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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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84-03

Walsh, Kimball Return  
To Iran For Third Visit

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP)--Two Southern Baptist ministers invited by the prime minister of Iran to conduct Christmas worship services for the hostages arrived in Tehran a day too late to participate.

It was the third visit to Iran in a year for John Walsh, chaplain at Princeton University, and Charles Kimball, a doctoral student in world religions and Islamic studies at Harvard University.

Their latest trip to Iran, made with the approval of the U.S. State Department, was revealed during a meeting of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta Jan. 6.

Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner told board members about the visit to Iran, pointing out Walsh is a joint employee of the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Convention of New York.

Tanner said Walsh and Kimball made the trip on their own, with no expense to the Southern Baptist Convention or Home Mission Board, in accordance with agreements worked out with him and the Baptist Convention of New York.

Walsh and Kimball received an invitation on Dec. 23 from the prime minister of Iran to conduct Christmas worship services for the hostages, but because of flight schedules and visa delays, they were unable to arrive in Iran until the day after Christmas.

Initial reports indicated they were delayed by 10 hours, but Walsh's wife, Karen, later confirmed that her husband and Kimball arrived in Tehran at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 26.

Mrs. Walsh said they were delayed because they had to fly to Bonn, Germany, to get their visas stamped by the Iranian consulate rather than going directly to Tehran from Frankfurt, Germany, as originally planned.

Tanner told directors there had been apologies from Iranian officials because the invitations were issued too late for them to clear all the red tape necessary to travel to Iran in time for Christmas.

On the morning of the Home Mission Board meeting, Don Hammonds, director of special mission ministries for the board, talked to Walsh by telephone in Tehran.

Walsh told Hammonds he and Kimball had not yet been allowed to visit the hostages or hold religious services for them, but he hoped to do so before they left Tehran, perhaps on Monday, Jan. 12.

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Walsh said he and Kimball had been advised by Iranian officials to wait patiently in their hotel room until the Algerian delegation participating in negotiations for the release of the hostages left.

Less than 15 hours later, ABC News reported Iran had agreed in principle to the latest U.S. proposals for release of the hostages, and CBS News quoted the Ayatollah Khomeini as saying it was "now all right to release the hostages."

Six hours later, however, hopes for immediate release of the hostages were dashed when the head of the hostage negotiating commission for Iran denied in a Tehran news conference that Iran had accepted the U.S. proposal to release the hostages.

In his statement to the Home Mission Board, Tanner said he feels it was a compliment to Southern Baptists that the two young men had been invited to hold religious services for the hostages, even though they did not arrive in time to participate.

They were the only American ministers invited to Tehran both Christmases, Tanner pointed out.

During the Christmas season of 1979, Walsh and Kimball were among seven religious leaders from the United States, including former Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen, who participated in a "fact finding mission" to study religious dimensions of the crisis in Iran.

On that trip, the seven religious leaders met with the Ayatollah Khomeini, and spent six hours with the militant students then holding the hostages. They did not, however, see the hostages or hold Christmas religious services on that trip, either.

Walsh and Kimball made a second trip to Iran in May to take mail to the hostages and to participate in a conference on American intervention in Iran with former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, despite a travel ban by President Carter.

Tanner pointed out in his statement to the board the latest trip in Christmas of 1980 was made with the permission of the State Department to travel to Iran. The latest trip was made "only for religious purposes, and for no political reasons whatever," Tanner said.

He also pointed out Walsh went through proper channels in clearing the plans for the trip with his immediate supervisor and informing officials of the Home Mission Board and New York convention of the trip.

"I wanted to give you a brief report on this because I think you need to know exactly what's happening," Tanner told directors. "There will be some questions asked and I want you to have this information firsthand."

Tanner also urged Baptists to continue to pray for the hostages in Iran and their families. "I don't expect we will ever know the degree of emotional trauma these folks have suffered," he added.

He also urged Baptists to pray specifically for Walsh and Kimball "that they will be able to minister to the spiritual needs of the hostages."

## HMB Appoints 40 Missionaries, Receives Final Offering Report

ATLANTA(BP)--Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors appointed 40 persons to mission service and received a final report on the 1980 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering during their January meeting.

Board President William G. Tanner told directors the 1980 Annie Armstrong offering was \$16,479,032.05, almost \$1 million more than the \$15.5 million goal.

"I feel nothing but gratitude to Southern Baptists for this total," Tanner said.

The 1980 offering was the first Annie Armstrong offering to surpass its goal in four years. The goal for the 1981 offering is \$17.25 million. The offering is sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. It is promoted by the WMU and the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

Approvals for mission service include nine missionaries, one mission pastor intern, 28 persons to receive church pastoral assistance and two persons granted language pastoral assistance.

Named missionaries were Jane Edwards of Jefferson, La.; Ross and Shelba Harmonson of Spencer, Iowa; Jim and Bettie Jo Hill of Lee's Summit, Mo.; John W. Mullens Jr. and Cynthia Mullens of Wenonah, N.J.; and Miguel and Carmen Soto of Dallas, Texas.

Edwards was elected coordinator of maternity services at Sellers Baptist Home and adoption center, New Orleans, La. She has been an adoption case worker and clinical social worker in South Carolina and is a graduate of Winthrop College and the University of South Carolina.

