



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Allen Hears 'New
Tune' in SBC

ATLANTA (BP)--"A whole new tune" of cooperation is singing through the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), newly elected SBC president Jimmy R. Allen said here.

Allen, in Atlanta to speak to directors of the SBC Home Mission Board, discussed cooperation between SBC agencies, the Mission Service Corps plan to implement the SBC's goal of 5,000 short-term missionaries by 1982, areas of legitimate agreement and disagreement with President Jimmy Carter, and opposition to the upcoming ABC-TV series, "Soap."

"We can't afford to allow 'territoriality' to fragment or disengage us," said Allen, who was elected president of the nation's largest Protestant denomination in June.

"I am listening to a whole new tune--and the things between the lines; the kind of things that are not said but sensed," he said, praising SBC agency leaders for a new spirit of cooperation.

"Most Southern Baptists in the pew haven't even been aware that such a problem (of cooperation) even exists," he said. "They thought that the Cooperative Program meant just that."

He added, however, that the "agencies have made a big step toward interaction."

Allen centered many of his comments on the Mission Service Corps--a massive force of volunteers to serve for one or two year terms at home and abroad--as the focus point of the new spirit of cooperation.

The concept for the corps grew out of a special committee of SBC leaders meeting in Nashville in early July in response to the SBC's vote some three weeks earlier in Kansas City to respond to a videotape appeal by President Carter to beef up the short-term missionary force to tap the potential of Baptists of all ages who would be willing to give up to two years for mission service.

The Mission Service Corps--with a grass roots movement behind it--is more than just a program suggestion, it is the culmination of activity of the spirit of God among us, Allen told directors.

"I'm feeling a sense of excitement...a kind of build up of expectancy that I've not seen before. We are facing the kind of gigantic opportunity that we've never known in my lifetime...or the lifetime of many Southern Baptists."

Allen called the opportunity "a new day for an old challenge."

He added: "Southern Baptists are pivotal, in preparing for a pinnacle of influence we must come with a sense of responsibility and openness.

"We must be sensitive and flexible, but not lose the direction and the organizational genius that God has placed in Southern Baptists."

Cautioning Southern Baptists, Allen said, "don't let the complexity of what we know the task to be rob us of the energy of what naive folks can do when they get turned on by God."

He urged Home Mission Board directors and Southern Baptists to go beyond the token approach to new ministry and added, "We must be careful to know that we can't be satisfied with the token efforts of our already existing involvements."

The Mission Service Corps will free missionaries to do what they thought they were on the field to do, Allen said.

"We're talking about agricultural experts, expeditors," Allen said. "To free the missionary called to be a field evangelist from having to go out and plant the corn, we've got corn-planting experts who know where to plant and what kind to plant."

In an interview before his address, Allen said he saw Carter's role as one of a "catalyst" that pushed Southern Baptists at least a year ahead by suggesting the volunteer program to exceed present SBC efforts for short-term missions.

However, Allen said he doesn't necessarily have to agree with everything Carter says or does.

Asked about his protest to the President sending a US envoy to the Vatican, Allen said, "Baptists have historically had that kind of posture. I think Carter would have been very disappointed if I had not taken that action."

Allen said he objected in the same way to Nixon's appointment of Henry Cabot Lodge and Ford's continuing of the envoy position.

"It would have been inconsistent and illogical if I had not responded. Southern Baptists have always been candid and frank in working together...but what we agree on is so much greater than what we disagree on...that is the genius of the Southern Baptist movement."

Allen feels his election to the SBC presidency might have some symbolism for changes in the convention's feelings.

I have always seen myself as basically conservative theologically, but living and changing with a contemporary world."

"My election was evidence of a process going on for a long time...being unapologetically engaged in the ministry of service but closely tied to the Bible."

About the television series "Soap," Allen said he has seen the first two segments and formally objected to American Broadcasting Company.

"Because of my objections and those of others, they are going back and cleaning it up to say "Soap" is clean. But there's no way to clean it up without scrubbing the entire thing," Allen said.

He said the viewing audience would "have to dig through so much garbage to get any kernel of truth that they are contaminated in the process."

He insisted that the grass roots population would become so indignant at this program that the network would have to make some change or the public would force the issue in Congress.

He said he feared that "the people who push for libertinism in the name of freedom" would push Congress toward a form of censorship.

