



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 18, 1978

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## Alley Leaves Religion Department To Chair New Area Studies Program

RICHMOND (BP)--Robert S. Alley, until recently chairman of the department of religion at the University of Richmond, has been appointed chairman of the newly created area studies program.

Alley, a tenured professor, reportedly requested the transfer following a heated response from many Virginia Baptists, when he told a group of atheists in an address Dec. 6 that Jesus "...never really claimed to be God or to be related to Him."

University of Richmond President E. Bruce Heilman said the new position had been planned "for some time prior to all that has transpired." The area studies program will provide interdisciplinary study in American studies, classical civilization, Russian area studies, and urban studies.

University trustees met on several occasions in the days following Alley's address and on December 23 Heilman, who earlier had apologized for Alley's comments, reported Alley would, at his own request, be named to a new position "where he might be more effective under the circumstances."

Apparently the courses Alley was scheduled to teach in the department of religion have been removed from that department but not cancelled.

Heilman told the Religious Herald, the Virginia Baptist paper, "Before Dr. Alley's speech had taken place, students had registered for courses for the second semester. These courses have been listed since the catalog was issued a year ago. Students planned their year's activities and even their graduation requirements around these arrangements."

"The university has contracted with them in good faith, and they have made their plans and accepted our offer of these courses in good faith. They and we feel that our credibility and our ethics are at stake in dealing with them. Thus, in keeping with our commitments, these courses are being offered." Alley is not scheduled to teach courses in Bible.

Heilman said that "Dr. Alley's own professional and personal interests have been moving in the direction of the area to which he is being assigned." For example, Alley and Irby B. Brown, acting chairman of the university's English department, have received a \$35,000 grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy to sponsor two workshops on television in Richmond and for the production of a video tape of interviews with television industry representatives this summer in Hollywood.

Alley's new assignment will be general administrative responsibility for the four area concentrations in the area studies program. Each program, according to the president, will be supervised by a coordinating committee of faculty.

No announcement has been made concerning chairmanship for the department of religion.

**Black Woman Named  
Consultant for WMU/HMB**

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--A black woman has been named consultant in cooperative ministries with National Baptists in a joint effort of the Home Mission Board and the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Margaret Perkins, 30, of Birmingham, will begin as consultant on Jan. 30, with an office in Birmingham. Emmanuel McCall, director of the Home Mission Board's Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists, said she will work mostly in Birmingham with the WMU but her salary will be paid by the Home Mission Board.

The Home Mission Board and the WMU have shared consultants in the past but this is the first time a consultant has been named to work with the predominantly black National Baptist groups.

The WMU has wanted to have a black person help in preparation of mission action materials, McCall said. The majority of Perkins' work will be with the WMU and she will be available as a consultant to the Home Mission Board.

"They also felt that because of the large number of black Baptist churches in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), they needed someone to help relate SBC structure and terminology to these black churches," McCall said. "Some National Baptist WMU's were attempting to relate to SBC WMU's and this person will be able to assist in that role."

Perkins and her husband, Bill, were serving as appointed home missionaries when she accepted the new position. Her husband will continue as director of interracial ministries in Birmingham. "They are both talented persons with a lot to offer," McCall said.

Perkins, a Tuscaloosa, Ala., native, is a graduate of the University of Louisville and Bennett College, Greensboro, N. C. She holds a master of arts degree from Wellesley (Mass.) College.

Before her appointment as missionary to the Birmingham area in 1976, she was a teacher in the Newport News, Va., city schools. She also has worked as a teacher at Talladega College in Alabama and in a government program in Washington, D. C.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers by the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

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Trustees Name Rust  
As Anderson President

Baptist Press  
1/18/78

ANDERSON, S. C. (BP)--Ray P. Rust, executive vice-president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, has been elected president of Anderson (S. C.) College, effective March 1.

