



- - BAPTIST PRESS

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HMB Names Consultants, OKs World's Fair Funds

ATLANTA (BP)--National consultants for disaster relief/domestic hunger and metropolitan mission strategy were named by directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during their December meeting. Also, they appropriated \$45,000 to help provide Baptist ministries at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn.

Nathan Porter, pastor of First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia, Ark., was named consultant for disaster relief and domestic hunger. George W. Bullard Jr., director of Christian social ministries for Mecklenburg Baptist Association, Charlotte, N.C., was appointed consultant for MEGA, a mission strategy aimed at U.S. cities.

Board President William G. Tanner noted the fair's theme will focus on energy and told the directors board funds will help Southern Baptists sponsor a "spiritual energy" pavillion.

"We will have an opportunity to witness to between 12 and 22 million people who will visit the fair," Tanner said. The \$45,000 appropriation is the first installment of \$90,000 the board has pledged to the project, which will be sponsored jointly by the board, the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Knox County Association of Baptists.

Porter's appointment as national consultant for disaster relief and domestic hunger is a first step toward helping Southern Baptists be more Christian in their attitudes and responses to poor people in the United States, said Paul Adkins, director of Christian social ministries.

"If the statistics we see are correct--20 million people in the United States who are hungry--then the largest non-Catholic denomination needs someone who will give full time to discovering who these people are, where they are, why they are hungry and what Southern Baptists can do to alleviate their suffering," Adkins said.

Prior to his Arkadelphia pastorate, Porter, 48, spent 13 years on the HMB staff. He was associate director of the Missionary personnel department from 1960 to 1968, and he was associate director of the Evangelism Division from 1968 to 1973.

While at the board, he was involved in student summer missions, started the US-2 missions program, developed strategies for student evangelism, coffeehouse ministries and beach evangelism.

He is a native of Brazil, where his parents were Southern Baptist missionaries. He is a graduate of Baylor University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will work out of offices in his Arkadelphia home for the near future.

Bullard was named MEGA consultant for the board's metropolitan missions department. As a consultant, he will continue to work out of offices in Charlotte, N.C.

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Bullard will be responsible for helping Baptists in cities with more than one million population develop strategies for reaching the entire city with the gospel, said Don Hammer, metropolitan missions director.

"This is an extremely significant position because Southern Baptists are basically rural in orientation, and have never learned how to develop a strategy for reaching the megas," said Hammer, explaining that mega means "million."

"We are not alone, however. No other denomination is really doing anything to develop strategies to reach the large cities. Every denomination is losing ground in the big cities," he said.

Hammer pointed out 35 percent of the people in the nation live in cities with more than one million population; yet only 12 percent of Baptists and nine percent of the churches are in the big cities.

Before going to his present position, Bullard was based in Baltimore, Md., as a PACT (Project Assistance for Churches in Transition) consultant for the Baptist Convention of Maryland. He is a graduate of Mars Hill College and Southern Seminary.

In other action, directors named two mission pastor interns, granted church pastoral assistance to eight persons and approved four more for language pastoral assistance.

Appointed mission pastor intern were Herbert Steven and Shirley Ann Davidson of Fort Worth, Texas.

Church pastoral assistance approvals were Sam and Bea Byler of Carlisle, Pa.; Sidney D. and Ricca Ann Conner of Fort Collins, Colo.; Timothy Loyd and Joan Marie Gillihan of Kalama, Wash.; and John Arthur and Rebecca Ruth Yarbrough of Salem, Ore.

Granted language pastoral assistance were David and Deborah Kou of Baltimore, Md., and Benjamin and Marion Marilyn Ortiz of Overland Park, Kan.

Directors also accepted resignations of staffers Frank H. Crumpler and William T. Updike. Crumpler has become pastor of Indian Creek Baptist Church of Stone Mountain, Ga., an Atlanta suburb. Updike took early retirement to become director of missions for Lawrenceville Baptist Association, also near Atlanta.

Crumpler, with the board since 1976, has been director of evangelism planning and consultation and director of specialized evangelism. Previously, he was secretary of evangelism for the Baptist General Association of Virginia and pastor of churches in North and South Carolina and Virginia.

