



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

## NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 244-2355  
Wilmer C. Fields, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

## BUREAUS

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041

**DALLAS** Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996

**MEMPHIS** Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461

**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300

**RICHMOND** Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151

**WASHINGTON** Stan L. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

February 11, 1981

81-22

Baptist Hunger Consultant  
Decries Reagan Budget Cuts

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--Protesting proposed federal budget cuts by the Reagan administration, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's domestic hunger consultant charged that the proposed cuts would hurt the poor and needy in America the most.

Nathan Porter, named last December as the Atlanta-based board's first domestic hunger consultant, said the proposed budget cuts raise a major question on the primary values and priorities of the nation.

"Will we as a nation place our major emphasis and support on the military and national defense, or on the social needs of the population in general?" Porter asked.

He pointed out that there has been no hint of any reduction in military spending, but rather there have been proposals to increase budget allocations to the national defense.

"Services to the people who have basic human needs are the target of major program reductions," Porter said in a statement issued to Baptist Press.

Although Porter expressed appreciation for the Reagan administration's decision to exempt seven social service agencies from budget cuts, he said these seven agencies were more on the fringe of the program that significantly helped the poor and hungry.

Porter said the decision could be a sign that the administration is responding to criticism that the poor are most likely to be hurt.

He expressed special concern for proposed budget cuts in the food stamp program which he felt gives the victims of domestic hunger the greatest help and support.

He decried possible budget cuts aimed at federal programs and subsidies to Americans in urban centers, farmers, the elderly, those in education, the sick, the poor, the unemployed, those who are dependent on public transportation and sources of energy, and many others.

"It appears that we as a nation are saying to them, 'You are not very important after all,'" Porter charged.

He observed that even though the proposed budget reductions have caused a shock wave in the news media and among many people in the nation, there really should not have been much surprise.

Porter said President Reagan has advocated such cuts for 20 years, and that the alarming thing is that he seems to be reflecting the attitude of the majority of Americans.

"We as a nation, however, cannot overlook justice and peace," he said. "We cannot abandon our responsibilities to be our brother's helper in his time of need. Social programs are an embodiment of our basic ideals and the dignity and value of human life."

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Now, more than ever, he suggested, is the time for churches, religious bodies and denominations to focus on the plight of the poor and the disadvantaged.

Porter urged religious leaders to "take a hard look at our church and denominational budgets and at the work in which we are engaged.

"Our values and priorities must place those who through social injustice and circumstance are facing despair in the ugly arena of poverty, isolation, loneliness and loss of hope," Porter said.

He encouraged churches to develop local programs to minister to the needy, not only through greater giving of financial resources but through personal involvement in direct ministries to the poor and hungry.

"The church cannot afford the cost of paying others to do the work of Christ," Porter said.

Porter, who was pastor of First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia before being named domestic hunger consultant for the board, works out of offices at his home in Arkadelphia as a part of the HMB Christian social ministries department.

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Five Circus Fire Victims  
Sent to Baptist Hospital

Baptist Press  
2/11/81

BANGALORE, India (BP)--Two adults and three children were admitted to the Baptist Hospital in Bangalore, India, following a fire that razed a crowded circus tent. An India news service reported as many as 100 dead and 500 injured.

One adult admitted to the hospital was very severely injured, said Dr. Van Williams, Southern Baptist missionary physician there. More patients may be sent later from a government hospital to the Baptist unit once all the fire victims have been identified, Williams added.

All of the 14 missionaries working in Bangalore were attending a South Asia missionary spiritual retreat in the city when the fire occurred, Williams said. Bangalore, a city of 1.5 million, has at least two other mission hospitals and several government hospitals.

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HMB Fills Staff Slot,  
Names 65 Missionaries

Baptist Press  
2/11/81

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors elected a new associate director of personal evangelism and appointed 65 persons to mission service during their February meeting.

Douglas Philip Metzger of Willingboro, N.J., was named to fill the evangelism post, created by the directors last October.

"The way Metzger lives demonstrates lifestyle witnessing," said Howard Ramsey, personal evangelism department director.

"He puts a major emphasis and priority on personal witness and equipping, and in his pastorate, he has been a personal witness equipper," training others to be witnesses, Ramsey said.

