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Musicians Sought
For Missions Work

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The importance of music to most Southern Baptist churches is the basis for a challenge to state church music secretaries to involve more musicians in volunteer missions efforts.

Don Hammonds, director of special mission ministries for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, told the group meeting in Nashville, that the primary thrust is for volunteer musicians to spend time in new work areas on vacations, missions trips or during revival time. While there, the musicians will sing and train persons responsible for the local church music program.

Some of the music secretaries from areas where Southern Baptist work is new said youth choir tours which are a series of one-night performances across the country do not meet the needs of training local musicians. The large groups with elaborate musical equipment often have more members than the churches where they perform and tend to overwhelm local congregations.

The need is for adult and youth groups, families or individuals who will spend a few days in a location conducting workshops, leading Bible study activities and assisting local church members in plans for ongoing music programs.

Music secretaries representing new work areas agreed that capable people are available in local churches, but they need to be trained to be effective. Donations of discarded equipment and outdated materials do not help, they said. Good equipment and current materials, however, are always welcome and appreciated.

Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Executive Director-Treasurer William G. Tanner issued the challenge to musicians in a letter to William J. Reynolds, secretary of the church music department of the Sunday School Board. The Home Mission Board presently has no music missionaries under appointment. Music volunteers could help fill the gap.

Last year, 691 youth groups and 165 adult groups were placed for volunteer missions activities through the special mission ministries department, representing more than 34,000 people. The goal for next year is 45,000 volunteers.

Hammonds stressed that large or small groups can be effective, giving small churches equal opportunity to become involved in a Bold Mission Thrust activity, the SBC effort to reach the world with the gospel by the year 2000. Hammonds' department will help place groups according to their financial resources and talents.

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Time commitments can range from a week to several years. The long-range volunteer could be a bi-vocational individual who supports himself while carrying out his mission efforts.

State music secretaries also suggested that some volunteers consider an interim position for several months in a new work area, letting church members lead the music ministry in their home church. This would allow trained musicians to stay in an area for an extended time, greatly increasing their effectiveness and the benefits to local church musicians.

A key point expressed throughout the discussion of volunteer musicians was the return on investment for the home church when volunteers return from the mission field. Their excitement from seeing results where resources are limited or numbers are small will be shared with all church members and heighten enthusiasm for Bold Mission Thrust, the secretaries said.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Puerto Rican Baptists
Say There's No Danger

By Erich Bridges

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12/10/79

AGUADILLA, Puerto Rico (BP)--Puerto Rican Southern Baptist leaders urged Christians in the United States not to fear for the safety of American missionary personnel in Puerto Rico after two terrorist attacks less than a week apart on United States Navy personnel.

Following the first attack on a busload of sailors which killed two and wounded 10, McKinny Adams, moderator of the Puerto Rican Baptist Association, assured the American Christian community that evangelicals on the island are "safe and secure and continuing with plans to win Puerto Rico for Christ."

Following a second attack Dec. 9, when gunmen fired on a Navy patrol, Ed Richardson, executive area director for Southern Baptists in Puerto Rico, restated the assurance that civilians need feel no danger there. "We still feel this is the work of a group of terrorists, of criminals, whom the Puerto Rican authorities will soon apprehend," he said.

Richards said he felt when those responsible for the terrorism are caught, their acts "will be exposed as Communist inspired." All political parties in Puerto Rico have condemned the acts, he said, except the Socialists.

Three military independentista groups have claimed responsibility for the first attack, which Adams said was "more against the people of Puerto Rico than against the U.S. Navy or the United States." "It was a cowardly, vicious attack, well planned by a handful of radical maniacs and possibly supported by outside political influence," he said.

The tiny, loosely organized independentista groups advocate the use of violence to gain Puerto Rican independence from the U.S. They declared that the first Navy ambush was an act of revenge on behalf of several independentistas killed last year in a gun battle with Puerto Rican police.

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Anti-American activity in Puerto Rico has increased since the return of four Puerto Rican radicals five months ago. The four were involved in attacks on President Harry Truman and the U.S. House of Representatives and had served about 20 years in U.S. prisons.

President Carter released the four against the wishes of the Puerto Rican governor, according to Richardson. The increase in anti-American rhetoric began soon after their return, he said.

Baptists in Puerto Rico feel that while civilians need have no fear, military personnel may continue to be the focus of anti-American activity.

Adams noted that while many of Puerto Rico's 3.4 million people view independence as a "natural" move for progress on the island, "far less than one percent" of the population favors violence as a way to achieve it (independence).

"The overwhelming majority of Puerto Ricans welcome Americans and an American presence here," he said.

Carlos Cortes, a Puerto Rican native and pastor of First Baptist Church in Aguadilla, the largest Spanish-speaking Southern Baptist congregation on the island, echoed Adams, calling the terrorist attack "an isolated incident."

"Terrorism has never been a way of life in Puerto Rico," Cortes said. "It would be very unfair to blame all Puerto Rican independentistas for the ambush. I myself am for independence. It's natural to desire that, but most independentistas are not anti-American."

