



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Board Appoints 21, Moves
To Support New Programs

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, in its July meeting here, added 21 missionaries and two special project workers and geared up to give full support to new programs designed to utilize an increased number of volunteers in overseas missions.

The overseas council of the Foreign Mission Board will hold a special meeting during the Foreign Missions Conference in Glorieta, N. M., early in August with the chairman and vice-chairman of each of the board's standing committees to discuss procedures for implementing plans for escalation of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) volunteer, short-term missionary efforts proposed by President Jimmy Carter and approved in Jun by the SBC.

Plans made by this group of 34 then will be shared with the full 84-member Foreign Mission Board in its Aug. 10-11 meeting at Glorieta.

President Carter made his proposal for Southern Baptists to support increased numbers of missions volunteers at home and overseas during a June 7 meeting at the White House with key Southern Baptist leaders. Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City gave unanimous backing to Executive Committee proposals for 5,000 short-term volunteer missionaries growing out of the President's recommendations. A work group was set up to carry out the planning.

The work group met June 30 in Nashville and discussed creation of a Mission Service Corps to implement the volunteer missionary effort. It will meet again, Sept. 1, to refine its recommendations on ways to carry out the new programs strengthening Southern Baptist commitment to missions.

Executive Director Baker J. Cauthen, reporting to the Foreign Mission Board on the meeting with the President and recommendations made by the work group, said many questions are yet to be explored on plans to enlist 5,000 persons by 1982 for the volunteer corps.

Cauthen emphasized the "vast potential" which the plan offers for strengthening Southern Baptist missions. Mentioning programs in which many volunteers already are involved in short-term periods of service overseas, he noted that such auxiliary programs have been successful because:

1. These volunteers move in to do things that the Missions (organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries overseas) and the national conventions in these foreign countries feel are needed.

2. A careful screening process is followed which assures that persons who go overseas will be an asset to the Lord's work.

Cauthen stressed that at the very center of the entire Southern Baptist foreign missions effort stands the career missionary who has been called of God to give his life in overseas service.

The proposal for increased numbers of volunteers, Cauthen said, "comes as a clarion call to strengthen this permanent corps of career missionaries." The board, in its portion of the

SBC's overall mission effort, had previously set a goal of 5,000 career missionaries by the end of the century. The goal of the overall SBC mission effort is to provide every person on earth the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ by the year 2000.

J. Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division, traced the history of the use of volunteer workers overseas, noting that such volunteers have been utilized for more than 30 years.

In recent years, he pointed out, close to 1,500 persons each year have gone overseas as volunteers working with various aspects of the foreign missions program. Most of these have been involved for periods of two to eight weeks, he said, but between six and eight percent have gone for longer periods ranging up to two years.

Crawley noted that the Foreign Mission Board, in cooperation with the Home Mission Board, the Woman's Missionary Union, and the Brotherhood Commission, is also involved in a plan called "Volunteer Involvement in Missions." The cooperative project is another program for laypersons who wish to contribute their time, gifts and funds to missions projects at home or abroad.

This new program, already in the planning stage before the President made his proposals, will utilize an automated data system at the Home Mission Board offices in Atlanta. It will list persons desiring to participate in such volunteer service, along with information on their skills, gifts, interests, concerns, availability, and duration of service.

Crawley, who also participated in the work group meeting in Nashville to plan the new Mission Service Corps, said he has "great optimism" about this aspect of our mission effort.

"This can be a focus of attention to help Southern Baptists pick up on what was done in Norfolk last year (the 1976 annual SBC meeting at which the Bold Mission effort was approved) and get behind the program for Total Missions Thrust," he said. Total Missions Thrust is the program through which the Foreign Mission Board has been implementing its portion of the SBC effort to reach the world with the message of Christ by the century's end.

Of the 21 commissioned at the July meeting, 13 are career missionaries and 8 are missionary associates. Missionary associates are employed for at least four years or more, but many make lengthy contributions as missionaries.

The new career missionaries are Mr. and Mrs. J. Hines Adams of Georgia and North Carolina, respectively, appointed for Panama; Mr. and Mrs. Tilden W. Bridges, both of North Carolina, for Taiwan; Mr. and Mrs. P. Thomas Canady, both of North Carolina, for Honduras.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. J. Eugene Covington, both of Alabama, for Ghana; Mr. and Mrs. James C. Ehrlich of Texas and Missouri, for Venezuela; Cynthia L. McGee of Tennessee for Chile; and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Vassar Jr., both of South Carolina, for Venezuela.

Employed as missionary associates were Mr. and Mrs. John P. Heskett of Arkansas and Missouri, for Mexico; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Segars, both of South Carolina, for Thailand; Mr. and Mrs. James A. Stanford of North Carolina and Florida, for Costa Rica; and Mr. and Mrs. Tom D. Sumrall of Texas and Mississippi, for South Brazil.

Dr. and Mrs. Demming M. Ward, both of South Carolina, were employed as special project medical workers for India.

In other action, the Foreign Mission Board:

--Approved relief projects totaling \$52,075, including \$4,200 for flood relief and self-help projects in Brazil, \$2,500 for flood relief in Argentina, \$15,000 for war relief and rehabilitation in Lebanon and \$2,500 to help repair war damage to the Beirut Baptist School in Lebanon, \$2,500 to provide medicine for a needy area in Rwanda, \$4,375 to help victims of a grenade explosion in M'Lang, Philippines, and \$21,000 for self-help projects for refugees in the Chanthaburi area of Thailand.

