



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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### WRAPUP

Home Board Sets Budget,  
Appoints 20, Elects 2

ATLANTA (BP)--A record \$28 million budget emphasizing the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust was approved during the fall meeting of the directors of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Home Mission Board here.

Directors also elected two new staff members, approved transfer of another staffer, appointed 20 persons to missions service, and took action related to the denomination's newly-forming Mission Service Corps (MSC).

Development of the newly forming Mission Service Corps moved ahead as directors joined the SBC Foreign Mission Board in designating Ralph L. West as process coordinator for all inquiries and applications from volunteers who would serve one to two years service on home or foreign mission fields. West currently is the Foreign Mission Board's liaison to the Home Mission Board.

The Home Mission Board will provide office space in Atlanta and costs of secretarial help. The Foreign Mission Board will assign West to the office at P. O. Box 7203, Atlanta, Ga 30309.

Directors of the Home Mission Board also advanced the agency's involvement with Mission Service Corps by creating a staff position to "coordinate and expedite the MSC process, projects, personnel and sponsors" for the board for volunteers for service on home mission fields. The Foreign Mission Board has done the same for overseas volunteers.

"I think this indicates a very optimistic spirit of cooperation between the two mission agencies," said William G. Tanner, Home Mission Board executive director-treasurer. "For Mission Service Corps to be effective, it must have this kind of accord."

In other action, Don Rhymes was elected director of missionary personnel department; Betsy DeLaine Steady will be director of accounting services, and Ed Seabough will transfer from personnel recruitment services to the new position of director of public relations and special events.

Directors honored retiring Atlanta employees including Clovis A. Brantley, associate director of Christian social ministries department; Bernice Elliott, Woman's Missionary Union field worker attached to the missions ministries division; Kate Ellen Gruver, assistant director of the interfaith witness department; Mrs. Ozelle Head of associational missions division; William B. Mitchell, associate director of interfaith witness department; Mrs. Edna Simpson of missions ministries division; Clarice Whitner of personnel division; and Mrs. Jeanette Williams, accounting services director.

The 1978 budget, totaling \$28,021,307--an increase of \$2 million above 1977--will fund all home missions program, including the Bold Mission Thrust emphases to evangelize and congregationalize the nation. Bold Mission Thrust is the denomination's plan to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world in this century.

The SBC's national Cooperative Program budget for world missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions will provide the majority of the funds. With these funds, the Home Mission Board will create 140 new missionary positions, enlist and assign at least 20,000 volunteers for Bold Mission Thrust projects and continue planning and supporting home missions programs.

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Some \$2.1 million in funds for the board's evangelism section will give special emphasis to Growing an Evangelistic Church, the section's overall plan of motivating, equipping and training persons in evangelism.

Evangelism will assist state conventions to train and equip 200 home and foreign missionaries and denominational leaders in the Growing an Evangelistic Church process, giving priority to Bold Mission Thrust key cities and counties.

Other evangelism projects will include involving 170,000 church members in effective personal evangelism strategy and skill training. At least 16,400 volunteers will be enlisted, equipped and assigned to personal evangelism strategies, events and projects.

The missions section will spread the nearly \$21 million, budgeted for 1978, throughout the associational missions division, chaplaincy division, church loans division and missions ministries division. The section will use the funds to continue giving priority to Bold Mission Thrust programming.

Directors also approved Chris Elkins of Atlanta as a special consultant in interfaith witness. Elkins, a former official in the Unification Church, now a Southern Baptist.

Rhymes, pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church in Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii, will begin in personnel Dec. 15. His duties will include giving leadership, supervision and correlation to recruitment and screening of all candidates for missionary appointment by the board.

Rhymes, associate director of this department until 1975, also worked in the hippie community of Atlanta during the early 70's and in apartment ministries in Lefrak City, New York City.

Steadly will begin work in accounting services in October and assume the position of director upon the retirement of Mrs. Williams. A Charleston, S. C., native, Steedly has worked the past four years as executive secretary in the planning section of the board. She holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Lander College in Greenwood, S. C.

Seabough will assume duties in the communication division on Jan. 1, according to James M. Sapp, division director. In his new role, Seabough will provide resources and leadership to the board for communication skills in the areas of public relations, special programs and events and promotion.

He is the author of a number of books including "Babble On and Other Ruins," "After the Riot and Other Debris," and "So You're Going to College," published by Broadman Press.

In addition, he has written lyrics for a number of musicals performed nationwide including, "Joy," "The Fabric of Freedom," "The Common Cup," and "Encounter."

