



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 16, 1980

80-62

Liberian Conditions May Be Returning to Normal

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)--The new government in Liberia appears to be taking steps to return the country to normalcy, a Southern Baptist missionary reported April 15.

The report, received through ham radio communications, gave the first details of conditions in the aftermath of the April 12 assassination of William R. Tolbert Jr., president of both Liberia and the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention.

Missionary Ted Cromer said the government, led by national guard Master Sgt. Samuel Doe, ordered all cab and bus drivers to return to work so people could go to church Sunday, April 13, the day following the coup.

Two missionaries, Cromer said, attended a church where missionary Buddy Woods preached Sunday. When services started, only five people were present, but before services were over about 75 had gathered.

Some schools in the country reopened Monday morning, April 14, and the Baptist Seminary in Monrovia reopened the next day.

Cromer reported that the airport has not been reopened yet, but this was partially because of a fuel shortage that developed when refineries were shut down. Refineries are expected to reopen as soon as possible.

All 45 Southern Baptist missionaries currently in Liberia were reported to be gradually resuming their normal activities. Twelve missionaries assigned to Liberia are on furlough in the United States.

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Home Board Approves 55 for Mission Work

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ATLANTA (BP)--Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved 55 persons for mission service during their April meeting in Atlanta.

They named six missionaries, seven missionary associates, eight mission pastor interns and 34 persons who will receive language pastoral assistance or church pastoral assistance.

Appointed as missionaries were Jim and Bess Adkins of Augusta, Ga.; Tom and Thelma Bacon of Hawthorne, Nev.; and Marvin and Pamela Peters of Granite City, Ill.

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Approved as missionary associates were Elizabeth Beane of Atlanta, Ga.; Roy and Rita Desilvey of Rockwall, Texas; Linda McGowan of Richmond, Va.; Milton and Aixa Torres of New Orleans, La.; and Ann Williams of Chester, Va.

The Adkins will move to St. Albans, W. Va., where he will be director of missions for the Southwestern Baptist Association. A graduate of Baylor University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he has been pastor of churches in Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia.

The Bacons will serve in Nevada where he will be director of missions for the Northeast and Lahonton Baptist Associations. Bacon has served as pastor of churches in California and Nevada. He earned his degrees from California Baptist College and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Peters couple will live in Ottawa, Ill., where he will direct church extension for North Central Illinois. He has been pastor of churches in Arizona, Texas and Illinois. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Beane will be missions coordinator and weekday ministries director for the United Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga. She has been a caseworker and missions coordinator in Georgia. She is a graduate of Piedmont College.

The Desilveys will live and work in Rockwall, Texas, where he will be a church starter. Desilvey has served as pastor and director of missions in Texas. He attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

McGowan will remain in Richmond, where she will be director of the House of Happiness, a mission center. A graduate of Moorhead University, she has been director of mission centers in Richmond Baptist Association.

The Torres couple will move to southern New England where he will be a language catalytic missionary. Torres is a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of English and Spanish churches in Louisiana.

Williams will direct the South Richmond Baptist Center in Richmond, Va. She is a graduate of Meredith College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and has served as a church extension worker in California.

Approved as mission pastor interns were Harold and Carole Daniels of Colorado Springs, Colo.; David and Caron Loveless of Fort Worth, Texas; Denny and Barbara McKenzie of Germantown, Ohio; and Paul and Mickie Slocum of El Cajon, Calif.

Named recipients of language pastoral assistance were Sal and Maria Fernandez of Edwards, Colo.; Danny and Melva Molina of Phoenix, Ariz.; Michael and Amal Peters of Orange, Calif.; and Joel and Anita Ramirez of Glendale, Ariz.

Approved for church pastoral assistance were Alvin Ben and Donniella Auch of Billings, Mont.; Ronald and Naomi Cork of Redmond, Ore.; Orvis and Sandra Crump of Maryville, Tenn.; Larry and Almedia Dean of Aloha, Ore.; Frank and Dulce Drury of San Antonio, Texas; Davis and Jeanne Eppes of Watertown, S.D.; Andy and Maralene Gentry of Waterloo, Ind.; David and Judith Kolb of Pasadena, Calif.; Danny and Opal Mullins of Centerville, Ohio; Robert and Darlene Payne of Kingman, Ariz.; Rodney and Jane Shamblin of Macon, Ga.; Billy and Jane Tidmore of Farmington, N.M.; and Robert and Grace Whitehead of Higley, Ariz.

