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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 19, 1978

78-170

**Baptist Leaders Appeal For  
 Leeper's Return to Turkey**

By Stan L. Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--Representatives of U. S. and world Baptists appealed to the Turkish ambassador in Washington to have his government renew the residence permit of expelled Southern Baptist Missionary James F. Leeper.

Leeper, pastor of an English-speaking congregation in Ankara for 12 years, had his residence permit revoked in May and was expelled from Turkey on September 29. After spending a few days in Germany, Leeper came home to Dayton, Ky., for the funeral of his mother.

Four persons represented Baptists at the 45-minute meeting with Melih Esenbel, Turkey's ambassador to the United States--Leeper; J. D. Hughey, the Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia; James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; and C. Ronald Goulding, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

Ambassador Esenbel, although noncommittal about Leeper's chances of regaining the residence permit, said he would relay the group's concern through the Turkish minister of foreign affairs in Ankara to the prime minister.

During the meeting with the ambassador, Leeper insisted that he had violated no Turkish laws and had never been informed of the reasons for his expulsion.

During most of his 12 years as pastor of the Galatian Baptist Church in Ankara, Leeper has had only tourist status, a condition requiring frequent renewals. In October, 1977, he and his family received residence permits retroactive to Aug. 2, 1977. But Leeper's permit was revoked last May by the Turkish interior ministry. His wife, Jean, and their four children have never been ordered to leave.

Leeper returned to Turkey by way of Syria on June 2, again requesting a residence permit. He expressed then and has continued to maintain his belief that low-ranking Turkish officials were responsible for the expulsion order, perhaps directly instigated by complaints from one or more individuals unhappy with the Galatian Baptist Church ministry. After being arrested on September 22 he was allowed to remain in the country until September 29.

Ambassador Esenbel said he does not know all the particulars in the case, but said he understands that Leeper had been charged with disseminating "religious propaganda." "That's against our law," the ambassador said, noting that any effort to influence other people to change their religion falls under the umbrella of "religious propaganda." Leeper said it was the first time he had been informed of the charges.

Leeper told Esenbel, "I'm guilty of preaching," but only within the confines of the church building, not outside. He said, "None of our services has ever been interrupted" by persons objecting to a Christian witness. He also said that to his knowledge police have never monitored services.

Asked by Esenbel why he uses Turkish-language Bibles, Leeper replied that they are kept at the church building to give to persons inquiring about the Christian faith. He and Hughey also reminded the ambassador that the Turkish Bible Society, located in Ankara, openly distributes Bibles to inquirers.

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Leeper emphasized that he has never preached in Turkish, because, "I can't," referring to difficulty with the language. The pattern of ministry of the church, he said, has not changed in the 12 years since he and Mrs. Leeper were appointed in 1966. The church's ministry is aimed primarily at U. S. military personnel, but the membership also includes Baptists from several other countries.

The Southern Baptist missionary denied ever becoming involved in Turkish political affairs and told the ambassador that his congregation has on several occasions given substantial amounts of money for disaster relief, primarily after earthquakes in Turkey.

Hughey said the Foreign Mission Board has always viewed Turkey as "tolerant" in guaranteeing religious liberty in its constitution, unlike certain other countries, such as Saudi Arabia, where the law forbids Saudis from entering Christian churches.

Wood emphasized the importance of religious liberty to Baptists and told the ambassador of the decision in early October of the Baptist Joint Committee to cable Turkey's prime minister with an appeal on behalf of Leeper. He also reminded the ambassador of profound human rights implications in the Leeper case.

Goulding, representing the Baptist World Alliance, told Esenbel that Leeper's case has attracted attention from Baptists in all parts of the world and reminded the ambassador of the international implications of actions such as that which resulted in Leeper's expulsion.

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High Court Rejects Appeal  
Of United Methodist Unit

By Stan L. Haste

Baptist Press  
10/19/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Supreme Court will not hear arguments that an agency of the United Methodist Church should not be included in a California suit against a group of Methodist-related homes for the aged.

Church-state experts believe the case has potentially far-reaching implications for all denominations. The high court's refusal to hear the case has the effect of leaving in place the decision of California state court that an agency of a denomination must stand trial for the actions of an institution bearing its name but over which it has no control.