A native of Shreveport, La., Rust, 52, is a graduate of Louisiana College and New Orleans Seminary. He was a pastor in Louisiana until joining the New Orleans Seminary staff in 1971 as vice president. He was acting president of the seminary in 1974 between the presidencies of Grady Cothen and Landrum P. Leavell. He became executive vice president in 1975.

The five-member search committee headed by Charles W. Shacklette, Anderson pastor, took five months following the resignation of Cordell Maddox, to name a new president.

Maddox, who had been president for five years, resigned to become president of Carson-Newman College in Tennessee.

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Rust is a former president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and also has been chairman of the State Baptist Executive Board. He is married to the former Joy Stagg, daughter of a Louisiana Baptist pastor. They have two married daughters.

Anderson's academic dean, Paul A. Talmadge, has been acting president at the Southern Baptist junior college, which has an enrollment of 1,150 students.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers by the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

WRAPUP

WMU Studies Mission Advance,  
Dedicates New Building

Baptist Press  
1/18/78

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--During its executive board meeting here, Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), approved organizational plans for 1979-80, studied WMU's role in the Bold Mission Thrust and North Central Missions Thrust emphases, and dedicated its building expansion.

Mrs. J. Frank Gilreath Jr., of Charlotte, vice-president from North Carolina, presided over the meetings in the absence of Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, national WMU president, who is convalescing from recent surgery.

Board members agreed that WMU's muscle in 1979-80 would be thrown behind a change in Baptist lifestyle to divert more resources into mission support. The WMU emphasis will be called "Life-changing Commitments." It embraces and slants all WMU studies and activities outlined in a 446-page document called the WMU Dated Plan 1979-80.

The five-floor, \$500,000 addition to national office building was dedicated during the week. The building and associated remodeling is being completed two months ahead of schedule and is already three-fourths paid for from cash and interest on hand, with no funds borrowed.

Carolyn Weatherford, national WMU executive director, gave an update on the SBC's emphasis on the Bold Mission Thrust to reach the world for Christ and on the connected projects of Prayer Alert Network, Mission Service Corps and Volunteers in Missions.

In stressing the need for missionary volunteers, she reminded the general session that "special projects missionaries will not replace the need for career missionaries" and must not replace that need in our thoughts regarding volunteer service.

Miss Weatherford suggested that the board and state WMU staffs might return to some of their historic strong points such as action in public affairs, specializing in ministries to women, and campaigning for WMU organizations in every church.

"We should crusade for what is right in our society today," she said. "We should rediscover our old idea of 'Woman's Mission to Woman' as women in our nation are beset with alcoholism and emotional illness."

She emphasized that WMU leaders should give prime effort to establishing some form of WMU action in the 35 percent of Southern Baptist churches that report no WMU organization at present.

Summarizing strides taken by the WMU staff in the past year, she cited contacts with Baptist college presidents, state convention executive secretaries, state Baptist paper editors, associational directors of missions, missionaries, and seminaries.

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Helen (Mrs. Robert) Fling, WMU promotion associate in areas new to Southern Baptist work, spoke on the progress of the North Central Missions Thrust, a plan of seven North Central states to double Baptist work there by 1990. She impressed on the assembly, "It is more than a North Central or a Bold Mission Thrust, it is God's thrust for us." Mrs. Fling reported on the response to WMU's prayer partner project matching North Central states with partnership states throughout the convention.

Also during the week, state WMU staff and Executive Board members heard a forum on women in missions presented by Foreign Mission Board employee Edna Francis Dawkins; Helen Falls, missions professor from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and furloughing missionaries, Nancy Lee Bridges of Philippines, Joy Fenner of Japan, Estelle Freeland of Ivory Coast, Sistle Givens of South Brazil, and Betty McKinley of Bangladesh.

In an update on home missions, William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, commended WMU, saying, "Home missions owes WMU a debt for the leadership they have given through promoting financial and prayer support over the years." Tanner presented a handcarved dulcimer, representing home missions in Appalachia, for display in the WMU building.

