

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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August 1, 1977

77-135

**Allen, 42 Others Visit
Honduras As Volunteers**

Choluteca, Honduras (BP)--Honduras was the first Southern Baptist mission field visited by Jimmy R. Allen, following his election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Forty-two laypersons from First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., where Allen is pastor, were involved for nine days in a "mission venture" in southern Honduras, reports Sue (Mrs. Ralph A.) Wilson, Southern Baptist missionary press representative.

Workers included two evangelistic teams, one here and one in San Lorenzo; two medical teams, one in El Corpus and one in Las Uvas; a construction team in San Lorenzo; and an eye specialist performed surgery in the government hospital in Choluteca.

During the days, choirs from the evangelistic teams combined to present concerts in schools and parks. The singing group, "Los Sonidas de La Vida Nueva," performed a final concert on the last night of the tour at the national theatre. David Y. K. Wong, president of the Baptist World Alliance, was present to give his testimony.

Rosargentina Pinel, Honduran consul general stationed in San Antonio, gave her testimony at the final concert and at various times throughout the week in both Choluteca and San Lorenzo. Mrs. Pinel attends Allen's church.

The two Mexican-American evangelists who led the services, Alfonso Flores and Pedro Arrambide, preached to crowds of between 300-500 each service, according to Joe W. Bruce, Southern Baptist missionary. An average of 15 professions of faith per service was reported in Choluteca.

The two medical teams saw an estimated 150-300 patients daily, in spite of a delay in the arrival of medical supplies, Bruce said.

The construction team completed a chapel in San Lorenzo and built furniture for it.

For the past 18 months, the San Antonio church, the Honduras Baptist Convention and the Organization of Southern Baptist Missionaries in Honduras have been making preparations for the project.

R. B. Cooper and Southern Baptist missionary Ralph A. Wilson made detailed plans for each aspect of the trip.

Partners in missions at the San Antonio church supported the teams through prayer, said Mrs. Wilson, and a church member maintained daily radio contact with Choluteca.

Allen also met with missionaries in the capital city of Tegucigalpa to discuss the mission service corps, a program of short term volunteers being planned by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Bruce and Southern Baptist missionary Robert A. Williams Jr. took Allen on a tour of Baptist work in the capital city including a visit to a large factory building recently purchased in the market area for use in the Christian social ministries program and a meeting with the president of the Honduran Baptist Convention.

Allen and Mrs. Pinel met with several Honduran officials including the secretary and deputy secretary of health. As ambassadors of good will, they presented certificates from Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe making the officials honorary citizens of Texas. They also met with local officials in each community. Some of the meetings with officials had to be cancelled because of a tragic crash of a Honduran Air Force plane, said Wilson.

It is the second such trip for members of the San Antonio church. Another "venture" team as they call themselves worked in Honduras in 1975.

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Texas Executive, Pastor
James G. Harris, Dies

Baptist Press
8/1/77

FORT WORTH (BP)--James G. Harris, past president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and pastor of the University Baptist Church here, died suddenly July 31.

Harris suffered a heart attack while jogging early Sunday morning.

The 64-year-old pastor was serving a third consecutive term as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas at the time of his death. He was first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during 1973-74.

Funeral services were to be held at University Baptist Church on Tuesday, Aug. 2, with arrangements by Harveson-Cole Funeral Home.

Baker J. Caughen, executive director of the Foreign Mission Board, and James B. Lands, executive secretary of the Texas Convention, were to officiate.

A member of the Foreign Mission Board from 1971 until his death, Harris served as its president from 1975 to April 1977. He also served as president of the alumni association of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, during 1974-1975 and was on the board of trustees for Baylor University, Waco, Tex., from 1964 to 1973 and then from 1975 until his death.

Harris has also been vice-chairman of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and chairman of the Christian Life Commission.

A native of Little Rock, Ark., Harris grew up in El Dorado. He was graduated from Louisiana College, Pineville, with a B.A. degree and from Southwestern Seminary with M.Th. and M.R.E. degrees.