--Authorized the use of hunger funds to provide \$6,000 for development of an agricultural extension demonstration program in Mexico and \$2,500 for an agricultural project in Tortola, Leeward Islands Mission in the Caribbean.

Churches Confer On Role In Helsinki Agreement

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist authority on human rights and religious liberty is representing churches in the United States at a colloquium on the Helsinki Final Act at Montreux, Switzerland, July 12-15.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here, was named by the National Council of Churches of Christ (NCC) as its representative to the colloquium. Representatives from the churches in the 35 signatory nations of the Helsinki agreement are expected to participate in the colloquium.

Neither the Baptist Joint Committee nor the Southern Baptist Convention are members of the National Council of Churches or the World Council of Churches. However, on matters of religious liberty and human rights, there are frequent consultations and working relationships.

Wood explained that a major item on the agenda of the Montreux meeting would be a review of the "Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Final Act" (the Helsinki agreement). A focal point of this review is to consider how the signatory nations have complied with the Helsinki provisions for human rights and religious liberty, he said. A further consideration will be to recommend mechanisms and procedures to the churches in the Helsinki area to communicate their concerns to their respective governments.

This colloquium of the churches is closely related to the Belgrade Conference of the Helsinki signatory nations. Preliminary meetings of the conference began in June and the full conference is expected to convene in September. The churches through the colloquium hope to exercise the stewardship of their influence on their respective governments for human rights and religious liberty for all people in all nations, Wood indicated.

The Montreux colloquium is sponsored by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches (WCC). Wood's participation in the colloquium is sponsored by the National Council of Churches. The theme of the meeting is "The Church's Role in the Application of the Helsinki Final Act."

An internationally known figure in the area of human rights and religious liberty, Wood for the past three years has been a member of the international affairs work group of the NCC. This group represents the division of church and society of the NCC of which Dean Kelley is the executive for religious and civil liberty.

In preparation for the Montreux colloquium, a small planning group met in Geneva, March 3-4. This group reaffirmed the conviction "that the emphasis of the gospel is on the value of all human beings in the sight of God, on the atoning and redeeming work of Christ that has given to man his true dignity, on love as the motive for action, and on love for one's neighbor as the practical expression of an active faith in Christ. We are members one of another, and when one suffers all are hurt."

As a result of this conviction, a first topic of study for the colloquium is "the relationship between the individual and society in a Christian perspective." The study will focus on:

1. The basic human right to life--including the whole question of survival, of the dangers and violations consequent on unjust economic, social and political systems and of the quality of life;
2. The right to enjoy and maintain cultural identity--which involves questions such as nations self-determination, rights of minorities, etc.;
3. The right to dissent--which preserves a community or system from hardening into authoritative rigidity;
4. The right to participate in decision-making within the community--which involves the whole question of effective democracy;

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5. The right to personal dignity--which involves condemnation, for example, of torture or of protracted imprisonment without trial; and

6. The right to choose freely a religion or belief which includes freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in teaching, worship and observance.

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How Can Southern Baptists
Demonstrate 'Bold Mission'?

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GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--During the approaching emphasis on "Bold Mission" in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) what can Southern Baptists do to demonstrate true bold mission in World Missions?

That question was posed to a dozen home and foreign missionaries by Glendon McCullough, executive director of the SEC Brotherhood Commission, during the Bold Mission Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Here are some of the responses:

Mary Dan Kuhnlee, director of Sellars Home, New Orleans: "For Southern Baptists to join our staff in believing that any child is adoptable."

Mrs. Raymond Lindholm, missionary to Ethiopia: "My bold wish is that we will get into as many countries as possible with missionaries as soon as possible."

Mrs. Leola Ragland, missionary to Lebanon: "I would like to see more of our people become involved in missions in America and in Lebanon. I would like to see someone here tonight volunteer to come to Beirut and teach English in our Baptist school."

(Two school teachers approaching retirement offered their services to Mrs. Ragland during her missions presentation the following day.)

Dr. Sidney Smith, missionary to the Watts community in Los Angeles: "I would like to see everyone of our Southern Baptist churches be multi-racial, open, ministering churches involving every kind of person from every ethnic group in the ministry in the name of Jesus Christ."

Phyllis Merritt, Christian social ministries, Albuquerque, N. M.: "I have been challenged by the missions opportunities group through the Cooperative Program (SBC unified budget) and special offerings. I'm going home and challenge our church to double it's gifts to the Cooperative Program."

The leadership conference on Bold Mission, was sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission and the Woman's Missionary Union.

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LaFavre Resigns Christian
Index for Pastorate

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TALLAPOOSA, Ga. (BP)--Robert E. LaFavre, associate editor of the Christian Index in Atlanta for the past five years, is resigning effective August 15 to become pastor of First Baptist Church here.

LaFavre, a native of Hollywood, Fla., joined the Index, Georgia's state Baptist newspaper, after eight and a half years as associate pastor of Baptist Tabernacle, Atlanta. He has also served churches in Kentucky and Florida.

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