Updike became associate director of the HMB church loans division in 1968, following four years as metropolitan missionary for the Mid-Valley Baptist Association in California. He has been an associational missionary in Texas, an associate in the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California and pastor of churches in Texas and California.

Baptist Relief Giving Tops Previous Totals

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist giving to world hunger and relief through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board reached an all-time high of \$5,220,182 by the end of November.

Giving surpassed the record of \$3,086,104 set in 1979 and may exceed \$5.5 million by the end of the year, said John R. Cheyne, the Foreign Mission Board's consultant for relief ministries.

Through Dec. 1, appropriations amounted to \$2,225,548.

"There is no way we could have anticipated the fantastic increase in designated giving on the part of Southern Baptists," Cheyne said, adding that the board bases most of the long range relief program on the previous year's receipts. The 1980 program was based on 1979 receipts of about \$3 million.

In 1979, he said, the board appropriated \$3,038,948 for use in hunger relief projects around the world. "Because of the larger giving, we'll be able to program more projects next year aimed at dealing with underlying causes of world hunger," said Cheyne.

Funding for several such projects—including \$73,150 for agricultural training in Jos, Nigeria, and Faridpur, Bangladesh—were included in the \$339,000 appropriated during November.

In Nigeria and Bangladesh, Southern Baptist missionaries will provide agricultural training for youths who might not be able to earn a living without it. "In countries where food production falls behind population growth, you need to start with youth in breaking the poverty cycle," said Cheyne.

Other major relief appropriations in November were earmarked for medicines for Uganda; a well-digging project in Senegal; rebuilding an earthquake-damaged church in Hungary and relief for earthquake victims in Italy.

Money to buy and ship medicine to Uganda is urgently needed to continue the Southern Baptist clinic ministry there, Cheyne said. No medicine is available in the country and it can no longer be imported from Kenya, making it necessary to buy medicine from Europe.

The \$35,000 appropriated for deep bored wells at six locations in Senegal will mark the first time Southern Baptist missionaries have been involved in an extensive well project in that west African nation.

Money appropriated out of general relief funds for rebuilding the earthquake-damaged church in Bekes, Hungary, is unusual, but represents a rare opportunity to witness in that part of the world, Cheyne said. "It will be a shot in the arm which says, 'We are behind you. We are with you,'" he added.

The \$50,000 represents only a part of the cost of rebuilding the church. Some church members in Hungary have been giving as much as 20 or 30 percent of their income for such projects. Religious gatherings are allowed only in officially recognized church buildings in Hungary.

The \$30,000 appropriated for hunger and relief in Italy went to the southern part of the country in the wake of an earthquake which leveled 30 towns and killed at least 3,000 people.

Cheyne left Dec. 9 for Italy to meet with missionaries and Italian Baptists in determining how the board can assist in the long range rehabilitation efforts in the quake region.

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Allen To Appear
On ABC's 'Directions'

Baptist Press
12/10/80

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, will be featured on ABC-TV's "Directions" program, Sunday, Dec. 28, in a year-end discussion of religion in public life.

Allen and Marc Tannenbaum, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, will join ABC news correspondent Herbert Kaplow in the first of a two-part series. Two other church leaders will appear on the program Jan. 4 to conclude the series.

"Directions" is a half-hour cultural/religious program which appears weekly on ABC.

Allen became president of the Radio and Television Commission in January 1980. He served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination, from 1977 to 1979.

Tannenbaum, of New York City, is a frequent representative to the media for Jewish interests in America.

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Foreign Board Adds No. 332,
Makes Final Plea On Tax

Baptist Press
12/10/80

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Closing its first year under a new administration, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board named 36 missionaries in December and made three appointments under its reorganization plan.

The 29 new career missionaries, six missionary associates, and one special project nurse brought the year's total to 332, the same number added last year. Both figures are off the record 350 named in 1978.

The actions came at the board's final meeting of 1980, the first year under the leadership of President R. Keith Parks. Major reorganization of the board staff has occurred during the year, and three more positions were filled in December.

