



May 12, 1978

78-75

Summer Missions:
Trying, Rewarding

By Everett Hullum

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Cornelius Barnes and Lillian Moore should have been relieved when their trying sessions with children from a poor neighborhood came to an end.

Instead the two had mixed emotions about leaving their 1977 summer mission assignment in Louisville, Ky. When they left, Clarence and Bobby, two youngsters out of the Clarksdale housing project, still had discipline problems.

While on an outing at Cox Park along the banks of the Ohio River, Clarence jumped into the river with his clothes on, talked a couple into giving him a sandwich and some chips, led the children in a song using offensive language, and tried desperately to open the van door when he learned that the group would not make any more stops before returning to the Jefferson Street Chapel.

Wrestling with Clarence's persistent uneasiness left Barnes with a sense of failure. Yet, he has not lost hope on Clarence or any of the children.

"They just need attention, and they really want it," he says. "And they'll do some horrible things to get it."

Once, Lillian Moore scolded Bobby, who had pushed another child to the ground and walked away. She began singing, "Jesus loves me when I'm bad, but it makes him very sad."

"They just need attention. That's why I got into summer missions," she says, "to help some kids that were brought up in a community like we lived in growing up."

Since Barnes and Miss Moore were reared in poverty, they are aware of the needs of these children. Barnes, ninth child and seventh son of a farm laborer, grew up in a two-room house in Arkansas. Miss Moore and her three brothers and sisters were reared by a grandmother in Selma, Ala.

Both the children and the missionaries learned from the experience of summer missions.

"I tried to understand them, to let them know that I wasn't rich, that I was from the same background they were. And that God loved them and I loved them too," Miss Moore said.

The summer missionaries developed such a closeness with some of the children that Barnes said, "Wherever I went, they'd go. If I lay down, they lay down. Whatever I would do they would want to do with me."

As two of 1,300 college students sent out each summer by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to perform various mission projects, Barnes and Miss Moore received a \$300 stipend for the ten-week assignment and transportation to and from the field. Room and board is provided by a local association and/or church.

As summer missions supervisor, Lincoln Bingham, pastor of West End Baptist Church and Home Mission Board missionary in Louisville, and his director of weekday activities, plunged the two students into a grueling schedule. For the first two weeks, they worked from early morning until late evening.

"To ask somebody to come right in and do 14 hours a day for two straight weeks, you kind of expect them to say 'Hey, that's a little rough.' But we had no complaints from them," Bingham said.

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The missionaries gave the children moral lessons during the storytelling period. With a Dr. Seuss story, Barnes brought the kids out of boredom and involved them, turning a story about stubbornness into a lesson of cooperation, compromise, and willingness to help others.

Hours of hard work continued throughout the summer--planning stories, recreation, writing associational newsletters, and assessing the weekday ministries.

Exhausting work, low pay. Yet the emotional and spiritual rewards to both Barnes and Moore are priceless.

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(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Atlanta Bureau of Baptist Press.

Backpacking Pastor
Packs His Schedule

Baptist Press
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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--At first glance, 28-year-old Steve Hoekstra, of New Castle, Colo., looks like anything but a pastor.

Clad in blue jeans and worn hiking boots, sporting a bushy red beard and long hair, the young Southern Baptist admits he is often mistaken for a hippie.

Actually, Hoekstra, of Dutch descent, serves as pastor of Grand River Baptist Church and a small mission on a \$5,300 annual salary, directs a backpacking program on a volunteer basis for Colorado Southern Baptists and conducts at least three ongoing community ministries.

Hoekstra talked about the relatively new backpacking program while attending the annual Brotherhood Leadership Conference. He trains backpack leaders and plans seven backpacking trips for youth annually, with two of them co-ed in nature.

About 100 Baptist high school youth participate in the program each year, learning campcraft skills, taking part in Bible study and permitting nature to help them make spiritual applications to their lives, Hoekstra said.

Don't co-ed backpacking trips create boy-girl problems?

