



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 20, 1979

79-102

**Missionaries Continue Work
In Ghana Despite Tensions**

ACCRA, Ghana (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in Ghana have been able to continue their work in the aftermath of a June 4 coup, missionary Robert W. Sims has reported in a letter to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Missionaries remained in their homes during the disturbances, said Sims, who is from Alabama. Most incidents related to the coup were in localized areas of the capital city of Accra. Airports and borders, temporarily closed, are now open.

The new military government has promised that June 18 elections of a civilian government will be honored but announced the installation of new government officials will be delayed until Oct. 1.

Since July 1978, Ghana has been under the military rule of members of the national army who ousted Ignatius K. Acheampong as head of state in a bloodless coup. A group of junior officers, dissatisfied with progress under the military government, seized power early in June under leadership of a 32-year-old pilot, Flight Lt. Jerry Rawlings.

Southern Baptist work in the west African country includes literacy, evangelism and medical ministries. Fifty-two missionaries are assigned to Ghana.

Sims, the business manager for the organization of missionaries in Ghana, requested prayer during the transition of governments.

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**Killer Gets
Four Years**

Baptist Press
6/20/79

ADA, Okla. (BP)--A woman convicted of first-degree manslaughter in the shooting of a young minister of music and youth Jan. 9 was sentenced to four years in prison.

Eula Vay West was convicted of killing Roy Akehurst, a staff member of First Baptist Church, Francis, Okla., and student at East Central State University, Ada.

At the time of the shooting, Akehurst, 21, had gone to Mrs. West's home to finish installation of a washer with another employee from an Ada appliance store where he worked part-time.

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**SALT II Debate Begins With
Carter Appeal to Congress**

Baptist Press
6/20/79
By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--Declaring that the United States and the Soviet Union "must live in peace or we may not live at all," President Carter launched his formal campaign to have the U. S. Senate ratify the SALT II treaty in an address before a joint session of Congress.

Just hours after his return from Vienna, where he and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev signed the treaty, Carter told members of Congress and a nationwide television audience that the ancient pattern of war and peace "must now be broken forever."

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The president's speech, which received a mixed reaction from senators who will be voting it up or down, marked the beginning of formal debate on the controversial pact, although in fact debate has been raging for months.

At the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, for example, messengers argued the merits of the treaty before endorsing it overwhelmingly. If recent White House political strategy is followed, as in the debate last year over ratification of the Panama Canal treaties, leading Southern Baptists and other religious leaders who support SALT II will likely be asked to lobby senators from their states who are wavering.

In his speech to Congress, Carter emphasized one of the administration's most telling arguments for ratification by pointing out that since the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, seven U. S. presidents of both parties have sought to reduce the "most dangerous" elements of U. S. relations with its post-World War II co-superpower, the Soviet Union.

Stating that "this is a vital and a continuing process," he called the names of Presidents Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, and Gerald R. Ford.

He also called attention to the fact that the just-signed treaty "is the product of seven years of tough, painstaking negotiation under three presidents."

But most of Carter's speech seemed designed to assure skeptical senators and the American public that the treaty actually serves the national defense interests of the United States.

"To keep the peace," he said, "we must have strong military forces, strong alliances and a strong national resolve--so strong that no potential adversary could be tempted to attack us. We have that strength--and the strength of the United States is growing, not diminishing."

He went on to say that "with or without SALT II we must modernize and strengthen our strategic forces--and we are doing so."

Carter also struck a theme he and other administration officials have been striking for months--that the treaty "is not based on trust." On the contrary, he said, compliance with its provisions "will be assured by our own nation's means of verification." That includes, he said, "extremely sophisticated satellites, powerful electronic systems and a vast intelligence network."

He declared that should the Soviet Union choose to ignore the strategic balance agreements contained in the treaty, "there is no doubt that we would discover it in time to respond fully and effectively." The prospect of verification will undoubtedly be one of the key elements in the Senate debate over ratification.

