

(BP)**-- 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 30, 1976

76=75

Louisiana, Alabama Men
Help Rebuild Guatemala

SAN RAYMUNDO, Guatemala (BP)--Louisiana Baptist men were the first to completely rebuild a Guatemalan Baptist Church building since the February earthquake shook this Central American nation, claiming more than 20,000 lives.

A crew from Alabama also contributed recently in the partial construction of a building in San Andres Itzapa, according to A. Clark Scanlon, Southern Baptist missionary field representative for Middle America and the Caribbean.

Other state crews have torn down dangerously cracked and falling walls in preparation for the new buildings.

A crew from Arkansas was scheduled to be in Guatemala in late April and early May. Teams from Georgia, California, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and Oklahoma will follow them in sequence. Besides the Alabama and Louisiana crews, teams from Texas and Illinois have also helped in the reconstruction efforts.

"In the mountain town of San Raymundo, the Louisiana men pitched tents, ate local food, and worked beside members of the local church in the rebuilding of the church building," said Scanlon. "At night, they attended worship services in whatever part of the building they had constructed that day."

During the second week of their stay, the team had run out of materials and decided to take the day off in nearby Guatemala City.

According to Scanlon, some planned to fix a pump at the Baptist seminary, others planned to help a Southern Baptist missionary fix an ailing washing machine and another group planned to shop for some of Guatemala's famed woven goods.

"However, word came that the city had condemned the front wall of a home where a young woman and her mother lived," Scanlon explained. "The family had three days to tear it down."

Led by Robert Shivers, an engineer, and John Winters, associate Brotherhood director for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the volunteers gave up the day off to do "the act of kindness."

At the end of their two-week stay, the team attended the dedication service of the new church building, according to Harry E. Byrd, Southern Baptist missionary. Before the service started the pastor's step mother cried with joy saying, "I was afraid we would never have another building."

"A crippled man, who had come a long distance on crutches, got on his knees in prayer and bathed the new floor with his tears," Byrd recalled. "The love engendered between the Louisiana crew and the people at San Raymundo is something that ought to deepen our gratitude for the love of Christ."

"Separated by language, economic status and culture, there was a love between work crew and Guatemalans which clearly reflected the power of Christ."

According to Scanlon, the day the crew left, the San Raymundo townspeople, who seldom go to Guatemala City, were at the city airport to bid them good-bye.

-more-

The Alabama crew worked in San Andres Itzapa but due to lack of materials could not complete the church building they started, Byrd said.

"That group of men was so friendly. They had such a good spirit. It was a pleasure to serve them," commented a pastor's wife, who prepared meals for the men.

At night, after church services, she served them coffee. "The contagious Christian warmth of the men and the love the pastor's wife had for Christ transformed serving coffee from a task of drudgery into an act of joy," Byrd said. "I realized it's not just what we do but how we do it. The group was unable to speak the language but had communicated love and appreciation."

When the Alabama men departed, they left money to buy gifts for the pastor's wife.

-30-

(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist editors.

BWA President Wong
Plans Soviet Trip

#

Baptist Press
4/30/76

NASHVILLE (BP)--David Y. K. Wong, first Asian and layman to serve as president of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), will visit the Soviet Union at the invitation of the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (AUCECB), he announced here.

The Hong Kong businessman said he and Mrs. Wong will be in Russia July 8-21, where he expects to visit Baptist churches and preach in some of them. It is one of several tours he has taken or plans during his tenure as BWA president, to which he has devoted his full time.

Through his travels, Wong said, he hopes to make some contribution toward "getting Baptists over the world to develop a deeper relationship, better understanding, fellowship and great cooperation in evangelism." His itinerary has included Asia, South America, North America, and in August, Australia.

A favorite topic during Wong's visit to Nashville was his recent visit to Mainland China.

He reiterated earlier statements that Christians continue to increase in the People's Republic of China despite government regulations that have closed churches and made religion primarily a personal, devotional matter.

"The Chinese people are now better off than before. Even so, they long for something more that will bring them spiritual comfort, hope and strength," said Wong, a structural engineer and architect.

"Yet as we look around the world, this spiritual hunger is not limited to the people of the developing nations alone," continued Wong, a fourth generation Baptist and native of Wuchow, Kwangsi, China, in a commencement address at Belmont College, a Baptist school here.

Wong said he wants to return to "preach the gospel of Jesus Christ," in Mainland China, "if the opportunity arises," but has no immediate plans for returning to his native land.

-30-

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

#

ATS Gives 10 Cash Grants
To Seminary Faculty and Staff

Baptist Press
4/30/76

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Ten members of the faculty and staff of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have received cash grants from the Association of Theological Schools for professional projects, according to a seminary spokesman.

-more-

George R. Beasley-Murray, professor of New Testament interpretation and former president of Spurgeons College in London, was awarded a cash grant for study in London and Cambridge, England, and Ruschlikon, Switzerland, during his sabbatical leave this fall.

