

OCT. 13 1978

(BP)

-- 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 Richard T. McCartney, 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) L. Bracey Campbell III, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2798
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

October 12, 1978

78-166

Board Okays \$71 Million
Budget, Dedicates Wing

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists' efforts to accelerate Bold Mission Thrust worldwide began to take realistic shape at the annual meeting of the Foreign Mission Board.

In a crowded three-day schedule, the board approved 45 new missionaries to set a new mark for missionary appointments in a single year, approved a record \$71 million budget and dedicated a new office wing to handle the increased flow of Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers.

A committee of 15 board members was named to begin seeking a successor to Baker J. Cauthen, who will retire at the end of 1979. M. Hunter Riggins Jr. of Poquoson, Va., will head the search group, made up of six lay and nine ordained persons, to find a successor for the board's long-time executive director.

Other actions opened work on Mauritius, a 720-square-mile island in the Indian Ocean; welcomed the sponsorship of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, by European Baptists; and honored 13 retiring missionaries with a cumulative total of 500 years of overseas service.

Throughout the meeting repeated references were made to Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention's plan for a dramatic step-up in proclamation of the gospel both at home and abroad.

The 1979 foreign missions budget of \$71,181,429 represents an increase of more than \$7.7 million over that of the current year. More than \$61 million will pay for foreign missions operating costs and \$8 million will go for capital allocations. About \$1.5 million was set up in a special contingency fund as a protection in case income should fall below estimates.

Because of inflation, the decline in value of the American dollar abroad and the growing number of missionaries, more than 55 percent of the budget is needed to support the missionaries sent overseas. An additional three percent is earmarked for missionary housing abroad under the capital needs section.

Both reminiscences and aggressive advice for the future marked dedication of the new 39,380-square-foot addition to the board's home office building.

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, cut the ribbon for the \$1,510,272 wing. Standing near the 8-foot revolving metal globe that is the focus of the new lobby, she said it is significant that the hundreds of new missionaries who will pass through Richmond on their way overseas will pass by this symbol of the world's needs, a stylistic metal sculpture done by Pat Monk, an Alexandria, Va., artist.

Another feature of the new lobby, a seven-panel mural, depicts people and places of the eight geographical areas where more than 2,800 Southern Baptist missionaries now serve on more than 90 fields. Jack Woodson, a 50-year veteran artist and member of Richmond's Grace Baptist Church, relied heavily on the board's own photographs in creating the painting.

The new addition's third floor, built now to take advantage of cost savings in construction, will be finished out when needed for future expansion. When all three floors are in use, the new unit will provide 64 percent more space for the board.

-more-

DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

The dedication speaker, W. Douglas Hudgins, a close personal friend of Cauthen, was obviously moved by the announcement a few minutes earlier of the executive director's retirement plans.

"I love this man and Southern Baptists love him," said Hudgins, retired executive secretary for Mississippi Baptists. "To me you've been one of the greatest Christians I've ever known, and I believe one of the greatest foreign mission secretaries Southern Baptists could possibly have," he told Cauthen.

Hudgins, president of the Foreign Mission Board, 1972-74, urged strengthened support for the Cooperative Program, the plan through which individual churches contribute to worldwide evangelism and other convention causes.

At the luncheon following the dedication, Russell H. Dilday, new president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, emphasized that each individual will be accountable for developing personal strategy to do his or her part in changing the world for Christ.

During its business session, the board appropriated \$90,000 for hunger and relief funds for use in seven countries. The largest appropriation--\$50,000--will continue a project to help rebuild houses destroyed in a November 1977 earthquake in Argentina. Other appropriations for flood relief and clean water projects totaled \$14,000.

Hunger funds totaling \$26,000 will be sent to Iran, Nicaragua, Upper Volta and Chile. Nicaragua will receive the largest appropriation, \$8,000. One-fourth of that amount has already been sent to the field on an emergency basis to help provide relief for victims of recent fighting in that country.

-30-

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

13 Retiring Missionaries
Log 500 Years of Service

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press
10/12/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--With 500 years of service behind them, 13 retiring missionaries were told in a special recognition service that the best can still lie ahead.

The group was the largest ever to be recognized at a special yearly recognition service held in connection with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's annual meeting.

Baker James Cauthen, executive director of the board, said the retiring missionaries have much to share with church members here in this country. "American Christians need to discover afresh what a vital, lifelong, sacrifice-enduring, work-producing commitment to Jesus Christ brings," said Cauthen.