Joe W. Bruce, missionary to Honduras, was named associate to the director for Middle America and the Caribbean. He will headquarter in Guatemala City; Norman Burnes, a missionary to France, was chosen as candidate consultant for the Atlantic states; and Wendy Purcell, a former missionary journeyman to Zimbabwe, will be coordinator of auxiliary personnel with responsibility for screening journeyman candidates and helping with missionary selection.

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The board also honored E.L. (Cotton) Wright, retiring Dec. 31, after 27 years as business manager; affirmed plans to strengthen its emphasis on partnership evangelism as the World Evangelism Foundation announced it will phase out operations in 1981; reallocated funds to try to meet the financial pressures of worldwide inflation, and passed a resolution urging Congress to pass, in this session, a bill restoring a missionary income tax exclusion.

Wright, who has handled the logistics of moving thousands of missionaries overseas since he came to the board in 1953, gave the board audience a typically Cotton Wright benediction as he left: "May the good Lord—and your baggage—go with you."

W.H. (Dub) Jackson Jr., president and founder of the Texas-based Evangelism Foundation, and his wife Doris were on hand to see their son-in-law and daughter, Bill and Shirley Karr, appointed as missionaries to Japan, where the Jacksons served until 1969. Jackson indicated he and his wife also are available for reappointment as missionaries, "if that's the way the Lord leads."

West Africa director John E. Mills, who said financial pressures of mission work in his area are "as serious as any we've ever seen in west Africa, received board approval to transfer funds to meet critical needs in mission travel and housing accounts.

"When we made out our 1980 budget in mid-1979," Mills said, "the price of gasoline in Liberia was 90 cents a gallon. Now it's \$3.80. In two or three of our west Africa missions we literally ran out of travel funds by August of this year and we've had to scrounge to find enough funds to keep operating."

Other reports underscored the need for Southern Baptists to intensify their support of Bold Mission Thrust, the denomination's plan to share the gospel with all people of the world by the year 2000. Charles W. Bryan, vice president for overseas operations, said Nigerian seminary principal Osadolor Imasogie told him the 300,000 Baptists in that country could increase to 3 million in the next 10 years "if we utilize our full potential."

In eastern Africa, Southern Baptist missionary Tom McMillan said that with adequate personnel and \$300,000 in funds, more than 80,000 baptisms could be recorded in Tanzania in six months.

Medical consultant Franklin T. Fowler warned that "if our health care ministry is discouraged and not supported adequately, we will lose one of our best evangelistic tools available. But more importantly, we will be neglecting our mandate to preach, teach and heal."

Close to 900 professions of faith were reported last year by the three hospitals in west Africa which Fowler and a consultative team visited recently, he said.

Board member Franklin Hall, chairman of a subcommittee preparing plans for a new orientation center near Richmond, said decisions have been made to cut the missionary orientation period from the current 12-week program at Callaway Gardens, Ga., to a maximum of eight weeks when the center is moved. The new center will be "practical and non-ostentatious," he said, and will provide living experiences more nearly approximating what the missionaries will face overseas.

In connection with the meeting, the board played host to 20 guests from seven states as the first effort of the board's new 20-member development council to acquaint individual church members with the financial needs of the new orientation program.

Some of these guests remained through the Dec. 9 appointment service at First Baptist Church, Waynesboro, Va. Some 700 from churches in the Shenandoah Valley, West Virginia and Maryland also attended.

Those appointed missionaries were Georgianna (Jana) Caves of New Mexico, assigned to Jordan; Cole and Beth Smith Cochran of Missouri and Louisiana, respectively, to Japan; Mike and Lyn Verbois Edens, Oklahoma and Louisiana, to the Middle East; Ray and Ardith Miller Franklin, Texas, to Japan; Larry and Marie Brotherton Harris, Ohio and Indiana, to Hong Kong/Macao; Nelson and Sandra Bond Hayashida, Hawaii and Louisiana, to Zambia; Steve and Marcia Bunch Hayes, Arizona and Texas, to Korea; and Annette Huckabee, Tennessee, to Chile.

