



-- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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July 23, 1980

80-120

Chinese Baptists Organize
Group for U.S. and Canada

By Peter Kung

TORONTO (BP)--"If we counted each of the ethnic groups and Indian tribes we minister to (in the U.S.) as nations, we have work in more countries than the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board does," Oscar Romo told a group of 400 Chinese Baptists meeting in Toronto.

The Chinese Baptist delegates to the 14th Baptist World Congress, who came from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the United States and Canada, gathered to witness the historic beginning of the newly organized "Chinese Baptist Fellowship of the U.S. and Canada."

They also heard William O'Brien, executive vice president of the Foreign Mission Board; David Wong of Hong Kong, immediate past president of the Baptist World Alliance; and Archie Goldie, who heads Canadian missions for the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec.

Romo, director of language missions for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, challenged the enthusiastic gathering to take the gospel into all nations.

"I believe the future missionaries will come from our ethnic churches," said Romo, who emphasized the need to take the gospel to the people within their cultural and experiential context as if "you offer the same ice cream cone wrapped with different favors."

Language missions leaders noted that the Home Mission Board works with 77 ethnic groups and 22 Indian tribes in the United States. The Foreign Mission Board has work in 94 countries and territories.

Peter Kung of Nashville, Tenn., traced the "movement" back to 1976 when the Chinese Baptist Ministers' Fellowship of the U.S. was organized in California. He asked the Chinese Baptists to pray for and support the new fellowship in reaching North America. Kung directs Chinese church growth for the Home Mission Board's language missions division and serves in Nashville as a language missions consultant for the SBC Sunday School Board and the Seminary Extension Department.

Cephas Wong of Monterey Park, Calif., was installed as chairman of the Chinese Baptist Fellowship of the U.S. and Canada alongside the other five regional chairmen, two treasurers and one secretary.

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The regional chairmen elected were Mark Hul of New York, N.Y.; Paul Wong of Memphis, Tenn.; Silas Chen of San Diego, Calif.; Andrew Wong of Toronto, Canada, and Jonathan Cheung of Vancouver, Canada.

Treasurers elected were Peter Tong of Toronto, Canada, and Andrew Chan of Los Angeles, Calif. Dick Wong of Martinez, Calif. was elected secretary.

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Kaemmerling To Start
New 'Advocate' Magazine

By Toby Druin

Baptist Press
7/23/80

DALLAS (BP)--Russell Kaemmerling, whose separation from the editorship of Southern Baptist Journal prompted a split in the ranks of the ultra-conservative Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, has obtained a charter for a new magazine in Texas and said he expects to begin publication in August.

The charter was granted by the Texas secretary of state for the Southern Baptist Advocate, which Kaemmerling said will "feature issues and articles of interest to a broad range of Southern Baptists."

The magazine, he said, "ultimately and hopefully will be financed through subscriptions" as well as private donations.

Kaemmerling, a Texas native and graduate of Lamar University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been pastor of First Baptist Church, West Columbia, S.C., for the last three years. He resigned July 13 to move to the Dallas area because "I just like it here."

Kaemmerling, 31, became editor of the Southern Baptist Journal last December, succeeding William Powell. The Journal, like the proposed new Advocate, has no official ties with the Southern Baptist Convention or its state conventions, despite its name.

The Journal was founded in 1973 by Powell and the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship to expose Southern Baptist "liberals" and reportedly has a circulation of 9,000.

Proposed initially to be a monthly, the Journal has been published infrequently. It was in a dispute over future direction of the Journal that Kaemmerling came out on the short end of a 9-2 vote of BFMF directors to return the editorship to Powell. Kaemmerling says he resigned before the vote. Powell says Kaemmerling resigned after the vote.

Several of the BFMF directors also resigned, including chairman M.O. Owens Jr. of Gastonia, N.C. Owens said at the time that a new publication likely would be started.

The Southern Baptist Advocate was incorporated June 23, according to the office of the Texas secretary of state.

Interim directors of the corporation are Kaemmerling; Duane Evans, a Dallas businessman; and D. August Boto, Dallas attorney. Both Evans and Boto are members of First Baptist Church, Dallas.

Boto was one of the hosts for a meeting in Dallas in April to organize laymen in the Dallas Baptist Association to attend the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis. The

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meeting was held in the Spurgeon-Harris Building, which houses the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies. The center's president, Paige Patterson, was principal speaker for the meeting and outlined a plan to elect a president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Patterson is also the brother-in-law of Kaemmerling, but said last week he had little knowledge of Kaemmerling's plans.