"Absolutely not," Hoekstra insisted. "I've been leading co-ed groups for four years and haven't had my first problem yet. If anything, they are more respectful of each other than groups of the same sex."

Hoekstra came to the 93-member Grand River church right after he graduated from Grand Canyon Baptist College in Phoenix, Ariz., nearly two years ago. He has since started White River Baptist Mission 70 miles away in Meeker, Colo.

Hoekstra's Sunday mornings begin with Bible study and worship at New Castle. Then he takes his wife and baby to Meeker for afternoon Bible study and worship services, and returns to New Castle for Church Training and evening worship.

He conducts mid-week prayer services at New Castle on Wednesday night and at Meeker on Thursday night. During the week, Hoekstra, who majored in fine arts and minored in Bible in college, teaches three classes in drawing and pottery at a junior high school.

"The kids in New Castle are stifled," Hoekstra said. "Pottery gives them an outlet." New Castle is one of the new boom towns where oil shale is mined as an energy source.

Hoekstra is also beginning a ministry to prisoners in the county jail in Glenwood Springs, 14 miles away, that has already seen two prisoners on work release become Christians.

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Home Board Votes
Personnel Changes

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board named C. Kirk Hadaway of Amherst, Mass., as research data management consultant and took several other personnel actions during the May meeting of the board's executive committee.

Directors shifted two staff members, accepted a resignation, named four missionary associates, and approved 13 pastors for salary supplements.

Hadaway, completing doctoral studies in the sociology of religion at the University of Massachusetts, will join the staff, July 1. His responsibilities will include management of all data processing related to research projects, planning and programming research, and coordinating and analyzing computerized data research.

He grew up in Tallahassee, Fla., and Memphis, Tenn., and he is a graduate of Southwestern College and Memphis State University.

Two staffers--Peter Chen and Jerry B. Graham--were assigned to new responsibilities and another, Emery B. Smith, associate director of special missions ministries, resigned to become director of campus ministries for the South Carolina Baptist Convention. He has been on the board staff since April, 1970.

Chen, who joined the board's staff, Dec. 1, 1976, as assistant director of the department of language missions, was reassigned as assistant director, department of interfaith witness, world religions.

Born in Shanghai, China, he has been affiliated with the board since 1951, when he was a student missionary in Augusta, Ga. In 1952, he moved to San Francisco as pastor of First Chinese Southern Baptist Church and Chinese Grace Baptist Church.

In his new post, Chen will assist Southern Baptists "to understand and bear an effective witness to adherents of non-Christian world religions, including Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Bahai, and tribal religions and their derivations," a spokesman said.

Graham, who also joined the staff in 1976, was reassigned from his post as associate director of associational administration services to associate director, department of missionary personnel. He will assist in recruiting, screening and recommending candidates for missionary appointment.

He is a native of Randlett, Okla., and grew up in Plainview and Lubbock, Texas. Before joining the board staff, he directed missions in the Susquehanna Baptist Association, Aberdeen, Md., and served pastorates in Westminster and Sterling, Va., and Edna Hill and Seven Sisters, Texas.

Cherry Chang of Los Angeles, Calif., was appointed to serve as a catalytic missionary to the Chinese in California. Mrs. Chang, a widow of the former pastor of the Mandarin Baptist Church of Los Angeles, holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Shanghai, a master of theology degree from the China Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctor of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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She is a native Chinese who taught in China before arriving in the U. S. She serves as a member of the board of directors for the Foreign Mission Board.

Patricia O'Brien of New Orleans will work as a social worker at Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center. She is a native of Cleveland, Miss., and a graduate of Mississippi College and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Juan Vergara and his wife, Elsie, will serve in Puerto Rico, where he will be director of evangelism for Puerto Rico. Vergara, a native of Cuba, is a graduate of Tennessee Christian University. He has served as pastor of the Baptist Church in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and in cities in Texas.

Elsie Rodriguez Vergara, a Puerto Rican native, works as a clinical instructor in occupational therapy for the University of Puerto Rico.

