



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 24, 1979

79-11

SBC Home Mission Board
Assigns 100th MSC Volunteer

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP)--A 71-year-old retired school teacher is the 100th Mission Service Corps volunteer to be assigned by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Miss Abbie Leone Hollis of Oklahoma City will serve Calvary Baptist Church in Laurel, Mont., as a church supporter, pianist, teacher, senior adult visitor and literacy worker.

"We feel Miss Hollis' appointment is a milestone," said David Bunch, director of MSC coordination for the board. "We had hoped to have our 100th volunteer assigned by the end of 1978 or the start of this year so we feel we are right on schedule."

Mission Service Corps, a plan to place 5,000 volunteers alongside career missionaries at home and abroad, was adopted by messengers to the 1976 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City.

With Miss Hollis' assignment, 100 MSC volunteers are serving or soon will serve in 30 states. An additional 25 volunteers are being processed preparatory to assignment and another 149 have been approved and are waiting on funding prior to assignment.

At the Foreign Mission Board, Lewis I. Myers Jr., director of MSC coordination, said 39 volunteers have been assigned. They are serving or will serve in 22 nations.

While MSC is behind schedule on its original stated goal of 5,000 volunteers by 1982, Home Mission Board officials are pleased with progress. "We are much further along than we were a year ago," said William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the board. "We may not have 5,000 volunteers yet, but MSC is successful from the very fact that it is living and going."

Bunch said the assignment of 100 volunteers since Nov. 1, 1977, "has proven that the MSC is a viable way to provide missionary personnel. As far as we can determine, most of the MSC people are doing creditable work and work that otherwise would not have been done."

Miss Hollis, who sometimes refers to herself as "Dear Abbie," applied to MSC during Woman's Missionary Union week at the Glorieta, N.M., conference center last summer.

"Since I heard about it, I had the feeling that I was one who could do it," she said. "I applied because I felt if the Lord would give me something to do, then I could do it. However, I didn't know whether anyone would want me because of my age." But, she added, "I am very energetic and in good health."

She retired nine years ago after a 41-year career in teaching elementary, junior high and high school students. She taught elementary school music for several years and then spent most of her career teaching English and Spanish in junior and senior high school. She is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and the University of Oklahoma.

Miss Hollis, a member of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, has been active in teaching missions and literacy training since retirement. In Montana, Miss Hollis will work with pastor Al Carlock and the 53-member congregation at Calvary

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"Laurel is a town of 8,000 about 15 miles west of Billings," said Carlock. "Some say it is the fastest growing city in Montana. We have the largest railroad center between Minneapolis and Seattle and we have a large oil refinery."

Carlock was pastor of the 600-member Hunter Station Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., until July 1978 when he and his wife, Kathleen, moved to Laurel, and the 37-member Calvary church. "Since July, we have had 19 additions, including an 83-year-old woman," Carlock said. "In January, we had 39 people in attendance with a foot of snow on the ground."

A retired couple--Mr. and Mrs. Carl Clark from Jackson, Miss.,--worked in Laurel last summer, cultivating a senior adult group. "Miss Hollis will be building on what they started," Carlock said. "When I heard she was coming, I was thrilled and tickled to death."

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Carter Calls for Restraint,
Asks for 'New Foundation'

By Carol Franklin

Baptist Press
1/24/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--In a 35-minute address interrupted 26 times by polite applause, President Jimmy Carter challenged Congress and the nation to build "a new foundation" for a national and global society.

Carter's second State of the Union message stressed two themes--measures to slow inflation and efforts to win Senate approval of a Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty with the Soviet Union.

Carter called his proposed budget for 1980, released just days before the State of the Union message, "stringent but fair." He also pledged that he would never sign a SALT agreement "unless our deterrent force will remain overwhelming."

The president asserted that his pared down budget would "provide additional support to educate disadvantaged children, to care for the elderly, to provide nutrition and legal services for the poor and to strengthen the economic base of our urban communities and rural areas."

Carter balanced his pledge of military superiority with the comment that "economic justice and human rights among people everywhere" are also vital to national security.

The most enthusiastic applause during the speech came when Carter reasserted his commitment to the Equal Rights Amendment.

Carter challenged his audience to revive the values of the founders of the nation. "The words they (the founders) made so vivid are now growing faintly indistinct, because they are not heard often enough," he said. "They are words like justice, equality, unity, truth, sacrifice, liberty, faith, and love. These words remind us that the duty of our generation of Americans is to renew our nation's faith--not focused just against foreign threats, but against the threat of selfishness, cynicism, and apathy."