The president also sought to cast the long-awaited agreement in historical perspective by declaring that while SALT II is important in itself, it is also "part of a long historical process of gradually reducing the danger of nuclear war--a process that we must not undermine."

Against that backdrop, he warned, "It would be the height of irresponsibility to ignore the possible consequences" of failure to ratify the agreement. Among those consequences he identified vast new expenditures for strategic weapons, uncertainty about the strategic balance, the danger of more and more nations acquiring nuclear weapons, and increased political tensions between east and west.

"In short," he concluded, "SALT II is not a favor we are doing for the Soviet Union. It is a deliberate, calculated move we are making as a matter of self-interest--a move that happens to serve the goals both of security and of survival, that strengthens both the military position of the United States and the cause of world peace..."

New SBC President
Accosted in Pulpit

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--A bearded 21-year old white man with disheveled hair and shirt open to the waist accosted Adrian Rogers during his first appearance in the pulpit since his election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

William E. Cotton of Memphis was forcibly restrained by staff and choir members of Bellevue Baptist Church, on Sunday, June 17, who intercepted him near the pulpit.

Cotton was scheduled to appear in city court later in the week on charges of disturbing a religious assembly and two counts of aggravated assault.

Rogers was preaching a televised sermon on "The Christian's Relationship With This World" when Cotton, shouting at the top of his voice, bounded through a side door and leaped onto the platform.

Rogers said he threw up his hands, and Cotton stopped. "I feel he was stopped by the power of God," Rogers declared.

After a momentary pause, the assailant struck Leonard Garland, a choir member and former "Golden Gloves" champion who leveled him with a round house left which, Rogers said, was "thrown from Desota County, Mississippi."

Rogers said he tried to calm the young man with prayer as church leaders held him. But Cotton began raging incoherently again when he was released, so police were called.

"I told my people, it's exciting being president of the Southern Baptist Convention," Rogers said.

Associate Pastor Elmer Bailey said, "We could not tell if he was trying to attack Dr. Rogers. I think that he was trying to get attention. He didn't seem to be espousing any cause and was not crying out for any particular attention as far as any particular cause was concerned. About the only intelligible words that I could understand were 'please help me, help me.'

"When Dr. Rogers started praying over him, I could hear him saying, 'Don't lay that on me; they're killing me,' which was either the cry of a deranged person or possibly a person who is demonized," Bailey said.

Police said Cotton, a new member of Bellevue, was rational but evasive and blamed the outburst on "the generation gap in the city."

Police added that Cotton told of drinking a bottle of beer before going to church and telephoning his father that he planned to be on TV.

The new SBC president said he finished his sermon and more than 40 persons responded to the altar call. "God uses the axe that the devil sharpens." Rogers explained.

Church members said they plan to have more security for the pulpit area of the 10,400-member congregation in the future.

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Mercer Elects Kirby
Godsey to Presidency

Baptist Press
6/20/79

MACON, Ga. (BP)--R. Kirby Godsey, 43, has been elected president of Mercer University, succeeding Rufus Carrollton Harris, who has held the office for 20 years, the second longest term in the Baptist school's 146-year history.

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The election of Godsey, Mercer's executive vice president and chief administrative officer since July 1978, will become effective July 1.

Harris, 82, becomes chancellor of the university, a new position created by the trustees at their spring meeting last April 19. The resolution creating the office said "the chancellorship shall be non-executive, and advisory in nature and that the responsibilities of the chancellorship shall be defined by the new president."

Godsey came to Mercer as dean of the college of liberal arts on Feb. 15, 1977, from Averett College, Danville, Va., where he was vice president and dean of the college.

A Birmingham, Ala., native, Godsey holds five earned degrees. They are bachelor of arts, Samford University; bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; master of arts, University of Alabama; and doctor of philosophy, Tulane University.

Godsey's career has included service as a Baptist minister and teacher of philosophy and religion. He has published numerous articles on religion, philosophy and education.