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Metzger has been pastor of Delaware Valley Baptist Church in Willingboro since 1977. Previously, he was pastor of First Baptist Church, East Stroudsburg, Pa., and an officer in the U.S. Navy.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The missions appointments include two missionaries, 15 missionary associates, six mission pastor interns, 12 persons approved for language pastoral assistance and 30 persons granted church pastoral assistance.

Appointed missionaries were Thomas H. and June Cairns of Louisville, Ky. They will move to Rochester, N.Y., where he will direct Christian social ministries for Southern Baptists. He has been director of Christian social ministries for Immanuel Baptist Church in Louisville, and is a graduate of Washington and Jefferson College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Named missionary associates were Jimmie Duane and Marla Cline, Liberty, Mo.; Robert D. and Deborah Cochran, Louisville, Ky.; John R. and Ann Crow, Fort Worth, Texas; Charlotte Ann Johnson, Meridian, Miss.; Kendale and Elizabeth Moore, Louisville, Ky.; Leonard Morgan Jr., Wake Forest, N.C.; Gayle Prettyman, San Antonio, Texas; Fuad and Rifka Shorrosh, Cleveland, Tenn.; and Yun and Su-ing Yong, Havertown, Pa.

The Clines will work in St. Joseph, Mo., where he will be a church planter apprentice for St. Joseph Baptist Association. He has been an assistant pastor in Missouri and is a graduate of Missouri Baptist College and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Cochrans will live in Indianapolis, Ind., and he will be a church planter apprentice. He has been a youth minister, interim pastor and mission pastor of churches in Indiana. He is a graduate of Howard Payne University and Southern Seminary.

The Crows also will move to Indiana, and he will be a church planter apprentice in Wabash. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma and Southwestern Seminary, he has been an assistant activities director and youth director for churches in Oklahoma.

Johnson will remain in Meridian, where she will direct Christian social ministries for Lauderdale Baptist Association. She has been a schoolteacher in Mississippi and Georgia and a Baptist Student Union director and Christian social ministries director in Mississippi. She is a graduate of Meridian Junior College, the University of Southern Mississippi and Southwestern Seminary.

The Moores will serve in Middletown, Ky., where he will be a language program leader. Moore is a graduate of Kenyon College, the University of Kentucky College of Law and Southern Seminary. He has been an attorney, minister of music and academic and administrative assistant at the seminary.

Morgan will relocate in Beckley, W.Va., and be a church planter apprentice. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Prettyman will remain in San Antonio, where she is an instructor at Mexican Baptist Bible Institute. She has been a US-2 missionary and a schoolteacher in Arizona and a missionary for the Baptist General Convention of Texas on the Rio Grande River. Prettyman is a graduate of Northern Arizona University and Southwestern Seminary.

The Shorosh couple will live in eastern Tennessee, and he will be a catalytic language missionary in Chattanooga and Knoxville. He has been a pastor in Lebanon and Tennessee and manager and preacher at the Baptist Book Store in Jerusalem, Jordan. He is a graduate of Beirut Baptist School and the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon.

The Yongs will work in Philadelphia, Pa., where he will be a language missionary working through the International Seamen's Ministry. He has been director of the Department of Medical Arts at Temple University Medical School, Philadelphia, Pa., and director of seamen's ministries in Camden and Cherry Hill, N.J. He is a graduate of Temple University and Johns Hopkins University Medical School.

Appointed mission pastor interns were James P. and Susan Wood, Chatham, Mass.; John William and Shirley Ann Cossey, Duncan, Ariz.; and Larry Jerome and Joan La Ray Theisen, Fort Worth, Texas.

Granted language pastoral assistance were Rudy G. and Dianna Agulla, Windsor, Calif.; Jose L. and Nydia deJesus, Hartford, Conn.; Josue G. Delgado Jr. and Janet Delgado, Dolton, Calif.; Ruben D. and Dora Gonzalez, Des Moines, Iowa; Young Hwan and Youngai Kihl, Martinez, Calif.; and Manuel and Donna Salinas, Clovis, N.M.