-30-

Home Mission Board Sends  
20 Persons to Mission Fields

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ATLANTA (BP)--Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointed 20 persons to mission service during their fall meeting.

In cooperation with state Baptist conventions, the 20 appointments included six missionaries, two missionary associates and 12 pastors of mission congregations who were approved to receive aid.

Appointed missionaries were: Gayle and Stella Brown of Asheville, N. C.; Danny and Emily Coker of San Francisco; and Jerry and Pat Jones of Canton, Okla.

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Cliff and Donna Liese of Zapata, Tex., were named missionary associates.

The Browns will continue to live in Asheville, where he will serve as director of Christian social ministries for the Buncombe Baptist Association. Prior to appointment, Brown, an Asheville native, was pastor of the Oteen Baptist Church in Asheville. He also has served as director of the Social Planning Fund of Asheville and Buncombe County and as executive director of the Parkhill Community Planning Council in Louisville, Ky.

Brown holds several degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and is a graduate of Montreat-Anderson College in North Carolina. Stella Smith Brown holds a master of religious education degree from Southern Seminary, and is a graduate of Wake Forest College. She has worked in Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville and as a kindergarten teacher.

The Cokers will continue to serve in San Francisco, where he will be director of missions for the San Francisco Baptist Association. Coker served previously as pastor of the 19th Avenue Baptist Church in San Francisco and was pastor of churches in San Jose, Calif., and Kingsland and Dalark, Ark.

Coker, a Little Rock, Ark., native, recently received a doctor of ministries degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Emily Whitson Coker, also an Arkansas native, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and has worked as a school teacher.

The Jones will continue to serve in Oklahoma, where he will be a language missionary to the Indians in the Canton, Okla., area. Jones, a Des Moines, Iowa, native, has served churches in Chickasha, Mannsville and Ravia, Okla., Arvada, Col., and Fort Worth, Tex.

He holds a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Pat Gray Jones, an Anadarko, Okla., native, has worked in banks in Oklahoma.

The Lieses will continue to live and work in Zapata, where he is pastor of the Springs Mission of the First Baptist Church. Liese, a native of Austin, Tex., is a graduate of Texas A & M University and Southwestern Seminary. Donna Ramsey Liese, also a Texas native, attended Texas A & M.

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Mission Service Corps?  
Write Box 7203, Atlanta

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ATLANTA (BP)--The Mission Service Corps (MSC), Southern Baptists' newly formed plan for short-term volunteers for home and foreign mission fields, has a place to call "home."

It's P. O. Box 7203, Atlanta, Ga. 30309.

And it is beginning to take identifiable shape, subject to further deliberations of the Mission Service Corps steering committee, now in the process of releasing an initial brochure on the MSC which will be available through state Baptist conventions and the Atlanta address.

By joint action of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Home and Foreign Mission Boards, on Oct. 12, Ralph L. West will become process coordinator for applications and inquiries about MSC, a plan for volunteers who want to serve one to two years at home or abroad.

West, current Foreign Mission Board liaison with the Home Mission Board, will "take all applications, respond to them and channel them to proper agencies," William Tanner, the Home Mission Board's executive director-treasurer, told directors during the board's fall meeting. West will relate to the MSC steering committee, comprised of representatives of the SBC Executive Committee, the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, and state conventions.

Each mission board also will have a coordinator to work specifically with persons who want to serve in its area of responsibility. The Foreign Mission Board named Lewis I. Myers Jr., associate to the director of the board's overseas division, to work specifically with volunteers who want to assist career missionaries overseas. The Home Mission Board approved a similar job description, not yet filled, for a person to work with volunteers for home mission fields.

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Both mission boards have established a screening process for approval and assignment of volunteers.

MSC will use a computer system for volunteer recruitment and assignment developed by Volunteer Involvement in Missions (VIM), a cooperative venture by the two mission boards and the SBC Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union. VIM is a short-term plan for a year or less of mission service at home or abroad.

The computer system, based at the Home Mission Board, can hold up to a million names, Tanner said, a features instant retrieval for immediate access by any of the agencies wishing to draw from the volunteer bank.

West, in processing all routine inquiries for Mission Service Corps, will send names to the data bank and will also forward applications to the appropriate board or state convention with which the person is volunteering to serve.

He will also continue to serve in his present capacity as the associate secretary in the Foreign Mission Board's department of denominational coordination who does liaison work with the Home Mission Board. He served 20 years as a foreign missionary in Nigeria, before joining the Foreign Mission Board's home office staff in Richmond in 1966.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers by the Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.