

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Ex-Vietnam Missionaries Start
Anew Despite 'Double Trauma'**

BANDUNG, Indonesia (BP)--Seeing one missionary career come to an untimely, tumultuous end and then making a fresh start on a second missionary career--at age 40-plus--can mean facing double trauma.

This has been the experience of James M. Gayle and Joe G. Turman, Southern Baptist missionaries to Indonesia, who formerly served in South Vietnam.

Joe and Gloria Turman and their two children (since increased to three) were among the refugees who left Vietnam at the time of the Communist takeover in the Spring of 1975. Jim and Margaret Gayle and their three boys were on furlough in Texas at the time, and could not return to their work in Vietnam.

In an interview with missionary press representative William N. McElrath, Turman and Gayle agreed that the most difficult part of starting over is having to start "from scratch."

"Everything you've become acquainted with and become a part of--goals, hopes, future--had to be laid aside," Gayle said. "We had to start all over again in learning language and culture."

But he said it helped just to be moving from one Southeast Asian country to another. "One of our missionary couples moved from Vietnam to the Ivory Coast, and another to Honduras," he added. "I can imagine the trauma they're having."

Besides learning a new language and culture and starting to re-establish their identity with another group of missionaries and nationals, they also had to start learning how to relax. Working in the war zone does things to your emotions, according to Turman.

"The first night we spent by ourselves in our house at Dalat (in the Southeastern part of South Vietnam), there was a shoot-out in our backyard, with hand grenades and M16's," Turman recalled. "This was really a traumatic experience, because, until then, we thought the war was way off from us. There we were with our children, lying on the floor and watching the tracers pass our windows."

Although all their experiences were not this dramatic, the Turmans later came to realize that they were living and working under tensions which even they weren't aware of at the time.

"While we were on furlough in 1972, we'd put our children out to play in a beautiful yard under big shade trees," Turman said. "But they, being used to living behind fences, would always follow us inside the house."

A more relaxed atmosphere is not the only difference the two families have found in Indonesia. The mission work is different, too. There are more missionaries in Indonesia and the mission institutions have been established much longer than those in Vietnam, Gayle said.

National Christians are heavily involved and the missionaries are relieved of filling direct leadership roles. In Vietnam, since national participation was limited because of the war, missionaries often had to take direct responsibility as pastors and leaders, he explained.

Their experience in Vietnam has taught the Turmans and Gayles to move fast and know where they're going. Gayle said he learned it is important to become acquainted immediately with the people.

"I've learned that in sharing the gospel with people, you don't stand over them; you've got to stand with them," he emphasized. "You've got to become a part of them."

In spite of all that happened to them in Vietnam, Gayle said, if they had to do it all again, knowing what they know now, his family would go back to Vietnam. In fact, if the opportunity for returning to Vietnam would arise, he said they would leave Indonesia and go.

"If the door would open, I would feel it was the Lord's invitation for me to go back," he said. "We went to Vietnam, not out of our own choosing, but out of the call of the Lord. And, in that sense, I'm positive we would do it again."

"One thing I've come to realize in all this experience is that God does all things well," Gayle said. "He doesn't make any mistakes. What happened to us (in Vietnam) was not a sacrifice at all--just a step in God's purpose for our lives."

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Border Difficulties Cause
Speedup of Mission Division

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LIMURU, Kenya (BP)--The Baptist Mission of East Africa, the largest organization of missionaries under the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, divided into two groups, Sept. 1.

The mission voted at its annual meeting in 1976 to become two missions, one composed of missionaries assigned to Kenya and one of missionaries in Tanzania. The division was originally scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, 1978, and will be finalized on that date.

Because of the present border difficulties between the two countries, the date for the division was moved up and administrations of the two missions now function separately.

All border traffic by land between Tanzania and Kenya has been halted with the exception of travel by special permits granted from Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania's capital, according to Evelyn (Mrs. Douglas M.) Knapp, Southern Baptist missionary press representative.

The Baptist Mission of East Africa was organized in 1956. Since the beginning of the work, 274 churches in Kenya and 247 churches in Tanzania have been started. The figure for Kenya does not include 185 new congregations begun during the year-long Giriyama evangelistic project.

A total of 196 missionaries are assigned to the two countries. With the division, there will be 124 missionaries assigned to Kenya and 72 assigned to Tanzania.

Work within the missions now includes agricultural projects, a hospital, several medical clinics, a seminary, two high schools, publication and communication programs, and three adult education centers.

"The decision to divide came with mixed emotions to the nearly 200 members of the mission who realize that the division means a separation of the close mission family," said Mrs. Knapp. The decision resulted from a conviction that the work of the churches in the two countries would be strengthened, she continued. "Tanzania and Kenya have been developing individually and have separate national conventions."

The publications house, the mass communications center, the assembly grounds in Kenya and the theological seminary in Tanzania will continue to serve both nations.

Newly elected officers of the Baptist Mission of Kenya are Ralph W. Harrell of North Carolina, administrative secretary; James L. Houser of Texas, assistant administrative secretary; Thomas A. Jones of Georgia, treasurer; and Mildred Cagle of Arkansas, recording secretary.