Approved for church pastoral assistance were Herbert C. and Wanda Copeland, Romulus, Mich.; William E. and Clarice Cowan, Tubac, Ariz.; Alfred F. and Barbara Engelmann, Isaquah, Wash.; Paul Weldon French II and Angela French, Timber, Ore.; Robert W. and Carolyn Groezinger, Graham, Wash.; Paul M. and Vickie Hugger, Mineral Wells, W.Va.; and Daniel S. and Sharon Hunt, Cleveland, Ohio. Also, David S. and Linda Keener, Edwards, Colo.; Nul S. and Patricia Kibbe, Shillington, Pa.; John R. and Barbara Land, Wasilla, Alaska; Michael G. and Sandra Malxner, Norwich, Conn.; Johnny R. and Kathie Mansell, Las Cruces, N.M.; W. Lawrence and Barbara Stewart, Nettle, W.Va.; Robert Lynn and Joann Walker, Tucson, Ariz.; and George L. and Florence Wright, Benicia, Calif.

In other matters, Mission Service Corps coordinator David Bunch told the directors there are 269 MSC volunteers currently serving on home mission fields.

He said about 524 MSC volunteers have been assigned to date to serve in the United States and overseas, adding that 80 percent of all applicants have been assigned to places of service.

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Board Pledges Full Backing,  
But No Ransom, In Crisis Areas

Baptist Press  
2/11/81

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board said Feb. 10 that it would not pay ransom money or yield to demands of anyone who would take one of its people hostage.

The statement was made in wake of the recent kidnapping of an American staff member related to Wycliffe Bible translation work in Colombia.

While reaffirming its full backing to missionaries serving in crisis areas, the board made it clear this backing could not include yielding to ransom or other demands.

The Southern Baptist board, the largest Protestant missionary-sending organization in the world, has 3,057 missionaries in 94 countries. A number of these are nations in political upheaval.

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The statement recognized that missionaries, board or staff members may face some risk of being taken hostage. These individuals and their families should understand that "no ransom or yielding to other demands can be provided to obtain their release," the board said.

To do so, the statement continued, would "raise serious questions regarding our theology, our mission concepts, and our stewardship. It would place every other member of our missionary family in immediate jeopardy."

The statement added: "We pledge ourselves to every effort in prayer and all other appropriate means to obtain the release of the one taken hostage if this event ever occurs among us."

The board reaffirmed its position of allowing missionaries serving in dangerous areas to make their own decisions on leaving.

Unnecessary risks are discouraged, the statement said, but "there are times when serving as a missionary involves danger. The use of normal channels of decision making concerning leaving danger areas is desirable but missions and/or missionaries have authority to leave without prior consultation when circumstances warrant."

In recent years, missionaries have left countries like Nicaragua when conditions became so turbulent that to remain would endanger not only their own lives but also the lives of Baptists with whom they work.

But in Nicaragua and in some other instances, the missionaries have been able to return and resume their work as conditions stabilized.

At least nine Southern Baptist missionaries have met violent deaths in the 135-year history of the Foreign Mission Board. The first Southern Baptist missionary to Mexico, James Westrupp, was slain by religious fanatics or Indian bandits a few weeks after his arrival in the 1800s. The latest was Archie Dunaway Jr., killed by guerrillas at Sanyati, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), in June 1978.

A number of missionaries were imprisoned or detained as prisoners of war during World War II, and a few missionaries have been held captive for brief periods in recent years but not for ransom or other demands.

Missionary James Kirkendall, now an English-language pastor in Belgium, was held for 42 hours by Palestinian guerrillas in Beirut, Lebanon, in April 1970 after making a wrong turn and ending up in an area controlled by the Palestinians. He was released after the guerrilla group became convinced he was not a spy.

In August 1970, Stephen Spann, son of the Jimmie D. Spanns, missionaries to Uruguay, was held at gunpoint while members of a guerrilla faction used his station wagon for an attempted bank robbery. He was released unharmed the same day.

