



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

April 14, 1976

76-67

Missionary Hopper Named Fraternal Rep. for Europe

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--John David Hopper, missionary to Switzerland and Austria for 11 years, has been elected by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as fraternal representative for Eastern Europe.

The action came at the board's April meeting here.

As fraternal representative, Hopper will provide a communication link between Southern Baptists and Baptists living in the Eastern European countries of Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia. He will assume these duties effective Oct. 1, 1976, when John Allen Moore, current fraternal representative, will return to the United States for furlough before retirement from active missionary service.

Hopper is working in Salzburg, Austria, where he and his wife teach at the Salzburg Bible School, a Baptist institute which Hopper helped establish. He also teaches at the Baptist Seminary in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, and conducts worship services for a small group of Yugoslavians in Salzburg.

The Hoppers were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1965. Before moving to Salzburg in 1971 they were stationed in Switzerland.

A native of Louisiana, Hopper was born in New Orleans and grew up in Baton Rouge, where his father was pastor of Zoar Baptist Church for more than 20 years. He received the bachelor of music education degree from Southeastern Louisiana College (now University), Hammond, and the bachelor of divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. He was awarded the master of theology degree in absentia by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Mrs. Hopper is the former Jo Ann Wells of Tulsa, Okla., where she lived and Downey, Calif., while growing up. She was graduated from California Baptist College, Riverside, with the bachelor of arts degree and from Golden Gate Seminary with the master of religious education degree. She also studied at Long Beach (Calif.) State College, (now California State University, Long Beach).

-30-

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

#

Missionary Ballenger Named
New Field Rep. for Europe

Baptist Press
4/14/76

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Isam E. (Dick) Ballenger, missionary to West Germany for 11 years, has been elected by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as field representative for Europe.

The action came at the board's April meeting here.

As a field representative, Ballenger will provide a personal link between the board and 114 missionaries in nine European countries.

Ballenger will assume his duties effective Oct. 1, 1976, when John Allen Moore, currently field representative, will return to the United States for furlough before retirement from active missionary service.

-more-

The Ballengers have been stationed in Offenbach, West Germany, where he is pastor of a German-language Baptist church. He has been fraternal representative to the German Baptist Union, maintaining contact with other German Baptists.

Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1965, the Ballengers spent a year in Heidelberg studying the German language. Then they moved to Hamm where he was pastor of an English-language Baptist church for more than four years. He went to Offenbach in September 1970.

Born in West Palm Beach, Fla., Ballenger lived in Charleston and Inman, S. C., while growing up. He received the bachelor of science degree from Clemson (S. C.) University and taught in Nigeria at a Baptist high school for a year.

Ballenger served with the U. S. Army, stationed at Fort Lee, Va. He attended North Carolina State University at Raleigh before entering Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., where he received the bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees.

Mrs. Ballenger, the former Katherine Thomason, is a native of Laurens, S. C. She was graduated from Coker College, Hartsville, S. C., with the bachelor of arts degree and taught school for four years. They have three children.

-30-

FMB Names Samuel James
East Asia Representative

Baptist Press
4/14/76

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Samuel M. James, missionary formerly assigned to Vietnam who has been serving temporarily as research assistant in the overseas division of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has been elected field representative for East Asia.

Elected during the board's April meeting here, James will assume his new duties June 1, 1976. He will replace George H. Hays, former field representative who is now serving as area secretary for East Asia.

James and his wife, the former Rachel Kerr, have been missionaries since 1962. As field representative for East Asia, James will provide a personal link between the board and the 389 missionaries serving in that area.

James and his wife were two of the missionaries who evacuated Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) in April 1975, just prior to the communist takeover of that city. After leaving Vietnam, James went to Guam to aid in refugee efforts there and then came to Richmond as assistant to Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division.

While in Vietnam, James was president of the Vietnam Baptist Theological Seminary. He was also chairman of the Vietnam Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) and pastor of two churches in Saigon--one Vietnamese and the other Chinese.

