



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2000
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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77-212

First Lay Volunteers Named For Mission Service Corps

ATLANTA (BP)--Doyle and Doris Pennington of Tupelo, Miss., the first lay volunteers for the newly formed Mission Service Corps, have been approved and assigned by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Home Mission Board.

The Penningtons, the second couple assigned by the board, volunteered for two years service through the board's evangelism section. They will participate in their own support as well as receive financial aid from individuals, groups and local churches through the Corps' support system.

Earlier, the board approved and assigned Elgin and Jean Lee. He will serve as a pastor in Menomonie, Wisc., through the Mission Service Corps, the SBC plan for enlisting and utilizing 5,000 volunteers in fulltime mission work at home or abroad by 1982.

Pennington, 35, will assist Reid Hardin, the evangelism section's Mission Service Corps representative, in coordinating and utilizing Corps volunteers in evangelism and missions throughout the U. S. He will work from a temporary office at the Home Mission Board building in Atlanta beginning the first of the year.

An Alabamian, Pennington grew up in Mississippi and is a business administration graduate of the University of Mississippi. He has worked in real estate development, management and marketing and lived in Arkansas, Tennessee, Kansas and Florida, as well as Mississippi and Alabama. Doris Baley Pennington from Como, Miss., has been a school teacher.

The Penningtons' assignment came after several years involvement in renewal evangelism which "got us on fire," Mrs. Pennington said. "We decided we needed to be on call and turned over our family, house and talents to do whatever God wanted us to do."

"Mission Service Corps is the biggest undertaking the Southern Baptist Convention has ever made to get laymen involved in ministry," Pennington said. "Laymen are waiting to do things... to get involved. I've seen this through renewal and churches laymen brought alive," said Pennington, an associational Brotherhood chairman and active deacon in Tupelo's Calvary Baptist Church.

"I don't think I have any more to offer than anyone else, but I do think the laymen could maybe relate to me a little better," he said. "I can look at a problem from a layman's point of view."

Hardin, the board's associate director of personal evangelism, said the Corps "will bring the parts together and prove greater than any one part alone--the laity and clergy will work together.

The Penningtons hope to use the contacts they established through involvement in Lay Renewal Weekends in churches and their friends scattered throughout the U. S. for the benefit of Mission Service Corps.

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"This is a challenge of faith for us," said Mrs. Pennington, "both financially and to step out and change our whole lifestyle." Her husband agrees: "The experiences we went through and the people we've met have been a preparation for us. We've been through marriage problems and virtual poverty and can share these experiences with others.

"My secular experiences will allow me to know how, for example, to go into a city cold and know who to see to get training centers set up, how to get projects implemented. I can take a project from the beginning with just an idea and sit down and advise others what should be done," he said.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers by the Home Mission Board.

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Rhodesian Missionaries
Granted Re-entry Permits

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12/5/77

RICHMOND (BP)--Two Southern Baptist missionary families have been granted re-entry permits by the Rhodesian government. The action came about two weeks after two Southern Baptist volunteers were denied entry permits in an apparent tightening of visa requirements.

At the time it was believed the new restrictions might have been a reaction to United States government pressures being applied on South Africa or to unfavorable articles written by a missionary of another denomination about the Rhodesian political situation.

South Africa, like Rhodesia, has a white government despite the fact that a majority of its population is black.

Davis L. Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, received word of the easing of the visa situation Dec. 1 in a telephone conversation with Logan C. Atnip, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Rhodesia.

Visas were granted for the return of the John P. Griggs and Gerald E. Schleiff families. The Griggses, who have been on furlough in Jefferson City, Tenn., are already back in Rhodesia. The Schleiffs are in Jonesboro, Ark.

Atnip also said that the situation looks favorable for the granting of entry permits to new missionaries within the next few weeks. Atnip and other Southern Baptist missionaries had called on Southern Baptists in the United States to pray for the situation in Rhodesia, where political unrest continues to disrupt life.

"We believe this latest development is a direct answer to those prayers," Saunders said. "We hope Southern Baptists continue to pray for Rhodesia."

Word was also received that the Dale E. Beighle family has arrived to begin work in the Southern African nation of Bophuthatswana, the 90th country or territory where Southern Baptists have work. Beighle will provide veterinary service for a large area. They are living in Taung. Saunders said plans have been made for assignment of another missionary couple to Bophuthatswana in January.

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**Broda Installed As New
Publishing House Director**

EL PASO, Tex. (BP)--Amid some 350 well-wishers from 10 nations, N. Aldo Broda was formally installed here as the new general director of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House.

