



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041

DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996

MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461

NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461

RICHMOND Richard M. Styles, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151

WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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Foundation Cites Record \$1.1 Million Earnings

NASHVILLE (BP)--Earnings for the Southern Baptist Foundation hit a record high of more than \$1 million this past fiscal year, the agency's board of directors were told during their annual meeting here.

This was the first time in the Foundation's 28 year history earnings were more than \$1 million in any given 12 months, said Kendall Berry, executive secretary-treasurer, in his report to the directors.

"In spite of another traumatic year in the national economy, as measured by various yardsticks, Southern Baptist Foundation is well up in the top 10 percent in percentage earnings nationally for the past year," Berry noted.

New funds received by the Foundation the past year totaled \$2.4 million. And market values appreciated \$863,478 over the previous year-end, he said.

Even with withdrawals of \$1.1, the Foundation still had a net growth of \$2.1 million for fiscal '75, Berry noted. Total corpus, he continued, for all funds administered by the Foundation came to a book value of \$17.1 million, with market value, as of Sept. 30, at \$14.9 million.

Meanwhile, the average rate of return of earnings in the agency's General Fund slipped fractionally from 5.94 percent to 5.87 percent on book value, Berry said. However, the average rate of return at market value the past year was 7.76, he noted.

While the cost of Foundation administration was up slightly dollarwise, the percentage cost of earnings actually fell below 10 percent to 9.93 percent for the first time in the Foundation's history, Berry added. "This low administration cost compares favorably with foundations much larger than Southern Baptist Foundation," he said.

"Total earnings collected in the last eight years," he cited, "amount to nearly twice the earnings of the previous 21 years (\$5.6 million compared to \$2.98 million). Hence, the cost of administration has gradually dropped percentagewise as the Foundation has grown in total assets.

Some highlights were noted in a financial review by Mrs. Christine Bess, administrative assistant for the agency, who cited a more than \$1 million increase in new trusts in the miscellaneous fund for fiscal '75.

The Foundation's Annuity Fund increased by issuance of gift annuities in the amount of \$13,750 without any form of promotion, Mrs. Bess said, bringing the account to over \$729,000. A 7.5 percent return resulted in earnings of \$53,786 during fiscal '75.

The Agency Account of agencies and institutions of the Southern Baptist Convention admitted funds during the year of more than \$1.2 million on both short and long-term bases combined. Income on Agency Fund investments yielded \$288,570, while other trust funds held by the Foundation returned \$103,497, she noted.

Named Foundation president and executive committee chairman for fiscal '76 was G. Frank Cole Jr., a publishing company executive of Nashville. Serving with Cole, who was last year's board vice president, are J. Thomas Bryan, a physician, and John O. Ellis, a banker, both of Nashville.

The board named as an adviser, Stirton Oman of Nashville, a former board member and officer who has served the Foundation 21 years. R. B. Williamson of Shreveport, La., completes the 1976 Foundation executive committee.

New board members named were: William E. Crook of Old Hickory, Tenn.; M. W. Eggerton Jr. of Knoxville, Tenn.; Frank Holladay of Carrolton, Ga.; and J. T. Luther Jr. of Fort Worth.

Berry and Mrs. Bess were reelected to serve the Foundation an additional year. And board members expressed a desire for an active information program to Baptists concerning the Foundation and its role.

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Effort With Refugees
Is Praised, Criticized

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By Toby Druin

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist response to the challenge of resettling South Vietnamese refugees is both praised and criticized as "a missed missions opportunity" by those closest to it.

More than 130,000 refugees fled to the United States after the fall of South Vietnam in late April. Southern Baptists, with 12.5 million members and 34,734 churches, have provided about 725 sponsors for some 2,652 refugees. Many of the persons involved in working with the refugees feel Southern Baptists could have sponsored all of them.

Resettlement camps at Fort Chaffee, Ark., and Indiantown Gap, Pa., were expected to close out by mid-December. Resettlement centers at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., closed earlier. Probably the majority of the Vietnamese refugees were touched in some way by a Southern Baptist volunteer ministry at Eglin, Fort Chaffee or Camp Pendleton during the eight months.

Hundreds of volunteers, plus home and foreign missionaries, worked at the camps in orientation programs, education projects, day care centers and other ministries. At all three camps, Southern Baptists were among the first persons to perform any kind of volunteer ministries.

In resettling the refugees, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has dealt with Church World Service (CWS), an agency it has worked with previously in resettling Cubans, Hungarians and Ugandans. The board was assigned the Vietnamese resettlement responsibility by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and has spent some \$80,000 in actual resettlement efforts, not including salaries, a board spokesman told Baptist Press.

