



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

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Home Missions Offering Tops \$9.5 Million Goal

ATLANTA (BP)--The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions surpassed its \$9.5 million goal for 1976, Arthur B. Rutledge told directors of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Home Mission Board at their December meeting here.

Rutledge said the offering reached \$9,575,851, through the first third of December, and he estimated it will top \$9.6 million by the end of the year.

Directors also appointed missionary personnel, including a black couple from New Orleans as career missionaries and 16 missionary associates.

The offering, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), is more than \$1 million above last year, when the total gifts amounted to \$8,491,652.

"Dramatically increased financial support through the SBC Cooperative Program (unified budget) and the Annie Armstrong Offering has provided added resources for assisting in evangelization projects and in the starting of new congregations as a part of Bold Mission Thrust," Rutledge said.

The Bold Mission Thrust strategy has the goal of evangelizing the nation by 1980, as part of the SBC's Bold Mission effort for the remainder of the century, and starting new congregations throughout the nation.

The directors approved \$350,000 in funding of 29 Bold Mission Thrust projects in 1977. These projects will be continued through 1978 with \$700,000 of the \$1 million already approved by the directors for Bold Mission Thrust projects being allotted.

The December meeting of the board's executive committee was the last at which Rutledge will participate as executive director-treasurer. He will be succeeded by William G. Tanner, Jan. 1.

Tanner told directors that Gerald Plamer, director of the missions section, will serve as interim director of the chaplaincy division until a replacement can be found for William Clark, who retires Dec. 31.

Clark has headed the division for two years and has been associated with the board since 1970.

Warren and Yvonne Jones will serve in New Orleans as career missionaries. He will be staff chaplain at Charity Hospital. They were appointed through the Home Mission Board's department of cooperative ministries with National (black) Baptists.

Jones, a native of New Orleans, is a graduate of Southern University in New Orleans and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Jones, also a native of New Orleans, attended Southern University and has worked as a teacher's aide in New Orleans public schools.

Named missionary associates were:

Joe and Lois Baker of Dayton, Ohio; Jim Barden of Richmond, Va.; Paul and Sang Soon Chun of Hayward, Calif.; Jorge and Elsidia Cordova of San Antonio, Tex.; David and Mary Garza of Tolleson, Ariz., and Edward and Helen Wolfe of Anchorage, Alaska.

Named student missionary associates were:

David Cooke of Austin, Tex.; Kay Hardage of Neosho, Mo.; Richard Humble of Tulsa, Okla.; Luke Lukens of Kings Beach, Calif., and Jim McLaughlin of Dallas, Tex.

The Bakers will live and work in Dayton , where he will be director of missions for the Greater Dayton Baptist Association. Prior to appointment he was pastor of North Dayton Baptist Church. He also was pastor in Freeport, Lindenhurst and Joliet, Ill.

Barden, a 1976 graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, will be evangelism intern for the Baptist Convention of Maryland.

The Chuns will live and work in Hayward, where he will be Korean language missionary. Both are natives of Korea, and he is a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and has been pastor of Korean congregations in San Francisco and Hayward.

The Cordovas will live and work in San Antonio, where he will do Spanish language missions. Both are natives of Cuba, and he has been pastor of Templo Bautista de La Amistad in San Antonio. Previously he was with school systems in Edgewood and San Antonio. Mrs. Cordova is a teacher in the Edgewood Independent School District.

The Garzas will live and work in Tolleson, where he will do Spanish language missions as pastor of Templo Bautista Getsemani. Prior to appointment, he was pastor in San Marcos, San Antonio, Uvalde and Dallas, Tex.

The Wolfes will live and work in Anchorage where he will be associate director of missions for the Chugach Baptist Association. Prior to appointment, he was pastor of Jewel Lake Baptist Church in Anchorage. He also has served as pastor of churches in Lawrence County, Pulaski, Crystal City and New Madrid, Mo.; Oklahoma City, Moore and Woodward, Okla., and Fairbanks and Anchorage, Alaska.

Cooke, a student at Southwestern Seminary, will work in the Tarrant Baptist Association Good Will Center as a Christian social ministries intern.

Hardage and Humble, both students at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., will work as Christian social ministries interns in Kansas City, Mo.

Lukens and McLaughlin, students at Golden Gate Seminary, will work as Christian social ministries interns at Telegraph Center in Oakland, Calif.

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Cox Elected President
Of Homiletics Academy

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PRINCETON, N. J. (BP)--James W. Cox, professor of preaching at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, was elected president of the Academy of Homiletics at its annual meeting here. He succeeds Donald M. Wardlaw of McCormick Seminary, Chicago.

The organization includes teachers of preaching in a number of Protestant and Catholic seminaries and divinity schools in the United States and abroad.

Other officers, include Morris J. Niedenthal, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, Ill., vice president; Donald Macleod, Princeton (N. J.) Theological Seminary, secretary; and Gwyn Walters, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hampton, Mass., treasurer.

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'Good News Bible' in Time
For Christmas, Bicentennial

Baptist Press
12/10/76

NEW YORK, N. Y. (BP)--The American Bible Society (ABS) made history here--just in time for Christmas and the final days of the nation's bicentennial.

Appropriately, they released in December the complete "Good News Bible" in Today's English Version (TEV), described as a "common-language, dynamic-equivalent translation in contemporary English."