The ceremony at First Mexican Baptist Church marked the first time a Latin American Baptist has held the post. Broda, a third-generation Argentine Baptist who previously directed the Argentine Baptist Publications Association in Buenos Aires, was elected in May, 1977, and assumed duties in November.

Along with the publishing house installation, Broda also became an honorary citizen of El Paso. Alderwoman Polly Harris represented the mayor of El Paso in that ceremony.

During the bilingual installation--translated into English and Spanish--Thomas W. Hill, who headed the publishing house from 1970-76, presented Broda a gavel formed from materials used in printing the first New Testament at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House. Hill now serves as secretary of the communications department of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The board operates the publishing house.

In a keynote address, Charles W. Bryan, Foreign Mission Board secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean, termed the event historic. He also emphasized that "the story of the publishing house is a story of persons dedicated to an enabling God."

In a brief response, Broda said, "Believe me, we are here only in the strength of the Lord and what we believe to be God's leading."

Among the nationals participating in the installation were pastors Ignacio Loreda from Argentina and Javier Armengol of Mexico. Others taking part included A. Clark Scanlong, president of the publishing house trustees and Foreign Mission Board field representative for Middle America, and Frank W. Patterson, director of the publishing house from 1943-70.

The publishing house provides Bibles, books and Christian materials in Spanish to more than 40 countries, nearly all 50 states and every continent of the world.

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**BWA Leadership Examines
"Growing Pains" of Expansion**

NEW ORLEANS, La. (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) gave attention to three upcoming world conferences, endorsed plans for expanded programs in world evangelism and world relief, and heard encouraging reports of Baptist growth in a hundred countries.

The occasion was the committee's annual meeting, assembled this year at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. About 60 leaders from seven countries participated.

Robert S. Denny, BWA's general secretary, told the committee that the Alliance has suffered from "growing pains" created by its increased membership and increasing Baptist population. The Alliance is a fellowship of 109 Baptist conventions and unions with 29 million members in 100 countries.

"This larger family," he said, "brings expanding requests for programs and services, an expanding staff, expanding regional organizations, expanding activity by regional organizations, and expanding relationships--at the same time providing wider opportunities."

Two new sub-committees went to work during the week to help meet the growing needs. One is a Long Range Planning Committee, with Theodore F. Adams, a BWA past president, as chairman. The other is an ad hoc committee chaired by Duke K. McCall to look at more effective means for financing the world-wide program.

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James L. Sullivan, chairman of the BWA Division Committee on Evangelism and Education, reported that training conferences have been held for national evangelism leaders in Europe and in Asia the past year, and that one is planned in Africa in May 1978. A training program and evangelism crusade is planned at Guatemala City in January 1978, directed by C. Ronald Goulding, the BWA's associate secretary for Evangelism and Education.

The BWA's Division of Relief and Development reported that member bodies have pledged \$500,000 toward a \$1 million goal for a worldwide immunization program in cooperation with the Brothers Brother Foundation and World Health Organization. The program aims at ridding the world of six major childhood diseases. The BWA has been able to import 20,000 Bibles and hymnals into eastern Europe in recent months through its program of interchurch aid, it was reported.

A general operating budget of \$535,210 was approved for 1978. The major part of these funds will come from gifts by individuals and churches. Member bodies in eastern Europe and other currency controlled countries are prevented by law from sending contributions out of their countries.

Logistics and program details for three upcoming world conferences were also reported. The Second World Conference of Baptist Men will meet in Indianapolis, USA, April 5-9, 1978. The 9th Baptist Youth World Conference will meet at Manila, the Philippines, July 19-23, 1978, and the 14th Baptist World Congress will convene in Toronto, Canada, July 8-13, 1980.

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Mississippi Layman To Receive
Southern Seminary's Top Honor

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11/5/77

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Owen Cooper, a Mississippi layman who has served as a leader in state, convention, and international Baptist life, will be awarded the highest honor given by The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The former president of the Southern Baptist Convention will receive the E. Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award at the seminary's December 16th graduation service.

The Yazoo City, Miss., native will be the 16th recipient of the award, established by seminary trustees to "underscore the importance of the channel of Christian service available through the structures of denominational life."

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Catholic-Baptist Dialogue
Works Toward Understanding

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--A three-day dialogue among 75 Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics here focused on distinctives in worship and made strides in cementing cross-denominational understanding.

The conference, held on the campus of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, attracted clergy and lay persons from 11 mid-western states. It was sponsored by the department of interfaith witness of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

C. Brownlow Hastings, assistant director of the Board's interfaith witness, said this was the fifth in a series of Catholic-Baptist regional dialogues, in which both sought not to convert the other but to listen, to build bridges of communication, and to form cross-denominational friendships.