Three area secretaries from the Foreign Mission Board brought greetings from Baker J. Cauthen, executive director, who is recovering from a heart attack, and told of work in their areas and Bold Mission plans in foreign missions. Cauthen thanked WMU "for support in prayer for missions around the world, support in depth of mission study and the leadership in giving for the cause of missions."

Davis L. Saunders, secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, challenged WMU to keep abreast of world disaster and hunger. "A way must be found to keep Southern Baptists involved in emergency relief," he said, "not just during offering time."

The three area secretaries stressed the need for continued prayer support and increased financial support. "The devaluation of the American dollar hurts," said William R. Wakefield, secretary for Southeast Asia. "So far the increase in Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Offering receipts has just kept us one step ahead of inflation."

J. Bryan Brasington, secretary for Western South America, voiced concern for political changes in South America and throughout the world. "Missionaries make some preparation for military coups and the like. But for long term problems we see the 'house church' as the means by which Baptist work can longer exist under Communism."

The board voted to increase the goals for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions by 10 percent each year through 1982.

In earlier sessions, the second Acteens National Advisory Panel members and its alternates were announced. Acteens is the WMU program for girls in grades 6-12. The six panelists are Toni Lynn Berry, Pensacola, Fla.; Cindy Funke, Mount Pleasant, S. C.; Joy Long, Coffeyville, Kan.; Kim Nolen, Redlands, Cal.; Jeanie Ragland, Jacksonville, Fla.; and Lisa Stockard, Nashville, Tenn. Named as alternates were Leslie Lane Gibson, Ft. Smith, Ark.; Amy Inman, Florissant, Mo.; and Amy Lee Mears, Florence, S. C.

In other board action, a balance of \$334,751 in the 1976-77 Contingent Reserve Fund (now called undesignated Reserve Fund) was applied to increases in employee compensation, to building and furnishing the new addition to the WMU office, and to the Reserve for Contingencies Fund (formerly called Union Reserve Fund).

Also approved were the creation of a new position of librarian, which will be filled by Mrs. Betty Hurtt of Birmingham; and the report of the auditors, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company as of September 30, 1977.

The new WMU consultant for cooperative ministries with National (black) Baptists, Mrs. Margaret Perkins, was introduced to the board. Mrs. Perkins' office will be in Birmingham, administered by WMU, but her position is funded by the Home Mission Board.

WMU also decided to enter into contract with Broadman Division, Baptist Sunday School Board, to produce a new biography of Lottie Moon in June 1980. The author will be Catherine B. Allen, assistant to the WMU executive director. WMU asked Broadman to produce and market a filmstrip about the work Mission Friends, WMU program for preschoolers.

In the final session, Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, told the Board that the term "Bold Mission" was first used by former national WMU president, Mrs. R. L. Mathis, in advance planning done in 1968.

Routh urged WMU to continue to contribute to the success of the movement to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world by stressing missions education for every Baptist, pushing the study of missions in the Bible, getting people involved in volunteer and career missions opportunities, and promoting the Cooperative Program more boldly.

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Campbell Named  
News Supervisor

Baptist Press  
1/18/78

NASHVILLE (BP)--Bracey (Buzz) Campbell, managing editor of the Nashville Banner, has accepted the position of supervisor of the news and information section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's office of communications, effective Jan. 23.

Campbell, 30, who has been directly responsible for the news operation of the afternoon daily paper, will also work with the Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He joined the Banner in 1971. He has worked on the copy desk, as a political reporter and chief political reporter and became managing editor in January 1976. Prior to 1971 Campbell worked for the Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger for six years.

At the Sunday School Board he will direct an expanded and more aggressive coverage of the Sunday School Board's mission and work, according to Lloyd Householder, director of communications. "Bracey Campbell brings a new quality of media experience which the board needs to better inform persons in Southern Baptist churches and the public at large."

"We are happy to welcome a man of Mr. Campbell's ability and rich background," said Grady C. Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board. "His understanding of the news field and warm acceptance by the general public will greatly enhance the news service of the board. We're delighted at the coming of this dedicated, Christian newsman."

