



## **-- BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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### **McDonough Is Elected By Executive Committee**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--**Reginald (Reggie) McDonough, 44, has been elected associate executive secretary and director of program planning for the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

McDonough, who has been head of the church administration department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, also in Nashville, will succeed Albert McClellan, who retires Dec. 31 after more than 31 years with the Executive Committee.

"We are pleased to have a man of his background and preparation," said Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee. "He is well qualified for this position."

Bennett announced McDonough's election, saying the 66-member Executive Committee was polled by mail after he was recommended by Bennett and the six officers of the Executive Committee.

"This election was so important that a poll of the members was made. This allows Reggie McDonough to be able to start his work January 1, 1981 and be involved in the budget work of the program and budget subcommittee," Bennett added.

Part of McDonough's responsibilities will be to assist in the preparation of the annual budget for the Southern Baptist Convention, which is done through a process which starts in January and culminates with official adoption at the annual meeting of the 13.6 million-member denomination.

McDonough, a native of Mount Vernon, Texas, is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College and received masters and doctors degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has been with the Sunday School Board since 1964, serving as a consultant, supervisor and director of the church administration department. Previously, he was minister of education at churches in Thibodaux and Arcadia, La., and Beaumont, Texas. He also was instructor of religious education at East Texas Baptist College in Marshall.

He is the author of nine books, numerous articles and has been in editorial or supervisory capacities for Search, Quarterly Review, Church Administration, Proclaim and The Deacon magazines, all published by the Sunday School Board.

In his new post, McDonough will be the principal professional assistant to the executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, the SBC agency which carries on the work of the convention between annual sessions.

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McDonough and his wife, Joan, have two children, Michael, 22, and Teri, 18.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers.

Baptist Representative  
Continues Husband's Work

Baptist Press  
12/18/80

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (BP)--Nela Williams, widow of James A. Williams Jr., Southern Baptist fraternal representative to Baptists in Eastern Europe, says she plans to continue the work of her husband, who died in an auto accident in September near Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

Mrs. Williams teaches New Testament Greek at the Baptist Seminary in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. She is testing programmed lessons for the self-study which will be used later in theological education by extension studies and finishing a New Testament Greek handbook in programmed instruction.

She also translates from English and German into Croatian for a Baptist magazine and books for theological education, coordinates a young people's cassette ministry, and handles correspondence with listeners of Trans World Radio.

Mrs. Williams says, "All of this seems overwhelming for me, considering three young children, but nevertheless seems attractive, because I know I can count on the Lord."

A native of Yugoslavia, Mrs. Williams met her husband when he came to Zagreb as an exchange student.

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Baptists Boost Aid To Italy;  
Will Feed 600 Through Winter

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press  
12/18/80

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--An additional \$237,000 in Southern Baptist hunger relief funds was sent Dec. 18 to help 600 people of the Senerchia area of southern Italy survive until the next harvest.

The money was requested by the Italian Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Italy). It will supplement \$30,000 released earlier from hunger and general relief funds.

The request came following a survey trip by Southern Baptist missionaries Bob Holifield and Stanley Crabb into the area where seven million were affected by the Nov. 23 quake.

The \$237,000 will be used to feed 300 people in Senerchia and 300 in the surrounding area during the winter and spring months before the next harvest.

At a cost of \$2.52 per person, Baptists will serve morning bread and coffee and two other meals a day from their headquarters tent in Senerchia and from a mobile kitchen which will go to people who live too far away to walk there. Even cooking utensils are unavailable to people whose homes were destroyed, said John R. Cheyne, Foreign Mission Board relief ministries consultant, who spent two days in mid-December touring the quake region.

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Because the area is populated almost entirely by older persons who depend on subsistence farming and money from relatives or pensions, he said, they will be unable to provide their own food until crops begin to come in next spring.

Cheyne met with Southern Baptist missionaries and representatives of the Baptist Evangelical Union of Italy and the Federation of Evangelicals, groups with whom missionaries have been cooperating in relief efforts in the Senerchia area.