Hastings noted that since Vatican II (1962-65), Roman Catholics have experienced tremendous changes, and that it's vital for Baptists to understand what's taking place in their churches,

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Calvin Miller, pastor of the Westside Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb., described the varieties of worship patterns in Baptist churches as he's seen them since his boyhood in Oklahoma. "When I was a boy, if we saw a Catholic we made his picture, since there were so few of them," he joked. "But since living in Omaha, I've come to know them better, since Catholics make up about 64 percent of our population."

Miller warned that in too many Baptist churches, there are, "like the ads of Holiday Inns, no surprises!"

"Predictability is a key word of Baptist worship," he explained. "You know what's going to happen next. Innovation and creativity are often lacking. Too many of our sermons are sleepy-eyed."

"Mystery and awe is also missing. I usually leave a Catholic Church with a certain amount of awe. Part of this is their architecture. In states such as Nebraska, where Southern Baptist work is relatively new, too many of our churches are boxy and bunker-like."

Miller added, however, that he wasn't speaking as a "main-line" Southern Baptist. The Omaha clergyman, quoting from an article he authored for "Christianity Today," advised ministers to read a few modern novels and attend an occasional R-rated movie, "to keep pace with the culture, to know what people are thinking." He said one can study the culture of his society without imitating it.

Miller pushed for more openness in communion, feeling the unity Christians have in Christ should count for something. "In heaven will the Catholics celebrate mass over in one corner?" he asked. "Will the Baptists serve the Lord's Supper in another?"

Msgr. Joseph M. Champlin, pastor of Holy Family Church in Fulton, N. Y., interpreted Catholic worship, drawing freely on his own experience as a parish priest.

Champlin, who said he has spoken to about 30,000 priests in practically every diocese in America, said Catholic worship should include three elements: unity, diversity, and creativity.

Champlin explained that "our Catholic liturgical books are strokes of genius." Yet they allow freedom for local diversity and creativity, such as film, visuals, dance, etc., he explained.

"Wherever you go, worldwide, you'll find the same Eucharist celebration," he continued. "This is what holds us as Catholics together, regardless of the language used. But we still urge local diversity."

"We try to blend the secular and the religious in our worship. We have the Father in heaven, but also life here on earth. Good worship makes us aware that God has broken in on human destiny. Achieving that balance is difficult."

Champlin said that when he offered his first mass in 1956, he did so in Latin, with his back to the congregation. "There was no congregational singing or response. Now the mass is in the vernacular. It also allows pauses, or periods of silence, for the people to frame their own prayers and thoughts. This makes some worshippers--the workaholic types who think you have to be doing something all the time--nervous."

"No public Catholic service ever omits the Word (the Bible). Christ's presence in the Word prepares us for the presence of Christ in the Eucharist."

Like Miller, Champlin also stressed the importance of laying on of hands, from baptism to extreme unction for the dying. He said it's very important in nursing homes to lay hands on the patients, many of whom have outlived their relatives, and miss the touch of a friendly hand.

Champlin surprised most of his Baptist listeners by saying that the Catholic ritual books now list immersion as the ideal method of baptism.

In a further effort at understanding, participants attended two worship services in Kansas City churches, one at the Englewood Baptist Church. For nine of the Catholic priests present, it was their first time in a Baptist service.

They also attended mass at St. Patrick's Church, celebrated by Kansas City Bishop John Sullivan. For seven of the Southern Baptist ministers present, it was their first mass.

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Private Educators Both
Encouraged and Warned

By Carol Franklin

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11/5/77

WASHINGTON (BP)--Non-public schools and the U. S. Office of Education have agreed to cooperate in promoting the interests of private education in the nation.

At the second annual conference on "Private Schools: Fact and Future," jointly sponsored by the Council for American Private Education (CAPE), the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the U. S. Office of Education (USOE), Ernest Boyer, Commissioner of Education, USOE, pledged to make non-public education "top priority" on his agenda.

"This administration and the Office of Education are determined to enhance the role of non-public education," Boyer said.

Boyer promised to increase the communication between government and private educators by strengthening the liaison office for non-public education in USOE. "We will give you greater visibility," he promised. He has already installed a toll-free line in his office to give educators immediate access.

Boyer also pledged "more aggressive and sustained support" of non-public schools. "Non-public school children will be fully served by the Office of Education programs for which they are eligible. Out delivery in the past has been spotty but that will be corrected," he said.

Boyer noted that there are some constitutional restraints on public aid to private education that must be observed. "Some laws are quite specific in some areas so that there are problems of interpretation in providing equitable treatment," he explained. "But the Office of Education's responsibility is not lessened. We will vigorously pursue our objectives."