Carter called on the nation to accept a philosophy of less--less government regulation, fewer government programs, and less consumption of goods and resources.

"To be successful," the president said, "we must change our attitudes as well as our policies. We cannot afford to live beyond our means, to create programs we can neither manage nor finance, or to waste our natural resources; and we cannot tolerate mismanagement and fraud."

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Professor Calls for New Look
At View of World Christianity

Baptist Press
1/24/79

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--A Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary professor feels the time has come for Southern Baptists to re-examine what he called their traditional isolationist attitude toward world Christianity.

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John Steely, professor of historical theology who recently returned from a year's sabbatical in Europe, told a seminary audience several factors point to a need for re-evaluation of the relationship of Southern Baptists with other Christians. He said the Southern Baptist Convention has never forbidden ecumenical cooperation by individual churches, and many churches have been involved in cooperative ventures with good results.

Steely feels other Christians are more open to the beliefs and practices of Southern Baptists than ever before. The public attention focused on them by the election of Southern Baptist Jimmy Carter as president was an illustration of how little is known about Baptists by society in general. "If we have something significant to say, we are not doing it very effectively," Steely observed.

The SBC commitment to Bold Mission Thrust goals to evangelize the world lend impetus to ecumenical cooperation Steely said. "We have to face up to the fact that others have also heard the Good News," he said. The Great Commission was not issued to Baptists only and it cannot be carried out by Baptists alone without the help of all Christians, he said.

Steely said many of the ecumenical councils of European churches have fallen upon hard times as a result of weak leadership and embracing unpopular causes. He said that the future of Christian unity lies not in organizations but in the initiative of local churches to talk and work with other Christians.

He commended the Department of Inter-faith Witness of the Home Mission Board and the Ecumenical Institute of Belmont Abbey College and Wake Forest University for their efforts to aid churches in learning about Christians of other denominations.

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Iran Missionaries Staying;
Church Services Continue

Baptist Press
1/24/79

TEHRAN, Iran (BP)--News reports warn of possible civil strife, but Southern Baptist missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Turlington and journeyman Michael Joe Sowder plan to remain in Iran and continue their church work.

A member of the church where Turlington is pastor told Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials that when he left Tehran Jan. 21 the membership of the church had dropped from more than 350 to 50 or 60. The employee of an American business firm said the Turlingtons were aware of the projected return of Muslim religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini from France but felt they were not in any real physical danger.

The missionaries have plenty of food and some heat, but little gasoline and no mail, according to their church member. So far the church has held regular services, missing only one because of a huge demonstration.

Reports from other returning Americans indicate Americans' homes are being looted in some areas, including Ahwaz where the C. Kenneth Glens had been living until Christmas. The Glens are now in Georgia.

A volunteer, Hubert Williams, returned to the United States from the town of Shiraz because of violence. James F. Kirkendall, assigned to Tehran, is in Bangladesh on business and his wife and son have returned to the United States.

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Northwest Convention
Names New Editor

Baptist Press
1/24/79

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--Herbert V. Hollinger, pastor of Foothills Baptist Church, Issaquah, Wash., has been named director of communications for the Northwest Baptist Convention, effective March 1.

His primary responsibility will be to edit the convention's official publication, the Northwest Baptist Witness. Former editor Bill Crews resigned to return to the pastorate.

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Hollinger, pastor of Foothills Baptist Church since 1973, also was leading the Mountain View Baptist Chapel, a mission church in North Bend, Wash. He was a member of the Northwest Baptist Convention's executive board.

He has a life-long background in the newspaper business, being reared in Burley, Idaho where his family owned and operated a newspaper. He is a graduate of the University of Idaho in business administration with a minor in journalism. He was news editor, sports editor and editor of the University of Idaho Argonaut.

Following three years in the Air Force, Hollinger, a former Mormon, was assistant advertising manager, assistant editor, and then editor and general manager of the South Idaho Press.

Hollinger, 39, earned a master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in 1973. While at the seminary, he directed news and information services.

He's married to the former Mary Hartsfield of Wichita Falls, Texas. They have three children.

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(BP) photo of Hollinger will be mailed to state Baptist newspapers next week.

Folksy Farmer Leaves
Rich Heritage Behind

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
1/24/79

TERRELL, Texas (BP)--Retirement for Darwin Farmer means more time for the 300-member radio Sunday School class which he conducts for First Baptist Church, Terrell.