They agreed Southern Baptists would feed area residents, freeing the other two groups' funds for rebuilding and other work. Already the Baptist Union has undertaken replacing a destroyed school and building a village of 40 prefabricated homes in San Gregora Mario, said Cheyne. The village will ultimately include a farming cooperative project.

Some of their own people were left homeless by the quake, but Italian Baptists have taken responsibility for manning the tent set up under Senerchia's only remaining light a few days after the quake.

Disaster relief funds from the Baptist World Alliance also have been sent to help. In the immediate aftermath, \$10,000 was forwarded to the Italian Baptist Union, according to Erna Redlich, assistant secretary with responsibility for relief.

At the same time, the BWA issued a worldwide appeal for \$100,000, but Redlich said response was "very slow." By Dec. 18, \$15,000 had come to the BWA offices in Washington, D.C., of which \$5,000 was from Canada.

The funds will be sent to Italy "very soon," she added.

Persons wishing to contribute to the BWA fund are asked to send them to BWA, 1628 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20009.

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Water Wall Sweeps Car to Sea;  
Missionaries Narrowly Escape

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press  
12/18/80

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent (BP)—Moments after Orvell and Suzan Ward Bryant and their visitor had scrambled to safety, a wall of water roared out of the darkness and swept their automobile into the Atlantic Ocean.

The flash flood down the bed of the Rabacca Dry River would have been the last straw for many people, but not the Bryants, for whom natural disaster has become a way of life.

During their two-and-a-half years as first term Southern Baptist missionaries on St. Vincent in the Windward Islands, the Bryants have persevered through two hurricanes—David and Allen—and the eruption of a volcano, La Soufriere.

The Bryants and Calvin Haywood, a visiting evangelist from Guyana, were returning from the third service of a week-long revival in early October, at Sandy Bay Baptist Church, where Bryant is pastor, the night their car washed to sea. The road they traveled, used by all the island's inhabitants, runs across the bed of the Rabacca Dry River, which flows only when heavy rains dump their load in the mountains.

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When the car reached the river bed about 9 p.m., the sandy bottom was wet from a rain, but no water was running on the Sandy Bay side, across the river from where the Bryants live. But about three-fourths of the way across the 150-foot channel, the car bogged down in a shallow stream about 15 feet wide.

"Calvin and I got out to push, with Suzan behind the wheel," recalls Bryant. "We worked for 15 or 20 minutes, but the car got stuck deeper. Meanwhile, the stream was getting heavier and heavier."

The three travelers realized the time had come to run, but Suzan couldn't get the door open on the driver's side of the tilted vehicle. Bryant and Haywood rushed to the other side, as the water rose, pulled open the door and helped her out. They made it to the bank about two minutes before "a sudden surge of water" picked up the car like a matchstick and rushed toward the ocean.

The trio, shaken but unhurt, hiked to a telephone and called missionaries Larry and Wanda Lee, an hour's drive away, to pick them up. About 2 a.m. they learned that their car had been recovered, damaged beyond repair.

But a flash flood and a lost car failed to deter the Bryants any more than did the volcano and hurricanes, which have wreaked havoc on St. Vincent during their short missionary careers.

The next night, driving a borrowed car, they and Haywood set out again across the "dry" river for the revival, where standing-room-only crowds continued to greet them. Eight persons accepted Christ as savior during the week and requested baptism into Sandy Bay Baptist Church. The little church has grown to 101 members since the Bryants organized it and has started a preaching point in a nearby village.

The Bryants, natives of Louisiana and Arkansas, have great hopes for the continued growth of the church—if it can survive the elements which buffet the Windward Islands where the Caribbean Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Venezuela.

During the past two years, hurricanes David and Allen have chopped away 60 feet of its property, leaving only six feet between it and the ocean. Another hurricane would topple it into the Atlantic. "We're praying that won't happen," says Bryant. "Right now, there's no place available for another church."

Meanwhile, the Bryants, determined to persevere, continue to cross the Rabacca Dry River—this time in a four-wheel drive vehicle bought with \$11,000 appropriated at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's December meeting.