



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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John Bloskas Resigns Annuity Board Post

DALLAS (BP)--John D. Bloskas, vice president and director of public relations for the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, has resigned to become vice president of marketing for Lady Love Cosmetics effective April 23.

"I look on this new responsibility as a challenging and exciting opportunity," Bloskas said. "Leaving the Annuity Board was a difficult decision to reach, but when you believe the Lord is guiding you in the move then you can do nothing else."

"I am grateful for my 23 years with the Annuity Board which have been very rewarding and satisfying as I have been able to help Baptists establish and maintain retirement programs adequate for their future needs," he said.

Bloskas will remain on the Endowment Council of the Annuity Board at the request of Annuity Board President Darold Morgan.

"The Annuity Board is suffering a distinct loss in the resignation of this dedicated officer," Morgan said. "John goes with our deepest love and appreciation as a friend we all respect personally and professionally."

Bloskas, 52, is a 1953 graduate of Baylor University and came to the Annuity Board in 1958. Previously, he was a reporter on the Houston Chronicle, director of public relations for Valley Chamber of Commerce in Weslaco and associate editor of the Mexia Daily News.

He is a member and has been president of the Texas Baptist Public Relations Association and the Baptist Public Relations Association.

He also is a member of Public Relations Society of America, Sigma Delta Chi and Sales and Marketing Executives.

Bloskas is a deacon at First Baptist Church, Dallas, and an author of numerous magazine articles and the book "Staying in the Black Financially."

He is married to the former Ann Louise Nelson. They have two sons, John and Kenneth, and two granddaughters.

Idleness/Mourning, Absorb
Days in Thai Refugee Camps

By Marv Knox

ATLANTA (BP)--Idleness, accompanied by mourning for a terrible past and a bleak future, remains a crushing problem for Indochinese crowded into Thai refugee camps, reports a Southern Baptist who recently returned from a stint of service in the camps.

George Sheridan, an interfaith witness missionary of the SBC Home Mission Board, took a six-month leave of absence to work in Thailand. He spent most of the time working with SBC foreign missionaries in the Mairut camp in the southeastern corner of the country.

In the early days of the refugee crisis, hunger was a major problem, Sheridan said, but has now been replaced by the "agony of Idleness." Refugees are confined in close quarters in the camps all over Thailand; they have food and shelter, but no work or freedom.

All they have to do is remember the past and speculate about the future, Sheridan said. Both thoughts are grim.

Sponsorship, resettlement and legitimate work have replaced the basics of food and shelter as primary needs of the thousands of refugees jammed into the camps, Sheridan explains.

"These people have lost half the people they knew six years ago," he added. "They've seen friends and families tortured, starved and assassinated. They've watched people fall in the mud—so weak they couldn't extricate themselves—and die like worms run over in the street."

Worse still, the future for many refugees is just as bleak, he said. They have three prospects: remain in the camps with no freedom and nothing to occupy their time, return to their strife-torn homelands and face fighting and hunger again or seek passage to other countries.

The third option is most promising yet extremely arduous, he noted.

"These people write and write and write," asking permission to enter other countries, Sheridan said. "Then one day, a list is posted on the wall or names are called on a loud speaker, announcing the people who can go elsewhere. When their names are not on the lists, it crushes them."

Of Cambodians, Laotians and Vietnamese seeking to immigrate to the United States, Laotians and Vietnamese have the highest priority because of their countries' relationships to the United States in the Vietnamese war.

"Almost any Vietnamese or Laotians who want it can eventually get here," Sheridan said, "but Cambodians have little hope. There's only a slim chance if they have families already here or if they work for Americans."

Out of his experience, Sheridan has resolved to help five Cambodian families come to the United States, even though he will have to have help sponsoring that many people.

He urged other Baptists to sponsor Indochinese refugees and to write their congressmen and senators asking that the quotas of Cambodians allowed to enter the country be raised. "I've had wonderful success with my own congressman," he reported. "Maybe these little pieces of paper (letters) will add up and break the dam of bureaucracy."

But even with present quotas, the number of Indochinese refugees which the SBC can bring into the United States is limited only by the "capacity of Southern Baptists' hearts," claimed Randy Cash, director of SBC refugee resettlement.

He said the government will allow immigration of 14,000 Indochinese refugees per month, adding Americans "are not coming near that."