"I am trying not to be informed," he said in a telephone interview, and said he had "absolutely nothing" to do with Kaemmerling's move to the Dallas area.

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Teen Commitments
Rise at Glorieta

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
7/23/80

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--More young people are making commitments to full-time Christian service at Glorieta this year, thanks to increased emphasis on missions.

"Decisions have averaged between two and three times the number recorded each week last year," reported Don Mattingly, director of Centrifuge, a Christian camping program for teen-agers which runs parallel with special emphasis weeks at the Southern Baptist conference center.

"One of the reasons for the increase in decisions is the presence of home and foreign missionaries on the Centrifuge staff," Mattingly claimed. The missionaries are David Benjamin, a home missions US-2er who has been a campus minister in Ohio, and Charles Wilson, a foreign missions Journeyman who worked in Spain.

"Another reason commitments are up is Glory, the curriculum young people are studying this year," Mattingly said. "It concerns a discovery of personal gifts and why God makes each individual unique."

Mattingly singled out "Mission Experiences," a course taught by Benjamin and Wilson, as a prime factor behind the decisions.

During morning classes, the pair teaches missions, explaining the role of mission work in the United States and overseas and illustrating their points with experiences taken from ministries of actual missionaries.

They also prepare the teen-agers to participate in a Wednesday afternoon mission outreach program for children who live in a government housing project south of Santa Fe.

Youngsters and youth workers in the class—usually about 20 of them—spend about two hours with the children, teaching Bible studies, leading in recreation and sharing their faith.

"We feel like experience is the very best thing for these kids in Centrifuge," Benjamin said. "Every week, we see a whole change in the class as these people minister to the children.

"They begin to get excited when we quit talking about missions and begin to prepare for it. We can talk, pray and give money to missions, but they're realizing that we need to get out and do something about it."

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Many of the teen-agers who have participated in the program reflected similar sentiments.

"The chance to work at the housing project gave me the feeling that I am able to express my Christian love to other people," said Mark Henkel, a member of First Southern Baptist Church in Wilcox, Ariz.

"I learned it is easier to talk about Christ than I ever dreamed," added Alisha Northern of First Baptist Church in Denton, Texas.

And Patricia Collins of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, N.C., summed up the feelings of other mission participants. She said: "I learned it's not hard to witness. You just have to love somebody."

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Boswell, Burnette Named
To Foreign Board Posts

Baptist Press
7/23/80

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Two Southern Baptist missionaries have been named to fill new positions at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's office of human resources.

The appointments, announced during the board's July meeting, are Ronald N. Boswell, missionary to Brazil, as director of the new volunteer department, and Everett R. Burnette, missionary to Senegal, as manager of auxiliary personnel in the personnel selection department.

Boswell, a Texan, has been the board's liaison helping to coordinate cooperation of Texas Baptists with the Brazilian Baptist Convention in the nationwide Brazil evangelistic crusade from 1980-82.

Another Brazil missionary, William J. Damon, will assume this liaison responsibility.

In his new job Boswell will head up efforts to expedite the flow of thousands of volunteers overseas each year to assist career missionaries and foreign Baptist conventions.

Burnette, a native of South Carolina, has been missionary-in-residence and associate director of the board's missionary orientation program at Callaway Gardens, Ga., for the past two years. His new responsibility includes management of the application process for missionary associates, missionary journeymen, special project medical workers and medical receptors, extended service volunteers and Mission Service Corps personnel.

Board President R. Keith Parks also announced the resignation of William K. Dawson as manager of the data processing department. Dawson, who has headed up this work and developed it from a one-man unit to a major function in his 13 years at the board, is considering several job offers, Parks said, but has not yet decided which he will accept.

Larry Graves, former supervisor of the programming section in this unit, will succeed Dawson.

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Foreign Board To Budget
Almost \$90 Million for '81

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--In an effort to bring its budget more in line with anticipated income and needs, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board set a figure of almost \$90 million to be used in planning for the 1981 budget.

The board estimated its total available funds for next year at \$89,948,366, a 17.2 percent increase over the 1980 budget of \$76,760,167.

President R. Keith Parks said the budget recommendation had been carefully considered and represents the board's intention of budgeting more items that formerly were met by special appropriations during the year. The final budget will be submitted to the board in October.

