



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Home Mission Board
Names 28 US-2ers

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP)--For the next two years, 28 young adults will test their faith, education and maturity in settings which range from glamorous ski resorts to garbage and crime infested inner cities.

They also will test their commitment to full-time Christian vocations.

The 28 were commissioned US-2 missionaries by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Home Mission Board. US-2 is a Peace Corps-like program for young people interested in giving two years of their lives to home mission work.

Of those appointed, some will be teachers, others will work with apartment dwellers, the deaf, students, language and ethnic groups and church members. They will make efforts to minister to young and old, affluent and poverty stricken. They will range from Alaska to Atlanta and from Arizona to the Eastern Seaboard.

Thirteen will work in Christian social ministries areas. One is assigned to church extension work, five to language missions and nine to special missions ministries.

Those appointed include nine from Texas, three from Arkansas, two each from Florida, North Carolina, Virginia and Alabama, and one each from New York, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, Louisiana and Georgia.

The Texans are Ronald and Shari Farrow, John and Dana Ferris, Aron Wayne Teel, James Crookham, Dan Butler, Bill McCann and Norman Langston. Langston's wife, Susie--a native of Virginia--also was appointed.

The Farrowes will work in Christian social ministries in Phoenix. He is a graduate of Texas A & M and she is from Baylor. Both are from Dallas.

The Farrisese will work in apartment ministries in Atlanta. Both are from Brenham and are graduates of Sam Houston State University.

Teel, from Abilene, will work at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology. He is a graduate of California State University, Fresno.

The Langstons will conduct student ministries on the campus of the University of Oregon in Eugene. He is a native of Canyon and a graduate of the University of Oregon. Prior to entering the US-2 program, he was a second year student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Crookham, from Conroe, will work with Bob Focht, Arkansas state director of Christian social ministries, in Little Rock. Crookham is a graduate of Texas Tech University.

Butler, from Baylor, will work in Daytona Beach, Fla., in resort ministries. He is from Portland, Tex.

McCann, who was born in California, but calls Fort Worth home, will work near the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks in Jackson Hole, Wyo. He is a graduate of Mississippi College.

The Arkansans are David Fikes, Edward Smith and Gregg Richards.

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Fikes, a native of Pine Bluff, will work with apartment ministries in Atlanta. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas. His wife, Bonnie, will attend Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Smith, who graduated from Ouachita Baptist University, will work in resort ministries in Lake Tahoe, Calif. He is a native of Crossett, and was a semester missionary in Stowe, Vt., doing resort work.

Richards will work with Polish churches in Chicago. He speaks no Polish but "hopes to learn some" during his two year term of service. He is a native of Pine Bluff and a graduate of Henderson State University.

The Floridians are Ken Below and Susan Timmons Blessman. Below, who married after he was appointed, will work in a seaman's ministry in Charleston, S. C. His wife, June, will assist him. He is a graduate of the University of Florida. Mrs. Blessman and her husband, Gary, will work in apartment ministries in Atlanta. They are graduates of the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo.

Jere Judd of Durham and Karen Marcus of Bryson City are the North Carolinians. Marcus, a graduate of Gardner-Webb College, will work in church extension on Long Island, N w York. Judd, a graduate of Wake Forest University, will work in Christian social ministries at Highland Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.

Tim Kendrick from Tuscumbia and Jim Gamble of Pleasant Grove are the Alabama residents. Kendrick, a graduate of the University of North Alabama, will work in resort ministries in Vail, Colo., while Gamble, from Samford University, will work with Indians at Central Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

Philip Heydt of Lancaster, Pa., will do resort work in Columbia, S. C. He is a graduate of Messiah College in Grantham, Pa.

Diane Mackenzie, of Wilmington, Del., will work with Atlanta's First Spanish Baptist Church. She is a graduate of Georgetown College.

Glenn Hewitt, of Baltimore, will do student work in Anchorage, Alaska. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University.

