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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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July 1, 1976

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Foreign Board Appoints 33;
Names New Staff Members

By Charlie Warren

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed 33 missionaries, appropriated \$36,000 for world relief and named two department heads and two field representatives during its July meeting at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center here.

The board also employed two special project workers, heard announcements about the beginning of Southern Baptist mission work in Nicaragua, Belize and Eastern Europe, and voted to change the title of the board's chief executive from executive secretary to executive director.

In other action, the board authorized a new position for an associate to the consultant in evangelism and church development and appropriated \$500,000 from current funds for a new addition to the headquarters building in Richmond, Va. The \$500,000 will be added to funds already designated for a new addition. The board also authorized a contract with an architectural firm for the structures design.

Speaking to a capacity crowd viewing the appointment service during foreign mission week at the conference center, Baker J. Cauthen, executive director, said the 33 missionary appointees were the "fruitage of many efforts in Baptist life."

He commended the Christian homes, pastors, teachers and churches that had influenced the new missionaries. Cauthen challenged the crowd of Baptists to go back to their churches with a renewed commitment to supporting missionaries through prayer, missionary education, and financial support through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

William W. (Bill) Marshall, a Southern Baptist missionary since 1969, was named secretary of the board's department of furlough ministries, effective immediately. William R. O'Brien, pastor of Lake Country Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex., and former missionary to Indonesia, will be secretary of the newly created department of denominational coordination, effective August 1.

Both departments are part of the board's mission support division, which recently reorganized into four departments. A department of missionary personnel and a department of communications are also included in the division.

The department of denominational coordination will relate to other Southern Baptist agencies and leaders in closer coordination and planning with the entire denomination. The department of furlough ministries will emphasize the effective use of furloughing missionaries for mission support and relate to these missionaries while they are on furlough.

Marshall, a native of Frankfort, Ky., has been stationed in Germany with his wife and three children. Prior to his transfer there, he was field representative for the Middle East, working with missionaries in 11 countries. Before appointment in 1969, Marshall was an associate secretary for missionary personnel at board headquarters in Richmond.

A Texan, O'Brien was born in Fort Worth and has lived in several Texas towns. He and his wife were appointed to Indonesia in 1962. Before resigning in 1974, they served in Semarang where he taught music at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Indonesia and directed the radio and television programming for Indonesian Baptists.

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Of the \$36,000 appropriated for relief, \$10,000 will be used in war-torn Lebanon where several Southern Baptist missionaries continue to minister. An additional \$5,000 will help Lebanese refugees in Jordan and \$1,000 is for refugee relief in Israel. Ghana will receive \$5,000 for hunger relief, \$10,000 will be used for relief efforts in South Africa, and \$5,000 will go to the Philippines for disaster relief needs resulting from June's typhoon and flood.

Finlay M. Graham, missionary to Lebanon for 28 years, will be the field representative for the Middle East, effective immediately. A field representative serves as a liaison between missionaries and the foreign mission board headquarters.

Representing missionaries in western South America as field representative, will be H. Robert Tucker Jr., missionary to Bolivia and Venezuela for 13 years, effective immediately.

Appointed during the missionary appointment service were Mr. and Mrs. C. Allen Alexander, from Arizona and Texas, assigned to Mexico; Karen D. Brandon, Illinois, to Zambia; Mr. and Mrs. Jason D. Carlisle, Texas and Mississippi, to Uruguay; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond D. Horne, Georgia, to Togo; L. Carolyn Houts, Iowa, to Ghana; Mr. and Mrs. W. Barry Nealy, Louisiana and Texas, to Equatorial Brazil; Mr. and Mrs. W. Douglas Simrell, Alabama and Mississippi, to the Ivory Coast.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel (Dan) R. South, from Tennessee and Arkansas, assigned to Chile; Mr. and Mrs. William (Bill) P. Steeger, New York and Alabama, to Ethiopia; Patricia (Pat) Stooksbury, Tennessee, to Costa Rica; Mr. and Mrs. James (Jim) A. Williams Jr., Georgia and Yugoslavia, to Eastern Europe; and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald (Ron) B. Wilson, South Carolina, to the Dominican Republic.

Employed as missionary associates were Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. (Bob) Geiger, from California and Arkansas, assigned to Jordan; Mr. and Mrs. James (Jim) E. Green, Oklahoma, to East Africa; Dr. and Mrs. Larry Y. S. Loo, Hawaii, to East Africa; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin (Ed) O. Perimon, Texas and Oklahoma, to Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. and Mrs. John H. Taylor, Iowa and Oklahoma, to East Africa; and Mr. and Mrs. E. L. (Buddy) Woods, Texas, to Rhodesia.