The total for 1981 includes the full \$45 million of the 1980 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal, \$36,059,008 set up under the Cooperative Program budget, plus designated gifts and other anticipated income.

The action came at the board's July meeting, where it also approved 28 new missionaries, bringing to a record 218 the number approved in a 30-day period. The total includes a record 130 missionary journeymen commissioned July 18 in Richmond for two years' service overseas and six former missionaries who have been reappointed. Fifty-four new missionaries were named June 25.

Because of worldwide inflation and the increased percentage of both Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon funds required to support Southern Baptist missionary personnel overseas, the board is exploring supplementary ways to help provide capital funding for badly needed church buildings overseas and other projects.

One of these plans, a capital fund made possible by special gifts, was tapped in July as the board approved two churches to receive the first money from this fund.

The board also authorized appointment of a search committee for a new director of development and of another committee to recommend the concepts for the development program. The development director will head up one-to-one efforts to challenge prospective large donors to meet specific needs.

One of the first major projects expected to be financed in this way is the new missionary orientation center to be built near Richmond by 1983. The board authorized naming of a building committee to begin specific planning for the new multiple-use center on a 233-acre tract at Rockville, Va.

Parks said the Foreign Mission Board will always regard the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering as the lifelines upon which it depends for its ongoing support. But he said the one-to-one approach to meet capital needs is consistent with the Business and Financial Plan of the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention and is intended to tap sources of money which would not otherwise be reached for the support of Southern Baptist mission causes.

Two new churches in Mexico City and Guatemala City will receive the first \$30,000 in the capital fund for new churches. The initial \$10,000 will go to Peniel Baptist Church, a strategic new congregation in a heavily populated area of Mexico City. The next \$20,000 which comes into this fund will go to a new congregation in Guatemala's capital city.

Board member Morris Cobb of Amarillo, Texas, who spearheaded efforts to create the new capital fund, said it will help Southern Baptists achieve their Bold Mission Thrust goal of tenfold multiplication of churches overseas by the year 2000. Much of the money will be made available through revolving loan funds so it can help other churches in the future as it is repaid by the original recipient.

Cobb said it provides a way through which potential donors of \$1,000 or more can be challenged to give without conflicting with the ongoing Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering giving.

The board also appropriated \$203,876 for hunger and relief projects, invited Missouri Baptists to cooperate in a three-year major city evangelization project in Taiwan, and voted another \$420 annual hike in the cost-of-living supplement for missionaries furloughing in the United States, effective Jan. 1, 1981. Overseas cost-of-living adjustments were approved for missionaries in 27 countries, effective Aug. 1, to help offset the effects of inflation and reduced buying power of the American dollar.

The board heard greetings from Baptist leaders from Thailand and Korea who visited Richmond after attending the Baptist World Congress in Toronto, Canada.

Pastor Pitakanon Boonkrong, secretary of the Thailand Baptist Convention, said the responsiveness of Thai people to the gospel in recent years has increased the need for more missionaries to serve as church planters, Christian education specialists to teach the fundamentals of witnessing and discipleship development, and counselors who can work with young people from broken homes or those involved with drug usage.

A five-man Korean Baptist delegation, headed by President Yu Tae Keun, and Executive Secretary Yong Do Kim of the Korea Baptist Convention, also was introduced to the board.

Twenty-eight new missionaries were named during the board meeting. Those named career missionaries in an evening appointment service were Brad and Jean Crews Bean of Missouri, assigned to Panama; Robert and Linda Wallace Calhoun, Texas, to Taiwan; Richard and Sharon Lohrenz Cook, Oklahoma and Ohio, respectively, to Panama; Don and Evelyn Pace Copeland, South Carolina, to Nigeria; Jack and Barbara Kohn Darley, Alabama, to Japan; Tom and Janis Williamson Green, Pennsylvania and Oklahoma, to Korea; Doug Kellum, Mississippi, to Thailand; Richard and Carol Hutchinson Poe, New Hampshire and Georgia, to Chile; Sandy Reynolds, Texas, to Hong Kong/Macao; Sam and Ruthie Davison Shaw, Texas and Oklahoma, to the Dominican Republic; and Bob and Linda Fridge Underwood, Oklahoma and Texas, to North Brazil.

