

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 18, 1976

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HMB Directors Name President;
Hear from Search Committee

By Toby Druin

SILVER SPRING, Md. (BP)--Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) directors, meeting for the first time in the Washington, D. C. area, elected a new president and appointed 45 missionaries here.

They also got a preliminary report from the committee seeking a new executive director for the agency, including a hint that the committee might have a recommendation before the July, 1976, target date.

The directors, in their annual spring meeting, reaffirmed the statement titled "Baptist Faith and Message" as the board's guideline for employment of staff and missionaries.

The statement was approved by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963 and has been reaffirmed in subsequent conventions.

Tommy Jones, pastor of Vineville Baptist Church, Macon, Ga., was elected president of the board of directors, succeeding Russell H. Dilday Jr., who had completed his second one-year term, the maximum under HMB bylaws. Jones, a native of Kentucky, is a graduate of Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Other officers elected include Mrs. I. W. Bowen III of Forsyth, Ga., first vice-president; James Richard Maples, pastor of First Baptist Church, El Paso, Tex., second vice-president; Mrs. Sidney K. Kingry, Atlanta, recording secretary; and Mrs. W. B. Blount, Winder, Ga., assistant recording secretary.

Lloyd Elder of Texas gave a preliminary report from the seven-member search committee named last October to seek a nominee for executive director of the HMB. Arthur B. Rutledge, who has headed the HMB in that position since 1965, will retire at the end of 1976.

Elder, reporting in the place of Oklahoma City pastor and search committee chairman Gene Garrison, who was ill and unable to attend the meeting, hinted that the committee might call a special meeting of the directors to present their choice before the July target date. The next meeting of the full board is scheduled July 19-21 in Atlanta.

The committee, Elder said, is "experiencing an unusual sense of God's leadership" as it sifts through the many recommendations that have come in from all over the convention.

"Today we do not have a nominee. And no one has been eliminated," he said, "but we have a sense God is leading us to the right man."

Elder, assistant to the executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said the group had not received "undue pressure" from any area.

"We are right now at the point where we need your greatest concern and most sincere prayer," he added.

Missionaries appointed included two career missionaries, 14 missionary associates, seven missionary pastors and 22 US-2 missionaries.

In other significant action, the directors raised the interest rate on HMB loans to churches to 9.5 percent, approved Dayton, Ohio, as the site of the 1978 spring meeting, and passed a resolution encouraging support of the American Bible Society, the World Home Bible League and use of the scriptures both produce. - more -

The directors approved Lyndon W. Collings for the new post of assistant to the director of the board's missions section. The position recently was created by eliminating the department of survey and special studies.

Collings has served as assistant director of the department of church extension since coming to the HMB from Indiana in 1973. He served in the Hoosier State as director of missions in the Northwest Baptist Association and previously was pastor of churches in Muncie and Clarksville, Ind., and in Kentucky.

A native of Normandy, Ky., Collings is a graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Resignations of two staff members also were accepted by the directors. Meeler Markham, director of associational publications in the division of associational missions, and a veteran of 10 years with the HMB staff, resigned, effective May 5. He will become director of missions in the Frio River Baptist Association in Texas.

Toby Druin, news service editor in the department of editorial services since 1973, resigned effective April 19. Druin has been named associate editor of the Baptist Standard in Texas.

The directors met outside the Atlanta area in a continuing plan to move the spring meeting around the nation to give more Baptists opportunity to see them in action.

The meeting here was held in three churches--Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church, Va.; First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va.; and First Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Md.

More than 1,500 persons attended a mission rally at First Baptist Church, Alexandria, to see six missionaries commissioned and 11 retiring missionaries honored.

Commissioned were Fleet and Wanda Carol Belle, serving in Mobile, Ala.; James and Beverly Hamblen, serving in Columbia, Md., and James and Eugenia Kerr serving in Charleston, W. Va.

Retirees honored were Mr. and Mrs. Domingo Fernandez, Andrew Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Perez, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pierson, Mr. and Mrs. Juan Santos, and Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Watson.

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Goal of Guatemalan Relief 'Reaching People for Christ'

GUATEMALA CITY (BP)--Money given for relief supplies, volunteer reconstruction crews and Spanish-speaking pastors in evangelistic efforts are enabling Southern Baptists to "reach people for the Lord," while helping this nation rebuild, a missionary said here.

"The ultimate goal of any plan we might have is reaching people for the Lord," said William W. Stennett, Southern Baptist missionary, of relief and construction efforts underway in Guatemala.

One of the most recent contributions from Southern Baptists came after Grey Stone Baptist Church in Durham, N. C., gave a plea over their television program.

The community responded with \$15,000. The money is being channeled through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, partly to purchase medical supplies and instruments for Guatemala City's Roosevelt Hospital and partly for reconstruction efforts.

"Right now we have a tremendous need to see our church buildings restored so people will have a roof under which to gather to praise God," Stennett said, "We also want to help by providing a roof over their own families."

Crews composed of Baptist laymen from various states have been aiding reconstruction efforts. They are helping to rebuild Baptist churches and pastors' and church members' homes. Crews from Texas and Alabama were next scheduled to arrive in Guatemala, each for a week of work.

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Starting in mid-April, Arkansas, Georgia, California, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and Oklahoma will have crews leaving for a week at a time. Finances for the trip and stay in Guatemala is at each crew member's expense.

According to W.L. (Wimpy) Smith, the board's associate consultant for laymen overseas, each crew will include 11 to 15 men, at least two of whom will be able to speak Spanish. Four experienced block masons, three carpenters, one electrician, and one steel-bender will also be part of each crew. The remaining crew members will be construction and masonry helpers.

