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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Enthusiasm Characterizes
1980 US-2 Appointees

By Michael Tutterow

ATLANTA (BP)--Thirty-one young people have been commissioned to spend the next two years of their lives in mission endeavors in the United States as US-2 missionaries of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

A "burden for students to be more affirmative in their faith" brought Clarence and Althea Harris of Miami, Fla., into the program. The Harrises are now working with students in Washington, D.C.

Steve Spurlock of Port Charlotte, Fla., added: "There needs to be an open-arm extension of the church into the everyday lives of people. I have a desire to share with people outside the walls of the church and be involved with them." Spurlock presently is mission pastor in Brookfield, Ohio.

Some of the group see the US-2 program as an opportunity to serve in mission related activities while "getting a feel" for mission work as a possible vocation. Others see it as a chance to cultivate a personal style of ministry and practice it in a mission setting.

For most, the appointment will provide opportunity to grow, to change. "It's an opportunity to make an everlasting impact on the lives of people," said Lynne Hinkelman, from Los Altos Hills, Calif., who will work with students at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

The 31 US-2ers are important to the Home Mission Board, according to Don Rhymes, director of missionary personnel.

"The US-2 appointees help us to do some very critical ministries which would not be done if we did not have volunteers willing to serve with financial sacrifice and in sometimes difficult conditions," Rhymes said.

The group was commissioned during a service led by William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer, at First Baptist Church of Rome, Ga., which followed a week of orientation at Georgia Baptist Assembly in Toccoa.

The 1980 US-2ers, their hometowns and places of service are:

Special mission ministries—Perry and Jacqueline Babb of Wakefield, Va., to work in State College, Pa.; Susan Brunke of Bozeman, Mont., in Yellowstone National Park; Tammy M. Fann of Smyrna, Tenn., in Daytona, Fla.; Clarence and Althea Harris of Miami, Fla., in Washington D.C.

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Also Lynne Hinkelman of Los Altos Hills, Calif., in Columbus, Ohio; David C. Mears of Florence, S.C., in Lake Placid, N.Y.; and Dan Wilkinson of Pontiac, Mich., in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Christian social ministries—Diane Brewer of Xenia, Ohio, to work in Waterbury, Conn.; Dennis and Denise Jones of Medina, Tenn., in Anchorage, Alaska; Josiane Merlet of Orlando, Fla., in New York, N.Y.; Linda Middlebrooks of Anderson, Ala., in New Orleans, La.; and Jerilyn Wallis of Garland, Texas, in Akron, Ohio.

Church extension—Lemuel and Vernetta Cousins of Seat Pleasant, Md., to work in Buffalo, N.Y.; John and Frances Draper of Memphis, Tenn., in Goshen, Ind.; Clinton and Jeannette Henry of Pampa, Texas, in Rochester, Minn.; and Steve Spurlock of Port Charlotte, Fla., in Youngstown, Ohio.

Language missions—Steve and Debbie Chisolm of Hattiesburg, Miss., to work in Albuquerque, N.M.; Mary Gillespie of Gastonia, N.C., in Atlanta, Ga.; Michael Gordon of Fort Smith, Ark., in Camas, Wash.; Teresa Stepniewska of New York, N.Y., in New York, N.Y.; and Tom Wilson of Nicholasville, Ky., in Olympia, Wash.

Special—James Steward of Tucker, Ga., to work in Fresno, Calif.; Michael R. Tutterow of Dayton, Ohio, in Atlanta, Ga.; and Janis M. Whipple of Orlando, Fla., in Jacksonville, Fla.

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Tutterow is a US-2 missionary working with the Editorial Services Department at the Home Mission Board.

Three Profs Assume
Southern's Chairs

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Three professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary assumed endowed chairs as Southern Baptists' oldest institution began its 122nd year.

Wayne E. Ward assumed the Joseph Emerson Brown Chair of Christian Theology, succeeding Dale Moody who retired in July after filling the chair for 26 years. Moody is now senior professor of Christian Theology. Ernest O. White, who joined the seminary's faculty this fall, will be the Gaines S. Dobbins Professor of Church Administration, and G. Maurice Hinson accepted the newly-established Carolyn King Ragan Chair of Church Music.

The century-old Joseph Emerson Brown Chair of Christian Theology was Southern Seminary's first endowed professorship, and was provided by a gift from Governor Brown of Georgia in 1880.

The Gaines S. Dobbins Chair of Church Administration was established in honor of the first dean of Southern Seminary's school of religious education, who taught at the seminary from 1920 to 1956.

The Carolyn King Ragan Chair, authorized by the seminary board earlier this year, is funded by proceeds from a trust established by the late Mrs. Ragan, who lived in Atlanta, Ga., and honors the memory of her family.

Southern Seminary has 16 named professorships, six of them as the result of a recent \$10 million endowment and capital-funds campaign. It takes \$500,000 to establish a permanent teaching chair.

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Civil Libertarian Sets
Retirement From Church

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--W.W. Finlator, a veteran civil libertarian and Southern Baptist pastor, has agreed to retire from Pullen Memorial Baptist Church here in June of 1982.

