

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Annie Armstrong Offering
Nears \$12 Million Goal

ATLANTA (BP)--The 1977 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions is more than \$1 million above the same time last year, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board executive director-treasurer, William G. Tanner, told the board's directors here.

Offering receipts totaled \$10,344,969 on Sept. 6, 1977, or nearly 92 per cent of the \$12 million goal.

Directors accepted the resignation of Cecil Etheredge from the missionary personnel department, appointed Bob Reccord as director of witness training for the evangelism section, and appointed 40 persons to mission service.

Etheredge, with the missionary personnel department for 15 years, will become national consultant for migrant ministries, blind ministries and juvenile offenders for the board's Christian social ministries department. As appointed missionaries he and his wife, Anne, will continue to live in Conyers, Ga., in the Atlanta area, with Etheredge working from his home.

An Alabama native, Etheredge came to the board from pastorates in Selma and Montgomery, Ala., and Hodgenville, Ky. He is a graduate of Howard College and the University of Alabama and earned a bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Anne Mitchell Etheredge, also an Alabama native, is a graduate of Auburn University. She teaches kindergarten at Conyers First Baptist Church, where the Etheredges are members.

Reccord, 26, will assume the evangelism position, Nov. 1. Under the direction of Bob Saul, head of personal evangelism department, he will work with Tell Witness Training, lay evangelism schools and other personal witnessing methods. He will also serve as a liaison and resource person for local church ministers of evangelism.

Now minister of outreach and spiritual development for First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., Reccord is a Norfolk, Va., native. He has served as an evangelist in Texas and Indiana and as youth director in Indiana, Georgia and Texas. He is a graduate of Indiana University and received a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mission personnel appointed include 16 missionaries, seven missionary associates and 17 mission pastors. Appointed missionaries, in addition to the Etheredges, were James and Lera Hildabrand of Louisville, Ky.; Deborah Myers Snyder of Newport News, Va.; John and Ann Ellis of Orlando, Fla.; Frances Pearce Jones of Raleigh, N.C.; Bill and Carol Fulkerson of Louisville; Chan and Judeane Garrett of Pembroke Pines, Fla.; John and Molly Fox of Louisville; Sandra Harvey of Takoma Park, Md.; and Beverly Smothers of Rutherford, Tenn.

Appointed missionary associates were Gualberto and Sylvia Castro of Hondo, Tex.; Max and Louise Dalcy of Roseburg, Ore.; Elias and Martha Pantoja of Memphis, Tenn.; and Muneharu Zamami of New Orleans, La.

The Hildabrandts will live in Grants Pass, Ore., where he will serve as director of associational missions for the Siskiyou and Douglas Associations, under appointment of the board's rural-urban missions department and the Northwest Baptist Convention.

Hildabrand, a Kentucky native, previously served as associational director of missions for the Union Baptist Association in Kentucky. He also has served pastorates in Indiana, Washington, California and Hawaii. He is a graduate of Western Washington State University and received a master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary. Lera Mae Hildabrand is also a Kentucky native.

Snyder will continue to live in Newport News, where she will continue as associate director of the Friendship House for the board's Christian social ministries department and the Baptist General Association of Virginia (state convention).

A West Virginia native, she is a graduate of Mars Hill College and received a master of religious education degree from Southern Baptist Seminary. Her husband, Samuel, will continue as a designer for the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company.

John and Anne Ellis will continue to live in Orlando, where he will serve as regional missionary for the board's department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists and the Florida Baptist Convention.

A native of Whiteville, N.C., Ellis has served a number of pastorates in North Carolina and was pastor of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Orlando before appointment. He is a graduate of Shaw University and received a master of divinity degree from Shaw Divinity School in North Carolina. Anne Lake Ellis, a Hamlet, N.C., native, is also a Shaw University graduate and has served the Cherokee Jr. High School in Orlando.

Frances Jones will continue to reside in Raleigh and to serve as director of the Raleigh Baptist Center. Her husband, Durward, will continue as engineer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. A Wake County, N.C., native, she has served at the center since 1975, recently as a missionary associate. She is a graduate of Campbell College and received a master of religious education degree from Southern Seminary.

The Fulkersons will continue to live in Louisville, where he will serve as pastor-director for the board's Christian social ministries department. Fulkerson, a native of McPherson, Kan., will continue at the Louisville center, where he has served since 1973. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and received a master of arts degree from Southern Illinois and a bachelor of divinity degree and doctor of ministries from Southern Seminary. Carol Sutcky Fulkerson, a native of East St. Louis, Mo., is also a Southern Illinois graduate and has worked in the Kentucky Baptist Convention general offices.

The Foxes will live in Lexington, Ky., where he will serve as director of the Baptist center.

