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produced by Baptist Press

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January 14, 1977

77-8

Laymen Blaze 'Frontiers'
In the Pacific Northwest

By Jim Newton

Rex Phillips, vice president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Spokane, Wash., is a modern day trail blazer for Baptist Men in the Pacific Northwest.

He is the founder, prime mover, and chief promoter of a layman's organization called Frontiers for Baptist Men that, since 1970, has helped to construct and finance 13 new buildings for Northwest Baptist churches which did not qualify for construction loans from traditional sources.

Frontiers offers a "turn-key job" on new church buildings, including everything from providing architectural plans, constructing the building, and arranging financing for the first three years until the church is strong enough to provide its own financing.

The group of Baptist laymen feel strongly this is how God wants them to use the gifts and talents God has given them as businessmen.

"It's a fantastic organization, and God really has his hands on it," Phillips declared. "We have seen so many changes, so much progress in the churches and people here because of Frontiers, that it could not possibly be anything we have done---it is what God has done."

The laymen's organization members have committed themselves as titheers (give a percentage of personal income) in their local churches but have also pledged to give \$5 per month over and above their tithe to building new churches through Frontiers for Baptist Men. Some 100 members currently on the rolls have signed such pledges.

Most of the 11 board of directors members also belong to Pines Baptist Church in Spokane where Phillips is a member.

Both Phillips and Barnes said they are convinced that the beautiful little initial building constructed by Frontiers has been a key factor in getting a number of churches started in the Northwest.

Another Frontiers board member, Sterling Haskins of Haskins Construction Co., in Spokane, said that for years, most of the new missions in the Northwest started out meeting in the members' homes, in a Grange Hall, a storefront building, or rented space from an older church of another denomination.

"We discovered," Haskins added, "that when a church up here has an attractive, modern building in which to meet, it will grow."

Most of the missions which Frontiers has helped are located in the Spokane, Wash., area, but several have been built in Oregon, Idaho, and as far away as Love, Saskatchewan, Canada, 1,200 miles away.

The original building concept was for Frontiers to build a small building, 25x50 feet, design that would enable Frontiers to move the building to another location after three years. But none of the 13 church buildings built so far by Frontiers has been moved.

The problem most new Baptist missions face is that without a modern new building they cannot attract enough members with adequate financial resources to build up assets or income to obtain construction loans.

To qualify for such loans from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board church loans division, a church must not tie up more than one-third of its income for building indebtedness, Phillips explained. Most new missions simply can't do that, he added.

Frontiers for Baptist Men enables new missions to enter new buildings and obtain loans.

A gift of \$6,000 from the First Baptist Church of Tulsa, Tex., enabled Frontiers to construct its first building in 1970 for Greenacres Baptist Church in Spokane. The Greenacres building cost \$9,100, and pledges from laymen at Pines Baptist Church made up most of the \$3,100 difference.

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Today, the minimum cost is about \$13,000, and the maximum cost about \$25,000, depending on how much of the labor is donated by volunteers. About 80 percent of the labor on the Greenacres building was done by volunteers.

The buildings are valued at about \$35,000, but Frontiers constructs the units for as little as \$10 per square foot compared to the going rate of \$27 per square foot for most homes in the Spokane area.

During the first three years, the churches pay 10, 11, and 14 percent of their monthly offerings, or a minimum of \$50 per month, on the Frontiers buildings. At the end of the three years, they have enough collateral to obtain a loan either from an area bank or from the Home Mission Board to pay off Frontiers for Baptist Men.

Frontiers then puts the money back into another church building, enabling still another congregation to begin in the Northwest. All contributions received by Frontiers go to pay off the oldest existing loan.

Phillips explained that the process enables Frontiers to keep on constructing new church buildings "until Jesus comes."

William Peters, Inland Empire Baptist Association director of missions who is an advisory member on the Frontiers board, said that Frontiers had made loans to churches that no bank would make, but they had never had a financial problem or default.

Phillip's first idea was to create a laymen's organization that would be involved in lay ministry, mission outreach, evangelism, renewal, Bible study, training laymen in preaching and witnessing, and developing a program to provide temporary financing on church loans for building projects.

Peters explained that the concept of lay ministries that Phillips projected is threatening to many pastors in the Northwest.

Looking back on it now, Phillips admitted that the Northwest was not yet ready for such an all-inclusive program of lay involvement.

The main reason, he said, is because it would duplicate the efforts of existing local church programs, and increase the polarization between layman and pastors of struggling Baptist churches.

So through the years, Frontiers for Baptist Men has zeroed in on the one thing that is unique and does not duplicate anything the church and denomination is trying to do--providing initial funding and construction on new churches and missions. (BP)

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Adapted from the February 1977 World Mission Journal

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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E.C. Wade 'Dies at 91,
Former College President

Baptist Press
1/14/77

PRINCETON, W.Va. (BP)--Edwin C. Wade, 91, president of Bluefield College, Bluefield, Va. from 1934 to 1945, died at the Community Hospital here following a lengthy illness.