James is a native of Liberty, N. C. After graduation from high school, he worked in New York City for a short period and then joined the U. S. Navy. He was stationed in Japan and the Aleutian Islands during his four years in the service.

He was graduated from Wake Forest College (now University), Winston-Salem, N. C., with the bachelor of arts degree and from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., with the bachelor of divinity degree.

James was pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Liberty, and of Grace Baptist Mission, Durham, N. C., which became Homestead Heights Baptist Church during his pastorate.

While on furlough from 1971 to 1973, James received the master of theology degree in New Testament interpretation, the master of theology degree in pastoral care, and the doctor of ministry degree in pastoral counseling from Southeastern Seminary.

James and his wife have four children.

-30-

Former Castro Prisoner
'Saw Over 200 Executed'

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--A former missionary who was a prisoner under Cuban Premier Fidel Castro said that while detained two years in a Havana fortress, he "witnessed more than 200 executions about 100 meters from my cell."

David Fite was a missionary pastor and seminary teacher in Cuba when was jailed in 1965 by Castro and held prisoner four years.

The firing squad would march into the area and tie the condemned person to a stake, Fite said in a Missionary Day message at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

After the sentence was read, "We could occasionally hear a cry of desperation and then the volley of shots . . . and then the shot of grace," said Fite, now director of continuing education for ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

His experiences in Cuba made a tremendous impact on Fite, a Southeastern Seminary graduate, and gave him greater insights into the Christian mission, he said.

"I know what it's like to be in a prison surrounded by walls," he said. "But there are people all around us who are also in a prison--a prison of despair, hopelessness, and guilt."

Fite said he and other prisoners under Castro waited anxiously one day when a rumor spread that they would be set free. The rumor proved to be false.

"One night after we had heard the shots that executed 13 people outside our cell, a man came to me and said, 'I can't believe in a God who would let this happen,'" Fite said. "And so as Christians, we must be professionally prepared to help people deal with these questions

"Like the group in prison, people all around us are grabbing at any sign of hope, no matter how futile it may be," he said, citing the current popularity of Eastern religions.

Fite called on seminary students to have a "spirit of power, self-discipline, and love" in their approach to others, referring to the Apostle Paul's advice in II Timothy 1:7.

"All our skills and abilities are no good unless they are translated into love for people," he stressed.

"We need people today who will risk themselves in concrete actions of care for others.

-30-

John Howell New Dean
At Midwestern Seminary

Baptist Press
4/14/76

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--John C. Howell, professor of Christian ethics since 1960 at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, was elected the second dean in the 19-year history of Southern Baptists' youngest seminary.

The unanimous action of the trustees came following the recommendation of Howell by Seminary President Milton Ferguson to the executive committee of the board.

Howell succeeds Roy L. Honeycutt who resigned in 1975 to become dean at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, the denomination's oldest theological institution.

In other action, the Midwestern trustees approved a budget for the 1976-77 academic year, totaling \$1,335,035, based on the proposed budget of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) which will be acted upon by "messengers" when the SBC meets in Norfolk this June.

Projections call for Midwestern Seminary to receive \$1,061,535 from the SBC's operating budget funded by the Cooperative Program (unified budget).

-more-

The trustees heard a report from Morris Ashcraft, professor of theology at Midwestern Seminary, who serves as chairman of an ad hoc group sponsoring the endowment of a lecture series in memory of B. A. Sizemore who was killed in an automobile accident Mar. 21. Sizemore, professor of Old Testament and world religion, had served on the faculty of Midwestern since 1968.

Supporters of the fund hope to reach a goal of \$50,000 which will enable two lectureships each academic year, probably one in Old Testament and another in New Testament, Ashcraft said.

