



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

## NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee  
480 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 244-2355

W. C. Fields, Director  
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor  
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

### BUREAUS

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041

**DALLAS** \_\_\_\_\_, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996

**MEMPHIS** Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461

**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300

**RICHMOND** Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3808 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151

**WASHINGTON** Stan L. Hasteley, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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80-105

Senator Talmadge Honored  
For Church, State Efforts

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP)--U.S. Senator Herman E. Talmadge, D-Ga., was honored in Atlanta for his "leadership in the cause of the separation of church and state" by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer, presented the senior senator from Georgia a plaque and several letters of appreciation in ceremonies at the Home Mission Board building in Atlanta.

"We just want to say thank you to Sen. Talmadge," Tanner said. "All of us owe a debt of gratitude to him."

Talmadge, a Southern Baptist, led a battle in the U.S. Senate to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) which could have had devastating effect on the retirement benefits for perhaps 100,000 persons in denominational and missionary work.

"This presentation goes far beyond partisan politics," Tanner said after the presentation. "If ERISA and related interpretations and decisions by the Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Treasury Department had been allowed to stand, missionaries and other denominational employees could have been excluded from retirement plans administered by the SBC Annuity Board."

The work Talmadge did in getting the Talmadge Church Plan Amendments out of committee and onto the Senate floor is national in scope, Tanner said, and has far reaching implications in the separation of church and state.

The Talmadge Church Plan Amendments to Senate Bill 1076, which clarify the church plan definition of ERISA, have been favorably reported out of the Senate Finance Committee, and now are coming to the Senate floor for a vote. Many observers feel committee passage was a significant step.

Tanner said the issue is larger than retirement plans and includes the whole issue of growing governmental bureaucracies anxious to further entangle themselves in the affairs of churches and their ministries.

Tanner also noted Southern Baptists are one of 27 religious denominations who have formed the Church Alliance for Clarification of ERISA, and which support the Talmadge Church Plan Amendments to Senate Bill 1076.

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Talmadge, in his response, noted he is involved in a re-election campaign. "I'm in the midst of a heated political campaign where my opponents are saying lots of mean things about me. I am happy to hear a kind voice, particularly when it comes from my own denomination."

Talmadge said that as a Southern Baptist, he is "a strong believer in the separation of church and state." He added: "The basic principles of the ERISA bill are good, but it was extended far beyond what it ought to be; it put the government's tentacles where they should not be, on the churches."

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Dan Martin, editor of the news service at the SBC Home Mission Board, will become news editor of Baptist Press, Aug. 1.

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

68 Home Missions Personnel  
Include 2 in 2nd Generation

Baptist Press  
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ATLANTA (BP)--A pair of second generation missionaries were among 68 persons approved for missions service by Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors during their June meeting.

David Palmer, son of Gerald Palmer, the board's missions section director, was named a missionary. Kathy Jean Diaz, daughter of R.V. Haygood, executive director-treasurer elect and current missions director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, was approved for language pastoral assistance.

Palmer and his wife, Roberta, will continue to serve in Portland, Ore., where he will be a church starter. A graduate of the University of Idaho and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he has been a student pastor and a new work starter in Idaho, Missouri and Oregon. She is a graduate of the University of Idaho and has been a school teacher and secretary.

Diaz and her husband, Roberto, will serve in Bolingbrook, Ill. He is a mission pastor at Cristo es Rey Baptist Church and a graduate of East Texas Baptist College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor and youth worker at churches in Texas and Illinois.

The appointment of these persons to missions service "is a real tribute to the quality of family life and the spirit of missions in the families in which they were raised," said Don Rhymes, the Home Mission Board's director of missionary personnel.

"It's significant that they want to carry on, that they do not feel missions has cost them too much, and that they want to walk in the steps of their parents," he said.

In regular board action, directors accepted the resignation of Gene Tunnell, home missionary serving as consultant with refugees. They also approved eight missionaries, 20 missionary associates, four mission pastor interns and granted church pastoral and language pastoral assistance to 36 other workers.