Wade was born in Farmville, Va., in 1885 and graduated from Hampton-Sidney College in 1907. He completed his graduate work at Columbia University in 1911.

Before becoming Bluefield College's fourth president in 1934, he was superintendent of Bluefield's public schools.

Survivors include a son, a daughter, a sister, and four grandchildren.

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CORRECTION

In the BP mailing of 1-7 -77, headlined, "Ohio Executive Board Proposes Church Affiliation Guideline," delete the last sentence of the story and add the following:

But it would not prevent individuals on a church staff, who remain as Southern Baptists, to continue to participate directly with the Annuity Board through its other retirement plans, an Annuity Board spokesman said.

(According to Southern Baptist polity, a church may remain affiliated with Southern Baptists on a national level regardless of its affiliation with a local association or Baptist state convention.)

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Thanks--Baptist Press



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January 14, 1977

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Bold Mission Thrust Emphasized at Meeting

ATLANTA (BP)--Bold Mission Thrust (BMT) objectives were emphasized during the January meeting of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Home Mission Board's (HMB) directors here.

During the meeting, the executive committee appointed 48 persons to serve in home mission areas.

"The increased number of appointments reflects the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis," said Tommy Jones of Macon, Ga., board president.

"I am very pleased to see tangible evidence of Bold Mission Thrust starting," Jones said.

Bold Mission Thrust--part of the SBC's Bold Mission emphasis--is a strategy designed to "evangelize and congregationalize the nation by the end of the decade."

Lynon Collings, of the HMB's mission section, said the appointments reflect the targets of concern for BMT which are counties without an effective evangelical witness, key cities, cultural and lifestyle groups and transitional communities.

William G. Tanner, executive director treasurer of the board participated in the first executive committee meeting since he took the board's helm on Jan. 1.

Directors appointed three missionary couples, 11 missionary associates and approved 31 persons for church pastoral aid for new mission congregations.

Named missionaries were Charles and Ina Gordon of Peach Bottom, Pa.; Ken and Karen Taylor of Kansas City, Mo.; and Bruce and Cheryl Pearson of Bridgeport, Calif.

The missionary associates appointed were Fayiz and Emilia Saknini of Smyrna, Ga.; David Medders of San Antonio, Tex.; Bill and Jean Hopkins of Flatwoods, W. Va.; Steven Butler of Normal, Ill.; Edgar and Maria Morales of San Antonio, Tex.; Paul and Sally Klopfer of Tohatchi, N. M.; and Deborah Snyder of Newport News, Va.

The Gordons, both natives of Mississippi, will serve in Philadelphia, Pa., where he will be director of Christian social ministries of the Delaware Valley Association. He is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and William Carey College and Mississippi College. Mrs. Gordon is also a William Carey graduate.

The Taylors will serve in Missouri. He will be director of Christian social ministries for the St. Joseph Baptist Association. He is a graduate of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Missouri.

The Pearsons, both California natives, will serve in Mono City, Calif., where he will be a pastoral missionary for the HMB's church extension department. He is a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and Sacramento State University. Prior to appointment he was pastor of the Bridgeport Baptist Mission.

The Sakninis who are now living in Atlanta will serve the Georgia Baptist Convention as catalytic language missionaries working with Arabs. He is presently starting an Arabic congregation at Weiuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta. He is originally from Nazareth, Israel, and Mrs. Saknini is originally from Lebanon.

Medders, a Texas native, will serve in Wyoming where he will be an assistant in student work at the University of Wyoming. He is a graduate of Texas Christian University and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Hopkins will serve in Sutton, W. Va., where he will be pastor of the First Southern Baptist Chapel. He is an Alabama native and has pastored churches in Sedalia, Mo., his wife's hometown.

Butler will serve in Normal, Ill., where he will be a student worker at Illinois State University. He is a graduate of Wheaton College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a native of Harvey, Ill.

The Morales will continue to live in San Antonio where he will continue as pastor of the "La Fe" Baptist Church. He is a native of Guatemala and a 1976 graduate of the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute. His wife is also a native of Guatemala.

The Klopfers will continue to live in Tohatchi, N. M., where he will be pastor of the Tohatchi Baptist Church. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Mexico State University in his home state. His wife is a native of Vernon, Tex.

Snyder, a native of West Virginia, will continue to serve as assistant director of the Tidewater Baptist Goodwill Center (Friendship House) in Newport News, Va. She is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Mars Hill College in North Carolina.

Approved to receive church pastoral aid (CPA) were:

Stephen Brown of Indianapolis, Ind., will continue as pastor in Indianapolis; Neal Burgers of Sioux Falls, S. D., will continue as pastor in Sioux Falls; Ralph Caffey of Walhalla, N. D., will continue as pastor in Walhalla; Thomas Daniel of Fort Worth, will serve in Phoenix, Ariz.; Louis Demster of Salt Lake City, Utah, will serve in Carwell, Idaho; Grady Estes of Dunsmuir, Calif., will serve in Dunsmuir; Leroy Gainey of Atlanta will be a pastor in East Orange, N. J.; Felix Green of Lynnwood, Wash., will serve in Seward, Alaska.

