

**-- FEATURES**

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75-180

November 17, 1975  
US-2ers to Ekwok--Even  
An Atlas Misspelled It

By Tim Nicholas

ATLANTA (BP)--Friends planning to drop in on Joe and Tricia Rhodes in the next couple of years had better take along warm clothes and learn to paddle a kayak or fly a plane.

The couple have been appointed to the Southern Baptist Home Board's US-2 program and will be living in Ekwok, Alaska.

The Rhodes are among 20 young adults appointed to the two year missionary program in which 80 percent of those appointed are involved in pilot projects around the country.

Ekwok, where the Rhodes will be developing Christian leadership, is so remote an Atlas misspelled it. Access to the tiny fishing village is only by boat or plane. The town which has a winter population of 120 Eskimos, fewer in summer while fishing is good, is situated on the Mulchatna River, more than 200 miles southeast of Ketchikan.

"This ministry entices us," said Trica, "They just recently got a generator for electricity in the village 24 hours a day in the winter. We didn't even expect that." Both the Rhodes are recent graduates of California Baptist College in Riverside.

"Working in a small town like this turned me on," said Rhodes, who had done neighborhood gardening the past four years in Anaheim, Calif., where lawns must be cut year-round. "If we were in any other place, we'd do things the same way. It's just going to be colder and things will cost more. A loaf of bread this summer at the general store there was \$2.10.

After their two year appointment, Joe plans to enter seminary and Tricia plans to get a master's degree in counseling.

The others appointed as US-2ers won't be in such inaccessible areas. The 20 will work in 14 states. Eight of the US-2ers will develop student ministries.

Ron and Rhonda Tyson, graduates of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Tex. and New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, respectively, will work on at least two campuses in Los Angeles, Calif. Before marriage, they were partners on a student summer missions evangelistic team in Washington.

Marian Osborne, a graduate of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., will develop student ministries in Potsdam and Canton, N.Y. "I'm interested in counseling," said Miss Osborne, "And the college campus is a good place to begin counseling. There's a great need to have counseling where people can get at it before they need to see a psychologist."

Stephen and Pat Murphy, both graduates of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., will be at schools in Honolulu, Hawaii. Stephen, who came out of a Roman Catholic background, was greeted by friends after his appointment, "Hey, we heard you're going to be a priest."

Patrick Greene, graduate of Ohio University, will be at Oregon State University in Corvallis. "I plan to develop an outreach to both Christian and non-Christian students for fellowship and to meet needs," he said.

Jeffrey Ashton, a December, 1975 graduate of the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, will direct student ministries there. "I want to see changed lives. If I do, I'll go on to seminary and then back to student work," he said.

Larry Jones, graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, will direct a student missions program called "Love in Action," at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky. "I had a deep need to help people find the life in Christ I had found," he said. "It wasn't a mysterious call in the night but just something that felt right for me."

Inner city work will be assigned to five US-2ers, with three to work in Baptist Centers. Donnie Dillard, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, will do Christian social ministries on the staff of Oakdale Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala. "I've felt for a long time that God has wanted me to do something, but what that is has never been very plain," said Dillard "Perhaps US-2 will help make it plain."

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Mayson and Mary Easterling will staff the Columbia Baptist Mission in Columbia, Miss. He is a graduate of Gardner-Webb College in Boiling Springs, N.C., and she a graduate of North Greenville Junior College in Tigerville, S.C. Though their first child is due in February, "We hope to continue working together," said Mayson. "Mary needs to be working with me."

Diane Griffin, graduate of Florida State University of Tallahassee, will work at Cincinnati Baptist Center in Ohio, emphasizing a school readiness program for preschoolers.

"I entered US-2 because I had a definite interest in home missions," she said. "One relative told me she thought they only sent missionaries overseas where they haven't heard about God."

Sheryl Sims, a graduate of Colorado State University at Ft. Collins, will work at the Neighborhood Center in Albuquerque, N.M., in day care, children's programs, sewing classes and in developing communication lines with social agencies in the city.

"I see ads on television asking us to help people--be a big brother, help the needy," she said. "As a US-2er, I'll be doing that."

Mary Vorsten, graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee, will work at Rockwell Baptist Center in Chicago, Ill., as coordinator of the day care center and working with teens as youth director. "I feel my greatest talent is an ability to listen," she said. "I enjoy organizing things and counseling people."

Two US-2ers will work in seamen's ministries, one on the Gulf of Mexico and one on the Atlantic Ocean.

Carl Hilburn, a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will work at the International Seamen's Ministry in Mobile, Ala., in ship visitation and administration. Before his appointment, Hilburn worked for three years as an accountant for a restaurant chain. "The further into accounting I went, I saw myself getting further away from people," he said. "I wanted to get back to people."

Brent Williams, a graduate of Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo., will work at the Beacon, a seamen's ministry in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. "I'll visit the ships, taking the men magazines, getting to know them," he said. "And in the evenings, I'll work with local church hosts and arrange for devotional programs."

The two other US-2 positions include a ministry to young adults and to resort vacationers.

Larry Pumpelly, a graduate of Ohio State University in Columbus, will work at Worthington Baptist Church, which is near OSU, developing ministries to young adults. He plans to involve young adults in small group work such as Bible studies, encounter groups and drama.

