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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355W. 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) 741-1998
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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77-216

SBC Home Mission Board
Names Bunch Coordinator

ATLANTA (BP)--David T. Bunch, 44, has been elected director of Mission Service Corps coordination for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB).

The election came during the December meeting of the board's executive committee here. The board also named a national consultant on youth evangelism, appointed 10 missionaries, two missionary associates, three missionary associate-student and approved two pastors for language pastoral aid.

Bunch, currently area director of missions for the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship, will coordinate and expedite Home Mission Board involvement with Mission Service Corps and Volunteer Involvement in Missions (VIM).

Mission Service Corps is a denominational plan to enlist and assign 5,000 persons for volunteer service at home and abroad by 1982. Support for the volunteers will come from churches, individuals and other groups.

Bunch, who will assume his duties Jan. 15, 1978, will work with Ralph L. West, process coordinator for all inquiries and applications, and with Lewis I. Myers Jr., named in October by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to work with volunteers who wish to assist career missionaries overseas.

Bunch, a native of Eldon, Mo., is a graduate of Southwest Baptist Junior College, William Jewell College, Central Baptist Seminary and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has been pastor of churches in Missouri and a pastoral missionary in South Dakota. He has headed up pioneer mission work in Iowa, attached to the Missouri Baptist Convention. He is married to the former Norma Joann DeLozier and they have three children.

Directors also approved appointment of Dave and Tige Bennett of Tempe, Ariz., as national evangelism consultants for youth. They are missionary associates.

Bennett, a native of Joplin, Mo., was Baptist Student Union director and campus minister at Arizona State University prior to appointment. He also was BSU director at Southern Missouri State University, music and youth minister in Texas and Missouri and pastor in Oklahoma and Missouri.

Mrs. Bennett, also from Joplin, is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State College. They have three children.

Directors also were briefed in resettlement of a new wave of Indochinese refugees by Irvin Dawson, the HMB's director of refugee resettlement.

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Dawson noted some 15,000 refugees have been approved for resettlement in the United States, with an additional 10,000 expected to be approved soon.

Of that number, about 17,000 have fled communist controlled lands by putting to sea on small boats. Thailand now is turning the boats away, Dawson said, and the plight of the refugees has become desperate.

"There is an urgent need for Southern Baptists to assist in the resettlement of this new wave of refugees," Dawson said. "And so far we simply aren't receiving the kind of responses that we must have if we are to fulfill our responsibility as a denomination."

Persons wishing to sponsor refugees may contact their state conventions or Dawson at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St., NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30309.

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Home Mission Board
Approves 16 for Service

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ATLANTA (BP)--Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved 16 persons for missionary service during its December meeting here.

Appointed missionaries in cooperation with state conventions were: Russell and Helen Begaye of Fort Worth, Tex.; Barbara and Donald Laing of Hobbs, N.M.; Alna Christine Lewis of Hattiesburg, Miss.; Scott and Marydith Sanders of Baytown, Tex.; and Bill and Debra Webb of Charleston, W. Va.

Frank and Lois Ruiz of Cleveland, Miss., were named missionary associates.

Named missionary associate/student were: Betty Crow of Louisville, Ky.; Jeana Kay Fortenberry of Louisville; and Stanley Mitchell of Fort Worth.

Two pastors were approved to receive language pastoral aid, a salary supplement for new mission congregations: Joseph Cho, to continue as associate pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lakewood in Tacoma, Wash.; and Isaias Hernandez of Pontiac, Mich., to continue in Spanish work in Flint, Mich.

The Begayes will serve in Santa Fe, N. M., as directors of the Santa Fe Indian Hall. Both are American Indians: Helen is a native Choctaw and Russell, a Navajo.

Begaye, a Shiprock, N. M., native, is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Helen Shoemaker Begaye, a native of Ardmore, Okla., is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Dallas Baptist College. She served the Home Mission Board as a missionary in Albuquerque, N. M., from 1973-75.

The Laings, former Foreign Mission Board missionaries to Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, for 10 years, will serve in the Northwest Baptist Convention in metropolitan missions. Laing is a Texas native and a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Seminary and Hardin-Simmons University. He served as pastor for Calvary Baptist Church in Colorado City, Tex., and as pastor in Urbana, Ark.

Lewis, a Jackson, Miss., native, will serve as a consultant in Christian education development with the cooperative ministries with national Baptist department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. She is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Saunders will live in Santa Fe, N. M., where he will be director of associational missions for the Santa Fe Baptist Association. Sanders, a Dallas, Tex., native, is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and Southwestern Seminary.

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Prior to appointment he was associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Baytown and has served churches in Colleyville and Phillips, Tex., and Whittier, Calif. Marydith Stegemann Sanders, a San Francisco native, is a graduate of Northwestern State University in Louisiana and is a school teacher.

The Webbs will serve in Nome, Alaska, under joint appointment between the Home Mission Board's church extension and Christian social ministries departments.

Webb, an Aransas Pass, Tex., native, is a graduate of Belmont College in Nashville and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Northern Colorado. Prior to appointment he was resident counselor/chaplain for the Charleston Union Mission Settlement. He also has served as pastor of churches in Wheatland, Kemmerer and Cheyenne, Wyo., and Bamberg, West Germany. Debra Keenan Webb, a native of the Panama Canal Zone, is a licensed practical nurse.

Ruiz will serve in Spanish language missions in Clarkesdale, Miss. Ruiz, a native of Calvert, Tex., was pastor of Mexican Baptist Church in Shelby, Miss., prior to appointment.