Named missionary associates in that service were Loretta Miller Duckworth, Missouri, to Gaza; Chuck and Chere Northcutt Gafford, Tennessee and Oklahoma, to Japan; Billy and Annette Tucker Jackson, South Carolina, to Venezuela; and Jim and Rachel Kindred Sweet, Iowa and Oklahoma, to Israel.

Dr. Timothy Oesch of Oklahoma was named a special project physician to Ghana during the board meeting.

Deaf Baptists
Meet at Glorieta

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Deaf Southern Baptists from across the country gathered during Home Missions week at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center to equip themselves for ministry, discuss mutual concerns and elect officers for the next year.

More than 300 persons attended the week-long Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf. They participated in workshops on witnessing, dealing with various interfaith groups, Sunday School improvement, marriage and family enrichment and seminary extension.

Resolutions passed by the group stressed the need to reach deaf people around the world, pointed out the necessity of tailoring Bible study material to meet the needs of deaf people of all ages and requested that deaf lay persons be trained to assume more leadership roles in Southern Baptist churches.

Five officers were elected to serve second one-year terms. Chosen were Bill Roaden of Centerville, Ohio, president; Charles Butler of Portland, Ore., first vice president; Dan Long of Tallahassee, Fla., second vice president; Phala Bernhardt of Orlando, Fla., secretary; and Leslie Hall of Kansas City, Mo., treasurer.

"For the deaf, this is the most important meeting in Southern Baptist life," said Roaden. "It helps us get together and allows us to learn about better ways to serve Christ in our churches and places of work."

Up to 7,000 deaf persons worship in Southern Baptist churches, said Rodney Webb of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's language missions division.

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Mrs. Rogers Delighted
With Either Decision

By Jennifer Bryon Owen

Baptist Press
7/23/80

ST. LOUIS (BP)--"I would have been delighted if he had and I'm delighted he isn't," said Mrs. Adrian Rogers about her husband's decision not to consider a second term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Rogers revealed during the annual SBC meeting in St. Louis that she was completely surprised when her husband returned home from a gall bladder operation and asked her to pray with him about the matter.

Although she and her husband do not like controversy, she emphasized the current doctrinal controversy in the SBC had nothing to do with her husband's decision.

"He never looks for a fight," said Mrs. Rogers. "We would probably run from controversy, but he has never been a compromiser or a coward."

Mrs. Rogers said she felt the only controversy this year has been over whether or not the Bible is true, and the Rogers "are glad to stand for that." Rogers allowed his name to be placed in nomination last year, his wife said, because he felt someone should speak out for the inerrancy of the Scriptures. She believes he accomplished what he wanted.

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"We were taught as children that the Bible is true—we never heard the word inerrancy then—and we grew up believing that," Mrs. Rogers explained. "We were amazed when we got older and realized some Baptists don't believe that."

She says that, although she had always believed the Scriptures to be true, she proved it in her own life when one of their babies died a crib death. "I had always lived in the sunshine until then," she explained. "The greatest thing I learned from that was to praise God in difficult times."

Though there was an inward struggle, she says she clung to the promise that the Scripture is true. "Now I know God's Word is true. What do people who don't believe that cling to in bad times?" she said.

Feeling that her role in her husband's nomination last year has been misrepresented, Mrs. Rogers said she was reluctant for him to be SBC president because of her own fears.

"I had a fear of the unknown, I guess. It's hard to put your finger on the exact reasons," she said thoughtfully. "I felt these were valuable years for our family, the last years our children would be home. He's gone enough already. I dreaded the travel. Maybe I felt there would be controversy."

"But, when you trust the Lord, you can adjust to anything. And special blessings always come along. Ironically, the things I feared most turned out to be good things."

Mrs. Rogers' year was filled with accomplishment for her. She finished a book, "The Wise Woman," which will be released in January by Broadman Press.

She organized a conference for 4,000 women at Bellevue Baptist Church in May. She said she has wanted to speak out about the true biblical role of women which she feels has been misrepresented.

"I wanted to bring a group of women together to discuss equal worth but not sameness of function," she explained. "Our greatest desire is to teach a balanced Christian life."

"This year has given our family some tremendous promises," she explained. "We've learned not to fight those who think evil of us, but to turn it over to the Lord and let him take care of it."

She went on to say she had been grieved this year because some people have judged the motives of those close to them.

"My husband and I hope we can disagree in love and not judge motives," she said. "Our big desire is that we might be one. I feel like we've tried to solidify our denomination this year. Some bridges have been built. We've felt great love and acceptance. It's been a good year."