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Tunnell was appointed to his Home Mission Board position in December 1978. He was a home missionary from 1967 to 1971, and a foreign missionary from 1972 to 1975 and 1978. His wife, Priscilla, has served with him.

Besides the Palmers, others named missionaries were Lloyd and Marjorie Garrison of Rathdrum, Idaho; Marilyn Elbel ("Skeet") and Fred Hadley of Wichita Falls, Texas; and Robert and Nadine Landes of Lavale, Md.

Approved as missionary associates were Roland and Wanda Behnke of Bruceville, Texas; Jerry and Rae Evelyn Ginn of New Orleans, La.; Dale and Jettie Carol Harlan of Louisville, Ky.; Wendell J. and Thelma Hart of Broken Bow, Okla.; and Bob and Annie Hill of New Orleans.

Also appointed missionary associates were David and Carol Hilliard of Fort Worth, Texas; Toshikatsu and Haruko Kamiyama of Portland, Ore.; Bevan D. and Joyce McWhirter of Fort Worth, Texas; Stephan and Janis Elaine Melvin of Decatur, Texas; and Bob and Bobbi Wineberg of Kansas City, Mo.

The Garrisons will remain in Rathdrum, where he will serve as a church starter. A graduate of Wayland Baptist College and Southwestern Seminary, he has been pastor of churches in Texas, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. He has been affiliated with the Home Mission Board through its church pastoral aid program since 1975.

The Hadleys will move to Norfolk, Va., where she will direct Ocean View-East Baptist Center, a Christian social ministries project. She is a graduate of Midwestern State University and Southwestern Seminary and was a housewife before continuing her education and becoming involved in Christian social ministries. He has been a U.S. Air Force aircraft technician and instructor and a school teacher.

The Landes couple will move to Chicago, Ill., where he will be a catalytic language missionary to the deaf. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was a home missionary in Richmond, Va., 1966-70, and he began working with the deaf in 1961. She has served as a dormitory counselor for deaf children.

The Behnkes will serve in Glenwood Springs, Colo., where he will be a church starter. He has been a pastor in Oklahoma, Oregon and Texas and has attended Texas A & M University and Southwestern Seminary.

The Ginns will move to Monterey, Va., where he will serve as a church planter apprentice. He has earned degrees from Mississippi State University, the University of Mississippi and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He was a school teacher and coach for 14 years.

The Harlans will relocate in Boone County, Iowa. He will be a church planter apprentice. A graduate of Murray State University and Southern Seminary, he has been a school teacher and general contractor construction estimator and project engineer. She is a graduate of Murray State and Western Kentucky Universities and has been a school teacher and bank secretary.

The Harts will remain in Broken Bow, where he is a church planter. A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, he entered the pastorate in Oklahoma in 1939. They have served as resort area workers in eastern Oklahoma since 1976.

The Hills will move to Allegheny, N.Y., where he will be a church planter apprentice. He is a graduate of North Greenville Junior College, Horry-Georgetown Tech and New Orleans Seminary. He has been employed in forestry, sales and maintenance positions.

The Hilliards will relocate in Brentwood, Calif. He will be a church planter apprentice. A graduate of the University of Washington and Southwestern Seminary, he has been a Home Mission Board US-2 missionary and Baptist Student Union director in the Northwest Baptist Convention. She is a graduate of Washington State University and has been a school teacher.

The Kamiyamas will move to Salt Lake City, Utah, where he will be a general missionary to the Japanese. He is a graduate of Covenant Seminary and International University, both in Japan, and has been pastor of churches in Japan, Texas and Oregon.

The McWhirters will move to Bellingham, Wash. He will be a church planter apprentice. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and Georgia State University. He has been an officer in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, a minister to single adults and a mission pastor. She is a graduate of Georgia State University and has been a legal secretary.

The Melvins will move to Marshall, Minn., where he will be a church planter apprentice. He is a graduate of Hannibal-LaGrange College, Union University and Southwestern Seminary. He has been a minister of music and youth in churches in Mississippi, Missouri and Texas.