Officers of the Baptist Mission of Tanzania are Arville E. Senter of Texas, mission administrator; Donald L. Smith of Oklahoma, assistant mission administrator; and Wendall R. (Jack) Hull of Texas, finance administrator.

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(BP) Photos sent to state Baptist papers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press

Pinson Outlines His View
of Seminary Education

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--"Tough-minded scholarship and warm-hearted evangelism go hand in hand," William M. Pinson, Jr., new president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, said here in his first formal address to the students, faculty and local Baptist leaders.

"Such an approach," he said at the seminary's annual convocation, "calls for high academic standards. A student in seminary ought to encounter a more rugged academic challenge than a student in medical school or law school, because the skills he learns and the task for which he prepares are both more demanding and more important."

Pinson, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., recalled four presuppositions that "propelled me on my current course" concerning seminary education.

"A seminary does not exist for itself, but for the churches," he related, "and it is not simply a graduate school of religion, but a special kind of school; a training center for people on a mission.

"At Golden Gate, we are concerned about developing skills, not just teaching content. Regardless of how much a student knows about Jesus Christ, until he knows how to tell others about Him his education is defective."

In addition to being a training center, the 42-year old former professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary called the seminary "a kind of family." He said, "A seminary family is a family of God and it should love, pray, discipline and mature just as a regular family. Families that pray, eat, talk and play together, stay together and enjoy it," he said.

He explained that a seminary is also similar to a church; a community of persons called out and called together by God. "Although a seminary has no pastor or deacons, it performs many of the acts of a church. It evangelizes, educates, stimulates spiritual growth, ministers, and allows for fellowship and worship.

"Further, the Bible is the center of our study just as it is at the center of the official Golden Gate seal. The whole Bible is the basis of our study--the part that tells how people are to be saved and the part that tells how saved people are to live."

The new president talked about the uniqueness of Golden Gate's function, saying, "We are small enough to be a family, yet large enough to meet the needs of students and fulfill our responsibility to train leaders for churches."

He warned, however, that "Southern Baptists must put their best into their seminaries if they are to get the best out of them for the churches."

Sizing up the seminary's location, Pinson said, "We are located in a microcosm of what the rest of the country seems destined to become--a multi-ethnic urban complex laced with cults, sects, and the full range of human needs."

In closing, he noted, "We are not only involved in studying missions, but we are a key ingredient in the mission strategy for a huge area with millions of lost people. And as such, we must be committed to excellence."

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Smith Named Associate
Secretary for N.C. Baptists

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RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--Roy J. Smith, 48, has been elected as the first associate general secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He will serve under Cecil Ray, the convention's chief administrator.

Smith, a North Carolina native, has directed the convention's town and country missions/Seminary Extension department since 1967, and previously served as a Southern Baptist home missionary and before that as a pastor. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

'Baptist Hour'
Gets Facelift

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has given its oldest program--"The Baptist Hour"--a facelift.

The new "Baptist Hour" is not so much a sermon as a discussion. It doesn't have a preacher per se, but a host--Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss. It uses upbeat religiously-oriented music that is "exciting and bright," a commission spokesman said.

"The Baptist Hour" was the first radio show the commission produced and syndicated.

It's the only one to carry the denomination's name in its title. When it premiered in 1941, only 17 stations in 11 states carried it. Today "The Baptist Hour" is on 359 stations across the country.

"We have made some changes but we haven't watered down the message," said Paul M. Stevens, commission president. "We're still preaching God's love and concern for his children.

"We're just presenting the program more in the style that today's radio listeners have come to expect from professional producers. We want it to live up to the Radio and Television Commission's determination to provide a religious program for people who couldn't care less--until they hear it."

Claude Cox, a longtime radio producer for the Radio and Television Commission, assumed his new duties as "Baptist Hour" producer at the request of Stevens.

"We want to produce 'The Baptist Hour' in an entertaining and informative way and make it so good listeners will forget it's good for them," Cox said. "We think we've come up with a package designed to intrigue and build an audience as well as continuing to relate to the current audience. Religion is solidly there, but it's presented in today's language."

Cox presently produces the commission's highly successful "Powerline" radio show for teenagers (heard on 905 stations) and "SoulSearcherS," for black listeners (on 97 stations). He has won industry awards for his work.

Pollard was "Baptist Hour" summer vacation speaker in 1975. He spoke again in 1976 after Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City, speaker for 20 years, retired.

Born and educated in Texas, Pollard came to Jackson from Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church, Dallas, in 1974. In his three years in Mississippi, the church's budget has more than doubled, more than 1,500 new members have been added, and two new Sunday Schools have been organized--reflecting an increase there of more than 500 in weekly attendance.

"We received so much favorable mail from listeners about the quality of Dr. Pollard's sermons and the sincerity of his presentations that the commission's board of trustees selected him to speak for a full year," said Stevens.

"We are excited that a busy pastor like Dr. Pollard would agree to work the time necessary for this important radio ministry into his already-crowded schedule," said Stevens.

"The Baptist Hour" announcer is Jon Rivers, a former Mississippian, who uses the professional name of John Gary. Rivers is a Fort Worth announcer.

"We've changed the 'Baptist Hour' format a little to make it less a structured worship service and more of a worship experience," said Stevens. "The show will include interviews with people talking to Dr. Pollard about a variety of experiences dealing with the sermon theme."