The two-day annual meeting of the trustees drew 31 of 34 members. R. G. Puckett, editor of the Maryland Baptist, was elected president of the trustees for the coming year. Other officers include: Frank Parks, Excello, Mo., first vice-president; Weldon E. Marcum, Miami, Okla., second vice-president; James Pharp, Springfield, Mo.; secretary; and Edward VanDeusen, Kansas City, Mo., treasurer.

The seminary trustees made plans for welcoming the annual SBC meeting in Kansas City in 1977.

-30-

(BP) Photo to be mailed to Baptist state papers.

#

John W. McCall, Prominent
Baptist Dies in Nairobi

Baptist Press
4/14/76

MEMPHIS (BP)-- Judge John W. McCall, 91, a former chairman of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission here and the father of Dr. Duke K. McCall, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, died in Nairobi, Kenya, Monday, Apr. 12.

Judge McCall, long-time attorney and former city judge here was in Nairobi at the home of his daughter and her husband, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Bethea, medical missionaries serving under the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Dr. Bethea was flying back to the United States with the body for the funeral at First Baptist Church, Memphis. Interment is to be in Oxford, Miss., 80 miles from Memphis, according to President McCall's office.

Judge McCall, a prominent Baptist layman, served on several denominational boards, including the Baptist Brotherhood Commission, of which he was chairman of its executive committee, 1946-50 and chairman of the commission, 1950-64. He served on the commission 1922-64.

He served also on the Social Service Commission, now the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, was a member of the Tri-State Baptist Hospital Board in Memphis. And, for more than 25 years, he was chairman of the deacons at First Baptist Church, Memphis. During that same time span, he taught a Sunday School class that was broadcast by radio each Sunday.

His wife, the former Mizette Kimbrough, of Oxford, Miss., died several years ago. He is survived by three sons, and two daughters. President McCall, John W. McCall Jr., a surgeon of Memphis, and Dr. Charles McCall, dean of the University of Tennessee, Memphis, Medical School. Daughters are Mrs. Bethea and Mrs. James E. Flowers, formerly of Covington, Tenn., and now of Memphis, also several grandchildren and great grandchildren are survived.

The family has asked that donations be made to the Mizette McCall Fund for World Missions and Evangelism through Southern Seminary, or to First Baptist Church, Memphis.

-30-

8,000 View Appointments
As FMB Meets in Oklahoma

By Charles Warren

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)-- The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed 19 missionaries, elected officers, approved three missionaries to special administrative responsibilities and appropriated \$235,000 for world relief during its April meeting here.

In other action the board employed a record 97 missionary journeymen, allocated \$4.3 million of the 1975 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and approved a new organizational structure for the agency's mission support division.

The evening appointment service, in Oklahoma City's Myriad Convention Center, was attended by about 8,000 persons. Featured were testimonies by the new appointees, music by combined choirs from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and a report and missions message by Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive secretary. At the close of the service, 124 persons responded to the invitation.

Cauthen announced that even though the books remain open through April, the 1975 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering already has exceeded its \$24,000,000 goal, reaching \$24,828,543 during the first two weeks of April. He also expressed gratitude that during the first half of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) fiscal year, the Cooperative Program (unified budget) is running more than 14 percent higher than at the same point last year.

James G. Harris, pastor of University Baptist Church in Fort Worth, and J. Roy Clifford, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., were re-elected as president and first vice-president respectively. J. R. White, pastor of First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala., was elected second vice-president.

Mrs. Doris Mullendore from Bowling Green, Ky., was elected as recording secretary. Elizabeth Minshew of the board's Richmond staff was re-elected assistant recording secretary.

Samuel M. James, missionary to Vietnam for 13 years, was elected field representative for East Asia, replacing George H. Hays, now secretary for East Asia. Assuming his new duties in June, James will provide a personal link between missionaries in East Asia and the area's administrative office in Richmond.

The board also elected Isam E. (Dick) Ballenger, missionary to Germany for 11 years, as field representative for Europe, effective in October. He replaces John Allen Moore who will retire from active missionary service.

