



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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December 6, 1978

78-198

Home Mission Board  
Names Personnel

ATLANTA (BP)--Glenn Sheppard, pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, Ga., was named director of personal evangelism during the December meeting of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Directors also named Quinn Pugh, a director of the Home Mission Board and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Bel Air, Md., as director of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, and A. Wilson Parker, now mission division director for the Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptist Convention, as director of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship.

Pugh and his wife, Norma, and Parker and his wife, Lucy, will serve as appointed home missionaries in cooperation with the respective state Baptist convention.

Directors named two additional missionaries, Gene and Priscilla Tunnell of Atlanta, Ga., and 11 missionary associates--Mario and Maria Acacia of Ontario, Canada; Mary Archer of Johnson City, Tenn., Carolyn Clark of New Orleans, La.; Donald Dillard of Louisville, Ky., Lynn and Everell Eckeberger of Lubbock, Texas; Diane Griffin of Louisville; Carolyn McClendon of New Orleans; and Carl and Lou Wilks of Chalmette, La.

The board also accepted the resignation of Bob Reccord, director of witness training in the evangelism section, who will join the staff of Evangelism Explosion, International, based in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., effective Jan. 12, 1979.

Sheppard, 35, brings with him "particular interest in spiritual awakening and in the followup area of training," said evangelism section director C. B. Hogue.

He attended Mercer University, graduated from Valdosta State College and holds a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as pastor of the Lawrenceville Church since 1975 and was pastor in Louisville, Ky., and in Georgia Baptist churches in Blakely, Valdosta, Hahira, Griffin, Montezuma and Eatonton.

Pugh, a Palestine, Texas, native, has served at the Calvary Baptist Church since 1973. He also has served as pastor in Waldwick, N. J., and Atlanta and as associate pastor in Shreveport, La. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College and Oglethorpe University and holds a master of divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., and a doctor of ministries degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He and Norma Norris Pugh, who has worked in nursing and health-related fields, have two children.

Parker, a Tennessee native, was the first fulltime missions division director in Pennsylvania-South Jersey. He also has served as a missionary in Southern Tier Baptist Association in New York and was director of missions for Northern Plains Baptist Convention. Parker is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and Lucy Ausmus Parker, also a Tennessee native, have three sons.

Tunnell will serve with the Home Mission Board's language missions department as consultant with refugees. Prior to appointment he was a foreign missionary serving in the language school of Costa Rica and during the Vietnamese refugee resettlement program in 1975 he worked at Fort Chaffee, Ark. Tunnell and his wife, Priscilla Jones Tunnell, served three years in Vietnam.

He is a graduate of Stetson University and holds a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and master of social work and doctor of philosophy degrees from the University of Texas.

The Acacias will serve in Washington, D. C., as language missionaries to the internationals in the nation's capital. Acacia, a native of Italy, is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College and holds a master's degree from the University of Toronto, Canada, and a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Toronto. Prior to appointment, he was pastor in Toronto, and has served as an Italian missionary in Ontario and Quebec, and as a pastor in Italy.

Maria Arcangeli Acacia, also a native of Italy, is a graduate of Nazareth College in Michigan and has attended Northwest College in Seattle, Wash., and Southern Seminary. She has served as an oil painting instructor and education assistant in Toronto.

Mary Archer, a Tennessee native, will serve as director of the Johnson City, Tenn., Baptist Center. She is a graduate of East Tennessee State University and has taught school in Johnson City. She has served as director but is now being named a missionary associate.

Carolyn Crumpton Clark, a native of Fairfield, Ala., will be a student worker at the Rachel Sims Mission in New Orleans while attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in social work.

Donald Dillard, a Dallas, Tex., native, will serve as a student intern in Louisville through the Highland Outreach Program for the Elderly in Louisville while a student in Southern Seminary. Dillard is a graduate of the University of Texas and has served as a summer missionary twice in home missions and as a US-2 missionary in Mobile, Ala.

The Eckebergers will serve in the western region of Mississippi as Christian social ministries missionary associates. Eckeberger, a Texas native, is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College and has attended Southwestern Seminary. He has worked in the River Ministry of the Texas Baptist Convention and in literacy missions in Laredo, Tex., as well as serving two years as director of Christian social ministries in Lubbock. Everell Wilma Coe Eckeberger, also a Texas native, is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College.

Diane Griffin, a native of Raleigh, N. C., will serve as a student intern as director of the special education area at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville while attending Southern Seminary. She is a graduate of St. Johns River Junior College and Florida State University and has served as a US-2 missionary in the Cincinnati Baptist Center in inner-city Cincinnati.

Carolyn McClendon, a native of Tylertown, Miss., will serve as assistant director of the Friendship House in New Orleans and as day care director. She is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University and holds a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Wilks will serve as associate director/chaplain for the Baptist Rescue Mission in New Orleans. He is a graduate of Lamar University in Texas and holds a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He has worked as a volunteer chaplain at Charity Hospital in the alcoholic and psychiatric units. Lou Ritter Wilks, also a Texas native, is a counselor in St. Bernard High School in Chalmette.

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Projections Show Mixed Bag  
Of Increases and Decreases

Baptist Press  
12/6/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A projected increase in enrollment in the Sunday evening church training program for the first time since 1963 tops this year's statistical report from Southern Baptist churches.