Jennifer Kennedy, from Nevada, Mo., will work in the Home Mission Board office in Atlanta, assisting in the "SPOTS" program. "SPOTS" means Special Projects Other Than Summer and is conducted through special missions ministries. She will help with recruiting and assigning lay persons for missions-related in "school year" months.

Claude Drouet, a native of Winnsboro, La., will serve in the inner city, working with Frankfort Avenue Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pa. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University.

Deborah King of Blackshear, Ga., will work at the Rachel Sims Mission in New Orleans, La. She is a graduate of Tift College in Forsyth, Ga.

Mary Lewis, from New York City, will work with the "CHANCE Program" in Harlem. The program--which means Central Harlem Association of Neighborhood Churches Endeavor--will help youth. She is a graduate of the City College of New York.

Jo Ann Wright of Winchester, Va., will work at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., in Christian social ministries. She is a graduate of Radford College.

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention semi-annual meeting here, recommended a national 1977-78 Cooperative Program unified budget goal of \$63.4 million and authorized the SBC's six theological seminaries to conduct parallel fund raising campaigns with a national theme.

In other action during the two-day meeting, the Executive Committee honored its executive secretary-treasurer, Porter Routh, who is completing 25 years as the body's chief executive, and set an Executive Committee operating budget of \$611,700 for 1975-76.

The committee also accepted an offer of \$200,000 a year, for up to five years, from the SBC Sunday School Board to be transferred to the Southern Baptist Foundation and divided equally between two of the smaller SBC seminaries to build up their endowments. The contributions of \$100,000 each will strengthen the programs of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City and Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and consequently have the effect of strengthening the Sunday School Board's efforts in Christian education, an Executive Committee spokesman said.

The recommended 1977-78 Cooperative Program budget will be presented to the 1977 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Kansas City for approval. The recommendation calls for not more than \$54,000,000 of that amount for the basic operating needs of SBC agencies, \$1,080,000 for capital needs and \$8,320,000 in challenge funds for "bold advance."

The 1976-77 national Cooperative Program figure, already approved, is \$55 million, with \$49 million of that amount as the basic operating budget. The 1975-76 Cooperative Program goal was \$51 million, with \$41 million ticketed for basic operating needs. The 1975-76 fiscal year ends September 30.

The seminary fund-raising campaigns will be implemented by a 16-member committee, including the seminary presidents, which will be named by SBC President James L. Sullivan to plan the campaigns in keeping with Article VI of the SBC's business and financial plan.

Two seminaries, Southwestern in Fort Worth and Southern in Louisville, already have \$8 million and \$10 million campaigns underway respectively.

The Executive Committee's 1976-77 operating budget of \$611,700 represents a \$42,700 increase over the 1975-76 budget and includes a six percent cost of living adjustment for Executive Committee staff salaries.

The Executive Committee also approved a recommendation that the Cooperative Program Forum be continued to operate in cooperation with the task force authorized by the convention to assist in undergirding the denomination's "Bold Mission Thrust" projected for the last quarter of the century.

The Forum is comprised of representatives of SBC agencies and state conventions and coordinates Cooperative Program promotion, under the leadership of the SBC Stewardship Commission.

The Radio and Television Commission was given full responsibility for setting up closed circuit television image magnification for annual convention sessions, when needed, with the SBC Pastors' Conference and agencies of the convention reimbursing the commission for special services as they have in the past.

The Executive Committee approved an action to transfer \$30,000 each year to the Radio and Television Commission for the next three years for image magnification, which has been used at SBC annual sessions for the past three years.

Other Executive Committee business included granting of permission to the Sunday School Board to publish a new magazine, Living with Children, selection of the Atlanta Hilton as the 1978 SBC headquarters hotel, and adoption of resolutions on the retirement of six Southern Baptist leaders.