The General Council on Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church, based in Evanston, Ill., faces at least three lawsuits totaling more than \$400 million, all related to the bankruptcy of Pacific Homes, a California corporation which operates 14 homes for the aged. The General Council, one of 13 denominational agencies of the United Methodist Church, distributes Methodist missions funds to all other national denominational agencies.

The church-state controversy arose when some 150 residents of Pacific Homes filed suit against the corporation, the General Council, and the United Methodist Church when the homes declared bankruptcy early last year. Both the General Council and the church sought release from the suit, arguing in a California state court that the denomination has no financial liability for corporations such as Pacific Homes. The California court dropped the denomination as a whole but not the General Council.

In legal papers filed with the Supreme Court, the General Council pointed to Methodists' "connectional" form of church polity as argument that neither the denomination nor any of its agencies is liable for organizations not under their control.

The General Council pointed out in its brief to the high court that it has no property, office, or employees in California and has never had any involvement with Pacific Homes. Those considerations should have exempted the General Council from any liability incurred by the homes, the argument continued.

The brief also pointed to wider ranging potential dangers in holding a denominational agency liable for damages in such instances. "It is reasonable to expect," the brief declared, "that our international religious systems and their major boards and agencies will emerge increasingly as targets of litigation in distant forums, where, as here, the alleged

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acts or omissions had their inception in a peculiarly local setting, like a parish church, a home, college, hospital or other institution bearing a denominational name."

Such a situation, the brief continued, poses a potential "chilling effect on the free conduct of religious activities."

The "judicial errors" of the California court, the argument declared, "alter the polity and inter-relationships among agencies within the United Methodist connection, and implicate serious constitutional questions of religious freedom" for United Methodists and other denominations.

The superior court of San Diego County argued in its legal brief submitted to the justices, that because the General Council is the central treasury and fiscal agency of the church and does business in California, "the polity of the United Methodist Church is irrelevant" to the case.

By denying the General Council's petition, the justices did not necessarily indicate agreement with the lower ruling that the agency stands liable for damages against Pacific Homes. But its unanimous holding not to hear the case indicates at the very least that it is not presently prepared to deal with the issues raised. If convicted, the General Council could begin a new appeal process.

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Board Adopts Record \$32  
Million for Missions

Baptist Press  
10/19/78

ATLANTA (BP)--A record budget of just over \$32 million was adopted by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during the fall meeting of the board of directors.

The 1979 budget of \$32,260,198 is nearly a \$4 ½ million increase over 1978, representing a 14.4 percent increase in funding for missions activities in the 50 states and U. S. possessions.

Along with the budget, directors committed the Home Mission Board to the "task of evangelizing and congregationalizing" the nation, with approval of eight objectives for 1979. All eight objectives reinforce the board's emphasis on Bold Mission Thrust, the plan to evangelize the nation by the end of the decade and the world by the end of the century.

Funding for the record budget will come from estimated Cooperative Program receipts of \$12.5 million and estimated Annie Armstrong Easter Offering gifts of \$12.7 million, joined with special gifts and income.

In making the budget presentation to the directors, Leonard Irwin of the board's planning section explained most of the needed increase in the budget can be attributed to inflation.

"We're projecting an increase of \$35,000 for postage and a \$40,000 increase in our building maintenance and utilities," said Irwin.

The mission section will receive \$23 million or 71.6 percent of the total budget to fund the majority of the 2,800-plus home missionaries appointed by the board. The evangelism section will receive \$2.2 million. Both missions and evangelism received increases of about nine percent over 1978.

The rest of the budget will go for new projects and personnel and for increased cost of current personnel and projects.

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SBC Home Mission Board  
Restructures Evangelism

Baptist Press  
10/19/78

ATLANTA (BP)--The evangelism section of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board was restructured by directors during the fall meeting in Atlanta.

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The new structure features two division-level directors under section director C. B. Hogue, replacing the three department-level programs.

In implementing the restructuring, directors elected Fred White, director of evangelism and church administration of the Baptist Convention of Maryland, as director of the direct evangelism division. They also promoted Joe L. Ford from director of the department of evangelism development to director of the new division of evangelism development.

"I believe we had a mandate from the Southern Baptist Convention to make evangelism one of the top priorities at the Home Mission Board," said William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the board.