The recent kidnapping in Colombia occurred Jan. 19 as guerrillas broke into a house in Bogota and kidnapped Chester (Tip) Bitterman, 28, an American linguist employed by the Summer Institute of Linguistics, the overseas branch of the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

The April 19 movement, a leftist guerrilla group also known as the M-19, demanded that the linguistics institute cease operations in Colombia. As conditions for Bitterman's release, it also asked that its communiques be published in leading American, European and Latin American newspapers. The American missionary group refused to meet the demands, but Bitterman as of Feb. 10 was still being held captive.

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks said there is "no safe place" in today's world. But he added that faced with Christ's command to make disciples of all nations, "We can't afford to wait until it's safe to preach the gospel."

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Resettlement Rate Rises,  
Sponsors Still Sought

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press  
2/11/81

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists sponsored a record number of refugees in 1980, but refugee resettlement officials say thousands of sponsors still are needed to care for homeless people from around the world.

"We resettled 4,031 people from 14 countries," reported Hubert Hurt, director of trans-cultural outreach for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. That number eclipsed the 1979 record total of 3,100 refugees.

Hurt noted Southern Baptists ranked first in the number of Indochinese refugees sponsored among more than 14 Christian denominations participating in Church World Service, the international resettlement agency. The SBC ranked fourth among CWS participants for resettlement of all nationalities combined.

Reasons for the sponsorship increase are numerous, HMB language workers claim. "There has been an increased awareness of the needs of these people," said Randy Cash, HMB refugee resettlement coordinator. "People have learned about the refugees' plight from Baptist Press and their state papers. Word has spread that the vast majority of resettlement experiences have been positive for the sponsors.

"The SBC attitude (toward refugees) is positive," he said.

Comprehension of the magnitude of their situation also has expanded, added Oscar Romo, director of the HMB language missions division.

"We moved from primarily settling Indochinese to a world view of resettlement," Romo said. He noted that for the first time, Southern Baptists sponsored refugees from Afghanistan, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, the Soviet Union and other countries.

"I think Baptists have become sensitive to people on a worldwide scale," he said.

Resettlement also increased because more people stormed the shores of the United States last year, Hurt said. He referred to the "freedom flotilla" of Cubans which arrived in south Florida and the massive influx of Haitians during 1980, noting that Southern Baptists sponsored 693 Cubans and Haitians.

Hurt added the creation of two Southern Baptist refugee relief centers helped the denomination reach and resettle more people. The Miami center—a joint venture of the board's language missions division and Christian social ministries department—opened in October and primarily serves Cubans and Haitians. The New York center—staffed by an all-volunteer force—has reached refugees of many origins since it opened in August.

Both centers provide English classes, Bible studies and acculturation programs, Hurt said. Staff at the Miami center also help provide resettlement and work with five local Haitian churches to provide food for about 500 Haitians per week. The New York center staff distribute clothing, provide job referral services and sponsor social activities for the newcomers.

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Despite the achievements of 1980, needs remain, mission leaders said.

"Our greatest need continues to be for sponsors," Romo declared. "We anticipate there's going to be a continued influx of refugees." He cited reports of 25,000 Cubans who have permission to leave their country at the present time.

Cash reported the presence of more than 400,000 Indochinese in Thai refugee camps along the Thailand-Cambodia border. He added that refugees from "other parts of the world—Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, Africa, the Middle East and Latin American countries in addition to Cuba and Haiti—will continue to seek refuge in the United States.

"As worldwide tension increases, as governments are overthrown, as we witness the rise of totalitarian governments, we're going to see more of this (refugee influx)," he predicted.

The escalation of the influx has caused Hurt to question whether Southern Baptists will be up to the demands of new people to sponsor.

"Our major concern is that we're not getting many churches which are willing to accept anybody, not just a specific family," he said. "There has been a decline in this area because of the economy and adverse publicity (about Cuban resettlement) which has affected all resettlement by several denominations in recent months."

Nevertheless, Southern Baptists have a biblical mandate to sponsor refugees, Romo claimed.

"The people of God are to receive strangers hospitably, 'for by so doing, some have entertained angels without knowing it,'" he said, quoting Hebrews 13:2.

In light of such a mandate and pressing needs, Hurt urged Southern Baptists to look inward.

"We need to look at our own missionary concern to see how genuine it is," he explained. "We may be willing to go overseas, but will we care for the foreigner who comes to our own land?"