The Winebergs will serve in New Mark, Mo. He will be a church planter apprentice. He is a graduate of Wilkes Community College, Appalachian State University and Midwestern Seminary and has been a U.S. Air Force reserves chaplain and a pastor in Missouri. She is a graduate of Research School of Nursing and has served as a psychiatric aide and registered nurse.

Approved for church pastoral assistance were Billy and Jane Alexander, Eagle Nest, N.M.; John and Linda Chaffin, Carrollton, Ohio; David and Christine Coleman, Lithopolis, Ohio; Paul and Maria Currie, Anaconda, Mont.; Carrol and Wilma Fowler, Onaway, Mich.; Glen and Dorothea Hicks, Peel, Ariz.; John and Patricia Hough, Manitowoc, Wis.; Brant Morie, Marysville, Mich.; Gary and Janice Seabolt, Watsonville, Calif.; James Thomason, Danville, Pa.; Richard and Elizabeth Warren, Laguna Hills, Calif.; Dean and Margaret Whitener, Lapine, Ore.; and Charlie and Wanda Yoho, Franklin, W.Va.

Besides the Diaz couple, others named to receive language pastoral assistance were James and Edith Booth, Lafayette and Lake Charles, La.; Moon Yo and Yong Ok Chang, Arlington, Va.; Alonzo Garcia, Greeley, Colo.; Jose and Nelly Quintero, Mobilé, Ala.; and Oren and Martha Robinson, Many Farms, Ariz.

Appointed mission pastor interns were Lee and Joy Bolton, Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Ronald and Linda King, Clinton, Pa.

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Vietnam Attacks on Thailand  
Not Affecting Baptist Work

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BANGKOK, Thailand (BP)--Southern Baptist personnel doing relief work with Cambodian refugees have not been affected by the limited invasion of Vietnamese troops across the Cambodian border, a report from this area indicated June 25.

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Earl G. Goatcher, Southern Baptist missionary heading up the relief efforts, said all 10 Southern Baptist personnel now assisting in the work are at sites some distance south of the points where fighting has occurred. None appears to be in danger, he said.

"We do not believe Vietnam is planning an all-out invasion of Thailand," he said in a telephone report to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Observers in Thailand, Goatcher said, believe that Vietnam launched the attacks June 23 to show it's still in control of the Thai-Cambodian border.

Initial reports said 18 Thai soldiers and 31 Vietnamese were killed as Vietnamese troops backed by artillery and tanks struck across the Thai border. Two refugee camps in the border area reportedly were overrun.

Most of the military activity, Goatcher said, is some distance from the southeastern area where Southern Baptists have concentrated their refugee relief efforts.

The Southern Baptist missionaries in Thailand planned to begin their annual mission meeting on Sunday, June 29, with discussion of Southern Baptists' future role in refugee work on the agenda.

Winston Crawley, the board's vice president for planning, who just returned to the United States from an international meeting in Thailand, said only 3,000 refugees were in the Kamput Camp when he visited there. But another 17,000 were expected to arrive shortly. Kamput is one of three camps in the southeastern sector where Southern Baptists have been concentrating their relief efforts.

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Private School Grants  
Turned Back in Senate

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WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Senate firmly rejected an effort to extend basic educational opportunity grants to qualifying private elementary and secondary school students.

By a vote of 71 to 24, the Senate defeated an amendment offered by Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, D-N.Y., to a bill extending the Higher Education Act of 1965. The Moynihan rider would have allowed students attending private and parochial elementary and secondary schools, who meet family income qualifying standards, to receive grants up to \$750 per year for tuition, fees and other expenses.

Under existing law, basic educational opportunity grants are available only for college and university students.

Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., a strong advocate of public education, led the challenge against the amendment. The South Carolina senator termed the amendment "foot-in-the-door legislation" which would "establish a precedent for comprehensive federal assistance to private education."

Hollings and other opponents mentioned fiscal, political, and constitutional reasons for challenging the amendment.

He cited a congressional budget office study showing that the program would cost \$149 billion in 1982 while benefiting less than one percent of the secondary and elementary school population.