What makes the new version significant for the ABS is that it is the first English Bible translation the Society has produced on its own.

The new Bible, said to be as readable as the modern daily newspaper, is expected to break previous records in publishing, an ABS spokesman said.

The first press order totals 1.2 million copies, he said. ABS officials anticipate a distribution of 10 million copies during the first year the translation is on the market.

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An eight-man team of translators produced the basic text of the Old Testament in the TEV, the last portion of the Bible to be completed for the new translation. Five of the translators, including the team's chairman, are Baptists.

The "Good News Bible" is not intended to take the place of the older translations, "but is designed to attract people to Bible reading who have found these standard translations difficult or obscure in places," according to Laton E. Holmgren, the Bible Society's senior general secretary.

The new translation avoids both slang and "church" language, aiming at a level of written English readily understood in common by the estimated 600 million English-speaking people in the world today, Holmgren said.

By following principles of "dynamic equivalence," the translators translated the meaning of the original Hebrew and Greek into expressions that convey the "same meaning in today's English," he cited.

The translation "does not employ the loose wording of paraphrases, but rather uses the closest, natural equivalent in English to convey the original meaning," he added.

Southern Baptists were prominent in the translation project. In fact, it was a letter from M. Wendell Belew of the Southern Baptist Home mission Board in 1961 that helped to get the project started, an ABS spokesman noted.

Belew wrote to Eugene Nida, in charge of translations for the ABS, expressing the need of Southern Baptist home missionaries for a simplified translation of the New Testament suitable for new literates and foreign language groups in the United States.

In 1961, Robert Bratcher, who was a Southern Baptist missionary seven years in Brazil before joining the Bible Society staff, was assigned responsibility for preparing a first draft of the New Testament.

He and several colleagues completed the New Testament first draft by July, 1965. The first section published was the "Gospel of Mark", released in October 1964, under the title, "The Right Time." Over 600,000 copies were released, mainly in the U. S.

The complete New Testament--"Good News for Modern Man"--was released in September 1966. In 1971, it became the all-time best seller and in 1975 circulation passed the 50 million mark.

Translation of the Old Testament began in 1967 and was completed in November 1975, with Bratcher as the team's chairman.

Southern Baptist team members on the Old Testament project, in addition to Bratcher were:

Roger A. Bullard, a layman who is professor of religion at Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, N. C.; Barclay M. Newman Jr., an ordained minister who is overseas United Bible Societies translations consultant; and Heber F. Peacock, an ordained minister, a Bible Society translations consultant and Africa translations coordinator.

Ordained minister Brynor F. Price, a British and Foreign Bible Society consultant and Old Testament adviser, and a TEV consultant, was the fifth Baptist on the Old Testament translators' team.

Other Old Testament translation team members were:

Keith R. Crimm, associate professor of philosophy and religious studies at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va.; Herbert G. Grether, a member of the Today's English Version Old Testament translation committee since 1970; John A. Thompson, an ordained United Presbyterian in the USA minister is an ABS research consultant.

The ABS was recently awarded a citation of appreciation by the Laymen's National Bible Committee in recognition of publication of the Good News Bible in the TEV.

Curt Gowdy, ABC-TV sportscaster, presented the citation to Holmgren at the Bible Committee's annual luncheon in New York City.

A special leather-bound copy of the Good News Bible was presented at the luncheon to Commissioner of Baseball Bowie K. Kuhn, national chairman of this year's National Bible Week, which was Nov. 21-28.

'God Ahead of Us' on Bold
Mission Strategy; Rutledge

By Phyllis Desbien

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--"God was ahead of us on this."

Arthur Rutledge, retiring executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was referring to a record high in overall enrollment at the denomination's six seminaries that topped 7,000 for the second year in a row.

He was also referring to the timeliness of the enrollment high in connection with the need and means for increasing numbers of trained and committed people, as a result of Southern Baptists' world-wide Bold Mission objective over the next 25 years.

An outgrowth of the Southern Baptist Convention's Bold Mission objective is Bold Mission Thrust (BMT), the Home Mission Board-led strategy to "evangelize and congregationalize" every person in the United States.

Rutledge, who will be an adjunct professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here in Feb. 1977, to introduce BMT to students, was asked in a telephone interview how he thought the six Southern Baptist seminaries could best relate to the Bold Mission concept.

First, he said, the seminary must help students be aware of BMT and the Bold Mission efforts of each of the denomination's agencies (such as the Foreign Mission Board's Total Mission Thrust Now strategy).

"Secondly, it must help train, hopefully an increasing number of young men and young women to help fill the places we feel are going to be required."

It was at this point, Rutledge affirmed, "God was ahead of us on this. Just as the Bold Mission concept was being put into effect, seminary enrollments were already on the rise."

When asked what he thought was Southern Baptist seminaries' greatest challenge during this period in our history, Rutledge replied, "The greatest challenge would be to prepare people for ministering in a society that we expect to continue to be rapidly changing . . . to prepare for all kinds of people . . . people of varied backgrounds."

As the BMT campaign draws on a variety of sources and methods aimed at reaching people of diversified viewpoints and ethnic and cultural differences, Rutledge went on to apply this challenge to the idea of Bold Mission.

"As we need a more flexible and broader based approach . . . we need people who are committed, but free to adapt methodology."

Other Home Mission Board personnel will also relate specific aspects of the advance strategy as adjunct faculty during Midwestern's spring semester.