"Unless there is some responsible action on the part of officials and the media we will see the rise up of the individual," Allen said.

"Not censorship, but sensible control," Allen suggested as a means for avoiding threats to the 1st Amendment.

Home Board Appoints
33 to Mission Service

ATLANTA (BP)--Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointed 33 persons to mission service during the summer meeting here.

They appointed three missionaries, eight missionary associates, two US-2 missionaries, and approved 20 mission pastors for pastoral aid.

Named missionaries were: Virginia Downs of New Orleans, La., and Ronald and Elizabeth Loftis of Hope Mills, N. C.

Named associates were: Elmer and Wilma Hatfield of Ottumwa, Iowa; William and Fern Affolter of Des Moines, Iowa; David and Blanca Pena of Atlanta, Ga.; Joe Kelly of Clinton, Miss.; and Craig Wilson of Jacksonville, Fla.

Kathryn and Walter Ferrell of Clinton, Miss., were appointed as US-2 missionaries.

Downs, a native of Shelby, N. C., will continue to serve as assistant director of the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans for the Home Mission Board's department of Christian social ministries. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and received a master of religious education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1977.

David and Elizabeth Loftis of North Carolina will continue to live near Fayetteville, where he will be director of Christian social ministries for the New South River Baptist Association.

He was serving as pastor of the Lake Lynn Baptist Church in Fayetteville prior to his appointment. A native of Indianapolis, Ind., he is a graduate of Pembroke State University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is also a graduate of Pembroke and is teaching in Fayetteville.

The Affolters will live in East St. Louis, Mo., where he will serve as a regional missionary associate for the Home Mission Board's department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists and the Illinois Baptist Convention.

Affolter, a Missouri native, was serving as pastor of the Crestwood Baptist Church in Des Moines prior to appointment. He is a graduate of Union University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is a Fort Worth native and a graduate of Hannibal-LaGrange College.

The Penas will serve the First Spanish Baptist Church in Atlanta. Pena, a native of Marin, Spain, was serving as pastor and missionary in Spain. He is a graduate of the Evangelical Cuba Seminary and the Theological Baptist Seminary in Cuba.

Elmer and Wilma Hatfield will serve as language missionary associates in Kotzebue, Alaska, an appointment made by the Alaska Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board's department of language missions. Prior to appointment, he served as a missionary pastor in Ottumwa and has also served several other pastorates in Missouri, Kansas and Texas.

A native of Memphis, Mo., Hatfield is a graduate of Howard Payne College and received a master of divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Wilma Mathena Hatfield, a native of Gorin, Mo., attended Moody Bible Institute.

Joe Kelly will serve as a missionary associate/student in New Orleans, an appointment made by the Home Mission Board's department of Christian social ministries. A native of Jackson, Miss., he is a graduate of Mississippi College and is now attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Craig Wilson will serve as a missionary associate/student in New Orleans, under appointment by the department of Christian social ministries. Wilson, a Jacksonville native, is a graduate of the University of South Florida and is attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Kathryn and Walter Ferrell were appointed US-2 missionaries to serve in St. Petersburg, Fla., for two years in the board's mission program for college graduates. They will serve the department of Christian social ministries. Both Ferrell and his wife are Mississippi natives and graduates of Mississippi College. -30-

Home Board Accepts Volunteer
Missionary Challenge

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP)--The challenge of helping recruit 5,000 volunteers for mission service was accepted here during the summer meeting of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The challenge to help raise volunteers for one or two year terms of service at home and abroad was issued by President Jimmy Carter, a Baptist layman, and voted into existence during the June meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Kansas City.

Home Mission Board directors went on record as accepting "the challenge to work in cooperation with state conventions to enlist...5,000 persons(and) groups of churches (and) (individual) churches who will agree to provide and fund 5,000 persons in the Mission Service Corps to serve for one or two years, either in the United States or overseas, in an effort to reach the objectives of Bold Mission Thrust."

The board also agreed "to join other designated SBC agencies in the enlistment and utilization of these persons...to the greatest degree possible..."

Carter unveiled his idea of 5,000 mission volunteers by 1982 at a meeting with Southern Baptist agency heads in the White House two weeks before the SBC annual meeting and then made an appeal to SBC messengers by videotape.