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Miss. Baptist Race
Cooperation Closer

Baptist Press
5/12/78

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss. (BP)--The separation of black and white Baptists in Mississippi, that resembled "two railroad tracks running side by side--never touching," according to Dick Brogan of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board staff, may be near an end.

A plan for cooperation between the two races in an evangelistic endeavor called Good News Mississippi, is taking shape under the direction of a biracial committee jointly headed by Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Richard Porter, a black Columbia pastor and president of the East Mississippi Missionary Baptist Convention.

The committee, with representation from Southern Baptists and most of the National Baptist conventions in the state, has scheduled a major kickoff rally for March 23, 1979 that will start a month of simultaneous revivals in black and white churches all over Mississippi.

Preparation for these revivals will include regionally scheduled training for black and white pastors to train them to lead lay evangelism schools.

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Women Increase
On SBC Boards

By David R. Wilkinson

Baptist Press
5/12/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--When the Southern Baptist Convention meets in Atlanta, June 13-15, it's expected to continue a recent trend that has seen an increase each year in the number of women serving on the boards of SBC agencies.

The denomination's Committee on Boards will recommend 216 persons to serve full or partial terms on boards of 19 national SBC organizations. At least 19 of those persons will be women.

A precise figure is unattainable because selections for nine vacancies will not be completed until the committee meets just prior to the convention, and several of those recommendations may be women.

If the committee's report receives standard approval by convention messengers, it will assure the denomination of having at least seven more women on the boards of its agencies during 1978-79 than in the current year. The remainder of the 19 women on the committee's list already serve on boards and either will be re-elected to second terms or will fill positions vacated by women.

A study of Southern Baptist Convention Annuals documents the slow but steady increase in representation by women on boards of SBC organizations. In a six-year period the percentage of women on boards has increased from 4.7 percent in 1972-73 (38 of 802) to 8.6 percent in 1977-78 (73 of 352).

The numerical increase, from 1972-73 to 1977-78, has been 38, 40, 41, 53, 62, and 73, while the percentage of women on boards has also increased --4.7, 5.0, 5.1, 6.6, 7.8, and 8.6.

The most significant increases have come since 1974, when the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission presented a recommendation to the SBC in Dallas calling for an amendment to the convention's constitution and bylaws which would have required that at least one-fifth of the total members of boards, commissions and standing committees be women.

The recommendation, defeated by a vote of SBC messengers, asked "that our churches and denominational agencies bear witness to the rest of society by rejecting discrimination against women in job placement, by providing equal pay for equal work, and by electing women to positions of leadership for which God's gifts and the Holy Spirit's calling equip them."

Although the denomination is still far from the one-fifth minimum, a substantial effort is apparently being made to provide for more equitable representation by women on boards of agencies.

At the time of the 1974 convention, only one agency, the Home Mission Board, was near the recommended 20 percent minimum. In 1977-78, women constituted more than 20 percent of the boards of four agencies, the Historical Commission (23.5 percent), Christian Life Commission (23.3), Home Mission Board (20.2), and Foreign Mission Board (20.2).

Those agencies are followed by the Stewardship Commission, which has had an increase from one woman in 1974-75 to four women on its board of 26 (15.3 percent) in 1977-78.

Women, however, make up only 7.7 percent to none of the membership of the boards of other SBC organizations. Five of the 65 Executive Committee members (7.7 percent) this year are women. Four of the Sunday School Board's 84 trustees (4.8 percent) are women, and one each of the Annuity Board's 82 members (1.2 percent) and the Southern Baptist Foundation's 35 members (2.9 percent).

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has four women on its board of 61 this year (6.6 percent), while the other five seminaries; Golden Gate, Midwestern, New Orleans, Southeastern and Southwestern, each have one woman on their boards.

American Baptist Theological Seminary, jointly supported by Southern Baptists and National Baptists, has two women on its 16-member Southern Baptist commission (12.5 percent).