Harris is named in "Who's Who in the South and Southwest" and in "Who's Who in Religion." An honorary doctor of divinity degree was conferred on him by Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., in 1956.

He served as pastor of churches in Louisiana, Alabama and Arkansas before coming to University Baptist in 1954.

Survivors include his wife, Tunis Johns Harris of Fort Worth; two sons, Gordon Harris of Sioux Falls, S.D., a foreign missionary to the Philippines, and John Harris of Fort Worth; one daughter, Jane (Mrs. Phil) Smith of Cameron, Tex.; and six granddaughters.

Other survivors include one brother, Clifton E. Harris of Pineville; three sisters, Josephine Harris of Portales, N. M.; Margaret (Mrs. Harrold C.) Diggs of Anaheim, Calif.; and Virginia (Mrs. W. T.) Hendricks of Glorieta, N. M.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that expressions of sympathy be sent to the James G. Harris Memorial Fund at University Baptist Church.

First vice president Milton Cunningham automatically succeeds Harris as president of the Texas Convention.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Cooperative Program
Giving Above 1975-76

NASHVILLE (BP)--With only two months remaining in the 1976-77 fiscal year, receipts for the national Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program unified budget are running 10.04 percent ahead of the same point last year.

The undesignated Cooperative Program funds after 10 months total \$43,153,890, compared to \$39,217,027 at the same point last year, while total gifts, including \$41,455,883 in designated gifts, have climbed to \$84,609,774. Total gifts exceed last year's figure by \$6,938,314, representing an 8.93 increase.

Total receipts for July tallied \$5,883,137, an increase of more than 14 percent over total gifts last July.



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Please use the following style on accompanying cutlines so we can have uniform (BP) style and the receiving outlet can readily distinguish it from a regular mailing from your organization and quickly match it up with the BP story it illustrates:

With BP Story Mailed 9/23/77

PRISON BUS ROUTE--Visitors at Menard Prison near Chester, Ill., board a Baptist-sponsored bus for the return trip to their homes in the E. St. Louis area. Every other Thursday, Metro East Baptist Association sponsors a free bus to the prison for relatives of inmates who might not have a means of travel. (BP)PHOTO

Variations of Credit Lines: (BP) PHOTO by Don Rutledge; (BP) PHOTO By Don Rutledge, Home Mission Board; or (BP) PHOTO by Home Mission Board

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Send all photos first class, with two exceptions: Send Special Delivery to the Baptist state paper The Christian Index (Ga.), Monday through Thursday, if you want a photo delivered with the same speed as a (BP) mailing. Also, send the Illinois Baptist state paper (BP) photos special delivery on Wednesday. (Send to street address, not P. O. Box.)

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Little Rock, AR 72203

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Baptist and Reflector
P. O. Box 347
Brentwood, TN 37027

C. L. Pair, Editor
Baptist Beacon
400 West Camelback Road
Phoenix, AZ 85013

John E. Roberts, Editor (Send Special Delivery
The Baptist Courier on Thursdays)
P. O. Box 2168
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Topeka, KS 66606

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Raleigh, NC 27611

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Baptist Standard (Send Special Delivery
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Dallas, TX 75222

Elmer Gray, Editor
The California Southern Baptist
P. O. Box 5168
Fresno, CA 93755

James Langley, Interim Editor
Capital Baptist
1628 16th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

Jack Harwell, Editor (Send Special Delivery
The Christian Index Monday-Thursday)
2930 Flowers Rd., S., Rm. 106
Atlanta, Ga. 30341

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Florida Baptist Witness
1230 Hendricks Avenue
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Jefferson City, MO 65101

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New York, NY 10019

Lynn May
SBC Historical Commission
127 Ninth Ave., N.
Nashville, TN 37234

All Church Press
P. O. Box 1159
Fort Worth, TX 76101

C. E. Bryant
Baptist World Alliance
1628 Sixteenth St., NW
Washington, D. C. 20009

Baptist Press
SBC News Service
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Nashville, TN 37219

Jim Newton, Editor
World Mission Journal, Brother-
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Memphis, Tenn. 38104

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