The committee expressed appreciation for the service of John P. Baker, who will retire Dec. 31 as executive secretary of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention; O. L. Bayless, who will retire February 28 as editor of the Rocky Mountain Baptist; Kendall Berry, who will retire

Dec. 31 as the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foundation; C. E. Boyle, who will retire Dec. 31 as editor of the Northwest Baptist; John J. Hurt Jr., who will retire early next year as editor of the Baptist Standard; and Arthur B. Rutledge, who will retire Dec. 31 as executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board.

SBC Must Maintain
Balance, Sullivan Says

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Baptist Press
9/22/76

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptists need improved communications, a better understanding of institutions, continuing striving for balance and a "restless patience" to continue the denomination's forward surge, Southern Baptist Convention President James L. Sullivan said here

Sullivan, looking back on 44 years in the ministry and ahead to the challenges the nation's largest Protestant denomination faces in the years ahead, told members of the SBC Executive Committee that communications is "the number one problem of any vast body.

"It takes a long time just to say hello" to the 12.7 million Southern Baptists in 34,902 churches in the 50 states, Sullivan said in an address to the Executive Committee's semi-annual meeting.

"People need to know their roots, reasons for being, God's part in their blessings, their denominational distinctives," Sullivan said. "Our communication of these things has improved over the years but people are still not rooted in their heritage because of youthfulness of our (131-year-old) denomination."

Many Southern Baptists, Sullivan said, don't understand the heartbeat and ministry of our institutions. "I see and hear critical remarks about our seminaries--mostly by innuendo. That kind of thing usually involves a personal crusade or someone using a seminary as a whipping boy to ferret out a personal following."

"People fail to understand the historical-critical study of the Bible," he elaborated. "They think it always implies condemnation when it merely involves analysis of background, circumstances and application of meaning.

"They said the same thing in my seminary days, claiming we were producing Bible-doubting modernists. I went to school with Herschel Hobbs, W.A. Criswell, W.O. Vaught and Doug Hudgins, he said, in reference to well-known, conservative Southern Baptists. "Are they modernists?"

Sullivan, touching on the controversy over Bible literalism, added: "Some simplistically think you have to answer everything about the Bible with a 'yes' or 'no.' I believe the truths of the Bible are literally true, but God uses figurative approaches such as parables and symbols, in addition to such approaches as history, biography and miracles to reveal himself and his truth," he said.

"We don't need to defend the Bible but only proclaim its truth, which is its own defense. I would have a narrow concept of God if I thought that he could reveal himself only through some theory of revelation that I had developed."

The retired chief executive of the SBC Sunday School Board emphasized the need for balance in the denomination--between system and God's freedom, the pragmatic and the practical, spirit and mechanics, diversity and unity.

"The charismatic movement is imbalanced in its emphases," he said, "but we don't want to be so severe against it that we take the spirit and life out of our worship."

"Balance between diversity and unity," he proclaimed, "is essential to prevent fragmentation. "We don't want all Baptists to be alike. We don't want everyone in the same mold. But we don't want fragmentation, either. Some would measure everyone by himself," Sullivan said. "He would take a pencil, outline himself on the wall, step back and try to get everyone to fit the pattern. Those who don't aren't acceptable. Then, others failing, he would measure himself by himself, standing up against the pattern and saying, 'See there, I measure up.'"

"In our type of democracy, extremists do 90 percent of the talking, but don't control many votes," Sullivan continued. "The silent middle listens and then votes a balanced direction.

"But this kind of approach is absolutely necessary in a democracy. Without the extremism of Patrick Henry, for example, we may never have had an America," he said.

Sullivan's final appeal was for Southern Baptists to maintain a "restless patience"--patience to wait on God's leadership but a restless, alertness geared "to seize every opportunity which comes at the moment a door of opportunity is open."

Forward advance of anything is based "on strengths, not weaknesses," Sullivan declared. "We have to be aware of our weaknesses and allow for them, but we need to center our attention on our strengths to reach the world for Christ."