Among those participating in the White House meeting was Home Mission Board executive director-treasurer, William G. Tanner, who said Carter had read the report of the SBC's Mission Challenge Committee, which projects mission work at home and abroad to 2000 a.d.

"He (Carter) came to the conclusion if we are following our dateline, we 'too little, too late, too few'," Tanner told directors.

"The President said he wanted to 'share an idea with us' and started talking about 5,000 mission volunteers by 1982," Tanner added, noting Carter used the analogy of the 5,000 current foreign and home missionaries around the world being the skeleton with the volunteers putting 'flesh, sinew, muscle and blood' onto the skeleton."

Tanner added: "I'm glad a Baptist layman read the red book (The Mission Challenge Report) and reminded me of what we are talking about in the Great Commission" (Biblical admonition to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world).

Carter's challenge and the SBC action resulted in a special committee which met in Nashville in early July and discussed launching of the Mission Service Corps to implement the volunteer missionary proposal. The committee included representatives of state Baptist conventions, the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, Sunday School Board and Executive Committee.

Committee workgroups, made up of SBC leaders, are currently developing further plans for implementing the challenge and will report at another meeting, Sept. 1., with the hope they can bring recommendations to the SBC Executive Committee's meeting in Nashville, Sept. 19-21.

"It is not only possible...we are going to do it," Tanner told directors. "It will take reordering some priorities, loosing some money, cutting some red tape."

He added: "I realize that there are many knotty problems that have to be worked out, but I believe the fact that has most impressed me is the optimism and the spirit of cooperation on the part of our SBC leadership in reaching this challenge.

"What we must do now is develop and implement the genius of the idea that is contained within the challenge, structure a program and get on with it."

Charles Myers, a Home Mission Board director from Jackson, Miss., called the commitment to Mission Service Corps "the most significant action we have been asked to take in a long time."

Directors also approved a resolution that the board "search for funds to allocate toward the immediate operation of the Mission Service Corps."

The resolution also asked that a "priority item" be included for the corps in the 1978 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

Later, directors allocated some \$500,000 in the offering for the project.

A current Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union project--Volunteers Involvement in Missions--will be "invaluable as a resource bank" to the Mission Service Corps, Tanner said.

In Volunteers Involvement in Missions, volunteers will be recruited and made available for missions projects. Volunteers Involvement in Missions generally will be for short-term projects for persons who will pay their own way, while Mission Service Corps will be a longer term of service, with workers paid through sponsorship by churches or contributions by individuals and groups.

Volunteers Involvement in Missions currently is preparing an application form for potential volunteers to use in making their availability, talents and interests known.

In another action, directors approved allocations for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, which will total \$13 million.

The allocation includes \$9,163,000 for support of missionaries and field ministries; \$1,837,000 for special projects, and \$2,000,000 for advance in critical areas.

For the advance in critical areas, 25 percent will go toward Mission Service Corps, while 75 percent will go to implementation of Bold Mission Thrust emphases.

Tanner told directors that as of July 19, Southern Baptists have contributed \$9,782,243 to the 1977 Easter offering, a gain of \$1,109,221 over mid-July of 1976.

Tanner, reporting the cooperative efforts of the Mission Service Corps project and other efforts at cooperation with SBC agencies, said: "I am committed to a thorough-going program of cooperation with other SBC agencies. It is inconceivable to me to urge our churches to support the (SBC's national) Cooperative Program (unified budget) and then as agencies, isolate ourselves in a vacuum of non-cooperation.

"If we are serious about winning our world to Christ, we cannot operate in isolation. It is academic to me that if we ask people at the grass roots to support us and then say we can't get together, we are about as consistent as black and white."

In addition to accepting the Mission Service Corps challenge and adopting goals, directors also:

- Approved purchase of an automobile for the executive director-treasurer's use;
- Accepted the resignation of Barry St. Clair as youth evangelism director for the board;
- Passed a resolution recognizing the vital role of the Education Commission of the SBC and the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools in "the recruitment and training of home mission personnel and the creating of mission awareness of students, faculty and staff."
- Expressed appreciation to foreign missionary, Lewis I. Myers Jr., who served with the Home Mission Board during the Vietnam refugee crisis;
- Okayed a letter to the SBC Executive Committee asking consideration for a by-law change which would make it possible for the directors of the various boards, agencies and commissions to be terminated for prolonged absenteeism."
- Appointed 33 persons to mission service, including three missionaries, eight missionary associates, two US-2 missionaries and 20 mission pastors.
- Passed a resolution in memory of S. Courts Redford, executive secretary of the board from 1954-1964, who died recently in Bolivar, Mo.