He added that if their kind of commitment could get into the hearts of church people here, "Southern Baptists would be transformed into a vibrant, glowing people like we've never yet become."

One of the retirees, Mary Lucille Saunders, represented a second generation of Baptist missionaries. "My parents served 43 years, and I have been privileged to serve 39 years. And so, you see, the Saunders tribe of three is very grateful...for the privileged total of 125 years on the mission field," Miss Saunders said.

John Allen Moore, recognized for 40 years' service in Yugoslavia and Switzerland, said he is as thoroughly sold now as I was that day of beginning 40 years or more ago that Christian mission is the most important business that anybody can be engaged in--God's own activity for human redemption.

-more-

"And if I had it to do over, I'd do it the same as I did before, I think," he added.

His wife, Pauline, received a 39-year pin. She was appointed a year after her future husband arrived in Yugoslavia, but couldn't get to Europe until 1940 because of the outbreak of World War II. The Moores were married in Rome, Italy.

Other missionaries recognized were Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm W. Stuart, who served 37 and 43 years respectively in China, Hawaii and Japan; Mr. and Mrs. Roy F. Starmer, who served 40 years in Romania and Italy; Wilma Weeks, who served 42 years in China, Hawaii and Indonesia; Helen Meredith, who served 36 years in Colombia; Mr. and Mrs. Bennie T. Griffin, who served 39 years in Nigeria; and Mr. and Mrs. John S. McGee, who served 33 years in Nigeria.

-30-

Mary Jane Welch is a staff writer for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Southern Baptists Surpass
Foreign Appointment Record

Baptist Press
10/12/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--With the naming of 45 new missionaries during the Foreign Mission Board's October meeting, Southern Baptists will set a record for the largest number of appointments in a single year.

At the close of the October service, 296 new missionaries were named in 1978--17 more than the previous record. Two more appointment services will be held before the year ends, boosting the number well beyond last year's 279.

"This is a bonus for which we can be grateful to God," Louis R. Cobbs, secretary of the missionary personnel department, told the gathering at Richmond's First Baptist Church.

Cobbs noted that among other elements, growth in appointments is attributed to "something of an attitude or a spirit in our Southern Baptist Convention that has caused people to be more open to missions." He also placed emphasis on Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC's plan to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world.

An unusual aspect of this appointment service was the number of medical personnel and those with doctorate degrees. Two medical doctors and a dentist were named missionaries, along with a veterinarian, two registered nurses and a physical therapist. Three people are working toward their doctorates.

Texas leads the list with 12 appointees claiming it as their home state. The next largest group--six appointees--comes from California. One appointee, Peggy (Mrs. Donald M.) Williams, is the daughter of Robert D. Hughes, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

Named as missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. William E. Baer of Oklahoma and Ohio, respectively, assigned to Chile; Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Calahan Jr. of Texas, to Liberia; Dr. and Mrs. T. Edwin Cook of Texas, to Gaza; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Daniel, New Mexico and Texas, to Korea; Mr. and Mrs. David L. Finell, Kentucky and Mississippi, to Malaysia/Singapore; and Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Fisher, North Carolina and California, to the Philippines.

-more-

Also Mr. and Mrs. George C. Hale, Georgia and California, to Peru; Gail Hill of Alabama, to India; Georgia Hill of California, to South Brazil; Mr. and Mrs. Albert R. Hodges, Texas and Arkansas, to Upper Volta; Mr. and Mrs. Gregory B. Holden, North Carolina and Georgia, to the Philippines; Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Hudson, Michigan and Kentucky, to the Bahamas; Mr. and Mrs. William P. Hyde, Iowa, to the Philippines; and Mr. and Mrs. H. Wayne Keller, Louisiana, to South Brazil.

Others are Mr. and Mrs. Stan R. Lee, South Carolina, to Rwanda; Loyce McBride of Tennessee, to Gaza; Mr. and Mrs. Jack W. McKinney Jr., Oklahoma and Texas, to Zambia; Mr. and Mrs. Phillip B. Palmer of Texas, to Gaza; Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Sewell, Texas and Florida, to Mexico; Dr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Starkey, Minnesota and Mississippi, to Benin; Mr. and Mrs. Leo E. Weatherman, Iowa and California, to South Brazil; Mr. and Mrs. Ronald E. West, Arkansas, to Taiwan; Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Williams, California and Texas, to France; and Dr. and Mrs. David V. Young, Texas and California, to Gaza.

All are career missionaries except for the Calahans and Weathermans, who are missionary associates; and the Cooks, who are special project workers.

