

(BP)**-- BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 15, 1979

79-43

**Georgia Baptists Discuss
Schools, Retirement**

ATLANTA (BP)--Trustee responsibility at Baptist schools, retirement policies and salary packages highlighted the spring meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention's executive committee.

In a series of actions, the committee addressed itself to trustee autonomy and hiring of non-Baptists by Baptist schools, extended the retirement date of its executive secretary-treasurer, and raised salary of professional employees by 10 percent of base salary and 2 percent of housing allowance.

The committee also elected Edward R. Davie of Atlanta as the first fulltime black person on its administrative staff in the convention's 157-year history. Davie, named secretary of the program of work with National (Black) Baptists to succeed Earle F. Stirewalt, who retired February 1, has been an associate in the department for 17 years.

The Georgia committee approved a long statement spelling out the principle of trustee autonomy for Baptist schools and urged the school trustees to "be sensitive to their stewardship to the convention and to Baptist objectives in establishing and supporting colleges."

The statement also acknowledged that trustee and college administrators "will, at times, be unable to employ Baptists with expertise to meet all the objectives of the colleges."

However, the statement asks that when Baptists are not available, Georgia Baptist schools employ "persons of character, ideals and personal commitment consistent with the purpose of the college and the purpose of Baptists in supporting Christian education institutions."

The statement grew out of controversy at the 1977 and 1978 annual sessions of the Georgia Baptist Convention, revolving around motions that would have required colleges to hire Baptists only and that we have forced colleges to publish religious affiliations of all professors in the state Baptist paper, the Christian Index.

The Georgia executive committee brought to the 1978 convention a statement reaffirming trustee autonomy and citing legal and accreditation problems should religious affiliations of professors be secured and published.

The convention's request that the matter be studied again resulted in the statement adopted by the executive committee.

On the retirement question, the executive committee approved a motion allowing Executive Secretary-Treasurer Searcy S. Garrison to continue in office until the end of 1982, when he becomes 70 years old, if he so desires.

Current Georgia Baptist policy forces retirement at 68. Garrison, now 66, has been executive secretary-treasurer since January 1955. He told the executive committee, "I do not know at this moment what I will do--you caught me by surprise."

History Repeats: Donors
Give Rings for Missions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Fifteen months ago, a dying, 91-year-old woman touched the hearts of Southern Baptists when she gave her diamond solitaire engagement ring to be sold and the money given "to some young woman preparing for mission work."

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board received the ring. Staff members bought it and gave it to the board as a permanent display of sacrifice to missions.

Now, the SBC Foreign Mission Board and the Georgia Baptist Convention are recipients of similar, anonymous sacrifices.

At the Foreign Mission Board, a gold ring set with 12 single-cut diamonds arrived in an envelope wrapped in an ordinary paper towel. With it, a note: "Use this for foreign missions only. God Bless."

There was no name, no address, no city. There wasn't even a legible postmark, leaving the gift completely anonymous. The handwriting had a feminine flair, and was probably that of an older woman.

Two stunning diamond rings came to The Christian Index, Georgia Baptist newspaper, from a donor who signed herself, "Born Again."

A note in the package told the editor, Jack Harwell, to sell the rings and give the money to "whatever person or program the Lord leads you to."

The rings were appraised and sold and the money put in the endowment fund of The Christian Index, where its board felt the money would "undergird everything The Christian Index does to support Christian missions in Georgia and elsewhere," according to a story in the Index.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

Baptist Missionaries Safe
Following Reported Coup

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ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (BP)--Rebel leaders claimed to have gained control of Grenada, March 13, but all six Southern Baptist missionary personnel are reported safe.

Reports trickled in concerning the reported coup on the Caribbean Island, indicating at least two persons have died in fighting. A telex message from missionaries said Southern Baptist personnel "are well and in no danger."

Missionaries in Grenada are Carter and Charlotte Davis of Tennessee; Manget and Elaine Herrin of Georgia, Alabama and Florida; and Kenneth and Sylvia Wellmon of South and North Carolina.

