

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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79-205

Board Shifts 4 Staffers,
Approves 31 for Missions

ATLANTA (BP)--Joel Land, assistant director of the special mission mission ministries department of the Home Mission Board since 1971, was named associate director of the church extension division during the December executive committee meeting.

The committee also elevated three church extension staffers to associate director status and approved 31 persons for Southern Baptist home missions service.

Through his special mission ministries post, Land has assisted state and local leaders in development of resort missions and recruited and assigned high school youth groups to mission projects. In his new job, he will work with state Baptist conventions and serve as a catalyst in church extension projects.

The other three moves transferred David Benham, Bill Slagle and Nelson Tilton from assistant director levels. Only Slagle, who will direct an emphasis on bi-vocational church planters, will undergo an actual job change. All three men have been giving leadership to church extension programs in assigned areas throughout the United States.

"These moves were initiated to bring the church extension department to division status," explained William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the board. All changes will be effective Jan. 1, 1980.

Among the mission appointees were five missionaries, 12 missionary associates, four mission pastor interns and 10 persons who will receive church pastoral aid.

Named missionaries were Norman and Donna Beckham of Clarendon Hills, Ill.; Bobbie Murphy of Montgomery, Ala.; and Jimmy and Pamela Richards of Phoenix, Ariz.

The Beckhams will serve in Rochester, N.Y., where he will direct associational missions for the Greater Rochester Baptist Association. They are former missionaries to Venezuela, and he has been pastor of churches in Missouri, Florida and Illinois. He is a graduate of Central Missouri State University and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ms. Murphy will move to Atlanta, where she will be a national consultant for the department of cooperative ministries with National (black) Baptists. She has been a missionary for the Home Mission Board, a college instructor and a medical social worker. She is a graduate of Alabama State University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Western Michigan University.

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The Richards will live in Tucson, Ariz., where he will direct missions for Catalina Baptist Association. They have been missionaries to the Dominican Republic, and he has been pastor of churches in Arizona and Texas. He is a graduate of Grand Canyon College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Appointed missionary associates were Lester and Alice Arnold of Overland Park, Kan.; Michael and Verdell Darby of Raleigh, N.C.; Harry and Cheryl Edmonds of Youngsville, N.C.; Reinaldo and Iraida Medina of Hialeah, Fla.; Gordon and Minerva Molengraf of Zapata, Texas; and Ann and Willis Williams of San Antonio, Texas.

The Arnolds will live in Kansas City, Kan., where he will direct Christian social ministries for the Kansas City Baptist Association. He has been a mission pastor for the Home Mission Board and has been pastor of churches in North Dakota and South Dakota. He is a graduate of the University of North Dakota and South Dakota State University.

The Darbys will continue to live in Raleigh, where he is a fieldworker with the department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists. He has been youth director and assistant religious education director for churches in North Carolina and Texas. He is a graduate of Gardner-Webb College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Edmonds will serve in Baltimore, where he will direct Christian social ministries for the Kathleen Mallory Center. He has been a campus minister intern, associate minister and youth minister intern in North Carolina. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Medinas will continue to live in Hialeah, where he is pastor of Estrella de Belen Baptist Church. He was pastor in Cuba, spending 13 years in prisons there for his beliefs. He's a graduate of Baptist Theological Seminary and Institute of Pinar Del Rio, both in Cuba.

The Molengrafs will remain in Zapata, and he will be pastor of Baptist missions in Zapata, Lopeno and San Ygnacio. He has been a school teacher and pastor in Texas. He is a graduate of Texas A & I University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Williams will continue to live in San Antonio, where she is an instructor at Mexican Baptist Bible Institute. She has been a summer missionary for the Home Mission Board and has taught school in San Antonio and Amarillo, Texas. She is a graduate of Berry College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Appointed to mission pastor intern status were Jaffus and Marilyn Haley of Las Vegas, Nev., and Ritchie and Sandra Weers of Twin Falls, Idaho. Granted church pastoral assistance were Noble and Carolyn Cobb of Basalt, Colo.; John and Delores House of Liberal, Kan.; Dale and Elizabeth Phillips of Lincoln, Neb.; Clarence and Janice Smith of Pioche, Nev.; and Mark and Katherine Smith of Easton, Conn.

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Hitchhiker Leads Baptist
Missionary To Tribe

Baptist Press
12/6/79

COTABATO CITY, Philippines (BP)--More than 50 Manobos, in Southern Mindanao, including the tribal chieftan, were baptized during an evangelistic meeting which followed months of initial work by C. Thurman Braughton.

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It all started when Braughton, an Oklahoma native, stopped to pick up a Filipino soldier who was hitchhiking on the road to Cotabato City in Mindanao.

The soldier asked the Southern Baptist missionary why he was in that section of the Philippines, which had been the site of fighting between guerrillas and government forces.

"I've come to share Christ's love with others," Braughton answered.

"I know just the people who need this love," the soldier responded. He offered to take Braughton to a village of Manobos who had never heard the gospel and to introduce him to the chieftain.

The 1,500 Manobos living in the Gawasan Valley have traditionally worshipped spirits they believe are intermediaries to the god Koranan, according to Southern Baptist missionary John L. Brackin. They believe spirits over water, forest animals and the harvest can help them gain favor with Koranan. To get blessings they place rice, tobacco and herbs in a white handkerchief and sacrifice it.

But after Braughton told them about Jesus, some of them said, "We went through our intercessors and spirits because we did not know there was a direct way to know God. Now we no longer need our spirits, only Jesus."