Fox, a native of Knoxville, Tenn. has served as a US-2 missionary for the board and is a University of Tennessee graduate. He received a master of divinity from Southern Seminary. Molly Hudgens Fox, a Nashville native, has worked for the National Crime Prevention Institute in Louisville and has attended the University of Tennessee.

The Garretts will serve in Miami, where he will be regional director for the board's department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists.

Garrett, a Brooksville, Fla., native, was pastor of Sierra Norwood Baptist Church and trustee of Baptist Hospital, both in Miami, prior to appointment. He also has served churches in New Smyrna Beach and Sharpes, Fla. and Middleburg, Va. He is a graduate of Baylor University and received a master of divinity from Southeastern Baptist Seminary. Judeane Loftin Garrett, a native of Alvarado, Tex., is a teacher's assistant in the Miami area.

Harvey will serve in Columbia, Md., as director for family growth. She is a native of Missouri and has served with social agencies in Washington, D.C., and in Maryland at the Johnning Baptist Center. She is a graduate of Southwest Baptist (junior) College, William Jewell College and received a master of religious education degree from Southern Seminary and a masters in social work from the University of Louisville.

Smothers will serve in Hellier, Ky., as director of the Marrobone Baptist Center. She is a Tennessee native, and a graduate of both Union University and Southwestern Seminary.

The Castros will continue to live in Hondo, Tex., where he will serve as pastor of the Primera Iglesia Bautista, a Spanish-speaking congregation. Castro, a Texas native, has also

served as pastor of the Mexican Baptist Mission of the First Baptist Church of De Leon, Tex. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

The Daleys will serve in Yakima, Wash., where he will be director of associational missions for the Coulee and Yakima Associations. Daley, a native of Fairfield, Iowa, has been pastor of the Vine Street Baptist Church in Roseburg. He also served pastorates in Oregon, Louisiana, and Texas. He is a graduate of New York State University.

The Pantojas will continue to live in Memphis, where he will serve as a catalytic missionary among Spanish-speaking persons. Pantoja, a Texas native, was pastor of the Primera Iglesia Bautista in Carrollton, Tex., and has also served as associate pastor for Iglesia Bautista Calvario in Dallas. He is a Dallas Baptist College graduate and received a master of religious education from Southwestern Seminary.

Zamami will continue in New Orleans and will serve as a student intern for the board's Christian social ministries department. He is a graduate of Cumberland College and received a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Baptist Seminary. He has served Japanese churches in the U.S. as pastor and retains his Japanese citizenship as a native of Okinawa.

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Weber Slowly Resumes
Church Responsibilities

Baptist Press
9/9/77

LUBBOCK, Tex. (BP)--Former Southern Baptist Convention President Jaroy Weber has been told by his doctor here to gradually resume his fulltime duties after a period of recovery from heart attacks.

Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, got "a good report for a quick recovery" at Stanford Medical Center, where he had a complete evaluation. He will start slowly by first teaching his Wednesday evening Bible lessons. He said that he will gradually assume preaching responsibilities at the church's three Sunday services, beginning with one service and working back into a full load.

He expressed appreciation "for the prayers and concern of many people across the Southern Baptist Convention" who have contacted him during his recuperation.

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Culpepper, Cromer Named
To Top Offices by EBREA

Baptist Press
9/9/77

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Mary Culpepper, minister of education and director of church activities at Gateway Baptist Church, Miami, Fla., has assumed the presidency of the Eastern Baptist Religious Education Association (EBREA) at its annual meeting here.

William R. Cromer, Jr., associate professor of religious education at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., was chosen president-elect.

The religious education group, which lists more than 100 members, represents church and denominational educators in Southern Baptist churches and agencies primarily in the southeastern United States, although EBREA membership includes all of the eastern U.S.

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BWA Sets Oct. 23 As
Day of Prayer for Peace

Baptist Press
9/9/77

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) is urging some 30 million Baptists around the world to observe a first annual Day of Prayer for Peace on Sunday, Oct. 23.

Robert Denny, BWA general secretary, said the observance was authorized by the BWA general council at its July meeting in Miami Beach. He said Oct. 23 was chosen because it is the Sunday before the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

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A BWA communication to 109 BWA member bodies said peace has "both spiritual and material meanings...It will rob our Oct. 23 observance of its full meaning if we confine our prayers to those for spiritual peace. We must pray also for peace among nations and within nations.

The statement said, "Peace is an affirmative concept, covering the achievement of harmony in relations among peoples. Those who work for peace will work for the relaxation of tensions between nations, for better understanding and love between classes, races and tribes. Those who are fully committed to peace will seek non-violent ways to pursue the aims of justice and freedom, even of liberation for the oppressed."