Farmer retired Dec. 31, after a quarter of a century with the Texas Baptist Executive Board staff.

But it won't be "out to pasture," just a change of pace for the energetic Farmer who plans to minister person-to-person to 300 regular listeners of the Sunday School broadcast he began three years ago on radio station KTER in Terrell.

The program began in the spirit of Farmer's philosophy as an administrator in the BGCT State Missions Commission: "Find a need and try to fill it."

A survey by First Baptist Church, Terrell, showed a great need for a ministry to senior citizens. Farmer, who was church outreach director, went to pastor Art Fineout and suggested a radio Sunday School class for shut-outs and shut-ins.

Today the membership ranges from as far south as Waxahachie to as far north as the Red River, a span of about 100 miles. The class includes people of three ethnic groups. Besides the shut-ins, there are 25 unchurched ranchers, businessmen and craftsmen with whom he has regular communication. Two of the men have accepted Christ as their Savior, he said.

The church pays for the broadcast time and furnishes Bibles on birthdays to those who don't have a Bible.

The format is simple. Farmer talks about things that have happened among the members, reads the scripture lesson, has prayer and plays gospel songs by such longtime favorites as Tennessee Ernie Ford, Frank Boggs and Kate Smith.

"The radio programs are going to allow me to be involved in Bold Mission Thrust up to my neck," Darwin said enthusiastically. "We're going to stay with Bold Mission long enough for the people to get involved." (Bold Mission Thrust is the SBC plan to present the claims of Christ to the world by the year 2000.)

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SPECIAL FEATURE

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SERVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

January 24, 1979

79-11A

What a Sunday!
What a Monday!

By James Teel Jr.

I couldn't believe it!

Sunday at our church was incredible. We had four speakers. Each told a more stirring tale than the one before. All four asked for money. I couldn't argue with that because they really needed financial help.

There were two colleges, a seminary, and one mission board represented. I was emotionally wrung out after hearing their stories. The congregation was pretty well drenched, too. I had asked each speaker to limit himself to ten minutes, including taking his offering, but none stayed within the time limit.

My song leader was furious. He and the choir had worked hard to prepare the special music. But there wasn't time for even one verse. There wasn't even time for my sermon. I scheduled the speaker from the mission board last, hoping we could keep the crowd. But still they started leaving long before the service was over. Actually, the last speaker got less offering than the others; most of the congregation had left before he even began to talk.

What a Sunday! It was awful. The deacons were mad. The members were mad, too. Many of them were mad at me. But what could I do? If our church is going to support all our Baptist causes, we have to allow every cause a hearing.

Now, here it is Monday morning. And what do I find piled on my desk when I get to the church office--a pile of letters, three-fourths of them from persons wanting to come tell our church about their work and to take an offering. I know I should be grateful our denomination has so many ministries. But frankly, I'm beginning to wonder if we shouldn't cut back on some of them.

One of those letters seemed to offer me a way out of all the mess. One of the mission boards wanted to know if I would consider speaking for their cause full-time. The letter sounded as if they were in desperate need of help. Of course, the more people they have out speaking and taking offerings, the more money they have to carry on their work.

My salary and expenses would come out of the offerings I took. But, still, they expected that would amount to only 70 percent. The remaining 30 percent would be income for the mission board.

The offer seemed such a good one that I started to ask my wife if she thought I should accept. She began shaking me...

"Honey, wake up!" she said. "You must be having a bad dream. It's Monday morning and you're going to be late to the office again." I rolled out of bed still scarcely able to separate my dream from reality.

By the time I got to the church office the rest of the staff was already there. In staff meeting I wanted to tell them about my nightmare, but I decided to wait. Maybe the morning coffee break would be a better time. After staff meeting, when I began going through some things on top of my desk, I was glad I hadn't mentioned the dream.

There on my desk I found a request from a Baptist magazine to write an article on "Why We Have the Cooperative Program." I'd put off starting the article, partly because I was pressed for time, and partly--though I'd never have admitted it, even to myself--because I subconsciously resented the amount of money from our church that went through the Cooperative Program.

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But with the dream fresh in my mind, I was ready to write. In fact, I was so eager I even forgot the coffee break. Why do we have the Cooperative Program? I knew at least one good answer: because of what it was like before we had the Cooperative Program.

But how easy it is to forget.

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James Teel Jr., is assistant director, Cooperative Program promotion, Stewardship Commission, Nashville, Tennessee.

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