After six initial visits over a period of months, Braughton returned to the village with three other Southern Baptist missionaries and seven Filipino Christians.

In three days they held four services and numerous seminars. Missionary Calvin L. Fox showed them basic farming techniques. Karen Hopper taught new believers' classes and Baptist Bookstore Manager Charles E. Hawkins surveyed the literature and Bible needs. The Filipinos preached, led Bible studies and gave testimonies.

Between 200 and 300 people attended the worship services and 56 people were baptized.

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Maryland Paper Names
Assistant Editor

Baptist Press
12/6/79

LUTHERVILLE, Md. (BP)--Lyn Covington of Bowie, Md., will become assistant editor of the Maryland Baptist, newspaper of the Maryland Baptist Convention, Dec. 17.

Ms. Covington, 26, who will work under the direction of editor Larry E. High, is a journalism graduate of Tift College, a Baptist school in Forsyth, Ga., and earned a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

She has worked as an editorial assistant for a Washington, D.C., group lobbying for religious liberty, as a reporter for the Alvarado (Texas) Bulletin, as an intern on the Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth, Ga., and as editor of the student newspaper at Tift College.

Ms. Covington has had her photography selected for display by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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Morgan Pushes For ERISA Amendments

WASHINGTON (BP)--Darold H. Morgan, president of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, pressed Congress to make changes in a pension reform bill passed five years ago.

In testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Private Pension Plans and Employee Fringe Benefits, Morgan urged enactment of corrective legislation to exempt denominational agencies and institutions from coverage of the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The legislation to amend ERISA involves three Senate bills, S.1090, S.1091 and S.1092.

Morgan argued before the Senate panel that Congress specifically exempted local church retirement plans from coverage but that "at the last moment, a moratorium was placed on the inclusion of agency employees in church plans."

"By 1983," Morgan continued, "a church plan may not include employees of church agencies, if the church plan is to maintain its exemption."

According to Dean R. Wright, executive director of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of the American Baptist Churches in the USA, one of the law's effects is "that a minister who moves from the pastorate to a position in a denominational agency, such as a hospital or retirement home, would be prohibited from participating in a church pension program."

The law, which takes effect Jan. 1, 1983, must be amended, according to Morgan, or pension boards such as the Annuity Board will be faced with administrative expenses of thousands of dollars yearly. Under the law, the board would be required to file detailed reports with the Internal Revenue Service.

Of greater importance to Morgan and other church pension executives are the church-state implications of ERISA as it now stands.

"Excessive entanglement by the government in the church" may be the result unless ERISA is amended, testified Gordon E. Smith, an associate of Wright at the American Baptist agency.

"Under our congregational structure," he continued, "the denomination cannot compel independent churches and agencies to provide coverage. If ERISA were to apply to our plans, hundreds of our churches and agencies would be forced to terminate the coverage they now provide."

Concern over the effect of the law has spread to virtually every major denomination. Morgan is chairman of the Church Alliance for Clarification of ERISA, a group comprised of 25 denominational pension agencies.

Morgan was joined by representatives of several other church-related pension boards presenting testimony to the Senate panel urging passage of S.1090, S.1091 and S.1092.

The subcommittee is chaired by U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas. Other members are U.S. Sen. Spark M. Matsunaga, D-Hawaii and U.S. Sen. Robert J. Dole, R-Kan.

Foundation Reports
Record Earnings

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--High interest rates available to investors boosted earnings of the Southern Baptist Foundation to a record \$1,733,862 during fiscal 1979, an increase of \$358,653 or 26.1 percent over last year.

In a financial report issued during the Foundation's annual meeting in Nashville, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Hollis E. Johnson III said the general investment fund declined 3.1 percent over the past three-year period.

"While this in the absolute is disappointing," he said, "the performance was considerably better than the Dow Jones Industrial average which dropped 11.3 percent."

Total Foundation assets increased \$100,749 to a new high of \$23,361,150, despite a combined withdrawal of \$1,597,406 by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary for special projects.

The Foundation board elected J. Thomas Bryan, a medical doctor in Nashville, as president, and William E. Crook, a retail grocer in Nashville, as vice president. Bryan's term on the board expires in June and Crook will automatically succeed him.

Bryan's wife, Margaret, is the chairman of the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, likely making them the only husband-wife board chairmen in Southern Baptist history.

Johnson said the funds from four agencies were removed from the general investment fund and will be handled by the Foundation in separate accounts, tailored to meet their investment objectives. They changed funds to free their money from long term, low yield investments. Although some of their portfolios were sold below cost, the switch into higher yield investments will more than recoup the loss, according to Johnson.

Reflecting the willingness of the Foundation to manage Baptist money for any length of time, Johnson said in the past five years his agency has taken in \$15,022,961 in new assets, but only enjoyed a \$7.4 million gain. Agencies recalled funds totalling \$7.62 million for projects.

Johnson, a long time banking executive with First American in Nashville, said the investment market will be "extremely hazardous to try and guess." He says the Foundation will stay "fairly flexible and short term to take advantage of whatever emerges in the world situation."

Johnson recognizes a current recession but says it's too early to tell how severe it will be. There's no serious potential for a depression, he feels, because, with the exception of tire and auto companies, industry has not logged excessive inventories.

The current economic position of the United States will not hinder the financial undergirdings of Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist plan to share the gospel with the world by the year 2000, "as long as the projected rate of decline in inflation comes through next year," Johnson says.

He says interest rates have peaked for awhile, "but will rise again unless we do something about a national energy policy, which we're no closer to now than we've ever been."