'Life Saver' Offering
Lags Behind '79 Pace

ATLANTA (BP)--The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions has reached nearly eight percent of its goal of \$15.5 million, William G. Tanner told directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"As of Tuesday, April 15, the offering amounted to \$1,218,748, slightly behind last year at the same time," Tanner said. "We believe the offering will accelerate, but we must have at least 14 percent of the goal in April if we are to reach the total amount," he added.

Tanner told directors the Annie Armstrong offering is a "life saver" for the Home Mission Board in these times of inflation and economic uncertainty.

"We're very concerned about inflation and what it's doing. We know we're going to have to really take a hard look at our operation. Gifts keep going up, but they are not keeping pace with inflation," he said.

Tanner noted that since 1967, consumer prices have increased 93 percent, and total gifts to Southern Baptist churches have increased 119 percent. At the same time, the funds those churches sent to their state conventions increased only 90 percent, and the funds sent to the Home Mission Board rose only 75.8 percent.

"That means that we're now more than 17 percent behind cost increases," he said. "The problem, as I see it, is not how the funds are divided, but the amount of the resources we have to divide."

Tanner noted he believes the Home Mission Board has "the responsibility to promote the SBC's Cooperative Program unified budget as well as the special offering."

With costs increasing, Tanner noted the board will have to depend increasingly on volunteers, and added he hopes rising inflation will not cut the numbers of volunteers available for service.

"Last year, some 33,477 persons participated in volunteer mission projects," he said. "The needs are still the same this year, and I hope gasoline prices, increased hotel bills and other travel costs will not cause some churches to decide not to do missions projects."

Tanner suggested that churches might consider sending smaller groups or using smaller vehicles for transportation as ways to counter the rising prices.

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Farmer Resigns
As Illinois Interim

Baptist Press
4/16/80

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--Arthur E. Farmer has resigned as interim executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association after holding the position for 6 1/2 months.

Farmer, who was named interim when James H. Smith resigned to become executive director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, said increasing demands on his church field and personal reasons make the resignation necessary. Farmer is pastor of the Walnut Street Baptist Church in Carbondale.

Illinois Baptist State Association President Joe Bob Pierce received board approval to establish a cabinet-style leadership until the search committee nominates a permanent executive director. The four division directors will comprise the cabinet.

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Wiley Named
To HMB Staff

ATLANTA (BP)--Robert Edgar Wiley, 38, was elected to the staff of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during the April meeting of the board's directors.

Wiley, currently director of associational missions in the East Central and Eastern Associations in Indiana, will become associate director of the board's rural-urban missions department.

In addition to electing Wiley to the staff, directors also approved 55 persons for mission service, including six missionaries, seven missionary associates, eight mission pastor interns and 34 persons to receive church pastoral and language pastoral aid.

Wiley, a native of Catlettsburg, Ky., will assume his new position in early May. He is a graduate of the University of Evansville, Ind., and attended Georgetown College, Goshen Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Prior to becoming director of missions in 1976, Wiley was associate pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Indianapolis. He has served churches in South Bend and Evansville, Ind., and Henderson and Slaughters, Ky.

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House Panel Hears Opposing
Views on CIA Use of Clergy

Baptist Press
4/16/80

WASHINGTON (BP)--Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence heard conflicting testimony here on what relationships should be allowed between the intelligence community and clergy and academics.

The committee is considering the "National Intelligence Act of 1980" (H.R. 6588 and S.2284), which prohibits intelligence agents from posing as clergy, academics and journalists, but does not ban the use of members of these groups as sources of intelligence information.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, joined with Anthony Bellagamba of the U.S. Catholic Mission Council in urging the committee to place restrictions against the use of clergy as intelligence sources.

Wood, whose agency represents eight national Baptist groups with a membership of more than 27 million, requested that the language of the bill be changed to prohibit any paid, coerced or solicited relationship between the intelligence community and clergy.