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Foreign Mission Board Hears  
Encouraging Financial Report

By Anita Bowden

Baptist Press  
2/11/81

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--While deciding which projects to fund with the nearly \$2 million previously earmarked to pay 1979 and 1980 federal income tax, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board learned that 1980 was the first year total income exceeded \$100 million.

"It was an unusual year," said Treasurer Carl Johnson as he reported a total income of \$102,883,798 at the board's Feb. 10 meeting. "I wish we could count on some of these same receipts every year." Miscellaneous income, which included several unusually large bequests, totaled more than \$17 million, up more than \$9 million over 1979. Total receipts exceeded 1979 by nearly \$20 million.

Congress' vote in December to restore the \$20,000 exclusion, revoked by the Foreign Earned Income Act of 1978, freed up \$1.7 million which had been set aside for taxes. About \$300,000 went to pay taxes of missionaries on furlough or in nine developed countries for which the exclusion does not apply.

The board appropriated \$730,000 of the former tax money to upgrade missionary fringe benefits such as retirement transition, furlough transportation allowance and Margaret Fund scholarships for missionary children.

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The remaining \$970,000 will be used for project and/or capital allocations as requested by area directors. Some of the projects under consideration for the money include the purchase of automobiles needed for mission travel, special evangelistic projects in several countries, communications facilities and production and seminary training programs.

Other financial reports showed that January receipts of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions totaled approximately \$500,000 over receipts in January 1980, although Johnson warned that it is too early to draw any conclusions.

He also reported that the Foreign Mission Board's proposed share of 1981-82 Cooperative Program dollars, to be recommended by the program and budget subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee, is up "substantially." If the recommendation is approved at the Feb. 16-18 meeting of the Executive Committee, the board will receive 49 percent of the basic operating budget, up from 46.87 percent.

In wake of the recent kidnapping of an American staff person related to Wycliffe Bible translation work in Colombia, the board approved a previously unwritten policy stating that it would not pay ransom or yield to demands of anyone who would take one of its people hostage.

The statement recognizes that missionaries and board or staff members may face risk of being taken hostage, but reaffirms the board's position on allowing missionaries working in dangerous areas to make their own decisions on leaving.

The board assigned its first couple to Equatorial Guinea, where Southern Baptists and Spanish Baptists will form a joint mission. Jess and Peggy Thompson, missionaries to Ghana, will be transferred to Equatorial Guinea April 1 to start agricultural evangelism work there.

Four missionaries were named to new staff positions or overseas posts. Benjamin Bedford was named associate to the area director for eastern South America with responsibility for the Spanish-speaking countries in the area. Robert Davis was named consultant for evangelism and church growth for Asia. Emeritus missionary Catherine Walker will become special assistant to the president with responsibility for intercessory prayer. Judy Robertson filled the position of administrative assistant for George Hays, director for East Asia.

Bedford, 53, will act as a liaison between other missionaries and the Foreign Mission Board. He will work out of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

A missionary to Argentina since 1951, he has been professor of Bible at the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Buenos Aires, since 1978. The Clovis, N.M., native also was professor of evangelism and pastoral ministry and director of in-service training. Earlier he was a field and general evangelist in several areas of Argentina.

Davis, 51, will assist missionaries and nationals in on-the-field mission planning. He is the fourth and final regional consultant to be named to work under the board's evangelism consultant, Ervin Hastey.

He has been pastor of an English-language church in Hong Kong since 1978. Earlier the Texan was a pastor and then coordinator of evangelism in Vietnam and pastor of a church in Hawaii for six years.

Miss Walker, an emeritus missionary who served 34 years in China and Indonesia, will be responsible for coordinating intercessory prayer concerns among staff, active and emeritus missionaries and with other convention boards and agencies.



Before she retired in 1980, she had taught at the Indonesian Baptist Theological Seminary in Semarang for 26 years. Earlier she worked in educational evangelism in Tsingtao and Shanghai, China. The Rome, Ga., native assumes her new duties Feb. 20.

Miss Robertson had been a missionary student worker in Taiwan since 1974 before assuming her new position Feb. 1. The Fayetteville, Ark., native worked in Taipei for five years before moving to Keelung where she started Baptist student work.