Randy Hurst, a graduate of Grand Canyon College in Phoenix, Ariz., will work in resort ministries at Gatlinburg, Tenn. "I'll be working with Bill Ashley, the local missionary, in camps, hotels and motels, and will look into the possibility of starting a coffeehouse," Hurst said.

Hurst, Pumpelly, Ashton and Green all have wives who declined appointment so they could take secular employment during their husband's US-2 tour. Most of the new US-2ers have already begun their two years of work.



# BAPTIST PRESS

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November 17, 1975

Utah-Idaho Baptists set  
Budget; Elect President

75-180

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (BP)--The Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, meeting here during its eleventh annual session, adopted a record budget of \$479,422 and re-elected Chester Bunch, pastor of Holladay Baptist Church, Salt Lake City, as president.

Registered "messengers" to the convention heard reports of increases in baptisms and giving. With the addition of two new churches and the merging of two other churches, the number of churches in the convention now total 64 with 11,801 members.

The convention set a goal of raising \$133,927 in Cooperative Program unified budget funds from churches within the two-state convention, with 20 percent of that amount to go to world-wide causes through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program. The balance of the budget will be supplemented by agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, such as the Sunday School and Home Mission Boards.

The budget includes a "new work reserve" which is the convention's first attempt to employ a person completely financed by the Utah-Idaho convention, with no subsidies from SBC agencies. This person will be a new work starter and will be responsible for beginning work in an unchurched area.

The 1976 convention will meet at First Baptist Church, Granger, Utah, Nov. 8-9.

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Tennessee Baptists Approve  
Minister Information Office

Baptist Press  
11/17/75

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (BP) --Tennessee Baptists narrowly approved a program for establishment of a church-ministers' information department, voted to enlarge the membership of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's executive board and set a record \$8.45 million budget for 1975-76.

After considerable debate on the pros and cons of the information department, which would offer information to churches on pastors and staff members and counsel to pastors and church staff members, it was approved, 250-238. About a dozen state conventions of Southern Baptists have similar offices.

The counsel and information would be offered only upon request, the motion states, adding that the "liaison services between the Tennessee Baptist Convention churches and ministers" would respect "the principles of the sovereignty of Christ, the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the autonomy of the local church and the freedom and responsibility of both ministers and churches."

Registered "messengers" also voted to enlarge membership of the convention's executive board from 75 to 99, with 25 members coming from each of the state's three divisions--East, West and Middle--and the remaining 24 distributed as nearly as possible in proportion to the Baptist population in the three geographical divisions.

Carroll C. Owen, pastor of First Baptist Church, Paris, Tenn., was elected convention president, with Robert Mowery, pastor of Park Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville, as first vice president.

A record 2,000-plus messengers voted the record \$8.45 million Cooperative Program unified budget, of which 33.33 percent has been allotted to worldwide causes through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program.

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Baptist Press

In a pre-convention session, John Churchman, pastor of Manley Baptist Church, Morristown, was elected president of the Tennessee convention's executive board.

The 1976 convention will meet in Jackson, Tenn., at the West Jackson Baptist Church, Nov. 16-18.

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S. C. Baptists Resolve On  
Alcohol Education; Dancing

Baptist Press  
11/17/75

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--The South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting here was marked by adoption of a record \$7.3 million budget and resolutions concerning alcohol education and dancing on college campuses.

The 155th annual session of the convention was characterized by light attendance and generally "good natured harmony," according to observers, except for a lengthy debate in a poorly attended afternoon session, which involved sharply divided opinion over a motion to oppose dancing at the convention's four colleges.

After the smoke had cleared, registered "messengers" voted 342-293 to disapprove of dancing on the campuses. The action does not forbid dancing, only expresses strong disapproval of it.

In other action, the convention passed a resolution asking the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, to strengthen its program of alcohol education in Sunday School material and other periodicals and urged South Carolina Baptist churches to make a greater effort in alcohol education.

A. Harold Cole, the convention's general secretary, urged Baptists in South Carolina to work for defeat of two legislative bills that would, if passed, legalize lotteries and permit sale of beer and wine on Sundays in the state.

Messengers gave approval to purchase an additional 275 acres for the convention's White Oak Conference Center for \$137,500. The convention already owns 750 acres for establishment of the center.

The convention also approved the report of a committee named last year to study the possibility of group homes for troubled youth. The committee recommended that the convention provide a means to extend emergency care for troubled youth and specialized care for emotionally disturbed children, ages 12-14. The convention's Connie Maxwell Children's Home was asked to participate in the effort.

Messengers allocated 34.5 percent of the \$7.3 million budget to worldwide causes supported by the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget, up one-half percent from last year. The overall budget is \$9 million, including \$1.7 million in "challenge" funds beyond the \$7.3 million operating budget. Twenty percent of the challenge funds will go to the SBC Cooperative Program, with 40 percent to support capital needs and colleges and 40 percent for development of White Oak Conference Center.

Carl E. Compton, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Myrtle Beach, was elected president, and the convention named its third woman as a general officer, electing Ruth Provence of Columbia as second vice president. She is the retired Woman's Missionary Union executive for the South Carolina convention.

The convention also expressed gratitude for two South Carolina institution heads who will retire next July--Gordon W. Blackwell, president of Furman University, Greenville, and Sam M. Smith, executive director of Connie Maxwell Children's Home.

The 1976 convention will meet, Nov. 16-18, in Spartanburg, S. C.

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