Employed as special project personnel during the board's business session were Dr. and Mrs. James (Jim) F. Graves, from Kentucky and Michigan, assigned to Ghana.

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Court Decision on Tax Aid
To Schools Criticized

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7/1/76

NASHVILLE (BP)--The recent 5-4 Supreme Court decision allowing use of tax money by religious colleges has drawn sharp criticism from several Southern Baptist leaders as a "return to taxation without representation . . . a cruel irony in this Bicentennial year."

James L. Sullivan of Nashville, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Foy Valentine of Nashville, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, told Baptist Press they agree with a recent statement by leading Texas Baptists opposing the Supreme Court decision.

Sullivan called the Supreme Court decision a "bold violation of the principle of separation of church and state." Valentine said use of tax money by religious institutions "is now legal but not now right" and urged Baptist institutions to turn down use of it.

The Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission approved a statement, joined by Texas Baptist President James G. Harris of Fort Worth and Texas Baptist Executive Director James H. Landes of Dallas, which declared:

"It is gravely immoral for church-related institutions of higher learning to accept aid which has been taken by the duress of the tax gathering process. Thomas Jefferson said, 'To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical.

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"Institutions with the strongest sort of sectarian special interests will totally escape public control over the tax dollars they receive," the statement continued.

"The Court's approval of the use of public funds for 'nonreligious purposes' is meaningless--a thin veil that does not hide the inevitable shuffling of accounts," it continued. "Money is obviously freed for religious purposes. The principle of church-state separation could be reduced to slick accounting, simply moving money from one pocket to another."

Applying the ruling to Baptist schools, the statement said: "If Baptist colleges are not openly and boldly religious institutions, they should refuse tithes and offerings from the churches. If they are evangelistic and missionary, they should turn down tax dollars.

"Baptists will surely reject state aid for our colleges," the statement continued. "Our belief in separation of church and state is a matter of principle. Before the Constitution was written, separation as a safeguard for religious liberty was a Baptist doctrine. It is not simply a question of Constitutional law. The Baptist General Convention of Texas repeatedly has made it clear that our institutions refusal of public funds is an issue of morality, not merely legality."

Valentine, whose agency deals with citizenship and other social concerns, said of the decision and its relation to Southern Baptists:

"The Christian citizenship of Southern Baptists is about to be tested as by fire."

Calling the 5-4 decision "a grievously divided" one, Valentine said, "This can be one of Southern Baptists' finest hours. We must continue our Baptist commitment to the great principle of separation of church and state. We must decline 'Caesar's' offer to gather money from all taxpayers to help us perform our Christian ministries.

"This is the perfect opportunity and ideal time for Southern Baptists to reject the evil idea of taxation without representation. Christian citizenship is truly an unfinished task to which we must now set our hands anew."

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High Court Voids Portions
Of Missouri Abortion Law

Baptist Press
7/1/76

By Stan L. Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--In a decision aimed at clarifying its position on the volatile subject of abortion, the U. S. Supreme Court struck down several sections of Missouri's anti-abortion law.

The law, enacted after the high court's historic decisions in 1973 holding that the state has only a limited interest in controlling abortion, sought to outlaw the practice in a number of instances not specifically covered in the court's action three years ago.

Missouri's law required that a woman obtain the consent of her husband before seeking an abortion and required parental consent for women under age 18. In addition, the law outlawed the so-called "saline amniocentesis" method of abortions and required physicians, under threat of manslaughter charges, to preserve the life and health of fetuses at every stage of pregnancy.

In its action, a divided Supreme Court struck down those four provisions of the Missouri law.

At the same time, the court unanimously upheld the statute's definition of the "viability" of a fetus, a requirement in the law that a woman give written consent to an abortion, and certain reporting and record keeping provisions applicable to physicians.

Six of the nine justices agreed that the provisions relating to spousal consent and demands upon physicians to preserve the life of fetuses violate the Constitution. Only five justices, however, voted to strike down the parental consent and saline method provisions.

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Justice Harry A. Blackmun, a generally cautious member of the high court, wrote the majority opinion. He also wrote both of the controversial 1973 opinions which have precipitated lively debate over the entire abortion issue. He has been the main target of so-called "pro-life" wrath.

In his new opinion, Blackmun reiterated the court's finding three years ago that the primary issue in the debate over abortion is a woman's "right of privacy" in such a personal sphere of life.

Blackmun reasserted, however, that such a right is not absolute and that the state therefore has a limited interest in controlling abortion procedures.

Regarding the spousal consent requirement of the Missouri law, the majority held that although "ideally, the decision to terminate a pregnancy should be one concurred in by both the wife and her husband," a state may not "give the spouse unilaterally the ability to prohibit the wife from terminating her pregnancy."