Hogue said the move came in response to action taken by the SBC in Miami Beach in 1975, when messengers were considering creating a Southern Baptist Convention Evangelism Commission. "We feel evangelism is very important and that convention action necessitated giving more emphasis to evangelism," Tanner added.

Prior to the reorganization, the evangelism section had three departments: evangelism development, mass evangelism and personal evangelism.

The restructuring creates the division of evangelism development and the division of direct evangelism.

The division of evangelism development includes three departments--associational evangelism, specialized evangelism and evangelism support. Purpose of the division, Hogue said, is to "promote and properly relate the message, methods, motivation and spirit of New Testament evangelism."

The division of direct evangelism will include two departments--mass evangelism and personal evangelism. The division, Hogue said, will be "responsible for the implementation of these programs on a specific basis for the local church, association and state convention."

Ford, 30, was elected to head the department of evangelism development earlier this year, succeeding John Havlik, who became head of the office of evangelism education and writing. Then the youngest man ever elected to a major department responsibility at the board, Ford previously had headed evangelism work with young adults.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Ford is a former associate in the department of evangelism of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, youth director of churches in Longview, Texas, and Shreveport, La., and pastor of Lane Baptist Church, Lane, Okla. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

White, 56, will assume his new post Jan. 1, 1979. He has been associated with the Baptist Convention of Maryland since 1965. Previously, he was pastor of churches in Rome and Dalton, Ga., Muenster, Texas, and Easley, S. C. He also was associate secretary of the department of evangelism of the Georgia Baptist Convention, 1955-1960.

A native of East Milton, Mass., White is a graduate of West Georgia College, Furman University and Southwestern Seminary.

Hogue said directors will be asked to take action on changing titles and job descriptions for persons who will head up the newly established departments within the divisions. "We want to give the newly named division directors an opportunity to have input into the naming of the department directors," he said.

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HMB Appoints 25 Missionaries  
During Fall Directors Meeting

Baptist Press  
10/19/78

ATLANTA (BP)--Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointed 25 persons to home missions service during their fall meeting in Atlanta.

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Nine persons were appointed career missionaries; seven, missionary associates; and nine, mission pastors approved to receive financial aid.

Career appointees are Dion Ainsworth of Fort Worth, Texas; Randy and Anne Foster of Carbondale, Colo.; Larry and Kitty Keaton of Mount Vernon, Ky.; Ray and Miho Savage of Milliani Town, Hawaii; and Marvin and Betty Settle of Richmond, Va.

Missionary associates appointees are Anna Ayala of Mill Valley, Calif.; Beverly Gray of Louisville, Ky.; Khalil and Amal Hanna of Santa Ana, Calif.; Eusebio and Virginia Manganag of Kahului, Hawaii; and Dorothy Witt of New Orleans.

Ainsworth, a native of Baton Rouge, La., will serve in Dallas as director of leadership training for the Christian social ministries department of the Home Mission Board and the Texas Baptist Convention. He formerly was director of the Connell Baptist Church Street ministry in Fort Worth. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University and holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Fosters will serve in Jackson, Wyo., as Christian social ministries missionaries in the Jackson area. Foster, a native of La Grange, Ga., is a graduate of Mississippi College and holds a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to appointment, he was pastor of the Roaring Fork Baptist Church in Carbondale, Colo., and taught at Colorado Mountain College, 1975-77. He also worked in a resort missions pilot project for the Home Mission Board in Estes Park, Colo., as well as a summer missionary.

Anne Lane Foster, a native of Greenville, Miss., is a Mississippi College graduate. She has worked as a teacher, legal secretary and summer missionary for the Home Mission Board.

The Keatons will serve in New England, where he will be a Spanish language catalytic missionary. Keaton, a native of Columbus, Ohio., is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and holds a master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary. He has served as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary in Spain and as mental health consultant educator for Cumberland River Comprehensive Care, Corbin, Ky.

Kitty Ray Keaton, a native of Murray, Ky., is a Murray State University graduate. She also served as a foreign missionary in Spain and worked in social casework in Louisville, Ky., and Gastonia, N. C.

The Savages will serve in Pearl Ridge, Oahu Island, Hawaii, as church extension church starters. Savage, a native of Granby, Mo., is a University of Missouri graduate and holds a master of divinity from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to appointment he was pastor of the Palisades Baptist Church, Pearl City, Hawaii.