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Legislators Told at Breakfast
Baptists 'Maturing' in Politics

Baptist Press
3/15/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--Twenty Baptist legislators were told during a congressional fellowship breakfast that Southern Baptists are "maturing" in their understanding of the political process.

"There's a sense of maturity I see in Southern Baptists' concern about the issues you're dealing with," said Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen. "I hope that's coming through to you and I hope it will continue to come through to you in more effective ways in the future because you need that kind of moral conscience support on the part of this segment of your constituency."

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Allen told the legislators that in the midst of such complex issues as inflation and world peace, "I feel that we have a responsibility not only to tell you we pray for you, but to pray for you, and not only to talk to you when there's something we'd like to correct, but also when there's something we'd like to support."

The task of the Christian Life Commission, the SBC moral concerns agency that sponsored the breakfast, Allen explained, is to "help Southern Baptists understand the issues--to respond out of their own political philosophy, but always to respond out of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Allen also updated the legislators at the informal briefing on what he called "an accelerated interest in missions" among Southern Baptists, "especially as it relates to a movement of the laity," and he outlined plans for June's Southern Baptist Convention in Houston.

Other participants in the breakfast fellowship were Executive Secretary Foy Valentine and Director of Christian Citizenship Development Bill Elder of the Christian Life Commission and former U.S. Congressman and SBC President Brooks Hays.

There are 55 Baptist legislators in the 96th Congress.

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Home Mission Board
Reports Personnel Actions

Baptist Press
3/15/79

ATLANTA (BP)--James Nelson has been named director of the division of associational missions at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Nelson, 54, a member of the Home Mission Board staff for five years, was one of three persons elected to the staff during the board's spring meeting. Directors also appointed five missionaries and nine US-2 missionaries and approved 12 mission pastors for church pastoral aid, a salary supplement from the board's church extension department to allow a new mission congregation to have a fulltime pastor who will lead them to self support.

Directors named Royce C. Williams, 47, a retired U.S. Army colonel, as administrative assistant in the chaplaincy division and Howard H. Ramsey, 50, as director of witness training in the department of personal evangelism.

Nelson replaces Loyd Corder, who resigned as division director last July to accept a post as assistant to the director of the missions section. He will oversee work of the division, which includes the departments of associational administration services, rural-urban and metropolitan missions.

Nelson has served as director of the department of rural-urban missions since 1975. Previously, he was director of missions ministries for the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, and home missionary on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. The graduate of Samford University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has also been a pastor in Alabama, Mississippi and the Canal Zone.

Williams, a native of Georgia, comes to the newly-created chaplains' division after retirement from the United States Army. In his last post, he was adjutant general readiness coordinator at the Headquarters of Army Readiness Region IV at Fort Gillem, Ga. He also has served in personnel and intelligence with the army. He is a graduate of North Georgia College and Northeastern University.

Directors created the position to which Williams was elected during the board meeting to allow other chaplaincy division personnel additional time in the field. They also created but did not fill a position for an associate director of personnel development services to assist the director, Charles Hancock, in providing services to board staff and appointed missionaries.

Ramsey, currently director of evangelism for the Northwest Baptist Convention, Portland, Ore., fills a post vacated earlier this year with the resignation of Robert Reccord. As director of witness training, he will develop and implement strategies, services and materials for use in churches, associations and state conventions to train people in witnessing skills.

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He is a native of Texas and has been a pastor, director of missions and state staffer in the northwest since 1964. He also has been pastor of several churches in Texas and is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Missionaries appointed were Stephen Aycock of Garden City, Kan., Alcides and Frances Guajardo of San Antonio, Texas, and Richard and Debra Hagar of Tulsa, Okla.

The nine US-2ers, although approved for service, will not begin their two-year missions term until August 15, 1979. They are Deborah Belew of Aiken, S.C.; Tina Fogle of San Bernardino, Calif.; Patrick Herlihy of Williamsburg, Ky.; James Hook of Louisville, Ky.; Mark Kelly of Skiatook, Okla.; Gene Kimbrough of Othello, Wash.; Pamela Kay Martin of Winnsboro, La.; William Mead of Tampa, Fla.; and Mark Walters of Huron, S.D.