Bernard Goldenberg, associate director of the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools and president of CAPE, told the conference participants that the USOE seemed to be sensitized to the needs of non-public education but "We must watch for deeds to match the words, that we receive what we should be receiving from the Office of Education."

Senator Richard Schweiker (R.-Pa.) told participants "I see good things in congress for private schools," noting that he has introduced a "Tuition Relief" measure in the senate (S.834) which will be in hearings in January 1978 before the senate finance committee.

Two legal authorities cautioned against too much optimism by private educators. Charles Whelan, professor of law, Fordham University, noted that he was sympathetic to the desires of his audience but told them, "If I were to tell you that there were no constitutional problems imaginable with tuition tax credit, I should be disbarred."

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Charles Wilson, attorney with a Washington, D. C. law firm, warned of the dangers in public aid to private school cases. He said that if the national labor relations board is denied jurisdiction over elementary and secondary school teachers in labor disputes on the grounds that that would constitute excessive governmental entanglement in pervasively religious schools, then the courts may rule against public aid to those schools.

The Council for American Private Education represents 14 national educational organizations which either serve or operate about 15,000 private elementary and secondary schools. These schools employ about 225,000 teachers and enroll nearly 4.2 million students. According to CAPE, this represents about 90 percent of all students attending private schools in the United States.

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Southern Baptists
Lead ABS Giving

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11/5/77

NEW YORK (BP)--Southern Baptists have contributed 15.8 percent of denominational gifts to the American Bible Society in 1977, according to the latest monthly report released here.

With September gifts of \$19,181, Southern Baptists have contributed \$170,148 to the work of the ABS in the first nine months of 1977. That figure is \$30,341 less than at this time last year.

Southern Baptists, who have led the nation's religious denominations in contributions to the ABS for 12 of the past 13 years, contributed 15.8 percent of all the donations listed from 76 religious organizations in the September report.

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Woman's Missionary Union
For The Laywoman Of Today

By Nancy McGough

Baptist Press
11/5/77

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Everybody's talking about the woman in ministry--the woman in full-time Christian service. Although the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) is also concerned with this issue, they have another vital interest as well--the laywoman of today.

The two top-ranking WMU leaders, Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, president, and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, affirmed this in an interview at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, where they taught a one-month course in "Church Missions Programs."

For WMU, laywomen include both working and non-working women.

"We're promoting the idea of flexible times," Mrs. Gregory said. "We need to plan specifically for the working woman at times in which she can become involved in missions education.

Miss Weatherford noted that WMU is also striving to recognize the contributions of the non-working woman.

"Some women work just so they'll feel they're achieving something. In mission action programs we need to recognize women--magnify their contributions, because they have accomplished something worthwhile through mission action," she said.

Two important words need to be added of WMU's interest in laywomen--"of today."

"We're an organization for today's woman. We've really looked at our program and the needs of the woman today, and we've reaffirmed our belief that WMU is a vital organization for the late 20th century," said Miss Weatherford.

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Both leaders agree that they have not forgotten about the woman in ministry.

"We have to recognize that God does call women, and that He calls them to be missionaries, and He calls them into areas of responsibility. Because we are the woman's organization, we need to be more aggressive in seeing that women have more opportunities," said Miss Weatherford.

"We believe that God gave woman a very special task, and we cannot tell each woman what it is--only He can. Women will have to keep on knocking on doors until they're open. But I feel that for the next 10 years, women are going to have to be their super-best--they'll have to be the exceptional woman," added Mrs. Gregory.

New advances for WMU this year include a soon-to-be appointed black consultant for WMU work. She will be working with the approximately 400 black Southern Baptist churches and will also play "a significant role with white WMU's in building bridges," Miss Weatherford said.

New materials are now available to women working in transitional churches. These "TransCom" materials will help workers involve children who have no background knowledge of the Bible or church.

Acteens, the WMU organization for teenage girls, has seen a National Acteen Advisory Panel of six girls selected from across the country to advise Acteen staff members in Birmingham, Ala. They will also write for Acteen publications and speak at conventions. In addition, "Acteens Activators", a program similar to college summer missions, has been introduced in which girls will serve in special short-term missions projects.

Finally, WMU is returning to the college campus this year with the Campus Baptist Young Women (BYW). As a part of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) already on campuses, the Campus BYW will serve as a missions activator within the BSU. This program will soon be piloted on 24 college campuses across the country.

Even with exciting new innovations like these, both Miss Weatherford and Mrs. Gregory agree that the goal of increasing missions involvement is still at the heart of all WMU work. A necessary part of that goal is fellowship among women.

"Women today still need to be together," affirmed Miss Weatherford. "It's important for the women of the church to come together to share in each other's lives and to work toward a common goal."

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Nancy McGough is a feature writer in the public relations department of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.