Miho Nonomura Savage, a native of Japan, is a tour coordinator for the Visitors Service of Hawaii.

The Settles will serve in Richmond, Va., where he will direct Christian social ministries for the Richmond Baptist Association. Settle, a Washington, D. C., native, is a graduate of Bluefield College and the University of Richmond and holds a master of religious education degree from Southern Seminary. Prior to appointment he was associate pastor of the First Baptist Church, Bluefield, W. Va., and has served churches in Colonial Heights, Va., Lebanon, Tenn., and Clarksville, Ind.

Betty Maggard Settle, a native of Marianna, W. Va., is a graduate of Bluefield College and Virginia Commonwealth University. She has worked as a teacher.

Ayala will serve in Oakland, Calif., as a student intern for the Home Mission Board Christian social ministries department. She is a Ventura, Calif., native and graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University with a degree in nursing and sociology. Prior to appointment, she was a nurses aid at the Marin Convalescent and Rehabilitation Hospital. She is currently enrolled at Golden Gate Seminary working toward a degree in religious education.

Ms. Gray will serve in Louisville as a Christian social ministries student intern. A native of Sikeston, Mo., and a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, she is enrolled at Southern Baptist Seminary working toward a degree in social work. She has served as a substitute teacher, US-2 missionary and as a summer missionary.

The Hannas will serve in California, where he will be a catalytic language missionary associate to the Arabic speaking population. Hanna, a native of Egypt, is a graduate of the Southern Baptist Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon. Prior to appointment he was pastor of the Arabic mission of Santa Ana and pastor of the Haddath Baptist Church, Beirut, 1964-1976. Amal Sami Hanna is also a native of Egypt.

The Manganags will continue to live in Kahului, Hawaii, where he will serve as a language missionary associate in Filipino work. Manganag, a native of the Philippines, is a graduate of St. Louis University and the Philippine Baptist Seminary with bachelor of theology and master of divinity degrees. Prior to appointment he worked for the Home Mission Board in the Maui County Baptist Association.

Virginia Prieto Manganag, also a Philippines native, is a graduate of the Febias Bible College in Manila and the Philippine Baptist Seminary with a masters degree in religious education. She has worked as a day care center teacher and as assistant dean of women for the Philippine Baptist Seminary.

Mrs. Witt, a native of Ashtabula, Ohio, will serve in New Orleans as a missionary associate and houseparent/resident manager for the Seller's Baptist Home and Adoption Center. She is a widow and has three adult children.

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Home Mission Board  
Approves Staff Changes

Baptist Press  
10/19/78

ATLANTA (BP)--Four persons were elected to staff positions, two promoted to new responsibilities, four shifted to a newly-created division, and one announced his retirement during the annual fall meeting of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Staff positions went to Clay L. Price, who will be missions researcher in the newly-created research division; Ernest J. Kelly Jr., who will be a regional coordinator; Chan Cousins Garrett, who will be associate director of the department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists, and William E. Daniel Jr., who will be director of data processing services.

B. Carlisle Driggers was promoted from associate director of the department of Cooperative ministries with National Baptists to a regional coordinator, replacing retiring J. N. Evans. Lyndon Collings, assistant to the director of the missions section, was promoted to assistant director of the missions section in a redefining of that job.

Directors noted the Dec. 31 retirement of Evans, a regional coordinator since 1971. He joined the Home Mission Board in 1966 as director of the department of metropolitan missions.

Shifted to new responsibilities because of the creation of the research division were Orrin D. Morris, Leonard Hinton, Philip B. Jones and C. Kirk Hadaway.

Morris, a regional coordinator since 1972, will head the research division which was created by directors at the March board meeting. The division becomes effective Jan. 1, 1979.

As director, Morris will coordinate the work of the division in planning, organizing, staffing, budgeting, evaluating and improving the efficiency of the agency.

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Jones, a native of Greenville, S. C., has been with the Home Mission Board since 1974. He will be the research division's planning researcher.

Hinton, with the board since 1973, is a native of Dacula, Ga., and will be the evangelism / services researcher.

Hadaway, a native of Nashville, Tenn., joined the board in July after completing his doctor of philosophy degree in sociology at the University of Massachusetts. He will be research associate for data development.

Price, 30, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, has been associated with the board since 1971, most recently as a research technician. He will be missions researcher.