Three-Pronged Attack Launched Against 'Soap'

By David R. Wilkinson

NASHVILLE (BP)--The "Soap" hasn't even been unwrapped yet, and if the rapidly growing coalition of Southern Baptists, Roman Catholics and other outraged Americans gets its way, it never will.

"Soap," short for soap opera, is the title of a new prime-time situation comedy, dealing with such themes as adultery, homosexuality and transvestitism, which ABC intends to introduce this fall.

Although the network itself has refused to give previews of "Soap" to several religious leaders, others, including Jimmy Allen of San Antonio, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and two representatives of the SBC Christian Life Commission, Nashville, have been allowed by local affiliates to preview the promotional videotapes of the show's first two segments.

The response has been overwhelmingly negative, plunging "Soap" into hot water and confronting ABC, which finished No. 1 in the overall ratings last season, with a perhaps unwanted but very real controversy.

In the latest public reaction to the new show, the Christian Life Commission has unleashed a vigorous three-pronged attack aimed at dissolving "Soap."

Foy Valentine, the agency's executive secretary, and Harry N. Hollis Jr., director of family and special moral concerns, have sent a hard-hitting letter of protest to every ABC affiliate and a similar letter to the advertisers who now plan to sponsor the new program. A blazing "No Soap" statement has also been prepared declaring: "Rinsing it off is not enough. Delaying it one hour will not eliminate its moral flaws. It should be thrown out."

In the letter to ABC affiliates, Valentine and Hollis appeal to the local stations to exercise their legal right and their moral responsibility to refuse to air the new series, which, they state, represents "a new low in morally irresponsible programing."

The Christian Life Commission, which deals with moral concerns for Southern Baptists, has been heavily involved in the controversy over television's moral content and will soon introduce a special packet of resource materials on television and morality. The packet will be mailed to every Southern Baptist pastor by the middle of August.

Although ABC officials, in response to the initial wave of protests, have now declared that certain changes will be made in the first two episodes, Valentine and Hollis claim that "Soap" is not salvageable. Allen concurs, saying, "There's no way to clean it up without scrubbing the entire thing."

"It is our judgment that even substantial changes cannot redeem this show based on moral filth and seriously irresponsible sex miseducation," the letter from Valentine and Hollis charges. Quoting Fred Silverman, president of ABC Entertainment, who recently urged ABC's affiliates not to "cave into . . . uninformed criticism," the Christian Life Commission's letter says, "Believe us, we are not uninformed. Because we are informed, we are incensed."

"We have had enough," the letter continues, "and we do not mean to stand by and see America pushed further down the road to moral degeneracy and the break-down of family life which leads to national ruin."

Valentine and Hollis expressed their belief that "millions of Southern Baptists will join tens of millions of Roman Catholics and concerned people of other denominations" in expressing their disapproval to local television stations and in refusing to buy the products of companies which persist in sponsoring "Soap."

In a similar letter to the advertisers, whose names the commission obtained from Television Digest, the companies are urged to withdraw their sponsorship of the program.

The Christian Life Commission, the letter says, intends to share with Southern Baptists and others the names and addresses of the television stations which plan to air "Soap," as well as the names of the companies which refuse to withdraw their sponsorship of "Soap," along with their addresses and a complete list of their products.

Other denominations, according to the letter, are also expected to share the information with their constituencies.

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Missionaries' Son Saves
Jordanian Youth's Life

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AMMAN, Jordan (BP)--Dwight Fuller, 18-year-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries, is credited with saving the life of a young man who was drowning at Hussein Youth City, a sports complex here.

Reports indicate that while swimming in a crowded pool, young Fuller discovered the limp form of an Arab youth lying on the bottom of the pool. He brought the boy to the surface and swam with him to the edge of the pool where his father, Missionary J. Wayne Fuller, and his sister, Cynthia, kept the victim afloat until young Fuller could pull him from the water.