A graduate of Mississippi College, Campbell is a deacon at Nashville's First Baptist Church, a member of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the board of trust of Nashville's Baptist Hospital, and the Exchange Club. He also is president-elect of the Tennessee Associated Press Managing Editors' Association.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers by the Sunday School Board.

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Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

# --FEATURES

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January 18, 1978

**Baptists Shedding  
'Red-Neck' Image**

By Adon Taft

MIAMI, Fla. (BP)--Jimmy Carter certainly advanced the role of peanut farmer, but he did little to shuck the image of the Southern Baptist.

Even those who know something about this largest Protestant denomination in the United States are likely to stereotype its members as white southerners with red-necked opinions on religion, politics and world issues.

But Ramon Mesa, Havana-born teacher and draftsman, doesn't fit the stereotype. Neither does David A. Morgan, Nicaraguan-born Jamaican. Nor do Luc Dominique, a French-speaking Haitian; Clyde Judson, a native South Florida black shoe repairman; or Lee Graham, a native of Jamestown, N. Y., who never knew anything about Southern Baptists until his stint in the Navy. All are Southern Baptist ministers.

And consider Miami's Chinese Baptists (Cantonese and Mandarin), its Russian-Ukrainian congregation, its Arab Baptists, or the two Miccosukee Indian congregations. Or its Haitian, Jamaican, and American black Baptists.

This diversity is the newfound strength of the 13 million member Southern Baptist convention.

"Since I was saved in Haiti," said Dominique, "I worked with Baptist missionaries and there was never any problem of segregation."

The five pastors recently brought their churches into the increasingly diverse and growing Miami Baptist Association.

Miami's historically changing ethnic makeup and proximity to the Caribbean, and Central and South America made Miami a mission field as well as a hub for Protestant mission organizations. It's that diversity that is becoming the common thread among the 76 Baptist churches and 41 missions in the Baptist association, whose members worship in seven languages.

Two developments made a significant change in the Dade County Protestant dominated religious scene after World War II.

"Miami Beach became the first major resort city on the eastern seaboard to take down the barrier to Jews being accepted as first-class citizens," said Lloyd Whyte, director of interfaith witness for the Baptist Association.

Then there was desegregation. "By 1954, some of the churches were relaxing their white-only policies," Whyte said. "The Catholic Church was able to move faster than others."

But Baptists soon caught up with five all black congregations, two congregations integrated on a 50-50 basis, and more than 15 other congregations with substantial black memberships.

"I was not influenced by what people said about Southern Baptists, but by the way they acted," said Clyde Judson, the 55-year-old Pompano Beach native whose 150-member congregation joined the association. "They provided so many helps for black ministers and their churches."

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The next watershed came in 1960 with the influx of Cuba's refugees. Within 17 years, 40 percent of Dade's population was Spanish-speaking. And in those 17 years Catholic Church membership jumped from 185,000 in 16 South Florida counties to nearly 500,000 in Dade County alone.

But in the last 10 years, Baptists have started the catchup again.

Richard Bryant, director of missions for the Baptist association, reports a 225 percent increase in Spanish-speaking Baptists in that decade.

John Pistone, Argentine-born director of language missions for the association, said only the Catholic Church has more Hispanic members or as many other ethnic and language groups as Southern Baptists.

Dade County's Southern Baptists have the resources for growth: \$40 million in property and buildings, nearly 18,000 trained workers, a \$7 million annual church income.

They run literacy and self-help programs in the ghettos, similar programs among the migrant farm workers, counseling and activities programs for juvenile offenders and adults in jail, interfaith understanding projects with Jews and Catholics, and they also run an orphanage.

And they have an advantageous location.

Miami's role as headquarters for more than half a dozen missionary organizations serving the Caribbean and Latin America fits with the mission-minded zeal of the Baptists.