The board also recognized three staff members for their service overseas and at the board's home office. Joseph Underwood, who retired Jan. 19, and Evelyn Smith, widow of Rogers Smith, received plaques of appreciation and service pins. Underwood was the board's consultant in evangelism and church development. Smith was special assistant to the president with responsibility for intercessory prayer when he died Oct. 3.

Martha Belote, former missionary to China and Hong Kong and manager of world mission conferences since 1975, also received a service pin. She will retire Feb. 28.

Dr. Edwin and Bobbie Cravey Cook were named special project medical workers to Korea during the board meeting. Texas natives, Cook will be a physician at Wallace Memorial Hospital, Pusan.

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

First Missionary Couple  
Named To Equatorial Guinea

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press  
2/11/81

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The transfer of a missionary couple to Equatorial Guinea and approval of a recommendation that the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board station missionaries in Egypt mark several recent changes in Southern Baptist foreign mission fields.

Although the number of countries and territories to which the Foreign Mission Board assigns missionaries has remained at 94 for many months, the actual countries on the list have changed and the board anticipates adding Equatorial Guinea April 1.

The addition of Egypt and the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean kept the number at 94 when the board discontinued work in St. Martin and Angola recently.

Jess and Peggy Thompson, missionaries to Ghana, will be transferred to Equatorial Guinea April 1 to start agricultural evangelism work there. Because the Thompsons must attend Spanish language school before going to the country, the board will continue seeking a Spanish-speaking couple who can begin work there sooner, said John E. Mills, director for West Africa.

Spanish Baptists, who agreed last fall to form a joint mission in Equatorial Guinea with Southern Baptists, have not yet assigned any personnel, said Mills. Brazilian and Mexican Baptists, he said, also have expressed interest in joining the mission.

In its February meeting, the Foreign Mission Board approved a recommendation that it make every effort to establish a missionary presence in Egypt. Mike and Lyn Edens were appointed in December for him to serve as fraternal representative to Egyptian Baptists.

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Baptists began work in Egypt in 1931 and now have eight congregations with 250 members. The Foreign Mission Board has had fraternal representatives working with Egyptian Baptists for many years, but none has lived in the country as Edens plans to do.

In other recent changes, the Foreign Mission Board added Turks and Caicos Islands as a mission field when it transferred Ed and Joyce Perimon from Trinidad Jan. 1. The Foreign Mission Board has provided volunteer help to Baptists on the islands in the past. The Perimons, who are on furlough, won't arrive on the field until the end of the year.

The board dropped another Caribbean island, St. Martin, after missionaries Jim and Rose Marie Banks lived on the island for several months, but were unable to get permits to stay there.

The board also dropped Angola Jan. 1 after missionaries Curtis and Betty Dixon transferred to Portugal. Southern Baptist missionaries left Angola in 1975 because of strife following independence, but the Dixons have continued to supply literature from Portugal and to seek permission to reenter Angola.

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Brazilian Downpour  
Showers Blessings

Baptist Press  
2/11/81

DALLAS (BP)--Although a tropical downpour turned her jungle tour into a muddy mess, Mrs. Charles McLaughlin isn't complaining.

It was a free afternoon during the Brazilian Baptist Convention in Belem and Mrs. McLaughlin joined her husband, who is director of the Texas Baptist state missions commission, in a river tour along a tributary of the Amazon.

When the group left the boat for a half-hour jungle trek, they were drenched by an unexpected downpour. When they arrived back at the boat, soaked and muddy, their tour leaders obviously expected the worst. One of them took people's shoes and washed off the mud.

But the missions leaders started singing hymn choruses. A Brazilian pastor, who is coordinator of one of the major cities evangelistic campaigns, sang "Just a Cup of Water."

Then one of the leaders of the public tour exclaimed in amazement, "Some of my passengers would be demanding their money back, but I haven't heard one word of complaint from you. And you sing about this friend Jesus. If it makes you so happy, I wish you would pray for me that I might have this too."

That's when Mrs. McLaughlin saw the spirit of the Texas Baptists' mission to Brazil carried out by a group of soaking wet Baptists in a spontaneous prayer meeting on a riverboat.

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