Larry McSwain, assistant professor of church and community, received a grant allowing him to work on curriculum development. Andrew Rawls, audio-visual librarian, was awarded a grant to explore the use of media in theological education.

A number of Staff Development Grants were awarded to Southern Seminary personnel, enabling them to attend workshops or do research in their areas of professional competence. Recipients include Roy Lee Honeycutt, provost and dean of theology; Badgett Dillard, vice president for business affairs; C. Richard Broome, treasurer; Eddie M. Ashmore, director of data processing; T. J. McGlothlin, director of administrative services; Thomas C. Sherwood, registrar; and O. Norman Shands, seminary chaplain.

-30-

Southern Seminary Names
Provost, Deans, New Faculty

Baptist Press
4/30/76

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Naming of a provost, two new deans and five new faculty members were among decisions made by the trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in their April meeting on the Louisville campus.

Roy Lee Honeycutt, Jr., dean of the School of Theology at Southern Seminary since August, 1975, was elected provost. The provost is the seminary's chief academic officer. The Mississippi native also serves as professor of Old Testament interpretation.

Southern Seminary's trustees have named Arthur L. Walker, Jr., professor of religion and philosophy at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., as dean of student affairs. Walker, who was visiting professor of church history at the seminary last fall, has been on the Samford faculty since 1956, and is former vice-president for administrative affairs there.

O. Norman Shands, who had been serving as acting dean of student affairs, was named chaplain of the seminary by the trustees.

Allen W. Graves, executive director of the seminary's Ministry Training Center, will resume the position of dean in the School of Religious Education, a post he held from 1955-69. Since 1973 Graves has led in the development of the Boyce Bible School at Southern Seminary, a program of theological education for non-college graduates.

Graves succeeds Ralph C. Atkinson Jr., dean of the school of religious education since 1973, who resigned, effective July 31. He will accept an administrative post at another Baptist institution which will be announced in the near future.

Five new faculty members were elected during the April trustee meeting.

Richard Cunningham, associate professor of systematic theology and philosophy of religion at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., was elected associate professor of Christian philosophy with tenure. The Baylor University and Southern Seminary graduate has been on the faculty of the California seminary since 1967.

Walter B. Shurden, occupant of the Chair of Southern Baptist Studies at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., has been elected associate professor of church history with tenure. Shurden is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Baptist Seminary, and has taught at Carson-Newman since 1969.

James Blevins, professor of religion since 1969 at Mars Hill (N.C.) College, is a new associate professor with tenure of New Testament interpretation. Blevins holds degrees from Duke and Eastern Universities and Southern Seminary.

-more-

Glen H. Stassen, professor of religion at Berea College, Berea, Ky., was elected to an associate professorship in Christian ethics with tenure. Stassen is a graduate of University of Virginia, Union Theological Seminary and Duke University, and is the son of well-known political figure Harold Stassen.

A. Jackson Glaze, past president of the International Baptist Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 1966-75 as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary, has accepted a post as associate professor of Old Testament interpretation. Glaze, a graduate of Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss., Mississippi College and Southern Seminary, has been a visiting professor on the Louisville campus throughout this academic year.

Other trustee action included the selection of E. Glenn Hinson, professor of church history, to occupy the endowed David T. Porter Chair of Church History. Hinson succeeds Morgan Patterson, who will become academic dean at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary this fall.

Additional trustee action on faculty involved granting tenure to Lewis Drummond, Billy Graham professor of evangelism, and promotion of Hugh T. McElrath to full professor in the School of Church Music, Larry L. McSwain to associate professor of church and community, and Paul D. Simmons to associate professor of Christian ethics.

The trustees voted to honor Clara A. McCartt, administrative assistant to seminary president Duke K. McCall, for her 24 years of service to the seminary. McCartt will retire July 31.

New trustee officers elected include Richard M. Stephenson of Richmond, Va., re-elected chairman of the board; Albert Cardwell of Macon, Ga., elected first vice-chairman and chairman of the executive committee; Wayne Dehoney of Louisville, Ky., elected second vice-chairman; and Joe D. Cross of Louisville, Ky., elected secretary.

-30-

Four Crusades in Ghana
Record 3,600 Conversions

Baptist Press
4/30/76

ACCRA, Ghana (BP)--Four evangelistic crusades have been completed by Baptists here, with more than 3,600 professions of faith in Jesus Christ, according to reports from Southern Baptist missionaries.

The crusades were a cooperative effort of the Ghana Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) and the Ghana Baptist Convention. Two more are scheduled for late 1976 and early 1977.

Each crusade involved extensive preparation and follow-up, according to Dean E. Richardson, Southern Baptist missionary. Each included an advance Witness Involvement Now (WIN) school, organized visitation, and counselor training.

Following the city-wide crusades in parks and stadiums, follow-up revivals were held in local churches and all persons who had made decisions were visited.

Besides recorded decisions, several new churches and preaching points were established as a result of the crusades, including churches at Cape Coast and preaching points at Asamankese and Nkronso.

American evangelists and musicians were used in all the city-wide crusades.

-30-