Also approved for CPA were: Carl Hadley of West Bangor, N. Y., will continue to serve in West Bangor; Carl Hiemstra of Mill Valley, Calif., will be a pastor in Mill Valley; Walter Hill of Apalachin, N. Y., will be pastor of a new congregation in Apalachin; Dennis Holman of Kansas City, Mo., will serve in Bridgeport, W. Va.; Alvin Huff of Cumberland, Md., will be a pastor in Altoona, Pa.; David Hurst of Claremont, Calif., will be a pastor in Pomona, Calif.; Thad King of Bell, Calif., will serve in South Gate, Calif.; Barry Lovett of Newark, Ohio, will be a pastor in Lucasville, Ohio; and James McKinney of Easton, Kan., will continue as pastor in Easton.

Others approved for CPA were: Mike Maixner of Nickerson, Kan., to continue in Nickerson; Paul Meadows of Longview, Tex., to serve in Aurora, Ohio; Timothy Morris of Fort Worth, to serve in Rome, N. Y.; George Moulton of Grand Haven, Mich., to continue in Grand Haven; Dennis Newkirk of Phoenix, Ariz., to serve in Glendale, Ariz.; George Owens of Emporia, Kan., to serve in Hillsboro, Kan.; David Palmer of Portland, Ore., to serve in Aloha, Ore.; Ellis Parson of Kansas City, Mo., to continue in Lincoln, Kan.; Frank Pintello of McComb, Miss., to serve in Stratsburg, Pa., and David Rowe of Norborne, Mo., to serve in Chadron, Neb.

Also approved were: Kenneth Sitton of Big Spring, Tex., to serve in Colby, Kan.; Robert Spicer of Lorain, Ohio, to serve in Avon, Ohio; Donald Stevens of Shillington, Pa., to serve in Shillington; and Tommy Thompson of Indianapolis, Ind., to serve in Indianapolis.

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Missionaries in East Malaysia
Denied Resident Visa Renewals

Baptist Press
1/14/77

RICHMOND (BP)--All Southern Baptist missionaries will be out of East Malaysia by mid-1977 because of unrenewed visas, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board spokesman said here.

However, Baptist work there is expected to continue as more churches are formed and as the East Malaysia Baptist Convention is strengthened, according to William R. Wakefield, the Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Southeast Asia.

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"Leadership would indicate that Baptists in East Malaysia are very capable of continuing the progress of the work," Wakefield said. "This has been a rapidly growing area in Baptist work."

Last year, churches in East Malaysia reported a 67 percent growth, according to Charles H. Morris, Southern Baptist missionary press representative.

Wakefield said he expects the work to be strengthened through its association with the Malaysia Baptist Convention in West Malaysia.

The East Malaysia Convention was organized in September when representatives from seven churches and four chapels met in Tawau, Malaysia. At that time, departments of evangelism, youth, women and education were created. A building and loan fund to assist churches was also formed.

At the organizational meeting, each church was challenged to begin two new churches within a year.

Southern Baptist missionaries are not the only missionaries in the area who have faced problems with discontinued visas.

"This move is part of an overall plan of the government of the State of Sarawak, East Malaysia, where our missionaries have been, to reduce drastically the number of foreign missionaries working in the state," Wakefield explained.

The Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) was organized there in 1952. There are four missionary couples assigned to East Malaysia now. The C. T. Braughtons are on furlough now but expect to be reassigned to the Philippines. The other couples, the Charles H. Morris, the G. Harold Clarks and the H. Earl Bengs Jr. family will be in Malaysia until this summer, Wakefield said.

Amnesty Now Possible
Says Seminary Professor

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Baptist Press
1/14/77

TORONTO, Ont. (BP)--Amnesty for Vietnam war draft evaders and deserters is possible now because of the passage of time since the conflict, according to Glen H. Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

"Time increases willingness to grant amnesty" for a number of reasons, Stassen said in an address to the American Society of Christian Ethics meeting here.

The most important reason, he said, is that "time increases the price that resisters pay. While we have been debating, the exiles have continued in exile. They have continued to pay the price for their resistance."

Shifting public opinion in recent years also makes amnesty a more viable possibility, argued the ethics professor.

"The war as an object of loyalty or support has changed . . . The draft as an object of loyalty has changed, too. The people now see President Ford and President-elect Carter both speak favorably of leniency, and favor official action which goes at least partly in that direction," he said.

Stassen indicated that the Bible supports the position that time heals bitter wounds:

"God often uses the passage of time to bring reconciliation between those who are separated from each other by hatred, exile, or guilt." He then cited the Genesis account of the restoration of the brothers Esau and Jacob and the return of the nation of Israel from exile in Babylon as examples to support his argument.

The major obstacle to amnesty, said Stassen, is "self-righteousness."

"Only as we begin to acknowledge that we all act out of mixed motives, and that we all went through a parallel process of mistaken judgments and gradual awakening concerning this war, are we able to experience amnesty. As the heat subsides, we may be able to acknowledge that," he says.