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Hollings also argued that the amendment should be rejected because "it is based on the faulty assumption that the government has an equal duty to both public and private schools."

"Let us be clear at the outset that the duty is not equal," Hollings added. "The government's duty to the public is to provide public schools. The duty of the government to private schools is to leave them alone."

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Faith Prevails Despite  
Tragedy in Daingerfield

By Jerilynn W. Armstrong

Baptist Press  
6/25/80

DAINGERFIELD, Texas (BP)--Funeral wreaths adorned doorways and flags waved in silent tribute as this East Texas steel mill town shut down "in memory of our friends and loved ones."

Five funerals were held June 25 and 26 for the people who died Sunday, June 22, when Alvin Lee King III burst into First Baptist Church of Daingerfield, Texas, and sprayed the congregation with bullets.

Mary Regina Linam was buried Tuesday morning, June 25, in Dekalb, Texas, amidst 700 friends and family. The seven-year-old girl was killed instantly when one of King's bullets struck her in the back of the head.

Just three weeks before, Gina had professed her faith in Jesus Christ to Virgil Fielden, associate pastor at the Daingerfield church, and was awaiting her baptism.

"Her faith is the only way I can stand here and offer you comfort," Fielden told the mourners.

Services for Thelma Richardson, a 78-year-old widow, were conducted in the Daingerfield church concurrently with Gina Linam's funeral in Dekalb.

That afternoon about one-third of the town's residents filled the sanctuary and the basement of First Baptist Church to pay their last respects to Kenneth Truitt, 50, the father of four and grandfather of six.

"Many reporters have asked me if this incident has altered my faith," Norman Crisp, pastor of the church, told the mourners. "My answer is that this has increased my faith in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is sufficient for all our needs."

"This tragedy has also increased my faith in people and our local churches as all have responded to our every need and joined us in prayer for our loved ones," Crisp said.

Crisp believes that the families and church will recover from this tragic event stronger than before. "I have been impressed with the courage of the families and believe that in their common sorrow they will find the strength to sustain them."

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"As a Christian I accept that God permitted this to happen for reasons known only to him but our church is claiming God's presence and comfort and he is fulfilling his promises," he said.

Fielden told the Truitt family that two months ago Ken Truitt came up to him with tears streaming down his face and said, "How come a big, hulking man like me rededicates his life in church and then does not have the courage to walk down the aisle?"

"I assured him that he didn't need to walk down the aisle because God was aware of his rededication," Fielden said.

Jim Powell, a former pastor at First Baptist Church and now the assistant to the president at Dallas Baptist College, gave the message, using the Luke 23 passage of the thief on the cross.

"Today, Kenneth is in paradise with our Lord as are the four other victims. You can mark June 22 on your calendar as the day these five were translated into the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ," Powell said.

"Truitt was a genuine martyr just like any martyr of the New Testament," Powell added. "There was a popular song a couple of months back called 'Where Are All the Heroes?' I'll tell you where they are. They're in small communities like this one sitting on church pews."

Truitt and James Y. (Red) McDaniel were the two men who wrestled King out of the building, losing their lives in the struggle.

"These two men are our heroes who in a moment of danger had no thought for their own safety as they used their bodies as shields to protect others and died in the effort," Powell said.

Gene Gandy, 49, was the last of the four victims buried in June 25. McDaniel's services were June 26 in the afternoon. Powell said at Gandy's funeral that the only way he made it through three grilling funerals in one day was that "Gene Gandy, like the others, had accepted the Lord. If he hadn't, this would be a very dark time."

Powell told the townspeople attending the funeral services that the most difficult test of their Christian faith would be "where you put King in your mind and heart and life and how you handle your words and actions toward this man."

King, who invaded the congregation armed with automatic weapons and dressed in full battle gear, is recovering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. He is in John Sealy Hospital in Galveston, Texas.

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Jerlynn Armstrong, a writer for the Texas Baptist public relations department, Dallas, traveled to Daingerfield, Texas, to cover the funerals of the victims of the June 22 slayings at First Baptist Church there.

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