Aycock will continue to serve in Garden City, where he has been director of Christian social ministries for the Western Kansas Association since October 1978. Previously, Aycock, a native of Russellville, Ala., was director of Christian social ministries for two years in Dodge City, Kan. He is a graduate of Samford University and holds a master of divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as a student intern for the Home Mission Board.

The Guajardos will serve in San Antonio, Texas, where he will be assistant dean of evening administration for the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute. Previously he was associate director for the El Paso and Corpus Christi Baptist Associations and formerly taught and directed in-service training at the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute. A native of Pharr, Texas, Guajardo has also served as pastor of several Texas churches. He is a graduate of the University of Corpus Christi and holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Frances Romero Guajardo, a native of Mineral, Texas, works as a kindergarten teacher part time for the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute and since 1976 has been director of the Spanish literacy program for Texas, also part time.

The Hagars will serve in Tulsa, Okla., where he will be director of Christian social ministries for the Tulsa Baptist Association. Prior to appointment, Hagar earned a master of religious education degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and worked as a student intern for the Home Mission Board at the Baptist Good Will Center in Fort Worth. A native of Waynesville, Mo., he is a graduate of Baylor University and holds a master of science in social work degree from the University of Texas.

Debra Phillips Hagar, a native of Mexia, Texas, is a substitute teacher in the Tulsa public schools. She is a graduate of Baylor University and has also worked as a speech therapist, day camp counselor and in sales and office work.

Ms. Belew will serve in Sylva, N.C., where she will participate in resort missions. She is a South Carolina native and a graduate of the University of South Carolina.

Ms. Fogle will work in Hot Springs, Ark., in resort missions. She is a California native and a graduate of California Baptist College. In 1978 she served as a summer missionary in Hawaii.

Herlihy will serve in San Diego, Calif., in student work. He is a Kentucky native and graduate of Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky. He served for three years as a summer missionary.

Hook will serve in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in resort missions. A South Carolina native, he is a graduate of the Baptist College at Charleston and has begun work toward a master of religious education degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Regina, chose not to be appointed.

Kelly will serve in Chicago, Ill., in student work. He is an Oklahoma native and graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and has attended the divinity school of the University of Chicago.

Kimbrough will serve in Minneapolis, Minn., in student work. He is a graduate of Utah State University and is a native of Washington state.

Ms. Martin will serve in Cincinnati, Ohio, in student work. She is a Louisiana native and a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University. During the summer of 1977 she was a summer youth director in Crossett, Ark., and during 1978, a church starter in Baton Rouge, La.

Mead will serve in Wilmington, N.C., in resort missions. He is a Florida native and a graduate of the University of South Florida.

Walters will serve in El Portal, Calif., in student work. He is a South Dakota native and graduate of South Dakota State University. In 1976, he served as a summer missionary in Ketchikan, Alaska, and in 1978, in Bozeman, Mont.

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Home Board Directors
Act on World Hunger

Baptist Press
3/15/79

ATLANTA (BP)--Directors of the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board showed their concern for world hunger during their annual spring meeting with an "austerity meal."

The directors voted to continue the observance on an annual basis and to invite other Southern Baptist groups--even the SBC annual meeting--to join them in their observance.

They also re-elected Robert L. Deneen, a pastor from Columbia, S.C., as president of the board of directors and heard a report from William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer, on the progress of the Mission Service Corps and his plans to seek an associate executive director-treasurer "sometime this calendar year."

The directors appointed a committee to make a survey of work now done by the board in the areas of poverty and hunger and to "make recommendations as to ways the Home Mission Board can further relate to these critical areas."

Nell Bowen of Forsyth, Ga., Edna Shows of Atlanta, and Clifton Tennison of West Monroe, La., were appointed to the committee, which was named in response to recommendations made during the recent SBC Convocation on World Hunger. One recommendation called on SBC agencies to "develop a comprehensive domestic hunger program which deals with hunger and poverty and their effects upon quality of life."