"Those (volunteers and missionaries from other countries) who have come to help us have offered their own strength and service," said Stennett, "Guatemalans have seen in the lives and service of these people a real witness for Christ."

In addition to personnel already in Guatemala, Wendall C. Parker, Southern Baptist missionary assigned to Guatemala now on furlough, has returned for a month to assist in relief efforts. Charles G. Norwood, Southern Baptist missionary doctor from the Philippines who speaks Spanish, is also assisting. Ten Spanish-speaking pastors from Honduras and Costa Rica are assisting in evangelistic efforts now underway in the devastated country.

More than 100 professions of faith were reported in a two-week period when 26 Spanish-speaking pastors from Texas helped with evangelistic efforts, according to Ted. E. Yarbrough, Southern Baptist missionary in Guatemala.

By mid-March, 12 other Spanish-speaking pastors were engaged in general evangelism. The evangelists are coordinated through Charles P. McLaughlin and Leobardo Estrada of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"Just days after the earthquake, we visited some villages that were badly damaged," Yarbrough said. "People there told us, 'More than anything else, we need spiritual help."

"Will you please send someone to preach the Gospel?' I'd like to thank Southern Baptists for making that possible through missionaries and other volunteers," Yarbrough said.

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45 Missionaries Appointed
By Home Mission Board

Baptist Press
3/18/76

SILVER SPRING, MD.--Forty-five missionaries, including 22 for US-2 service were appointed by Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors here.

The list of appointees includes two as career missionaries, 14 associate missionaries, 7 missionary pastors and the 22 US-2 missionaries. They are as follows:

Career missionaries--Harold and Patricia Hime of Dallas, to serve as Christian social ministries consultants in the Family Service Center in Anchorage, Alaska.

Missionary associates--Heriberto and Aurora Benavides of Fort Worth, pastor of Primera Iglesia, Fort Worth; Lincola and Lillian Bingham of Louisville, to an associational missions post in Louisville; James and Lorraine Fulkersin of San Angelo, Tex., pastor of Segunda Iglesia, San Angelo; Dwain and Dawn Laramore of Flint, Mich., director of missions in Flint; B. L. and Louise Melton of Lyford, Tex., pastor of Templo Bautista/ Sebastian Palms in Lyford; Carlos and Delia Saenz of Smiley, Tex., pastor of Efeso Spanish Baptist Church, Smiley; and George and Mona Wassily of Brooklyn, N. Y., pastor of Arabic Baptist Church, Brooklyn.

Missionary pastors--James A. Fuller of Westland, Mich., to serve Trinity Baptist Church, Greensburg, Ind.; Duane Huizenga of Oskaloosa, Kan., to serve First Southern Baptist Church, Oskaloosa; Robert Darrell Patterson Jr., of White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., to serve White Sulphur Springs Baptist Church; Charles Sandford Pursley of Humble, Tex., to serve Emmanuel Baptist Church, Seelyville, Ind.; Wendell Earl Rychman of Louisville, to serve Marshall Baptist Church, Plymouth, Ind.; Harvey Taylor Self of Palm Harbor, Fla., to serve Beacon Woods Baptist Chapel, Hudson, Fla.; and Steve Alan Tucker of Louisville, to serve Southwind Baptist Chapel, Mt. Vernon, Ind.

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US-2 missionaries--Gary Duane Blessman of Yuma, Colo., to serve in Atlanta, Susan Timmons of Colorado Springs, Colo., to serve in Atlanta; Dan Eugene Butler of Portland, Tex., to serve in Daytona Beach, Fla.; James Lawrence Crokham of Conroe, Tex., to serve in Little Rock, Ark.; Claude Carroll Drouet of Winnsboro, La., to serve in Philadelphia, Pa.; Ronald L. and Shari Lynn Farrow of Waco, Tex., to serve in Phoenix, Ariz.; John and Dana Marie Ferris of Brenham, Tex., to serve in Atlanta; Gerald David Fikes of Pine Bluff, Ark., to serve in Atlanta;

Glenn Alden Hewitt of White Hall, Md., to serve in Anchorage; Jere Douglas Judd of Dorham, N. C., to serve in Huntsville, Ala.; Timothy Steven Kendrick of Tuscomb, Ala., to serve in Vail, Colo.; Jennifer Kennedy of Nevada, Mo., to serve in Atlanta; Deborah Renee King of Blackshear, Ga., to serve in New Orleans;

Norman H. and Susie Langston of Louisville; to serve in Eugene, Ore.; Mary L. Lewis of New York City to serve in that city; Karen Ruth Marcus of Whittier, N. C., to serve in New York City; William David McCann of Fort Worth, to serve in Jackson, Wyo.; Edward Lamar Smith of Crossett, Ark., to serve in Carnelian Bay, Calif.; and Jo Ann Wright of Harrisonburg, Va., to serve in Knoxville, Tenn.

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Illinois Board OKs 4-year
\$1 Million Fund-raising

Baptist Press
3/18/76

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--A four-year \$1 million fund-raising drive for new Baptist work in Illinois was authorized by the Illinois Baptist State Association board of directors in semi-annual session here.

The board also requested the committee on order of business to consider the feelings of those Baptists who oppose having State Association meetings in places where alcoholic beverages are sold.

Jim Doom of Washington, Ill., who presented the \$1 million proposal, said the funds would be divided equally as "seed money" for buying property for young churches and salary subsidies for pastors serving new churches and missions.

The campaign will extend from 1977-1980 and will be modeled after the "Together We Build" program of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, Nashville.

Pledges would be sought through the churches from each Baptist in the state and from "potential big givers" in and outside of Illinois, the Illinois Baptist noted: "The \$1 million would give impetus to the North Central Thrust, a cooperative effort to double the number of churches in seven Great Lakes states between now and 1980."

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