The agreement came after controversy erupted in the 850-member church over the retirement of Finlator, who has been pastor of the church for 24 years.

Finlator, 67, announced he would retire in August of 1983, when he is 70. The deacon body, however, asked him to vacate the pulpit by August 1981.

The pastor, who also is chairman of the North Carolina Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, has been a controversial figure because of stands he has taken on social issues.

The most recent is a telegram he sent to President Carter some months ago urging a cutoff of all federal funds to the University of North Carolina because the university failed to reach agreement with federal officials on a desegregation plan.

"There are some who think the university issue is part of this thing (the retirement controversy)," Finlator said. "It has not been mentioned at all. But I know my action did create a great deal of discomfort; it shook up many people more than anything else I have ever done."

Pullen Memorial is near the UNC campus and many school officials and staff are members of the church.

Finlator said he has agreed to retire in July of 1982, and the deacon body has accepted his suggested date unanimously. The action still must be ratified by the church in a special meeting Sept. 28.

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HMB Honors Four
Missions Leaders

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ATLANTA (BP)--Four associational directors of missions have been honored for "outstanding missionary leadership" by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Strauss Atkinson of Caprock-Plains Area in Plainview, Texas, and John Duncan of Shelby Baptist Association in Columbiana, Ala., were named top directors of missions in rural-urban settings, where population is less than 50,000.

Earl Crawford of Calvary-Arrowhead Baptist Association in Riverside, Calif., and Lawrence Childs of Mecklenburg Baptist Association in Charlotte, N.C., were honored for work in metropolitan areas with more than 50,000 population.

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**New Seminary Program
Draws Large Response**

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)—A new cooperative effort by the six Southern Baptist seminaries attracted 101 pastors from seven states and from as far as 180 miles for first-day classes at Union University in west Tennessee.

The program, under the direction of Roy Honeycutt, provost of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, offers professional level course work needed to receive the master of divinity or master of religious education degrees at any of the six seminaries.

Two professors at Union University and two professors from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary teach the courses offered the first semester. Students designate any of the seminaries as the institution from which they will receive credit toward a degree.

"What we are doing is bringing a seminary education to people who cannot pull up roots and relocate on a distant campus," said Harold Songer, assistant provost at Southern Seminary. "Our main purpose is not to provide a seminary degree, a piece of paper, but to provide a seminary education. We don't want to 'credentialize' people; we want to prepare them for a more effective ministry where they are."

Classes are on Mondays for 13 weeks, with a schedule that enables students to complete nine credit hours per semester. There is a matriculation fee of \$200 per semester and a one-time application fee of \$10.

Similar programs are planned this year for Detroit and Baltimore.

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**Missionary Says Conflicts
Deter Americans' Witness**

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AURORA, Colo. (BP)—Americans have conflicts as yet unknown to Africans, says Boyd Pearce who has returned to Kenya as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary.

Pearce, who resigned as pastor of Trinity Baptist Mission to return to foreign missions after a furlough of seven years, says the pressures and conflicts Americans face are legitimate. Among the pressures is the distance that most adults live from their jobs which requires long hours of commuting.

"When they come home and say they're exhausted, they're telling the truth," Pearce says. "We're not able to demand or expect them to attend church activities every night."

"We do need to equip them to be self-motivated to actively live their Christian life day by day, however. They can find the expression of their Christian faith through a much more localized sense by ministering to their neighbors."

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But Americans hesitate to openly respond to Christ, or to proclaim their Christianity as they go about their lives, says Pearce.

Africans have no such conflicts. "When they become Christians they understand this will be the dominant factor in their lives. A Christian lives in a certain way and does certain things. They believe this, accept this, and follow this."

Africans are not constantly pulled in many directions as are Americans and Pearce says, "We've been robbed of our practical Christian life by these conflicts."

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Hunger Grows a Face
For Buies Creek Girls

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9/9/80

BUIES CREEK, N. C. (BP)—Because of a little garden plot next to the church, world hunger has become personal for 18 young girls of Memorial Baptist Church in Buies Creek.

It all started when the 300-member church, which regularly gives \$200 a week for world hunger, wanted to find a way for hunger to become more than statistics and pictures for some of their children.

The church asked to use some land next to the church building for a garden for the girls to plant and tend. All the produce from the garden would then be distributed to poor and hungry people in the Buies Creek area.

The girls received some adult help, but the real break came when the county Ag Extension home economist, Jennifer Walker, made it possible for the girls to take the food they had grown into the homes of poor people. Walker went into the homes to teach people how to preserve and prepare food.

So the girls and another church member went into homes and helped to can, cook, and preserve the food they had grown. They were able to meet and talk at length with poor people for the first time in their lives.

And then some other families in the church got into the act. They began to bring the surplus from their own family gardens to supplement the produce from the girls' garden. The fruit from the original garden was multiplied in many ways. The original produce begat more produce, but also begat spiritual growth in the lives of the girls.

Bill Stillerman, pastor of the church, pointed out that "the girls felt like they had actually done something which had helped." But the crucial factor was that "the girls got to meet the poor on a one-to-one basis."

The faceless hungry had become real people with names and personalities.

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Adapted from July/August issue of Seeds.