The Education Commission in 1977-78 has one woman out of 17 members (5.9 percent), while the Brotherhood Commission, which sponsors work for men and boys, and the Radio and Television Commission, have no women on their boards. (The Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary to the SBC, has no men currently serving on its board, which is made up of state WMU presidents.)

Board membership is determined not by the agencies but by the Committee on Boards, a 52-member committee comprised of two representatives from each state convention in the SBC.

If the Committee on Boards' list of recommendations for board members is approved by this year's convention as expected, the Brotherhood Commission and the Radio and Television Commission will be the only agencies of these 19 organizations with no women serving on their boards.

Ky., Tenn. React To
Federal Retirement Law

NASHVILLE (BP)--Executive boards of two state Baptist conventions have taken differing actions on retirement of state Baptist executive secretaries and other employees in reaction to a new federal retirement law.

The Kentucky Baptist executive board revised its policy and asked Kentucky chief executive, W. Franklin Owen, who would have retired on Dec. 31, 1978, to continue up to five more years.

But the Tennessee Baptist board tabled a motion which would have allowed a similar extension to its chief executive, Ralph Norton, and other board employees. Norton would be scheduled to retire by Dec. 31 under present personnel policy. A search committee is currently seeking his successor.

Both Owen and Norton will be 65 during 1978.

The new federal retirement law, which stipulates that persons may not be forced to retire before age 70 from organizations employing 20 or more persons, goes into effect, Jan. 1, 1979.

In Kentucky, the executive board made sweeping changes in its retirement policy by a slim majority on a standing vote, and then approved a specific motion for retention of Owen beyond his Dec. 31 retirement date by a large margin. After that vote, they dissolved the committee seeking Owen's successor.

However, they did pass a resolution reflecting a motion by Harold Wainscott, a pastor from Latonia, Ky., who expressed concern that "Baptists should be careful in giving the appearance of approving the latest governmental dictate and intervention into retirement plans of churches and religious institutions."

The new Kentucky retirement policy recognizes the right of employees to terminate their service at age 65, in keeping with the federal law, but it allows present employees to continue until age 70. It also states that new employees of the executive board will be given contracts specifying dates of their terminations. Unless requested by the board to remain longer, employees would retire at that time.

Owen, who accepted the board's invitation to go beyond his previous retirement date, said, "I don't feel that this old horse is plumb done. I don't honestly feel that this is the time for me to lay it down. I do not foresee any desire to work until age 70. But, for now, we go on."

In the discussion before the Tennessee board, one member observed that the debate actually revolved around "one minute of time"--between the midnight retirement deadline on Dec. 31 and the effective date of the law on January 1.

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Miss. Assembly
Rebirth Complete

Baptist Press
5/12/78

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss. (BP)--Nine years after its destruction by Hurricane Camille, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly has been completely rebuilt.

James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, who gave the dedicatory address for the first Gulfshore Assembly in 1960, again led dedication services for the 500 who attended.

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The assembly, situated on the tranquil waters of Bay St. Louis, is a nine-acre tract with 600 feet of sandy beach front. A large swimming pool, fishing pier, boat slips, tennis courts, and softball field combine for varied recreational interests.

The auditorium building has movable seating for 600 as well as 10 classrooms and dressing facilities for the adjacent pool. There are sleeping accommodations for 344, offices, four classrooms, cafeteria and bookstore and gift shop.

The only building not destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1969, a gymnasium, was later gutted by fire.

Summer conferences are dominated by sessions related to program responsibilities of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which operates the assembly for Mississippi Baptists. Open dates are available for associational and church groups, both in and out of state.

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Greatest Days Are Ahead,
Sunday School Directors Say

By Bracey Campbell

Baptist Press
5/12/78

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss. (BP)--Five state Sunday School directors predicted a surge in Sunday School enrollment across the convention at the conclusion of a three-day planning session at the Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

"This has been a stimulating meeting for all of us," said Don Watterson. "A new creativity and a much improved working relationship between the personnel from the Sunday School Board in Nashville and those of us in the field is evident."