The Harmonsons will serve in Eldridge, Iowa, where he will be director of missions for Great Rivers Baptist Association. He has been pastor of churches in Texas, California, Oregon, Colorado and Iowa and a pastoral missionary in South Dakota and Montana. He is a graduate of Wayland Baptist College and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Hills will work in Kansas City, Mo., where he will be church extension director for metropolitan Kansas City. He has been pastor and church planter apprentice in Missouri, and before he assumed his new position, he was director of church extension for Blue River Baptist Association in Missouri. Hill is a graduate of Southwest Baptist College and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Mullenses will serve in Cherry Hill, N.J., where he is pastor/director of Delaware Valley Baptist Association. He has been a psychological research technician in Tennessee and pastor and associate pastor of churches in Missouri and New Jersey. He is a graduate of Belmont College and Midwestern Seminary.

The Sotos will move to Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, where he will direct Baptist leadership training. He has been pastor and music director of churches in Texas and a summer missionary in Colorado and Puerto Rico. He also has been a missionary associate and pastor in Puerto Rico. Soto is a graduate of Mexican Baptist Bible Institute, Dallas Baptist College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Approved as mission pastor intern was Steve Crumpler, who will serve in Butler, Pa.

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Persons granted church pastoral assistance and their places of assignment are Mohamad and Ilene Ahamad, Harrisburg, Pa.; J.D. and Thelma Allen, Santuree, Puerto Rico; John and Margaret Cutrer, Jeffrey City, Wyo.; David Leeland and Mary Lou Drury, Mt. Vernon, Ore.; David and Lyndal Louise Edwards, Lyndon, Kan.; Donald Kenneth and Angie Finley, Brookings, S.D.; Michael and Sue Gilliom, Harrisburg, Pa.

Also Jerry and Reba Graham, West Chester, Ohio; Galen and Sondra Greenwalt, Hercules, Calif.; John Edward and Marsha Langlois, Milton, Wis.; Ernest Frederick and Annette Lassahn, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Kenneth and Dian Zeneal Loucks, Oswego, Kan.; Winton George and Marjorie Teter, Winona, Minn.; and Danny and Cheryl White, Dallas, Pa.

Approved for language pastoral assistance were Natanael and Dyala Vazquez, who will work in Miami Beach, Fla.

In other action, directors reinstated Frank H. Crumpler as director of the board's specialized evangelism department. Crumpler resigned from the position in December to accept a Georgia pastorate but later decided to remain on the staff of the board.

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Appelman Goes Anywhere  
For 50 Years to Preach

Baptist Press  
1/7/81

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Christian evangelist Hyman Appelman, a 78-year-old Russian-born Jew, will preach at least 50 revivals this year, as he has for the past 50 years.

"I stay motivated because I see enormous results," Appelman told Gigi Schrader of the Word and Way, Missouri Baptist newspaper. He has preached to crowds of 20,00 in the United States and has seen 600 to 700 professions of faith made in a single meeting, "a thrill beyond anything I can express in words," he said.

It's estimated Appelman, who celebrated his 50th year as an evangelist in December, has seen more than 300,000 people led to Christ.

He has written over 50 books; is fluent in eight languages; has preached in every state in the Union, in over 100 countries, and on every continent in the world, including many times behind the Iron Curtain.

Born in Mogillev, White-Russia, Appelman came to the United States in 1914 with his family so he could receive the education he would have been denied as a Jew in Russia.

"Even to go to grade school the Jew had to pay, but not the Gentile," he recalled.

Graduating with degrees in law from DePaul University in Chicago, Appelman set up practice in the city. Four years later a business trip sent him to Denver, Colo. It was during this trip that Appelman was led to Christ.

In 1934, after pastorates in Oklahoma and Texas, he became one of the state evangelists for the Texas Baptist Convention because they "pressed him into it." He has been going strong ever since.

Appelman's largest crowds gather across the seas. In India, the services are held outdoors and thousands attend.

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Appelman gets many invitations from churches in various countries, including the largest church in the world—the Assembly of God church in Seoul, Korea. This church has a membership of 800,000 and is led by 97 pastors.

Appelman has been to Russia many times but said he is not allowed to have a revival there. He can only preach services at the various churches.

"In Russia I limit myself in preaching. I read my sermons which is hard on me but I do not want to hurt those who listen to me." He added that there is also the possibility of losing his visa if he is not careful.

Only once during his visits to Russia has Appelman experienced any trouble or persecution. Last year on attempting to enter the country at the Hungarian border, the guards called in the

KGB secret police who interrogated him and confiscated 22 Bibles he had planned to give to Baptist ministers.

He was made to sign a statement saying he would no longer try to bring Bibles into Russia.

Previous attempts by Appelman to bring religious literature into the country had resulted in no problems and he interprets this incident to the increasing anti-religious campaigns in the country.

Even though there are purges against religion in Russia, "evangelism is still doing very well" in countries around the world, "better than ever," he said.

Considered an authority on the religious affairs of both the United States and Russia, Appelman said of evangelism in America, "The honeymoon is over."

He explained that the impact evangelists have on people has lost the newness.

"Today revivals take more advertising and need to be semi-sensational." But he added "they are reaching more people because there are more ways to reach them."

As long as "good health allows" Appelman intends to do his part to keep people from "missing the boat."

No, Hyman Appelman isn't doing bad for a man of 78 years of age, but then he has a motive.

"I wouldn't even cross the street if I couldn't preach," he concluded.