Also appointed were Bill and Shirley Jackson Karr, Texas, to Japan; Butch and Cheryl Wetwiska Miller, Oklahoma, to Austria; Jack and Cathy Roach Ollis, North Carolina and South Carolina, to India; Ronnie and Beth Colletti Parker, Mississippi and Louisiana, to Equatorial Brazil; Sandy Simmons, Texas, to South Brazil; Bob and Beverly Buford Thomas, Tennessee, to Yemen; Roger and Susan Rich Thompson, Pennsylvania and Maryland, to Ecuador; and Gary and Jerree Trimble White, Louisiana, to Jordan.

Employed as missionary associates were C.E. and Laura Johnson Blevins, Tennessee, to Zambia; David and Martha Reiss Hause, Missouri and Texas, to Greece; and Jim and Sue Wilkins, Indiana and Illinois, to Liberia.

Donna Collins of Georgia, was named a special project nurse to Jordan during the board meeting.

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Jackson Group To Phase Out;
Foreign Board Plans Thrust

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press
12/10/80

DALLAS (BP)--World Evangelism Foundation will phase out its organization by Dec. 31, 1981, because of plans by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to accelerate "partnership evangelism" around the world.

The foundation's trustees voted the action unanimously at its annual meeting in Dallas, Dec. 5. Subsequently, the Foreign Mission Board, at its Dec. 9 meeting, voted to "affirm its plan to provide opportunity for Southern Baptist churches to participate in partnership evangelism," an approach which matches U.S. churches, pastors and laypersons with their counterparts overseas.

The board expressed appreciation to WEF; agreed to work cooperatively with it during its phase-out period in 1981 in partnership efforts in Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, England and Spain; and noted that the board "will gradually assume financial responsibility for partnership evangelism campaigns."

WEF President W.H. (Dub) Jackson Jr., who resigned as a Southern Baptist missionary in 1969 to form WEF, said the decision was made to avoid duplicating the Foreign Mission Board. "The board is much more able to accomplish the job than we are," Jackson said.

Jackson, 56, who spent 17 years as a missionary to Japan, said the decision to phase out came gradually and without previous planning during a series of conversations with Foreign Mission Board staff members who were exploring ways to involve a wider cross section of Southern Baptists in world evangelism.

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He told Baptist Press he has informed the Foreign Mission Board's personnel selection department that he and his wife, Doris, are available for reappointment as missionaries after commitments to WEF are completed, "if that's the way the Lord leads." The Jacksons' son-in-law and daughter, Bill and Shirley Karr of Dallas, were appointed missionaries to Japan, where Shirley grew up as a missionary kid, during the board's December meeting.

WEF's approach to partnership evangelism has majored on placing teams of Southern Baptist pastors and laymen in evangelistic crusades and one-to-one witnessing in churches in 30 countries during the past 12 years. Often teams from those countries have conducted reciprocal evangelistic efforts in Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

Charles Bryan, vice president of the board's office of overseas operations, and his staff point to "a basic genius" in the WEF approach of linking committed churches in the United States directly to churches overseas to generate a church-to-church, pastor-to-pastor, layman-to-layman method of evangelism.

Bryan and his associates, A. Clark Scanlon, Lewis I. Myers Jr., and Ervin E. Haste, believe intensification of the personal approach will enhance the Southern Baptist Convention's Bold Mission Thrust goals to encourage more persons to give, go and pray in the cause of world missions.

Expressing excitement about the Foreign Mission Board's decision to emphasize partnership evangelism in addition to its other approaches, Jackson said, "The greatest asset Southern Baptists have is warmhearted people who bring the love of God in one-to-one evangelism. We want to see every SBC church and every member faced with the opportunity and the responsibility to share Jesus Christ in that way around the world."

WEF's decision to phase out, he said, "came unanimously but with pain and soul-searching... Our board and staff have grown to love WEF and its ministry, but we realized that we had to die to self so that the concept of partnership missions can live in a greater way."

Jackson and Bryan emphasized that WEF's decision has no strings attached, but Bryan said the board hopes to tap the expertise of former WEF staffers, board members and other participants in future partnership evangelism efforts.

"We're grateful for what WEF has accomplished," Bryan said. "The decision to phase out and work with the Foreign Mission Board in partnership evangelism has put us five years ahead of where we would be otherwise."