The Alabama worker said the 37 directors profited from their initial meeting with Harry Piland, named Sunday School director at the board three months ago.

Watterson said Piland brings a "new sense of urgency of the need for winning people to Christ."

There's much to be done in all areas of Sunday School work, he said, "but we were able to divide that workload into bite-size chunks at this meeting."

Maryland's director, Charles R. Barnes, said he sensed an exciting new style of leadership in Piland and the other personnel in the department.

"I see a wedding of the Nashville efforts and the state efforts that I have never witnessed. Out of this will come a unified Sunday School program," Barnes said.

He said the new areas of growth and goals outlined at the meeting--centered around the Southern Baptist Bold Mission Thrust strategy of taking the gospel to all the world by the year 2000--"will open new doors for all of us."

"The emphasis being placed on the Sunday Schools in the small churches is the most encouraging word for me," said Lawson Hatfield, director in Arkansas. "This is just one of the ways," Hatfield said, "that we must continue improving and innovating our methods to take Bible study to the masses."

Florida director James Frost said the opportunities that state workers have for input into the programs and plans being coordinated at the board in Nashville is greater than ever.

"The five-year growth plan and the ways that we will be working with Bold Mission Thrust are very exciting. There's no question that our greatest days as a convention are just ahead," Frost said.

The emphasis on starting new Sunday Schools--with a goal of 1,500 by the end of 1979--and 100,000 new babies enrolled in the new Cradle Roll program brought praise from Ed Browning, who has led the Pennsylvania program for four years.

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Wendell Pric , who has served in the Tennessee Sunday School department for more than a decade, said the spirit of cooperation between Nashville and the states is excellent. "Harry Piland's addition to the Sunday School work force plus the openness for the exchange of ideas has been healthy for all involved in the Sunday School programs.

Piland, who came to the board from First Baptist Church in Houston, said the three-day meeting had been informative. "I sense that many of the programs being utilized are different to meet different demands, but, I also sense that we're marching together toward the same goal."

The meeting concluded with a preview of the pilot film "At Home with the Bible," the new television series being produced by the Sunday School Board and the Baptist Radio and Television Commission, to be aired in October.

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Atlanta Hotels Filling Up
For SBC Session In June

Baptist Press
5/12/78

ATLANTA (BP)--About 65 percent of the hotel and motel rooms set aside for next month's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta had been taken as of May 1.

The SBC Housing Bureau said that 34 hotels in Atlanta had committed 7,000 rooms for SBC messengers. As of May 1, about 4,500 of those rooms had been assigned.

Officials said reservations were still coming in daily. After May 1, orders were being processed the day received. Messengers who could not get hotels or motels they requested were being assigned to lodging next closest to the Georgia World Congress Center, where the SBC meets, June 13-15.

The Atlanta Convention Visitors and Housing Bureau has 55 hotels-motels with more than 20,000 rooms on its register, but not all of them are committed to SBC use. Several other conventions will meet in Atlanta that same week.

Of the 34 hotels-motels committing rooms for SBC messengers, only two had reserved more than 500 rooms--the Hilton Hotel on Courtland St. (the SBC headquarters hotel) and the Days Inn Motel at Interstate 85 and Clairmont Rd. Each committed 800 rooms for the SBC. As of May 1, the Hilton Hotel was booked solid; Days Inn still had openings.

Eighteen of the 34 SBC hotels were booked solid on May 1.

Following are the 16 which still had vacancies: Atlanta Cabana, Airport Hilton, Stadium Hotel, Colony Square, Days Inns (Clairmont Rd. and Shallowford Rd.), Dunfey's Royal Coach, Ramada Inn (Central and Airport), Riviera Hyatt House, Rodeway Inn Lenox, Sheraton Biltmore, Terrace Garden, Peachtree Travelodge, Howard Johnson Airport and Capitol Inn.

Address of the SBC Housing Bureau is 233 Peachtree St., NE., Atlanta, Ga. 30303.

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