He has served as chief consultant for a comprehensive institutional development project serving 56 colleges in the United States, funded by the U. S. Office of Education. He was for three years a Danforth Associate for the Danforth Foundation.

He also has been a representative of higher education on a panel for the American Council of Education, and was chairman of a Task Force on Academic Affairs for the Council for Advancement of Small Colleges.

Godsey also is a consultant for Planning and Data Systems, which is funded by the Carnegie Foundation for management systems analysis in colleges and universities.

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Retired Missionary Allowed
To Continue Work in Turkey

Baptist Press
6/20/79

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Retired Southern Baptist Missionary John Allen Moore will be allowed to serve as pastor of the American congregation in Ankara, Turkey, under certain conditions specified by the Turkish government.

Foreign Mission Board officials in Richmond said Moore had been granted a visa for one year if the church will move off its rented property. The church cannot exist anywhere "on Turkish territory," the regulations state. This means meetings must take place in the American embassy or some similar place.

Moore reported that the embassy has agreed to help the church find suitable quarters.

Moore will take the place of James F. Leeper, Southern Baptist missionary to Turkey for 12 years who was asked to leave the country last fall. Leeper helped establish the American congregation and was its pastor for 12 years. The Turkish government would not renew Leeper's residence permit because they claimed the church itself was illegal.

Leeper and his family are now working with Turks in Germany.

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Van Nuys Church Votes
Not To Join Southern Baptists

By Don Hepburn

Baptist Press
6/20/79

VAN NUYS, Calif. (BP)--The First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, one of the largest evangelical churches in Southern California, has voted not to affiliate with the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Although a majority approved the bylaw changes, which would have dually aligned the independent congregation with the Southern Baptists and Conservative Baptists, the resolution failed because passage required two-thirds majority approval.

The action was taken Sunday, June 10, during a called business session following the morning worship service. The vote was preceded earlier in the week with a two hour debate during a Wednesday evening business session.

Officials report 1,397 ballots were cast, with 53.4 percent voting in favor of SBC affiliation. The current membership is said to be 8,400, down from a previous high of 11,000.

Jess Moody, pastor of the church, attributed the lack of a two-thirds majority to "misrepresentation" of what the Southern Baptist alignment would mean and to what he said was voting by members who have since shifted their allegiances to other churches.

The Los Angeles Times reported that two critics of Moody, who have questioned statements made by the pastor on a variety of matters, denied knowledge of any members unethically participating in the voting. The two, who asked not to be identified, said there were instances of qualified members who were turned away because their names were "deleted" or "dismissed" from the rolls.

C. W. Butterfield, a deacon and longtime member who opposed the new bylaws, said he was unaware of any unfair deletions, however.

Butterfield, saying the Southern Baptist issue was blown out of proportion, felt most objections were to what he called a shift of authority from the board of trustees to the pastor's cabinet. He also claimed the proposals were presented too fast and without full consultation with the deacons and trustees.

While conceding that it might have been better to proceed more slowly, Moody claimed the bylaws were rather "standard" bylaws for any organization and that the deacons' executive committee and other organizations of the church were consulted.

In the 1960s, Van Nuys First Baptist was aligned with the American Baptists. After it went independent, the church channeled much of its mission money to Conservative Baptist missionaries.

The L. A. Times reported one argument against the proposed dual alignment was that the church's somewhat diminished giving to missions would be split. "The Southern Baptists don't need our money and the Conservative Baptists do," a church member said.

Moody, who previously served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., a Southern Baptist congregation, said the Van Nuys church is now giving only about 45 percent of its mission funds to Conservative Baptists and the rest to "para-church groups and faith missions." He added: "When you give to Southern Baptist missions you pick up 94 new nations where the Conservative Baptists are not present."

The church reportedly does use some materials and some methods developed by the SBC, although the church does not support any SBC institution or program.

Moody, who at one time served as president of the SBC Pastors' Conference, has been pastor of the Van Nuys church since 1976.

