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Love Is Common Denominator
For Fledgling US-2 Workers

By Marv Knox

ATLANTA (BP)--They hail from New York to Hawaii, from Florida to Washington. They'll work in ghetto gyms and stylish hotels, on sun-washed beaches and college campuses.

Their common denominator is love.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board recently commissioned as US-2 missionaries 32 young college graduates who will spend the next two years serving in mission endeavors all across the United States.

The bright, ambitious young people have postponed careers and continued education to spend 24 months in a program which resembles a Christian Peace Corps. They'll receive only subsistence wages, but they'll get lots of experience and work.

Their reasons are varied:

"Love for my fellowmen and a desire to help them experience the love that Christ has for them," is the reason forwarded by Bill Mead, a native of Tampa, Fla., now serving in Wilmington, Del.

Mark Spain, from Gulfport, Miss., was moved by a "desire to minister and do some pioneer mission work."

Other of the short-term missionaries wanted to test the waters before making permanent career decisions. For some, it was an opportunity to see if they wanted a Christian vocation as their life's work.

"US-2 is a good opportunity to experience pioneer home missions work before a life-long commitment is made," said Carl Hartness, a native of Atlanta, Ga., who will work with young people in Buffalo, N.Y.

Some volunteers, such as Mark Walters of Huron, S.D., applied for acceptance in the program because of a desire to "learn and grow while serving, before seminary." Walters will work in Yosemite National Park.

Others applied and decided to accept appointment simply because they saw a need.

Whatever the reasons for service, their help is valuable, said Don Rhymes, director of the missionary personnel department at the Home Mission Board.

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"They offer much-needed help to many ministry centers where there are no trained Southern Baptist persons," Rhymes said. "Some of them are even beginning new types of work--leading Baptists in areas not presently reached."

The 32 new US-2 missionaries were commissioned during services at First Baptist Church of Westminster, S.C., and participated in a week long orientation at Georgia Baptist Assembly at Toccoa before going to their fields of service.

The US-2ers, their hometowns and fields of service are:

Christian Social Ministries--Cynthia Blair of Warner Robins, Ga., serving in St. Louis, Mo.; Donna Cochran of Talbotton, Ga., serving in New Orleans; Bruce and Jacqueline Day of Jacksonville, Fla., serving in Clarksville, Tenn.;

Also Wayne and Debbie Hollaway of Arab, Ala., serving in Atlanta; Jean Ann Stewart of Morristown, Tenn., serving in Groton, Conn.; Chandra Tagnani of Bonne Terre, Mo., serving in Hope, Ark.; and Tanya Waters of Pontotoc, Miss., serving in Chelsea, Mass.

Church Extension--Bobbie Finniss of Liverpool, N.Y., serving in Potsdam, N.Y.; Carl Hartness of Atlanta, serving in Buffalo, N.Y.; Johnny Hutchison of Monroe, La., serving in Schenectady, N.Y.; Kip Kimbrough of Othello, Wash., serving in Brooklyn, N.Y.; Barry and Becki Massie of Dayton, Ohio, serving in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii; Lee Ann Shumaker of Tampa, Fla., serving in Birmingham, Ala.

Language Missions--Kit Han (Vivian) Fong of Hong Kong, serving in Little Rock, Ark.; Janice Monroe of Yuma, Ariz., serving in Newburgh, N.Y.; Diana Osborne of Burkburnett, Texas, serving in Seminole, Okla.; Mark and Cathy Spain of Gulfport, Miss., serving in Portland, Ore., and Lai Fal (Winnie) Yiu of Honolulu, serving in Honolulu.

Special Mission Ministries--Debbie Belew of Aiken, S.C., serving in Franklin, N.C.; Tina Marie Fogle of San Bernardino, Calif., serving in Hot Springs, Ark.; Patrick Herlihy of Williamsburg, Ky., serving in San Diego, Calif.; James (Stormy) and Kay Hook of Columbia, S.C., serving in Myrtle Beach, S.C.;

Mark Kelly of Skiatook, Okla., serving in Chicago; Tip Kimbrough of Othello, Wash., serving in Minneapolis, Minn.; Pam Martin of Winnsboro, La., serving in Cincinnati; Bill Mead of Tampa, Fla., serving in Wilmington, N.C., and Mark Walters of Huron, S.D., serving in El Portal, Calif.

