by an American ship."

For the family left in Cuba, it was hard. Miss Rosell remembers having to pretend her father had deserted the family.

"We got mail under a false name at another address. It was hard because we had to speak badly of my father."

After two years, Miss Rosell, her mother, brother and sister joined him in Florida. It was a "culture shock," she explains. Her father was a dishwasher. Her mother could not get a job because she did not speak English. In fact, none of the family spoke English. The three children went to school in an alien environment. The food was different, as was most everything they encountered.

Through agencies in Florida set up to help Cuban refugees, the Rosells were sponsored by Temple Baptist Church.

"The first year was very difficult," Miss Rosell continued. "We had barely enough money to keep us fed. We lived in a one bedroom efficiency with no private bath. We had only the clothes we wore and one change."

Tearfully, she proceeded to tell of the love she felt as Temple Baptist Church took her and her family in.

"I think if it hadn't been for that church, I wouldn't be where I am today," she said. "I don't know whether I'd be a Christian. I saw love expressed, love in action."

"Temple Baptist Church members picked us up at the airport and had an apartment ready for us. It was furnished and had food, clothing and everything we needed," she recalls. "They found my father and mother a job and put us in school."

Now, Miss Rosell is going to Arequipa, Peru, as a journeyman teacher for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"I first heard about missions in Ruston. I learned about missionaries and what they did. I knew that I wanted to give at least two years of service, so I became a journeyman," she said.

"I know what people have done for me and I want to reach out. I want to do what I can to make the world a better place. This is what I can do. In my idealism, I want to do something important. I feel this is important," she noted.

Her father and mother are back in Florida. Her brother has finished a Bible college and is now a minister. Her sister is in a Bible college.

She has felt much and seen much. Most importantly, she has seen love in action, and she wants--now--to share it through mission involvement.

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Teresa Shields is a staff writer for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond.

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