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New Orleans Seminary
Names 3 To Faculty

Baptist Press
6/20/79

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Three persons have been added to the full-time faculty of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The executive committee of the seminary's board of trustees elected Daniel Holcomb, Linda Shipley and M. Thomas Starkes to fill positions vacated by resignations or deaths among the faculty.

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Starkes, an authority on world religions, will serve as associate professor of Christian missions and world religions, in the division of theological and historical studies. He has served in several pastorates, and has been director of the department of interfaith witness and secretary of the department of work related to non-evangelicals at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Prior to coming to the seminary, Starkes was campus minister at Southwest Missouri Baptist University.

A native of Eastland, Texas, Starkes has authored more than 16 books, 150 articles, and has appeared in numerous media presentations. He is a graduate of Wayland College, received the master of divinity degree from the Southern Baptist Seminary, and the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Iowa.

Miss Shipley, a native of Kingsport, Tenn., will serve as assistant professor of music theory and piano, in the division of church music ministries. She has served in several church staff positions, the most recent of which was that of accompanist and children's choir director of the University Heights Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Fla. She also has served in music positions in churches in Tennessee and Indiana.

She is a graduate of Carson Newman College, received the master of church music degree from the Southern Baptist Seminary, and the doctor of philosophy degree from Florida State University.

Holcomb will serve as associate professor of church history, in the division of theological and historical studies. Currently he is chairman of the department of religion and associate professor of religion at Oklahoma Baptist University. He has been at OBU since 1969.

A native of San Antonio, Texas, Holcomb is a graduate of Mississippi College. He also received both the bachelor and master of arts degrees from Mississippi Southern College, the bachelor of divinity degree from the New Orleans Seminary, and the master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Baptist Seminary.

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BJCPA Names New Director
Of Denominational Services

Baptist Press
6/20/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--Victor Tupitza, an American Baptist clergyman and journalist, has been named director of denominational services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Tupitza, director of communication for denominational concerns for the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., Valley Forge, Pa., for the past five years, has served American Baptists in several capacities since 1966. He succeeds Stan L. Hastey, who was named last fall as the agency's director of information services.

The denominational services post involves overall responsibility for the Washington-based agency's relations with all nine sponsoring Baptist bodies and with other agencies and institutions belonging to those groups.

In addition, Tupitza, 52, will become managing editor of Report from the Capital, the monthly publication of the Baptist public affairs agency. He also will be responsible for the development of brochures, pamphlets, and other promotional and issue-oriented publications produced by the BJCPA. He begins July 10.

As a member of the executive staff of the Baptist Joint Committee, Tupitza will share responsibility for issue development and advocacy on behalf of agency public affairs positions.

"I have had a long interest in the area of personal liberties," he said. "I feel keenly about them in part because my parents left a repressive atmosphere in the Soviet Union just before the revolution."

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Tupitza graduated from Eastern College, St. Davids, Pa., Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and has done work toward a doctorate in religious thought at Temple University in Philadelphia. He was pastor for six years of the First Baptist Church, Manayunk, Pa.

He joined the staff of the American Baptist Churches in 1966, as business manager and editor's assistant of two missions magazines. From 1970 to 1974, he was director of communication for the division of national ministries.

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

SBC Seminaries
Meet in Houston

Baptist Press
6/20/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--The six Southern Baptist seminaries elected alumni officers, honored outstanding alumni and reported on fund raising efforts at alumni luncheons during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, elected Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, as president, and D. L. Lowrie, pastor of First Baptist Church, Texarkana, Texas, as president-elect.

The seminary recognized three SBC seminary presidents as distinguished alumni for 1979-- Russell H. Dilday Jr., Southwestern; W. Randall Lolley, Southeastern; and William M. Pinson Jr., Golden Gate.

Southwestern also affirmed support of faculty members and announced successful completion of its \$8 million capital needs campaign a year ahead of schedule.

"Over the past year the faculty of Southwestern has impressed me with their dedication to the Scripture and their belief in the word of God," Dilday said. "Southern Baptists have a great advantage by being persons with differing viewpoints whose freedom of expressing themselves has always been a hallmark of the denomination."