Another of Moore's present responsibilities will be shifted to John David Hopper, missionary to Switzerland and Austria for 11 years. Effective in October, Hopper will be fraternal representative for Eastern Europe, providing a communication link between Southern Baptists and Baptists living in the Eastern European countries of Hungary, Romania, and Yugoslavia.

Of the \$235,000 relief appropriations, \$75,000 will be used in a year's program of hunger relief in North Brazil, \$25,000 is for a medical project in Faridpur, Bangladesh, \$10,000 for work with Indochina refugees now in Thailand, \$5,000 for a measles immunization campaign in Kenya, \$5,000 for recurring relief needs in Korea, \$5,000 for hunger needs in Chile, \$5,000 to assist refugees from Angola and Portugal and \$5,000 for hunger needs in North Brazil.

Transferred from earlier Vietnam relief appropriations, \$100,000 will go into a hunger relief and disaster emergency fund.

The board's mission support division, one of three administration divisions of the agency's structure, will be reorganized into four departments instead of the present three.

A new department of communications will combine all communications functions of the board including information and editorial services, publications and resources and services. Public relations and press will be staff functions in the new department.

Another new department, that of denominational coordination, will relate to other Southern Baptist agencies and leaders in closer coordination and planning with the entire denomination. The department will work with other departments of the division in planning and stimulating a more effective divisional approach.

The department of missionary personnel will remain essentially the same. The department of furlough ministries will continue an emphasis on the effective use of furloughing missionaries for mission support and various forms of assistance to these missionaries.

The board also approved two new positions for the Richmond-based home office staff. An associate disaster response coordinator will assist W. Eugene Grubbs, disaster response coordinator. Dr. Franklin Fowler, the board's medical consultant will also have an associate. Persons to fill these positions will be named at a later board meeting.

Announcements were made of the retirements of H. Cornell Goerner, secretary for West Africa and Ralph Magee, assistant treasurer. Both men will retire at the end of 1976.

The 97 young people approved for employment as missionary journeymen, along with 4 alternates, will enter training at Meredith College in Raleigh, N. C., in June. Upon completion of a six-weeks training program, those commissioned by the board will serve two years overseas in a specific job assignment alongside career missionaries. Missionary journeymen are college graduates 26-years-old or under.

The 19 new missionaries include nine couples and a single woman. They will serve in nine different countries following missionary orientation.

Appointed as career missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Ronald H. (Ronnie) Ballard, from Illinois and Arkansas, assigned to Paraguay; Mr. and Mrs. Jerry W. Barrett, Texas and North Carolina, to Hong Kong; Mr. and Mrs. W. Jerome Ethredge, Georgia, to Togo; Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. (Don) Johnson, Missouri to Equatorial Brazil; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald H. (Gerry) Milligan, Oklahoma, to Gaza.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Dan M. Panter, Mississippi, to Togo; Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Pate, California and South Carolina, to Taiwan; Miss Peggy Russell, Louisiana, to Liberia; and Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. (Mike) Williams, Louisiana and Texas, to Honduras.

Employed as missionary associates were Dr. and Mrs. W. Robert (Bob) Anderson, Florida, to Ghana; Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Burgin, former missionaries to Korea who resigned in 1974, were reappointed to Korea.

The meeting was held in Oklahoma City at the invitation of Oklahoma Baptists. Next year's April meeting will be in Atlanta.

-30-

'Withdraw SBC's Invitation
For Ford to Speak'; Editor

Baptist Press
4/14/76

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--The editor of the Illinois Baptist, Robert J. Hastings, has called for an invitation to President Gerald Ford to address the Southern Baptist Convention in Norfolk, Va., in June to be withdrawn.

Grounds for Hastings' request, he said, was that Southern Baptists should not be giving the President a platform and subsequent free publicity during an election year, Bicentennial or no.

Hastings, in a Mailgram to R. Gene Puckett, chairman of the committee on order of business for the Convention, said:

"I suggest the invitation to President Ford to address our Southern Baptist Convention at Norfolk on June 15 be withdrawn.