Kelly, director of the evangelism and missions division for the Georgia Baptist Convention since 1972, starts at his new post Dec. 1, replacing Morris as regional coordinator. He will coordinate the agency's process of strategy planning, budget development and adjustment and goal evaluation in an assigned section of the United States.

A native of Sewanee, Tenn., Kelly has been a pastor of churches in Georgia, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. He is a graduate of Cumberland University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Garrett, regional missionary for the Home Mission Board in southeast Florida since 1977, will assume his new post Jan. 1, 1979. A native of Brooksville, Fla., he has been a pastor in Florida and Virginia. He is a graduate of Baylor University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Directors elected Daniel, data processing consultant for Sperry-Univac, to his position effective Nov. 1.

The Atlanta native has more than 15 years experience in dataprocessing, systems analysis and computer operations.

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Controversial IRS Rule  
Gains Public Hearing

Baptist Press  
10/19/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--Responding to pressure brought by the religious community, the Internal Revenue Service will hold a public hearing on a controversial proposed rule requiring certain religious schools to prove they do not engage in racial discrimination in their admissions policies or face the loss of tax exemption.

IRS Commissioner Jerome Kurtz announced the Dec. 5 hearing two months after original notice of the proposed revenue ruling was issued in the Federal Register. The IRS decision came in the wake of pressure by a number of religious groups, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

In a written statement to IRS, James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Washington-based Baptist agency, declared that although his organization would "normally...commend well-intentioned efforts by government to eliminate racial segregation in education," application of the proposed rules "would be a direct affront to the religion clauses of the First Amendment."

Kurtz's original notice in the Federal Register indicated the proposed new rules were not sufficiently important to require a public hearing, but the IRS announced its reversed decision Oct. 18.

Persons wishing to present oral testimony must state in writing, by Oct. 23, their intention to testify, and send IRS, by Nov. 29 an outline of their oral comments and the time they wish to devote to each subject. Each speaker will be limited to a 10-minute formal presentation and must be prepared to answer questions from IRS officials.

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The proposed rules apply primarily to nonpublic elementary and secondary schools, although IRS said that in appropriate cases they also may be applied to private colleges and universities.

The proposed rules would apply to schools which have been held by a court or government agency to be racially discriminatory and to those which have "an insignificant number of minority students and were formed or substantially expanded at or about the time of desegregation of the public schools in the community."

Wood's statement to IRS also objected to the federal agency's failure to distinguish between the churches of hierarchical and congregational forms of church polity as "legally untenable." He said the proposed rules, by applying identical criteria to both types of churches and their agencies, "provide for a preferential treatment of hierarchical church organization as opposed to congregational church organization."

"Each religious institution must be treated individually rather than grouped as a class," he declared.

John W. Baker of the Baptist Joint Committee staff, said one of the most objectionable features of the proposed rules is the requirement that such schools prove to IRS that they are not discriminatory.

Baker said that in a court of law or a hearing "It's almost impossible to prove a negative." Any private school required to prove that it does not discriminate on the basis of race as provided by the proposed rules "would be hard pressed to do so," Baker said.

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Federal Agency Announces  
Religious Accommodations

Baptist Press  
10/19/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Civil Service Commission announced in Washington new guidelines permitting federal employees to make up time taken off because of religious requirements.

The federal agency's new procedure came just days after Congress passed a bill mandating federal agencies to make such accommodations for their workers.

Sensitivity to the particular religious needs of individual employees has grown in the past few years, partly as the result of a 1977 Supreme Court decision which ruled that private companies may not be required to make special accommodations if they can prove that to do so would result in "undue hardship."

While the new law and guidelines affect only federal workers, they are seen by many observers as the first step toward wide-sweeping public policy to make it easier for persons to adjust work schedules for religious purposes.

Persons affected by the new law and guidelines include Jews, Seventh Day Adventists, Seventh Day Baptists, and members of the Worldwide Church of God, among others.

The Civil Service Commission's guidelines state that "an employee whose personal religious beliefs require the abstention from work during certain periods of time may elect to engage in overtime work for time lost for meeting those religious requirements."

Employees may perform such overtime work in advance or make it up after the fact, the regulations state, but in no case will the employee be paid on a special overtime scale.

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**BAPTIST PRESS**

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**OCT. 23 1978**

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