During the "austerity meal" directors ate soup and bread, contributing the difference between that and a full meal to world hunger relief. "We generated about \$200," said Bill Turner, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., who proposed the idea and then made the motion to continue the observance.

"The semi-emptiness of our stomachs may have sensitized us to the plight of more than 400-million people around the world whose lives are threatened by hunger," he said. "World hunger is not going to go away; the only way we can combat it is through a sustained response."

Turner said world hunger has become a "personal concern" and added the Kentucky Baptist executive board has participated in an annual "austerity meal" observance for several years.

"The amount we generated here was only several hundred dollars, but if other SBC groups would join us, it could be several thousand dollars. And, if the people who attend the SBC would adopt such an observance, the amount would be quite significant," Turner said.

The funds will be sent as a designated offering to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Tanner told the directors that 115 persons have been assigned by the Home Mission Board in the Mission Service Corps, the SBC plan to place 5,000 volunteer missionaries on home and foreign missions fields by 1982 to supplement career missionaries.

Commenting on his announcement about an associate executive director-treasurer, he said, "I purposely waited a couple of years until I felt I had the opportunity to get the pulse of the Home Mission Board before getting an associate."

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Going 'Home' to Thailand
Takes Sweat and Patience

By Anita Bowden and Maxine Stewart

LEXINGTON, N.C. (BP)--Robert Hill had visions of "returning home" when he and his wife Ellen, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's first Mission Service Corps volunteer couple, headed for Thailand.

That's where Robert, son of missionaries Ronald C. and Evelyn Hill, had grown up. But things weren't quite the way he remembered.

"At first glance one would think that returning to work on the field where you grew up would be all fun and games," he said. "After all, you know the language, people and customs and it was your home. But loving a place as a child and trying to return that love as an adult are two very different ideas."

As a partner in the work, Hill discovered just how different these two situations are. Language is not enough; understanding is not enough; experience is not enough. "It takes plain old sweat, unlimited patience and a whole lot of God's grace," said Hill, who worked in music ministries.

"I'm thankful I had the opportunity to share in the true picture of the work," he added. "My appreciation for the missionaries and their work has been greatly restructured and I have grown immeasurably as a person."

Hill said he was sometimes frustrated by the slow pace, but admits "we were trying to pack a lot into a short time," which is hard to do in music. "It's a building project; it's not something you can do quickly," he said.

Hill held music workshops and camps for several churches, as well as for the chorus of Ramkhamhaeng University, Thailand's largest university.

At the Thailand Baptist Theological Seminary, Bangkok, he taught music fundamentals for two terms and taught guitar and music fundamentals at the Thailand Baptist student center, also in Bangkok. He organized several choirs, including one at the seminary and a 60-voice choir for the Thailand Baptist Convention evangelistic meeting.

During their year, the Hills appeared on television five times, presented four concerts at the Baptist student center and toured the southern arm of Thailand, giving concerts along the way. Twice Hill sang at a prison.

But he said some of his most satisfying time was spent writing and arranging songs for use in Thailand. He and Ellen wrote choral arrangements of Thai hymns, and he wrote several original songs for small group worship.

Hill said they are glad they volunteered for the year's work through Mission Service Corps, the SBC plan to put 5,000 volunteers beside career missionaries at home and abroad, and observed that often someone with a talent that interests people of another culture can fit quickly into the situation and develop personal relationships with them.

Back in North Carolina, the Hills plan to continue holding workshops to help churches develop their own style of music and music programs.

Drinan Sees Long U.S.
Church-State Struggle

WASHINGTON (BP)--Congressman Robert F. Drinan, D-Mass., told an annual gathering of religious lobbyists that the present struggle between the government and the churches "is not a crusade for the short-winded."

Referring to numerous recent instances of government interference with religious groups, the Jesuit priest who represents Massachusetts' Fourth Congressional District told nearly 500 persons attending the annual IMPACT legislative briefing that "we have a long, long pilgrimage ahead of us."

Drinan paid tribute to colonial Baptist leader Roger Williams, reminding his audience that Williams fled Massachusetts for Rhode Island because he wanted to prevent the domination of churches by government. Thomas Jefferson, on the other hand, was likewise properly concerned about the possible domination of the state by the churches, Drinan went on.