"When he accepted, Ford indicated that if responsibilities of his office dictated, he could decline at the last minute. As a convention, we have just as much right to change our minds."

Hastings said in the Mailgram that if the invitation was not withdrawn before the Convention meets in June, "a motion to amend your report on order of business will be made at Norfolk, eliminating this item on the program . . . it would be an embarrassment to all concerned for the issue to be raised publicly."

-more-

"We are in the embarrassing position of giving Ford this political platform in an election year, while one of the finest laymen Southern Baptists (Jimmy Carter of Georgia) have ever produced is likely to be his opposition."

Noting that he recognized "it takes much more to make a good president than just being a Southern Baptist," Hastings cited that Carter is taking stands and speaking out on issues, "although, "This does not mean we should invite Carter to address our Convention during this election year. But neither does it mean we should give his opponent a platform."

Puckett said via telephone that he could not respond to Hastings' request until he had opportunity to meet and/or talk with the committee on order of business, which he said would be in a few days.

Puckett did say a few other letters had been received along the same lines of request and that they would most likely be considered.

A spokesman in the White House scheduling office told Baptist Press that the SBC's request for Ford to speak was still "under consideration," and that no decision would be made until two to three weeks prior to the SBC meeting in Norfolk. There will be no last minute appearance, the spokesman said. "We aren't doing things that way anymore." A copy of Hastings' Mailgram went to the person handling Ford's appointments, the editor said. No response by the spokesman was given to Hastings' copy of the Mailgram sent to the White House.

Hastings, a registered Republican, said: "If I were voting today, I would vote for Carter, but I don't make up my mind until the day before elections . . . I'm aware the committee (on order of business) wasn't aware of what the situation would be," at the time Ford was invited to address the SBC.

Hastings is the second Baptist editor to question the propriety of inviting a President of the United States to speak to the SBC in an election year.

In an editorial in the Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist state paper, Editor C. R. Daley asked, "What place does a chief of state have in a meeting of Baptist business and inspiration? To have a U. S. President who is running for reelection appear on the program of the SBC is very questionable."

When Ford was vice president and Carter was governor of Georgia, in June 1974, the two appeared jointly on the Brotherhood Commission, SBC, meeting program in Dallas. Carter gave Ford a favorable and warm introduction prior to the vice president's address.

The meeting was held just after the 1974 SBC sessions ended in Dallas.

Freberg--a 'Preacher's Kid'
Turned Advertising Genius

By Bonita Sparrow

FORT WORTH (BP)--"I got into advertising because, as a consumer, I wondered why I had to be subjected to assaults on my intelligence.

"I have wanted out since about 20 minutes after I got into it."

The words are Stan Freberg's, the creative genius whose satirical records--"St. George And The Dragonet" (which would never have seen the light of day, he says, "if Jack Webb hadn't had a sense of humor") and "Stan Freberg Presents The United States of America"--are classics and sold in the millions in the '50s. The records are now collectors items, selling for as much as \$40 in speciality shops.

Freberg's advertising agency has made a fortune producing commercials that kid around with the product to offer viewers and listeners a change from the pompous, irritating hard-sell that dominated TV advertising for so long.

Some of his commercials have caused product executives to pale and visibly wince. "You can count my critics on the fingers of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir," Freberg said blithely.

Nevertheless, his philosophy of commercial-making has been a powerful influence within the industry because "the public doesn't have the mentality of a 9-year-old unless it's a 7-year old. Not in these days, anyway. And I have to believe that what I think is funny, a lot of people will think is funny."

Freberg was in Fort Worth from California to accept the Christian Service Award from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission for a series of religious commercials he did for the Presbyterian Church. The Commission has previously honored Dale Evans Rogers and Astronaut James B. Irwin with a Christian Service Award.