When lifeguards reached the scene, young Fuller was applying mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The victim, whose body was already discolored by lack of oxygen, began to breathe shallowly and was taken to a hospital. Upon arrival at the hospital, the victim was still only semiconscious and unable to tell his name.

According to pool officials, the victim was released from the hospital in good condition two days later.

Young Fuller recently graduated from the American Community School in Athens, Greece, and will attend Furman University, a Baptist school in Greenville, S. C., in the fall.

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Radio-TV Commission
Mail Gets New 'Zip'

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FORT WORTH (BP)--Nobody's mail arrives "faster than a speeding bullet" but the already fast pace of mail that pours into the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission daily is about to pick up considerably.

The U. S. Postal Service has granted the Baptist agency its own zip code--76150--which becomes effective the first of September.

"This means the post office will, in effect, treat our zip code and us as it would a branch post office," said Don Hull, the Radio-TV Commission's vice president of audience systems and services.

"Letters from listeners and tapes and films from stations across the country will be received directly here from the post office downtown with much less handling. It won't have to come from downtown, to the local branch post office, and then out here."

Hull said the Radio and Television Commission normally receives nearly half a million pieces of incoming mail a year.

"That includes both letters listeners write us in response to one of our radio or television programs, as well as the tapes and films being returned to us from stations around the country," Hull noted.

"Outgoing mail from the Commission in 1976 was 1,400,000 articles--including thousands of personal counseling letters written in answer to SOS calls from listeners who feel they have nowhere else to turn, and weekly tapes and films of the Commission's programs heard weekly on more than 3,710 radio and television stations around the country.

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Hull said printed materials mailed by the Radio and Television Commission also include BEAM International, monthly newsletter for 17,000 broadcasters; SHARE, a monthly publication for people who contribute to the commission's support; Radio-TV News, a quarterly publication for contributors, and TRIO, a quarterly newsletter for pastors interested in broadcasting.

"A zip code of our own was not an easy thing to get," said Hull. "The postal authorities who granted us exclusive use of the 76150 zip said ours was only one of two new zip codes approved in the whole Southern region.

"We think it's particularly helpful because now listeners won't have to worry with all the different addresses we had to use on the air for all those different programs we produce," he said.

"All someone has to do now is just address mail to the Radio and Television Commission, SBC, list the city and state and the new zip code and we'll get it."

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Children's Ministries Need
Involvement Of Men

Baptist Press
7/21/77

By Nancy McGough

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Do children think the church is for "sissies"?

They might if all of their teachers are women and they have few--if any--men with whom to identify in the church, believes Joy Suzette Rayford, minister of elementary education at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta.

Miss Rayford, who is teaching a one-month course in "Survey of Ministry with Children," at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, stresses the need for men to be involved in the church's children's ministry.

"At our church, we have at least one male teacher in every Sunday School department, and the children love it," she notes.

"If a guy wants to have an ego trip, all he needs to do is be a teacher in a children's class, because they're not used to having a male teacher. It's a novelty to them."

However, she does not demean the role of women teachers, because she believes the most important quality needed by anyone working with children is a genuine love for them.

"That teacher's dedication, her love for God, her living testimony, a good relationship with the child, and the Bible are really all she needs. Children don't forget personal relationships."

Miss Rayford places great importance on work with children in the church.

"People tend to minimize the importance of children. They're always putting them in the basement, or they're always putting them here or there. Children are adaptable, and that's one of the good things. They can adapt better than adults, but sometimes it's carried too far," she believes.

Miss Rayford sees a real need for a minister to children, and she emphasizes, "not just because I am one." In the Southern Baptist Convention, an increasing number of larger churches have children's ministers.

"If you have a good children's program, you're going to attract young couples, because they want a quality program for their children," she says.

She adds it is also a way for outreach to non-Christians.

"For children whose parents are not Christians--you can't separate the child from the family, and through the child you're ministering to that family. Sometimes you can attract their families into the church through the children."

At her own church, Miss Rayford provides specialized teacher training for children's workers. She also emphasizes the need for home and church cooperation to parents and teachers.

"There's more emphasis on church-home cooperation now, because we just have the children in church one hour a week, if we're lucky, and there is only so much we can do in that time. "So," she adds, "we're helping parents realize things they can do to help their children grow spiritually."

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