Working with 17 denominations, including Southern Baptists, CWS had settled about 16,000 refugees through Dec. 1. Some Southern Baptists, however, went through other agencies to sponsor refugees.

Oscar Romo, director of the board's department of language missions and to whose area the office of immigration and refugee service is assigned, praised the Southern Baptist response to the refugee challenge.

"I think Southern Baptists have done a tremendous job to have awakened one morning to this opportunity," he said. "Not only have they done their part in resettlement, but they are also assisting in the development of congregations among the Vietnamese. A dozen already have been started."

Irvin Dawson, director of the immigration and refugee service, expressed satisfaction with the cooperation of the various persons and state and SBC agencies involved in the effort.

But several others said they felt Southern Baptists could have provided homes for more refugees, possibly all of them, and were critical that only 725 sponsors were produced by the largest Protestant denomination in the U. S.

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"I felt we should have sponsored a lot more people," said Gene Tunnell, former missionary to South Vietnam who worked the last six months as casework supervisor for the Southern Baptist sponsorship project at Fort Chaffee.

Tunnell, one of several foreign mission appointees to Vietnam who worked in the Fort Chaffee effort, said he and his colleagues had an "emotional investment" that others possibly didn't have.

"When you consider what we as Southern Baptists spent in 17 years in Vietnam, it would seem that at least 10 percent of our churches could have sponsored refugees. We easily should have sponsored 10,000," he said.

Doug Van Devender, John Parsons, Doug Kellum and Greg Holden, all former foreign missionary journeymen in Vietnam, echoed similar opinions.

Van Devender said he was "dissappointed because we only grasped part of the opportunity we had."

Holden, assistant casework supervisor, said he had a very positive feeling about the effort with the refugees but felt, "By and large Baptists have missed the whole opportunity. We could have taken the whole 130,000."

Wayne Eurich, director of missions for San Diego Baptist Association who directed resettlement efforts in that area, said that overall he was pleased. About 35 churches in the San Diego-Los Angeles-Orange County area sponsored more than 400 refugees.

But Eurich said he felt more should have been sponsored, and he expressed concern that most of the larger churches didn't participate.

Among the greatest Baptist response to the sponsorship challenge was that recorded in the Washington D. C. area. Baptist leaders formed the Baptist Committee of Metropolitan Washington for refugee relief some three weeks before the first refugees arrived in the U. S. Their foresight ensured Southern Baptists' early admittance into the refugee resettlement camps with orientation programs and also produced many refugee sponsors.

Ector Hamrick, director of Christian social ministries for Mount Vernon Baptist Association and coordinator of the sponsorship efforts in the area, said the committee originally set a goal of one refugee family for each of the 200 congregations in the Metro Washington area.

"We have settled about 400 refugees with 105 congregations--about half of the goal," Hamrick said. "In terms of what has been done across the Southern Baptist Convention, that's pretty good, but I don't have a particularly good feeling about it. We didn't do what we could have done."

Lewis Myers, former missionary to Vietnam, was on furlough in Mississippi when the refugee influx began. He was sent by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to Eglin Air Force Base to assist there, working out of the CWS office in resettlement efforts. He is now on assignment to the Home Mission Board to assist in developing congregations and ministries among the Vietnamese.

"I have a very positive feeling about our efforts," Myers said. "Of course, we could have done much better in terms of sponsorships, but I have positive feelings about what we were able to do."

"I really felt like Southern Baptists had the capability of sponsoring the whole refugee influx and possibly in time they would have. But communicating the need convincingly with our Southern Baptist type set-up takes longer."

Most of those involved said they felt the experience would be of value in the future.

Jerry Edwards, a Home Mission Board Christian social ministries missionary and project director at Fort Chaffee, said: "I see this whole program as not how much has been done, but as seeing how we can do it."

Romo said those who have worked in the refugee effort soon will be asked to participate in a workshop to explore how the refugee operation can be improved. He said he expects the opportunity of working with refugees to continue.

"There probably will not be much of a massive migration," Romo said. "But things are happening that probably will bring many more refugees to the U.S.A. And, of course, there are others we were working with before the Vietnamese came and with whom we will continue to work--Haitians, Ugandans, Cubans, Czechoslovakians. We have a foreign missions opportunity right at our doorstep."

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Home Board Elects
Missionaries, Staffers

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ATLANTA (BP)--Three staff positions were filled and 24 missionaries and missionary associates appointed by Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors meeting here.

Staff members elected were Van N. Nichols of Tucker, Ga., to the new position of comptroller; Phillip B. Jones, a data technician at the board, as research consultant in the planning section; and Hal Woods of Clarkesville, Ga., as recruitment coordinator for the board's Christian Service Corps.