The seminary presented awards to Evangelist Billy Graham and former U.S. Postmaster General Marvin Watson, honorary and general chairmen respectively of the fund raising campaign which collected \$8,000,380.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., announced the first million dollar gift in the history of the seminary. It came from Col. and Mrs. Marshall A. Sanders of Louisville, and their daughter, Joyce. Sanders, 62, a retired Army colonel, challenged alumni to use their energies to "dissipate ignorance by preaching the Word," and called on other Baptist laymen to help secure the seminary for its mission in the years to come.

The \$1 million gift boosted to \$6.5 million the amount given and pledged to the seminary's endowment fund drive.

The Southern Seminary luncheon received a surprise visit from Billy Graham, who was in Houston for a Bold Mission rally. He reaffirmed his warm affection and full support for the seminary and its program, a spokesman said.

Southern Seminary President Duke K. McCall urged alumni to pray for and work with the new SBC president Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., and reported he had invited Rogers more than a year ago to preach at the seminary. He said he would reissue that invitation in keeping with the seminary's long tradition of bringing SBC presidents to the campus.

The seminary alumni elected R. Gene Puckett, outgoing editor of the Maryland Baptist and executive director-elect of Americans United, Washington, D.C., as president for 1980-81. He succeeds Charles Ashcraft, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, Little Rock, who becomes alumni president this fall.

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Admiral James W. Kelly, retired chief of Naval chaplains; Chevis Horne, pastor of First Baptist Church, Martinsville, Va.; and Niles Puckett, professor of Bible at Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz., were honored as alumni of the year.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., announced that gifts to its \$3.5 million fund raising campaign were approaching the \$1 million mark and affirmed their teachers as "authentic interpreters of the Gospel."

A resolution adopted by the alumni noted that "there seem to be certain rumblings of discontent concerning the viability of some seminary education capacities for receiving, comprehending and interpreting content of the Gospel..." The alumni went on to restate their "faith in our professors as believers in the Gospel of Christ and as authentic interpreters of that Gospel" and to reaffirm their confidence "in the integrity of (President) Randall Lolley."

The Southeastern alumni elected Jim Baucom, pastor of First Baptist Church, Radford, Va., as president; and Earl Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., as vice president.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary alumni approved a campaign to raise as much as a quarter of a million dollars toward the school's \$2 million capital and endowment funds campaign. Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., will head the alumni campaign.

Many alumni, including Adrian Rogers, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, immediately announced pledges in support of the campaign, a spokesman said.

In other action, the alumni elected Curry Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lafayette, La., as president, and Peter McLeod, pastor of First Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, as vice president and president-elect.

Outstanding alumni awards went to Reginald McDonough, secretary, church administration department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., and Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.

Three alumni of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary at Mill Valley, Calif., received alumnus of the year awards, one posthumously.

Awards went to Jack B. Johnson, newly elected executive director-treasurer of the Arizona Baptist Convention, and Max Kell, pastor of El Camino Baptist Church, Sacramento, Calif.

Robert D. Hughes, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, accepted an award for his son, John O. Hughes, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church of Richmond, Calif., who died four months ago.

In other action, James M. Morton, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Livermore, Calif., was elected president of the alumni association and Arthur Nunn, director of associational missions, Sacramento Baptist Association, president-elect.

Alumni of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., approved a change in their constitution to allow for re-organization of the association's elected officers. The officers will be president, president-elect and past-president.

Following that action, Duane Trimble, pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church, Webster Grove, Mo., was elected president, and Robert Meade, a former seminary staffer and current pastor of First Baptist Church, Lee's Summit, Mo., president-elect. In other action the alumni heard reports on the initiation of a development program and affirmation by President Milton Ferguson of the seminary trustees.

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CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 6-13-79, entitled "SBC Elects 'Small Church' Pastor as 2nd VP," please make the following change in graph six. Lee Porter should be listed as SBC registration secretary and Martin Bradley should be added as recording secretary.