"An American is just as secure anywhere in Puerto Rico as he would be in any American city," he said.

Adams and Cortes added that Puerto Rico is "wide open" to the gospel and that evangelicals on the island welcome the help and support of American Christians.

Southern Baptists operate 28 churches and missions in Puerto Rico.

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Annie Armstrong Offering
Exceeds \$14 Million Mark

Baptist Press
12/10/79

ATLANTA (BP)--The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions has edged over the \$14 million mark, William G. Tanner told directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board at their December meeting.

Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the board, said contributions to the offering had reached \$14,083,896, making it the largest home missions offering ever received.

"The total represents an increase of 15.33 percent over last year, and is nearly 94 percent of the goal of \$15 million," Tanner said. "We are very grateful for this. We could not do our work without the generous support of Southern Baptists."

He noted that while he does not expect the offering to reach its \$15 million goal, he believes the offering will reach \$14.1 million by the time books close Dec. 31.

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Baptist Woman Plans
Refugee Christmas Party

DENVER (BP)--About 120 Asian children will celebrate Christmas with friends from around the world at University Hills Baptist Church in Denver.

It will be the first Christmas in America for about 90 percent of the children, who belong to refugee families from Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea. Some Korean children are also involved.

Peggy Glascock, a member of University Hills, organized the party and is utilizing the voluntary services of her church mission groups and teachers at Goldrick Elementary School where the children attend. Mrs. Glascock teaches conversational English classes there and the school's assistant principal, Lee Atherton, has encouraged the teachers to bring clothes for the children.

Mrs. Glascock has worked with refugees since her church sponsored a Vietnamese family about six years ago. She likes all the attention now being given by media to refugee needs and ministries, but says, "I wish people would do something about it; do more than talk."

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Michigan Baptists Build
Volunteer Housing Unit

Baptist Press
12/10/79

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. (BP)--Construction on a four-unit apartment building to house Baptist volunteers working in Michigan has been completed in Southfield, just a mile from the Baptist building there.

The unit is an offspring from an idea of Owen Cooper, past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, in 1975. Messengers to the Baptist State Convention of Michigan approved the building that year and made immediate plans to finance the \$225,000 project.

Many volunteers from Michigan churches were involved in the construction, decorating and landscaping. Three units will be for short-term volunteers and the fourth is to be reserved for a missionary-in-residence.

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35 Cents Buys
Daily Groceries

By Bob Hastings

DUPO, Ill. (BP)--President Carter and his economic advisors keep telling the American people to practice austerity to keep down inflation. They need to talk to Irene Prall, 73, a member of the First Baptist Church in Dupo, Ill.

She's been waging her own war on poverty since 1937--and winning! Would you believe her average grocery bill is less than 35 cents a day?

"I practically live out of my garden," she says. "It's about 40 x 40, but I use every inch of space, then can and freeze as much as possible. The other day, I picked a water bucket of butterbeans and had enough extra to share with five neighbors."

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"Much of my garden space I use twice--where I planted potatoes earlier this spring, I came along and planted corn the same day I dug the potatoes," she explained. "Oh, I buy my sugar, coffee, flour, canned milk, shortening and the like, but no prepared foods, pastries, soft drinks --nothing in a package!

"I don't have any wet garbage, for I eat up what I cook. But I do put all my peelings, leaves, clippings and the like back on my garden. I don't use commercial fertilizer, but a few years ago a farmer gave me lots of horse manure. I brought it home in baskets and tubs in the back of my car and spread it myself."

Mrs. Prall's husband died in 1938, leaving her with two girls and a small insurance policy. "I crossed the river into St. Louis and found two jobs. I never took welfare--didn't want to. And we made it. Each day I worked in the men's alteration shop at Famous-Barr until 5:30, then walked up the street to the J.D. Carson Furniture Company, where I began work in their credit office at 5:45. Ate supper at my desk. Then caught a bus back to Dupo, which got me home about 11:00 p.m."

Mrs. Prall's pastor, William T. Evitts, says, "Irene can do anything." When fellow church members redecorated their auditorium, she was there with her paintbrush. She changes the oil and rotates the tires of her 1974 Gremlin, which she paid cash for, and rations herself to one tank of gas every two months.

When Mrs. Prall bought a small home in 1969 she completely redid it.

"I tore out the walls and floor, rewired the whole house, hauled sheetrock home in a trailer, made the house into a duplex so I could have some income, and laid the carpet."

Mrs. Prall can also do simple plumbing, and built her own garage, even laying the block. "What I know I learned by watching other workmen," she said. "If you want to, you can. My wants are simple. I never learned to want much, so I don't need much. But I have what I need."

"What I really enjoy is travel," she said, her eyes lighting up. "I've been to Hawaii twice, vacationed in Europe, and plan to visit Israel as soon as I can get around to it." And she's a tither, giving 10 percent of her income through her church.

Does Irene Prall enjoy life? Pastor Evitts said, "She's the happiest woman I know in Dupo." The laughter in her eyes also tells you that she is. And her little notebook will tell you what she spends at the grocery store--and sure enough, it's about 35 cents a day, a little less than \$10 a month.