A native of Screven, Ga., and a University of Georgia in Athens graduate, Nichols has been manager in internal auditing with Interfinancial, Inc., of Atlanta since 1972. He is a Certified Public Accountant and previously served as auditor, comptroller and cost accountant for four other firms.

Jones was elected to a position previously held by Leonard Hinton, recently named the board's director of evangelism survey and analysis.

A native of Greenville, S. C., Jones is a graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta and received the master of divinity degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, in 1974. He has done additional studies at Georgia Tech and Georgia State University and for the past two years has been a data technician in the Home Mission Board's planning section.

Woods, a layman, will give at least a day each week to his post with the Christian Service Corps (CSC), the board's program for recruiting and assigning volunteers to missions projects. Woods, a furniture dealer and orchard operator, joins another volunteer, CSC director Bill Wilson, in the CSC office.

Six missionaries were appointed, including Don Johnson of Decatur, Ga., the first black consultant in evangelism for the evangelism section.

Johnson, a native of Paducah, Ky., has been distribution secretary for the Atlanta office of the American Bible Society since 1973. He is a graduate of American Baptist College of the Bible in Nashville and has a master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary.

The other missionaries appointed were Philip and Doris Tilden of Rialto, Calif., to serve as consultant to churches in transitional communities in California; Robert and Barbara Pollan of Louisville, as director of Christian social ministries for Chicago Metro Baptist Association; and Eddie Mabry of Decatur, Ill., who will be a regional missionary in Oklahoma for the department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists.

Seventeen missionary associates were appointed, 10 for language missions, four for rural-urban missions, two in church extension and the other for work with the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, affiliated with the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

Mrs. Arvella Turnipseed, secretary in the department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists since 1964, was named to the post with the General Convention at that convention's request. A native of Hogansville, Ga., she attended Morris Brown College in Atlanta.

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The rural-urban appointees are Norman and Lena Bell of Brushton, N. Y., named director of missions for Adirondack Baptist Association, N. Y.; Radford and Hildreth Hutcheson of Deming, N. Y., named area director of missions for Southwest Baptist Association in New Mexico.

Language missions appointees included: --Young-Sik and Young-Ja Noh of El Paso, Tex., to serve as associate pastor to Koreans at Mountain View Baptist Church, El Paso,

--Samuel and Ester Yoon of Honolulu, Hawaii, to serve as pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, a Korean-speaking congregation in Honolulu.

--Theo and Sonia Maria Patnaik of Woodbridge, Va., to serve in California with internationals to assist Asian churches. Patnaik was associate secretary with responsibility for youth for the Baptist World Alliance, 1971-75.

--Leonel and Brenda Gonzales of Ropesville, Tex., to serve as catalytic missionaries in the Gruver, Tex., area.

--Salvador and Elodia Cano of Angleton, Tex., to serve as pastor of Baptist Temple Mission in Angleton.

--Louie Dan and Mickey Patrick of Gurnie, Ill., were appointed by the department of church extension as director of church extension for Lake County Baptist Association, Ill.

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Southern Baptists
Sponsor 2,652 Refugees

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ATLANTA (BP)--By Christmas morning, 1975, almost all of the 130,000 refugees who fled South Vietnam in the waning days of the war last April will have found new homes in the United States. At least 2,652 of them have been sponsored by 725 Southern Baptist churches and individuals.

Refugee camps at Fort Chaffee, Ark., and Indiantown Gap, Pa., both were scheduled to close in mid-December, according to spokesmen at the camps. The refugee population on Dec. 1 was below 7,000--about 5,000 at Fort Chaffee and around 750 at Indiantown Gap--and was being decreased by about 300 persons each day, they said.

Jerry Edwards, project director for the Southern Baptist sponsorship effort at Fort Chaffee, said sponsorship cases probably were to be completed by Dec. 10, and that all refugees were to be with their sponsors by Dec. 20.

The Southern Baptist office at Fort Chaffee for the last few remaining weeks had more sponsors than refugees. Most of the remaining refugees, either by their preference or the capriciousness of the original assignments, have been handled by the United States Catholic Conference, one of several sponsoring agencies.

Edwards said, however, that Southern Baptist sponsors who did not get a refugee family are being contacted to see if they will remain on a list of prospective sponsors in the event of a breakdown in sponsorship or if a refugee family asks to be moved to a different area.

Irvin Dawson, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's immigration and refugee service, said figures through Dec. 4 showed that 725 Southern Baptist churches and individuals had sponsored 2,652 refugees.

Those figures, he explained, included only refugees processed through Church World Service, the agency with which the Home Mission Board has cooperated in refugee resettlement. Many more, Dawson said, have been resettled by Southern Baptists who have worked through other agencies.

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