It's also the largest cruise port in the nation serving more than a million people a year. More than 12 million people pass through its airport each year. Sailors speaking Norwegian, Dutch, Creole, Chinese, Tagalog (the predominant Filipino dialect), Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and English serve the cargo ships that use Dodge Island and Miami River ports. More than 440,000 Latin tourists visit every year.

From this vantage, Miami's Baptists believe they can reach out and touch the whole world with the gospel in the spirit of Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist goal to reach the entire world with the gospel by the year 2000.

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Adon Taft is the Miami Herald Religion Editor.

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Sermon Comes With Blast,  
Pastor Responds To Tragedy

Baptist Press  
1/18/78

GOLDONNA, La. (BP)--Sometimes sermon illustrations seem to jump out of the air. Dean Hedrick, pastor of the Goldonna Baptist Church, had one arrive with a blast.

Hedrick was preparing his sermon, "What is Life?" Dec. 28, when a freight train collided with a trailer rig loaded with logs, causing derailment of 17 cars and exploding a 32,000-gallon tank of LP gas. The explosion sent flames 250 feet into the air, destroyed five houses and a store, partially damaged four houses and rocked Hedrick's study as it cut a swath through the tiny town.

Two train crew members were killed and a tank of deadly chlorine gas was overturned, threatening to send out a cloud of poisonous fumes. Hedrick said later he thought a cyclone had hit when the church building shook violently from the explosion.

When he learned of the potential danger from the overturned chlorine tank, Hedrick commandeered vehicles and drivers, evacuating Goldonna's 200 residents in about 35 minutes. He then took a leading role in evacuating 500 people living within a few miles of Goldonna. Eventually, people within a 10-mile radius were rushed out of the area.

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Fortunately, the chlorine tank did not spring a leak and its contents were safely removed by the railroad.

Hedrick continued to work with the evacuees. For two days and nights he did not sleep, working with the Red Cross from his study--now turned command post--in seeing that shelter, food and other necessities were provided. The church's gymnasium was used as a receiving center.

When the crises was over sheriff's officers praised Hedrick for his leadership, saying "Goldonna was fortunate in having a man like Hedrick at a time like this."

And Hedrick had his sermon.

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Kentucky Baptist Says Build  
Creative Worship By Design

Baptist Press  
1/18/78

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP)--James Rennell, an associate in the Sunday School department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention with responsibilities for promoting church architecture, has some ideas of his own on the physical requirements of Baptist churches.

"No business in the world would put as much money into a product and use it as little and get as little return on its investment as do Baptist churches," he observes. "We simply aren't being good stewards of the opportunities that are ours in the majority of our concepts about church structures."

Rennell cites multiple use of facilities, multiple worship services and facilities designed for worship experiences which provide for drama and audiovisuals as three alternatives to the problem.

"In the traditional Baptist church we don't build buildings on the basis of experience but on function," Rennell admonishes. "The idea seems to be how many people we can get into one place at one time."

Rennell preaches a 'family' concept for today's church architecture. He points to the standard Georgian architecture adopted by numerous Baptist churches--white columns, red brick facades and long, long auditoriums--as the biggest offenders.

"We line people up in rows 190 feet from the back to the front and then expect them to 'participate' in worship," he says. "No father would put up with the idea that he has a family with each child eating in a different room. Nor is such a philosophy practical for the family of God." He feels worship theology has moved away from "the preacher is proclaimer."

"Today emphasis has shifted," declares Rennell. "We view worship more as drama, audiovisuals, dialog and music. When you get into these, the visual takes over. The congregation becomes involved in what is happening. A good choir simply can't sing so it can be thoroughly understood and appreciated 190 feet away."

"For the future," he suggests, "the circular or theater-in-the-round sanctuary is the ideal answer. Here the action is brought almost within reach of the people, where they can experience and be a part of it."

Rennell, 40, holds the doctor of ministry degree from Nashville's Vanderbilt University. A Detroit native, he has served pastorates across Indiana and Kentucky. He came to his present position in Middletown, Ky., one year ago from First Baptist Church, Madisonville, Ky., where he was minister of education.

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