"It is difficult to believe," the court continued, "that the goal of fostering mutuality and trust in a marriage, and of strengthening the marital relationship and the marriage institution, will be achieved by giving the husband a veto power exercisable for any reason whatsoever or for no reason at all."

When husband and wife disagree over whether a pregnancy should be terminated, the court noted that "since it is the woman who physically bears the child and who is the more directly and immediately affected by the pregnancy . . . the balance weighs in her favor."

Three of the justices, Byron R. White, William H. Rehnquist, and Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, disagreed, saying: "A father's interest in having a child--perhaps his only child--may be unmatched by any other interest in his life."

"It is truly surprising," White's dissenting opinion continued, "that the majority finds in the United States Constitution . . . a rule that the state must assign a greater value to a mother's decision to cut off a potential human life by abortion than to a father's decision to let it mature into a live child."

In striking down the parental consent portion of the Missouri law, the court's majority ruled "that the state may not impose a blanket provision . . . requiring the consent of a parent" when an unmarried minor seeks an abortion.

Although acknowledging that states may constitutionally regulate certain areas of minors' lives, Blackmun wrote that "constitutional rights do not mature and come into being magically only when one attains the state-defined age of majority. Minors, as well as adults, are protected by the Constitution and possess constitutional rights."

To the argument that the state has a legitimate interest in protecting the family unit, Blackmun said that "it is difficult . . . to conclude that providing a parent with absolute power to overrule a determination, made by the physician and his minor patient, to terminate the patient's pregnancy will serve to strengthen the family unit.

"Neither is it likely," he continued, "that such veto power will enhance parental authority or control where the minor and the nonconsenting parent are so fundamentally in conflict and the very existence of the pregnancy already has fractured the family structure."

White, Rehnquist, and Burger, joined this time by new justice John Paul Stevens, again objected to the majority position. Stevens disputed the contention that parents would be hostile to daughters pregnant outside of marriage.

He went on to note that "if there is no parental consent requirement, many minors will submit to the abortion procedure without ever informing their parents."

White, in a separate dissent, argued that the state "is entitled to protect the minor unmarried woman from making the decision in a way which is not in her own best interests."

The court also struck down the section of Missouri's law forbidding the saline method of abortion after the 12th week of pregnancy. That is the method whereby the amniotic fluid is withdrawn and a saline or other fluid is inserted into the amniotic sac. It is the method used to terminate about 70 percent of pregnancies through abortion.

Blackmun's opinion stated that the other commonly available methods, hysterotomy and hysterectomy, "are significantly more dangerous and critical for the woman than the saline technique."

In his dissent, White said that the majority's finding that most Missouri women would be unable to obtain a safe abortion after 12 weeks of pregnancy without the availability of the saline method was "wholly unjustifiable."

The other portion of the Missouri law invalidated by the court required physicians to preserve the life and health of fetuses. The statute also provided that manslaughter charges be brought against any doctor who failed to do so.

The court ruled that the provision was too broad and did not acknowledge that it imposed a standard of care upon the physician in spite of the fact that the abortion may occur before "viability."

All nine justices joined in upholding other, less controversial, provisions of the Missouri law.

On the definition of "viability," the court ruled that "it is not the proper function of the legislature or the courts to place viability, which essentially is a medical concept, at a specific point in the gestation period." Because Missouri's definition of viability was sufficiently flexible, the court said, it may stand.

The justices also upheld sections of the law requiring the woman's own written consent before an abortion can be performed and a number of reporting and record keeping procedures for physicians and hospitals.

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SBC Cooperative Program
Running 13.65% Ahead

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7/1/76

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget has collected \$35,127,028 through the first nine months of the 1975-76 fiscal year--13.65 percent ahead of \$30,909,028 given at the same point last year.

Total gifts from nearly 35,000 Southern Baptist churches in 50 states amounted to \$72,534,774 through the first nine months. That figure, which is 12.05 percent ahead of year, includes the \$35,127,028 Cooperative Program figure and \$37,407,746 in designated contributions. The designated gifts are running 10.59 percent ahead of last year.

In the month of June, alone, the Cooperative Program amounted to \$3,637,350, according to Billy D. Malesovas, director of financial planning and assistant to the treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee. That represents an 8.65 percent increase over last June, when Southern Baptists gave \$3,347,910.

Adding another \$3,361,702 in designated gifts in June, Southern Baptists gave a total of \$6,999,051 in June--a 25.70 percent increase over June of the 1974-75 fiscal year. The designated portion alone represented a 51.42 percent increase.

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