The agency cited Freberg "for pioneering in the use of humor and wit to breathe life into religious radio and television spot announcements" and for using his talents "to advance the cause of Christianity in America."

"Actually, I didn't do those Christian spots for the Presbyterians, or the Baptists, or any other organized religious group," Freberg told "MasterControl"* and "Country Crossroads" interviewers.

"I did them for the Lord. The attempt to do them at all was one of the great challenges of my life, not just as writer, or producer, but as a Christian."

The son of a retired Baptist minister, (the Rev. Victor R. Freberg of Pasadena, Calif.) Freberg said the spots were aimed at people who were told that God is dead.

"I wanted to get the message across that God will help us if we let him. I felt non-Christian would not listen to anything religious and I wanted to do something that would reach them. I thought it would be nice to have people talk as they usually talk, as opposed to what I call 'advertisingese'."

When the spots were aired, Time magazine described them as "a disarming natural conversational approach leading into a song that's like a pop tune--sort of an espionage approach."

In one commercial, a secular-type says he can't make it to church because "this Sunday I'm playing golf," and next Sunday "I promised to take the kids to the beach." A voice (Freberg's) asks, "Well, how about two weeks from Sunday?" "Oh, I never plan that far ahead. Two weeks. Why, the world could blow up by then." There's a meaningful pause and Freberg comes back softly with, "That's right."

A chorus then swings into a jingle that concludes, "It's a great life, but it could be greater. Why try and go it alone? The blessings you lose may be your own."

4/14/76

Baptist Press

That spot, and others like it, enjoyed immense success. "Industry demographics show that in New York, for instance, you need at least 200-300 spots a week to reach all economic levels," Freberg said. "Well, in Detroit the church got something like 500 spots a week for that commercial."

Another well-received commercial--Freberg prefers to call them messages--featured a hippie-type character reading aloud from an art-deco poster the words of John 3:16 and saying, "That's really heavy, man." Freberg's voice says, "Yes, it's from an ancient book that's been around more than 2,000 years. It's called the Bible."

"That particular message got the attention of a lot of young people," Freberg said. "I guess I received more comments about that one from kids than any I did. They said it really gave them something to think about."

Freberg's background as a "P.K." (preacher's kid) made him a "theoretical Christian" until his late teens when he "accepted Christ" for himself. From that point on, "everything changed."

"It's tough, in this fast-paced world, to sit back and let Jesus help you do things," he said, "but if you can get the message across that you do not have to fight it alone, it helps."

Freberg feels the organized church is, many times, a stumbling block to the gospel reaching the minds of young people who are turned off by most things of a religious nature.

"The church can do a great work," he said, "and the church is not as dumb as some people would have you believe. The church today is aware that it has trouble communicating with people outside its influence. If the church only had to worry about talking to the people who come all the time, that's great."

"But what about the people who are not sitting in church, and who may never get there? You have to talk to people in everyday language, not that of a pulpiteer. And you have to be relevant."

Freberg's relevancy is real. "I would no more do a commercial that was not entertaining or honest or valid than anything," he said. "I have never done dirty jokes or veiled innuendos. That is the easy way. It's harder to get laughs on a more cerebral level."

The reason he hasn't done any church spots recently?

"Nobody's asked me," he said.

-30-

Fund Provides for Widow
Of Slain Nigerian Student

Baptist Press
4/14/76

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (BP)--A fund has been established to provide for the widow of a 27-year-old ministerial student from Nigeria who was killed here in March.

Edward and Juliet Nakpodia, 22, came from Lagos, Nigeria, three years ago to study at Luther Rice College here. They were among victims of an armed robbery in a restaurant in which he was killed and she was seriously injured.

The Edward Nakpodia Memorial Scholarship Fund (at Luther Rice College) is accepting contributions toward medical and living expenses of Mrs. Nakpodia until she recovers, and to enable her to complete her studies in Christian education. Remaining funds would assist any upperclassman ministerial student from Nigeria at the college, according to a college spokesman.

-30-