Drinan called the balancing of those two factors in U.S. church-state relations a "very delicate symbiosis." He also said that the constitutionally guaranteed right of free exercise of religion "still has a long way to go in the evolution of Supreme Court decisions."

He labeled as "overbroad" a set of revised procedures announced recently by the Internal Revenue Service designed to require private schools to prove they are racially nondiscriminatory and said that the IRS decision to revise the proposals after a flood of protest is a "dramatic example" of "rational" action by the churches.

On another key church-state question, Drinan said he opposes proposed lobby disclosure legislation which would require lobbyists "to fill in all sorts of forms." He said he is opposed to efforts to inhibit churches and other "grassroots" lobbyists from influencing the Congress.

He urged support of his own bill which would guarantee the employment rights of Sabbatarians. He predicted that "with a little help from the churches" his bill could be passed.

Drinan also said he will continue to oppose proposed tuition tax credits for parents who choose to send their children to nonpublic schools, calling the proposal a "misuse of the tax structure."

He said the government "should not act in haste" in attempting to prevent future Jonestowns by monitoring and regulating religious cults. He also said he sees no real religious liberty issues in the placement of the World Wide Church of God under financial receivership by the state of California and declared that charges of religious persecution by the Church of Scientology should be left to the courts.

Drinan pledged to continue to vote against restrictive abortion proposals, including any human life amendment to the Constitution and all efforts to restrict publicly funded abortions for needy women.

The legislative briefing is sponsored annually by the Washington Interreligious Staff Council and by IMPACT, a nationwide grassroots lobbying network sponsored by cooperating denominations.

Southern Baptists were represented by a dozen participants, including staff members from the SBC Christian Life Commission, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and the Texas, North Carolina, and Virginia State Baptist Conventions.

Multi-Ethnic Churches
Strengthen Southern Baptists

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Multi-ethnic churches are the wave of the future for Southern Baptists, the first employee in the Sunday School Board's newly created ethnic liaison unit told participants in a senior adult ministry seminar.

Sidney Smith Jr. praised Southern Baptists for leading out in multi-ethnic ministry and noted that in California 90 percent of Southern Baptist churches are multi-ethnic.

In building a multi-ethnic congregation, Smith said leaders should utilize the strengths of various groups. "In saying, 'we treat all people alike,'" Smith said, leaders may be proclaiming equality but also implying an unwillingness to accommodate differences.

"I suspect that certain groups have certain ethnic gifts," said Smith, who is black. He cited the organizational skills of whites, the capacity of blacks to mobilize the church for social change, the priority Chinese place on education and the capacity of Hispanics to adjust to a multi-cultural environment.

"If we put all these gifts into one church we would have a tremendous combination for achieving Bold Mission," Smith said.

He noted that ethnic differences "must be recognized and related to." Smith listed three major ethnic differences created by the black experience.

First, he said, black people have a "liberation oriented mindset. The primary question in the minds of black people has to do with liberation." For example, in evaluating a political candidate, blacks are likely to first check out his position on civil rights issues, Smith said.

A second difference he cited was the fact that the black church is the most powerful institution in the black community. "The black church has provided therapy against oppression," has protected people against injustice and has led out in self-improvement programs for blacks, he said.

One evidence of the involvement of the black church in senior citizens' affairs in the black community, Smith said, is that secular senior citizens organizations often maintain the office of chaplain and include prayer and Scripture reading in meetings.

Third, Smith said, black people have not yet closed the door to multi-ethnic ministries. "It is possible to have multi-ethnic ministries with black people," he said.

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Fort Named President
of Student Directors

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OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP)--Sam Fort of the Northwest Baptist Convention, Portland, Ore., has been elected president of the State Baptist Student Directors Association.

Other officers are Don Blaylock of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown, Ky., president-elect; and William Bonner of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, Richmond, secretary.

The organization is made up of state directors of student work in each of the 34 state Baptist conventions and three fellowships which cover Southern Baptist work in all 50 states. Southern Baptists have student work on more than 1,100 campuses across the U.S.

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