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New Corps Seen Reinforcing
Entire Missions Outreach

By Ruth Fowler

RICHMOND (BP)--Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials believe strong support for the newly proposed Mission Service Corps reflects a heightened interest in missions that will reinforce all Southern Baptist missions efforts.

The volunteer program adopted at the Southern Baptist Convention seeks to involve more personnel in one-to two-year projects overseas.

As the board prepares to put its full weight behind the new volunteer program, key members of the board staff here voiced their feeling that Southern Baptists are ready to become involved in missions on a scale never before attained.

"We are thrilled when new crests of enthusiasm move across Southern Baptist life. Our responsibility of channeling those efforts to the world becomes more exciting when mission interest reaches a peak such as the one now apparent throughout the convention," said R. Keith Parks, the board's mission support division director.

Parks' view of the new mission corps supports that of the board's executive director, Baker J. Cauthen. Cauthen described the Corps as "something that has caught in the heart of our people and is building to be something very, very significant."

Under Cauthen's direction, the board staff is making preliminary plans for applicant processing, orientation procedures and maximum utilization of the volunteers overseas, even though final details of the new Corps are still being worked out by the special committee.

"Devoted laypersons make strong allies for missionaries and national leaders in the extension of Christ's kingdom," said W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's consultant for laymen overseas. "The board continues to be the proper channel for bringing together the needs of our mission fields around the world, and the laborers and resources of Southern Baptists."

Grubbs went on to state that the involvement of volunteers does three things. First, a valuable service is provided on the mission field, and second, the volunteer changes in his concept of world missions. "Third," Grubbs said, "When the volunteer returns, he brings a more realistic concept of mission work and a greatly expanded world view to his home congregation."

The officials reaffirmed that the career missionary is basic to the overseas mission work, but that more volunteers will mean more career missionaries.

"I am fully expectant that the growth in the numbers of those who go for shorter periods of time and the increased numbers of those who offer themselves for career missions will escalate hand-in-hand," Parks said.

Parks also noted that for Southern Baptists to focus all their attention on either volunteers or career missionaries would be, in his opinion, a mistake.

He agreed with the "new tune of cooperation" mentioned by Jimmy R. Allen, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, in a recent interview. Parks gave as examples the Missionary Education Task Force with five agencies cooperating, the "close harmony and unity" of the work of the two mission boards with the Radio and Television Commission as evidenced at this year's convention, and the work of the two mission boards and two mission agencies in the volunteer involvement in missions project. --more-

"The exciting thing about the new emphasis is the fact that the mission boards and agencies have already done significant work in the Volunteer Involvement in Missions project by preparing the background for providing an automated system which can be readily used to identify those who want to be a part of the Mission Service Corps," said Parks.

The two new programs, Mission Service Corps and Volunteer Involvement in Missions can be the banner under which Southern Baptists rally in increased support of volunteers serving in an overseas setting, said Winston Crawley, the board's overseas division director.

Crawley went on to point out that the programs are an extension and expansion of what Southern Baptists have been channeling through their board for some 30 years. He traced the history of non-missionary volunteers from the time they were called contract workers, through the period of time when his own mother served overseas some 20 years ago as a volunteer, to the present when close to 1,500 persons serve for various lengths of time each year. About eight percent of these serve for one-to-two years, Crawley said.

In 1976, 1,646 volunteers served through the board's consultants' offices, of which over 100 were for periods of approximately one year.

In relating the two programs to bold mission, Crawley said these could be the focus of attention to "help Southern Baptists pick up what was done last year at the convention in Norfolk, Va., and move on to get behind Total Missions Thrust." Total Missions Thrust is the board's name for its 25-year-strategy adopted as a part of the convention's Bold Mission.

One of the major objectives of Total Missions Thrust when it was adopted by the board in January, 1976, was the increased involvement of volunteers overseas. Thus, board officials note, the new programs accentuate an already existing goal of Baptists expressed through the board's Bold Mission emphasis.

In the midst of the board's affirmation of its desire for more volunteers, Parks emphasized that the board does not and cannot "do foreign missions."

"The local church, and Christians through that local church, are mandated by our Lord to reach out to the world," Parks said. "Southern Baptists, under the power of the Holy Spirit, carry the gospel to the entire world by channeling their efforts through the board."

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Federal Money Goes To
Two Baptist Colleges

By Carol Franklin

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Two Baptist colleges have received grants from the federal government totaling \$245,800.

Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Baptist College at Charleston, Charleston, S. C., are among 90 two- and four-year colleges receiving grants from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).

The grants were made "to help them achieve financial stability and academic improvement," according to a release from HEW. They were made under the Advanced Institutional Development Program (AIDP) authorized under Title III of the Amended Higher Education Act of 1965.

Both Baptist schools received continuation grants in order to continue with activities currently supported by AIDP. Ouachita received \$17,300 for continuation activities and Baptist College at Charleston was granted \$174,000 for the same purpose.

In addition, Ouachita received \$54,500 to increase its fund-raising capabilities. This grant allows training in the skills necessary to organize, strengthen and implement fund-raising efforts.

In order to qualify for the continuation grants the schools had to show that they had used previous grants satisfactorily and that financial hardship would result if the grant were not renewed. Several other church-related colleges received grants from HEW at the same time.

**Heart Attacks Hit
Arthur B. Rutledge**

ATLANTA (BP)--Arthur B. Rutledge, retired executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, is convalescing after having suffered a series of mild heart attacks.

Rutledge, who stepped down Dec. 31, 1976, after heading the board for 12 years, suffered a mild coronary July 12, another July 16, and a third July 28.

He was hospitalized in Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

Since retiring, Rutledge has lived near Cumming, Ga., and has been involved in teaching and writing.