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Southern Seminary
Names Staff Members

Baptist Press
9/5/79

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here has announced additions of an assistant treasurer, associate director of college relations and a news director to its staff.

Jere Schrader, a second-year student at the seminary who had been serving as accounting supervisor, has been named assistant treasurer, according to seminary treasurer Richard Broome.

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A native of Cleveland, Tenn., Schrader is a 1976 graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn. He was a junior accountant in the firm of Hickman, Pugh and Co., Knoxville, Tenn., before going to seminary.

Rick Astle, a native of Richmond, Va., will become associate director of college relations. He is a 1974 graduate of the University of Kentucky and a 1977 graduate of Southern Seminary. He was associate pastor/minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Lumberton, N.C., before joining Southern Seminary.

Johnny Hughes, a second year student at the seminary, was named news director. A native of Hartselle, Ala., he is a 1977 graduate of Mobile (Ala.) College.

He has worked with the Courier-Journal newspaper in Louisville and the Western Recorder, the Kentucky Baptist state newspaper. He has also written for several denominational publications and served as a student intern in communications at the Baptist Sunday School Board in the summer of 1978.

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Water Draws 'Witch' Into Well Ministry

By Charlie Warren

DALLAS (BP)--When D. L. Kite rides over a dry, west Texas field in a pickup truck, he can tell when the truck passes over water just by "feeling it."

Kite is a "water witch" who uses his God-given talent for finding water to help poor Mexican villagers through the Texas Baptist River Ministry.

He can't explain how he does it. He says he "just feels it" when water is directly underground. To make sure he's absolutely on target, Kite uses a fresh clip of mesquite tree or some other freshly-cut branch as a "divining rod."

Inserting a silver dollar in one end of the branch, he says he can even distinguish between fresh water and salt water.

He says plant life needs water and will "feel" for it. When water is beneath him, the "divining rod" points down to the spot.

Kite is a field consultant for the Texas Baptist River Ministry, which drills wells in villages that don't have proper water systems. Currently, J. C. Wood, full-time River Ministry volunteer from the Texas panhandle, operates a drilling rig to dig the wells.

Wood says he has learned from experience to dig wherever Kite tells him. Wood estimates they hit fresh water more than 80 percent of the time, using Kit's "gift."

The river ministry is involved in many projects that help improve living conditions, but Kite says nothing changes the people's lifestyle as dramatically as digging a well and piping in fresh water.

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"It changes the ratio of births to deaths," Kits explains, "and it's just good to see a woman in her own yard washing clothes."

Hand-dug wells are easily contaminated because things fall into them. Machine-dug wells have a smaller opening, making them purer, he explains.

In one village where Wood recently drilled a well, the people had been hauling their water from a spring about four or five miles away. Wood says there are many villages that still need a well, distribution system and pumps. He would like to drill three or four wells a week if it's possible to keep up that pace.

When Wood goes into a village, he enlists two to six local men to help him. He eats in the village with the people and often sleeps there. He feels he leaves a bit of himself in each village.

Using volunteer workers, the River Ministry reaches thousands of lives on both sides of the Rio Grande, providing health services and agricultural expertise while sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

"Baptists have a relationship with the Mexican government and with the Mexican people that no one else has," Kite explains. "We first deal with the whole people, working through the leadership of areas and villages. We go through the authority no matter who he is."

"Now we can do about anything we want. Everyone contributes his part. We're allowed to carry on a witness and start churches because of how we have gone about it. All of the programs are tools that relate to our goal--to share Christ with the people."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Memphis bureau of Baptist Press.

Charlie Warren, former associate editor of World Mission Journal, is now associate editor of the Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee state Baptist newspaper.