While Wood and Bellagamba argued that the mission of the church and the process of intelligence gathering are incompatible, two members of the panel disagreed. Ernest W. Lefever of the Washington-based Ethics and Public Policy Center and Charles A. Moser of the George Washington University faculty countered that a prohibition against the use of clergy and academics would unnecessarily handicap the intelligence community.

Wood stated that the use of clergy by the intelligence community is a "blatant affront" to the principle of separation of church and state and also "perverts" the mission of the church.

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"The integrity of religious mission and ministry at home and throughout the world would be compromised by even the possibility that clergy, missionaries, or church workers were arms of the government," the Baptist spokesman said.

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Car Wreck Kills Nigerian;
Injures Mission Personnel

Baptist Press
4/16/80

EKU, Nigeria (BP)--An automobile accident has claimed the life of a Nigerian Baptist leader and left two Southern Baptist missionary personnel seriously injured.

Titus Oluwafemi was killed instantly. Mission Service Corps volunteer Robert W. Sorrels, 28, a resident of Washington, D.C., is paralyzed and in critical condition. William D. Bender, 55, missionary to Nigeria since 1955, is in serious condition. Bender will be flown to a hospital in the United States when his condition stabilizes at the Baptist Hospital in Eku, Nigeria, where both men are being treated.

No details of the accident were available.

Sorrels had been in Nigeria one week, arriving here April 9 to begin serving as an accountant for the Nigerian Baptist mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries). He had taken a one-year leave of absence from his work with a Washington savings and loan firm to serve in the Southern Baptist volunteer missions program.

Bender, a Kansas native, had recently been named to begin serving in July as administrative assistant to Samuel T. Ola Akande, secretary general of the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

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Rogers Names SBC
Resolutions Committee

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4/16/80

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Wayne Allen, pastor of East Park Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., has been named chairman of the committee on resolutions which will report to the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets in annual session at the Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis, June 10-12.

SBC President Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, named Allen and nine other members of the committee. They are Larry Lewis, pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis; Tal Bonham, executive secretary of the Ohio Baptist Convention; Ed Drake, an attorney and member of First Baptist Church, Dallas; Richard Sutton, a physician and former SBC second vice president from Topeka, Kans.; Mrs. Harold O'Chester, pastor's wife from Austin, Texas; Mrs. George Tharel of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ark.; Adrian Hall, a pastor from Las Vegas, Nev.; Wendell Freeze, a layman from Yuma, Ariz.; and Ernest Walker, a pastor from Lake Charles, La.

Rogers urged all messengers submitting resolutions to streamline the procedures with the following steps.

(1) Submit resolutions at least 30 days in advance in writing, if possible, to Allen (East Park Baptist Church, 842 Sweetbriar, Memphis, Tenn. 38117); (2) check resolutions passed by previous conventions in convention annuals or convention bulletins; (3) be prepared

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to turn in a written copy of the resolution at the platform if it is made from the floor.

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Cannon New Dean
At Golden Gate

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Robert L. Cannon has been elected dean of students at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, effective April 1.

Cannon, 37, was recently director of Baptist student work for Canada and director of church services in Western Canada for the Northwest Baptist Convention. He replaces Noble Brown who left to become a pastor in Tennessee.

From 1965 to 1975, Cannon was in the division of student work of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, where he also served as Baptist Student Union director on several campuses. He was also a Baptist Student Union director in Canada.

Cannon is a graduate of North Texas State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is currently working toward a doctor of ministry degree at Golden Gate Seminary.

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History Chair
Honors Carleton

Baptist Press
4/16/80

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary has initiated plans to establish the William A. Carleton Chair of Baptist History in honor of the former dean and vice president of the seminary who died March 28.

The chair is being funded through memorial gifts from friends and former students of Carleton's.

Carleton was professor of church history at Golden Gate from 1953 to 1970. He was elected academic dean in 1956 and vice president in 1959. Following his retirement in 1970, he was named dean emeritus and distinguished professor of church history.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story released April 14 entitled "Memphis Chinese Church Observes 20th Anniversary," please delete last sentence of paragraph six. Caudill did not start the first Chinese Baptist Church in Houston.

Thanks,

Baptist Press