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The estimated church training increase of .2 percent, or 3,556 members, led a mixed group of reports, which included projected increases in church membership, church music, mission expenditures and total receipts.

Baptisms, Sunday School enrollment, Woman's Missionary Union enrollment and Brotherhood enrollment all are predicted to have declines.

Estimates of Southern Baptist Convention statistics are based on 17,361 church letters which were among the earliest received and processed by the research services department of the Sunday School Board. These churches are not completely representative of all SBC churches and final totals could change by three or four tenths of one percent. The final statistics will be released in February 1979.

Baptisms are expected to decrease for the third year in a row, coming down from 421,000 in 1975, to a predicted total of 336,356 this year, and representing a drop of 9,334 from 1977.

Membership in the SBC is projected to increase this year by .9 percent, or 117,749, to a total of 13.2 million.

Roy T. Edgemon, director of the church training department at the Sunday School Board, said he senses a "definite movement throughout the Southern Baptist Convention to provide sound doctrinal training for every Christian and a renewed interest in discipleship. I believe pastors and church leaders are awakening to the fact that Southern Baptists are in a discipleship crisis.

"Even though the projected increase in church training enrollment is small, I believe it is a harbinger of a trend toward a decade of discipleship in the 1980's for Southern Baptists," Edgemon added.

The Sunday School enrollment in Southern Baptist churches is projected to decline by 1.5 percent this year, a drop of 111,464. This decrease comes on the heels of a decrease of 27,444 last year. Those two years of decreases were preceded by a Sunday School enrollment gain of 176,000 in 1976, the largest Sunday School enrollment gain in 17 years.

Harry M. Piland, director of the Sunday School department at the Sunday School Board, expressed disappointment at the projected loss, and a commitment to turn the figures around in the future.

"As a convention, we have to find ways to lead our churches in reaching people," Piland said. "We have to do some things that not all of our churches have been doing, such as an aggressive visitation evangelism emphasis, weekly workers meetings and sound, regular training of our leadership and we have to establish these emphases on a solid, lasting basis."

Projections for church music enrollment this year indicate an increase of 3.8 percent, or more than 52,000. This would bring the total enrollment in church music to 1.4 million, almost 200 percent higher than 20 years ago when church music figures were first reported.

William J. Reynolds, secretary of the church music department at the Sunday School Board, said he was "happy because of the increased significance placed on music by churches and state music secretaries. After last year's small increase, we were concerned about this year, but the estimated increase of 3.8 percent extends the growth we have experienced since church music enrollment was first tabulated in 1957."

Woman's Missionary Union enrollment is expected to decrease by 2.7 percent this year, or 30,188, to a new total of 1,087,897, while Brotherhood enrollment is projected to drop by 2.5 percent to 461,476, reflecting a loss of 11,833.

Mission expenditures in 1978 are projected to increase by 10 percent to more than \$318 million, an increase of almost \$29 million. Total receipts of the SBC are expected to rise by 9.9 percent, or approximately \$178 million, to a new total of \$1.975 billion.

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Foundation Earnings  
Reach Highest Ever

Baptist Press  
12/6/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Increased assets and rising interest rates pushed earnings of the Southern Baptist Foundation to a new high of \$1.375 million for the 1978 fiscal year.

Executive Secretary-Treasurer Hollis Johnson tempered his enthusiasm for the good year and for a survey which showed that one foundation portfolio out-performed 97 percent of America's money managers, with a reminder that uncertain conditions exist for investors.

He reminded the foundation's board of directors at its annual meeting of his request through the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee for \$20,000 to boost his operating reserve to the convention-recommended six months level. The present reserve is equivalent to only one month's operating budget.

"We're in a set of circumstances now where we could have declining operating budget," Johnson said, citing statistics that showed Cooperative Program receipts in 1932 dropped to half of what they had been in 1929, the year of the stock market crash. "I'm not saying that's going to happen now, but that's what happens in times of depression," Johnson said. "And if we have one, we're going to be ready."

The average interest on 90-day certificates of deposit rose from 6.25 percent in 1977 to 8.75 percent in fiscal 1978, Johnson said. That makes investment policy weighted in favor of short term notes attractive until the rates peak, at which time money will be invested in longer term securities to take advantage of the high rates. R. Wayne Calvert, the foundation's investment advisor from First American National Bank in Nashville, expects the rates to peak in late spring or summer, and predicted a prime rate of 14 percent by April.

The earnings represent an overall return of 5.1 percent on total foundation assets of \$23.3 million. Foundation assets show a 33.1 percent increase in the past two years.

The foundation received \$3 million in additions in 1978 but withdrawals of \$1 million left an overall increase of \$2 million in assets under management.

Johnson noted foundation operating expenses were returned to the denomination nine-fold through earnings.

Citing the high return on investments, Johnson encouraged greater participation in the services of the foundation in light of the SBC's goal to evangelize the world by the year 2000.

"The cooperation of all Baptist foundations in promoting Christian stewardship in the making of gifts and benefactions to Southern Baptist causes will ultimately result in a convention-wide boldness which should help provide support for our denomination's Bold Mission Thrust," Johnson said. "Bold Mission Thrust will not succeed if it's not financed."

The board re-elected officers G. Frank Cole Jr., president; J. Thomas Bryan, vice president; and William E. Crook, recording secretary, all of Nashville.

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