Board President R. Keith Parks commended WEF and the board's staff for their agreement and noted it "represents the cooperative spirit of Southern Baptists." He expressed his support for partnership evangelism.

In a meeting with the Foreign Mission Board's overseas committee, Morris Cobb, a board member from Amarillo, Texas, who has also been active in the Dallas-based WEF, emphasized that WEF came into existence in the beginning because the board did not have a partnership approach.

"If it had, WEF wouldn't have started," said Cobb.

"The two organizations have never been at cross-purposes," Cobb added, although he noted some lack of understanding had surfaced from time to time.

Cobb also emphasized that WEF did not come to the Foreign Mission Board asking the board to take over its work, but that the board came to WEF asking for input on partnership evangelism.

"That spirit caused this development," Cobb said. "WEF's board would not have voted to disband unless the Foreign Mission Board had decided to take this approach. This is a happy situation."

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

Merry Christmas
Merry Christmas

Baptist Press
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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--It will be a merry Christmas Eve for Charles Merry Christmas when he presides over the wedding of his son, Charles Merry Christmas Jr., and Deborah Carey.

The youngest of eight children, the senior Christmas says his older sister named him as a joke, but his parents, who had about run out of names, made it official. He named his own son Charles Merry Christmas Jr. 24 years later because he felt the name had been an asset to him.

December is special for many reasons for Christmas, pastor of Hillview Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. He was married Dec. 19, 1947, and was ordained in December. His son was born in December and is being married on Christmas Eve in the Christmas Birmingham home. Christmas Jr. is a pipe and fitting salesman in Overland Park, Kan.

Christmas Sr.'s father and a brother are named Joseph and he has a sister named Mary. His daughter is Joy Carol Christmas.

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Mission Board Helps Meet
Critical Bible Shortage

Baptist Press
12/10/80

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in December provided \$52,542 for Bibles for Uganda, where Bibles are so scarce that the Ugandan Bible Society has been rationing them.

Still Southern Baptist missionaries there are requesting another \$47,000 for Bibles in this east African nation. They could distribute one-half million Bibles in the 12 vernacular languages within two or three months, if they were available, said Linda Rice, chairman of the Uganda Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Uganda). Another half-million English Bibles are needed to satisfy demand.

The appropriation came after Foreign Mission Board representatives met with Ugandan Bible Society General Secretary Canon Wesonga to discuss the shortage.

The society rationed the 6,000 Uganda language Bibles it distributed recently, Wesonga said, and it has not been able to distribute a single English language Bible in the last year. The need for English Bibles has increased steadily since January when the Ugandan government reinstated a religious knowledge curriculum in the primary schools, said Wesonga.

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"It is the (lack of) English Bibles which has disappointed me, because the government put in religious knowledge and I could not provide," Wesonga said. He added that some Bibles and New Testaments are available in the 12 vernacular languages, but those are scarce.

The Foreign Mission Board's funds for Bible distribution around the world come from a dozen trust funds honoring various individuals. It spent about \$225,000 for Bible distribution in 1979 and will spend approximately that amount again in 1980.

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Sue Nishikawa Sets
Retirement in Hawaii

Baptist Press
12/10/80

HONOLULU (BP)--Sue Saito Nishikawa, editor of the Hawaii Baptist, will take medical retirement Jan. 1, 1981, according to Edmond Walker, executive secretary-treasurer of the Hawaii Baptist Convention.

Nishikawa, 64, suffered a mild stroke in July, while returning to Hawaii from the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Toronto. She has not been able to return to work since, Walker added.

"She continues to make progress toward normal health and asks continued prayers during the convalescing and retirement," Walker added.

"It will be difficult to replace Sue Nishikawa because of her years of experience in the work and knowledge of Hawaii Baptists," he added.

Nishikawa is associate director of the Cooperative Missions Division of the convention, and became editor of the newspaper in 1979. She had been associate editor since 1969. She is a graduate of Dodd College in Shreveport, La., Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Prior to her association with the convention, she was education and youth director at Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu.

She is believed to be the first woman to be named permanent editor of a state Baptist newspaper, although several women have been interim editors.

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