He also has served as pastor in Adrian, Mich., Balkan, Ky., and west central Ohio. He attended Clear Creek Bible School in Kentucky, Toledo University and Siena Heights College. While in Mississippi he has served as volunteer chaplain for the Parchmen, Miss., Penitentiary. Lois Hamburg Ruiz is a Toledo, Ohio., native.

Crow, a Cleveland County, N. C., native, will serve as Louisville area social worker while attending the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and has served as a US-2 missionary for the HMB in Marietta, Ga., as well as a summer missionary.

Fortenberry, a Ringold, Ga., native, will serve as Christian Social Ministries intern while attending Southern Seminary. She is a graduate of West Georgia College in Carrollton and has served as a summer missionary for the HMB in Worchester, Mass.

Mitchell, a Gainesville, Fla., native, will serve as a Christian Social Ministries intern while attending the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a graduate of the University of South Florida in Tampa and has served as a US-2 missionary in Oklahoma City and as youth director in Tampa.

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KCIA Document May
Include WEF, Jackson Says

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press
12/9/77

DALLAS (BP)--The president of the World Evangelism Foundation (WEF) said here that the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) possibly was referring to a WEF group in a recently-discovered secret document which envisioned "manipulation" of a wide range of U. S. citizens.

"But they apparently never followed through on any such manipulation if that's what they had in mind," declared W. H. "Dub" Jackson Jr., who said that WEF has taken some 3,000 persons from 300 Baptist churches to 19 countries over the last eight years for crusades which have resulted in some 100,000 inquiries about Christ.

In a telephone interview with Baptist Press, Jackson, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Japan, said WEF, which has visited Korea four times since 1973, took a 406-member group there in 1975 which doesn't exactly match the "359-member Baptist evangelical" group mentioned in the KCIA document.

"The KCIA may have meant us, although they apparently got the number wrong," he said. "I don't know of any other Baptist group that large which has traveled there."

Others questioned by Baptist Press also didn't know of a larger group.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the world's largest evangelical missionary sending agency, said it has sent no large evangelistic group to South Korea since 1970.

WEF also took a 168-person group in 1973, a 154-person group in 1976 and a 140 person group in 1977--and plans another evangelistic campaign there in Oct., 1978. Jackson said the 406-member group went "in three waves" in June of 1975 and that some 35,000 Koreans responded to the evangelistic effort by "expressing a desire to know more about Christ."

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Jackson said that if his group was the one to which the KCIA referred, that he knows of no manipulation attempts. He said no one has attempted to get him to do anything improper and that he has received no such complaints from people who have traveled with him. "And we've had complete freedom to proclaim the gospel," he added.

The secret KCIA document, recently discovered and released by the U. S. House Subcommittee on International Organization, proposed a "1976 Plan for Operation in the United States" to "manipulate" Congress, the White House, the Pentagon, the media, the academic community and a number of religious leaders. The plan, apparently never fully implemented, envisioned influencing U. S. public opinion on the Republic of Korea (ROK).

The version of the KCIA document released by the House subcommittee deleted specific names of individuals but did reveal the manipulation plan included Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist and Holiness representatives and 50 unidentified churches in Washington, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Houston.

Baptists in the original document, Baptist Press learned, were William L. Self, pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., who said the House subcommittee had contacted him for an interview, and the unidentified "359-member" group.

In an earlier interview with Baptist Press, Self, who also serves as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's trustees, said he has "nothing to hide, . . . no one has attempted to get me to do anything improper . . . and I saw it (a 1975 trip to Korea) as a unique opportunity to witness for my faith in Jesus Christ to a foreign head of state."

Jackson, who had received no contact from the House subcommittee as of a Dec. 9, said WEF groups have been given no special favors to induce travel to Korea, but he noted that some members of his groups attended a dinner on one trip and a breakfast on another trip at the invitation of the KCIA to hear about Korea.

"We saw that as a typical, routine Chamber of Commerce-type thing, which would be natural for any country which wishes to share its views with foreigners," Jackson said. "But there was no way they could have manipulated us, since we were there at our own expense to witness for Jesus Christ and since our people, in pre-travel orientation, had been warned strongly to avoid becoming involved in the country's politics. That's a standard warning for every country we visit."

Jackson said that anytime persons travel abroad, especially on evangelistic efforts, they face certain risks. "But if we have to run the risk of getting on a KCIA list, which certainly was unexpected, or of facing other dangers, we must respond to the call of Christ to share our faith," Jackson declared. "Korea is one of the most spiritually responsive fields to be found anywhere in the world."

Recent reports in Baptist Press corroborate the view of Korea as "spiritually responsive." In recent months, reports on Southern Baptist foreign mission work have indicated that some 5,000 South Korean prisoners and soldiers have made professions of faith, a phenomenon which has been in progress for several years. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, which began work in Korea in 1950, currently has 76 missionaries assigned there. The Korea Baptist Convention, with which Southern Baptist work is affiliated, has 484 churches, with 26,046 members.

Jackson, a 17-year foreign mission veteran, left Southern Baptist foreign mission service in 1968 to launch a ministry which developed into the World Evangelism Foundation. WEF, which plans evangelistic campaigns to nine countries in 1978, including Korea, uses teams of Baptist laity and clergy from the States to conduct crusades and personal witnessing at the invitation of national Baptist conventions and/or national Baptist leaders in the countries they visit.