The BWA council resolution expressed support for "lasting peace, disarmament, and just relations among all nations" and called war "an unChristian way of seeking to settle international problems and disputes."

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Alaska Baptists
Set Record Budget

Baptist Press
9/9/77

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP)--The 32nd annual session of the Alaska Baptist Convention, meeting at New Hope Baptist Church here, adopted the largest budget in its history and gave a special emphasis to the Southern Baptist Bold Mission effort to win the world to Christ.

Messengers to the convention voted a combined \$806,746 budget for the convention and the Alaska Baptist Family Service Center, with \$687,569 going for convention operating budget and \$119,177 for the center.

The convention also set a goal of \$261,450 in Cooperative Program unified budget receipts from its churches. Twenty-nine percent of that amount will go to world missions through the national Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

Messengers heard Robert Naylor, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, emphasize the Bold Mission effort and received reports from convention program leaders. The evangelism report announced a nine percent increase in baptisms over the previous year. Baptisms totaled 800 for 1976-77.

Valeria Sherard was honored for 25 years service as a missionary under appointment of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Alaska Baptist Convention. The convention named its annual state missions offering "The Valeria Sherard Offering for State Missions" and executive secretary-treasurer Troy Prince presented her a \$1,000 check and a specially-inscribed, bronzed prospector's gold pan.

Messengers also approved a change in the date of the annual meeting, shifting the date from August to November of each year. The first November meeting will be held at First Baptist Church, Kenai, Alaska, November 14-16, 1978. First Baptist Church, Fairbanks, was selected as the meeting place for 1979.

In other action, messengers re-elected Alvin Wood, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Anchorage, to a second term as president and changed the convention's articles of incorporation to remove the treasurer's position from the list of annually elected convention officers. This action brings the articles of incorporation in line with the practice of the executive board of the convention in electing the executive secretary-treasurer to an indefinite term of service at the beginning of his tenure.

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Timex Drops
'Soap' Sponsorship

Baptist Press
9/9/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--Timex Inc. has decided to join 10 other corporations, reported earlier as sponsors of ABC-TV's "Soap," who have cancelled their commercial participation in at least the first few episodes of the controversial new series.

"Timex is not a sponsor of 'Soap,'" Bruce Fabricant, senior vice president of Gray and Davis Inc., New York City, said in a telephone interview with the Christian Life Commission

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of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). Gray and Davis, which handles Timex's advertising, earlier made a similar statement to W. A. Reed, religion news editor of The Nashville Tennessean.

Commission officials learned several weeks ago that 10 of 11 corporations listed as "Soap" sponsors by Television Digest had chosen, at least temporarily, not to advertise on the sex-oriented adult comedy series. The commission wrote the 11 companies and asked them to cancel plans, if any, to sponsor the show.

The commission said it has been unable to obtain further information about advertisers for the show. Harry Hollis, Jr., SBC agency's director of family and special moral concerns, said that ABC's apparent strategy "is to keep secret as long as possible the names of the sponsors so they will not have to face the growing protests of the American people who are fed up with the exploitation of sex on television."

Hollis and the commission's executive secretary, Foy Valentine, have sharply criticized the show, which has a story line based on such sexual themes as adultery, promiscuity, impotence, transvestitism and homosexuality.

The two Southern Baptist leaders, who previewed the original and revised introductory episodes of "Soap," have written two letters to ABC president Fred Pierce, urging cancellation of the program.

The commission said it has received the same form letter from ABC in response to both letters to Pierce.

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Philippine Baptists Begin
Distributing 25,000 Bibles

Baptist Press
9/9/77

MANILA, Philippines (BP)--Twenty-five thousand Bibles printed especially for the Philippines are being distributed throughout this country.

Nearly \$40,000 has been channeled from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to provide Bibles in response to requests by missionaries and other Christians who pointed to the shortage of low-cost Bibles for Filipinos. The Bibles are printed in English, which is widely spoken throughout the Philippines.

Marshall G. Mines, Southern Baptist lay volunteer assisting for a year in bookstore and publications work in Manila, said paperback Bibles will sell for about \$2; vinyl-covered editions are around \$2.75. Some Philippine bookstores had Bibles, but most were \$4 to \$5 each, he noted.

Printing of the Bibles was made possible by Foreign Mission Board action reallocating \$10,000 from funds originally set aside for work in Laos and \$29,800 which was first earmarked for work in South Vietnam. Both Laos and South Vietnam now are closed to missionaries because of Communist domination.

The Bibles will be sold at a subsidized price in bookstores throughout the country, said William T. Roberson, Southern Baptist missionary, director of publication and literature ministries in the Philippines. He emphasized that a survey conducted by the Philippine Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) revealed that about 50 per cent of the Baptist church members attributed their conversion to reading the Bible.

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