Cash urged Southern Baptists to support Sheridan in his project to sponsor five families and to take the initiative in sponsoring refugees on their own.

For more information about refugee sponsorship, contact Cash at the SBC Refugee Resettlement Office, 2715 Peachtree Rd., NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30305.

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Economics, Race Relations
Related, Andy Young Says

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press
3/27/81

DALLAS (BP)--Predicting that race relations will not improve until there is economic progress, former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young said the 1980s must be a time "when all God's chillun got shoes, when the hungry are fed, the naked clothed, and the sick are ministered to."

In a major address to 400 Southern Baptists attending a conference on "Power in Church and Society," Young called for churches to become involved in international economic justice as a part of the continuing quest for racial desegregation and integration in America.

"We have desegregated our society, but we have not quite integrated our society," said Young, president of Young Ideas in Atlanta who is expected shortly to announce plans to run for mayor of that city.

He was critical of Reagan administration budget cuts that will affect both poor whites and blacks and called cuts in services to the poor and increases in defense spending "the wrong prescription for the disease."

"It will be an economic disaster if the cuts go through as planned," Young said, adding that it might be necessary to try the proposals before people will believe they won't work.

He was especially critical of plans to cut \$1.8 billion from the Food Stamp program, saying it would affect white people even more than blacks.

The majority of the poor in America are white, not black, Young said. He added that the Food Stamp cuts would seriously hurt American farmers and grocery store owners, because Food Stamps provide a subsidy to both.

"The challenge in the future is to produce economic justice for all in America," Young said. This will help race relations, for "we've desegregated everything but the money."

Young observed that the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan is basically an economic phenomenon. The Klan actually is not as strong today as it was in the 1950s, but is more visible because of the media, he said.

When poor whites become frustrated when times are hard economically, it is very easy for a "kind of psychotic racism" to escalate very quickly, Young said.

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Young compared the progress of race relations in America to the Polish labor strikes, saying both use non-violent protests to bring about change.

"Polish citizens are saying they will not work if you dehumanize them, if you deny them their human rights," Young said. He attributed the "massive uprising" to the influence of the Catholic Church in Poland, which produced a Polish pope despite communist efforts to repress the church.

Despite the problems, Young said, race relations in America are better now than in his lifetime.

"The Lord is telling us we've got to get along with our brothers and sisters, regardless of their color or race or religion," he said.

The conference was sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Bible Institute, Seminary
Explore Merger Possibility

Baptist Press
3/27/81

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Trustees of Mexican Baptist Bible Institute and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary have approved recommendations to explore the possibility of a merger between the institutions.

Trustees of the San Antonio institution, owned by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, proposed the merger because "we have reached a point where we are at a crossroads," said Daniel J. Rivera, MBBI president.

He said, "We cannot continue using the same approaches that we have for the past 34 years. We are now looking at ways that God may open to us to have a better theological impact with young Hispanics in our state."

Lloyd Elder, executive vice president in charge of long-range planning for the seminary, said the institutions have the same primary purpose, to "train men and women for the Christian ministry."

Rivera said the seminary affiliation would give the Institute the immediate theological credibility. "We also feel," Rivera said, "the Hispanic population of our state is growing to such a degree that Hispanics are going to be looking to our Baptist institutions for this kind of preparation."

Elder agreed with Rivera by saying, "There is a great need for trained Hispanic leadership and the seminary wants to make every effort to move forward in this effort. One way to do this," he said, "is the possibility of combining our strengths and purposes."

Southwestern President Russell Dilday said he is "very excited about the challenging possibilities in the area" of the seminary and institute working together.

Charles McLaughlin, director of the BGCT State Missions Commission, said, "Hispanics are in the heart and life of Baptist mission efforts, and such a relationship (between the institutions) would help train Hispanics for the work of our Lord."

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At present, MBBI has 149 students from 22 states and nine foreign nations. The physical plant consists of eight buildings situated on 12 1/2 acres in southeast San Antonio. MBBI has an operating budget of \$500,000.

Southwestern, one of six Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated seminaries, is the world's largest seminary with 4,400 students from 46 states and 39 foreign nations. The annual budget is \$9.2 million.

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Police Beef Up Patrols
To Cut Crime In Nazareth

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NAZARETH, Israel (BP)--Local and regional police have increased patrols in response to protests by Baptists and other citizens concerning insufficient police protection.

Police are maintaining special night surveillance in the business district and local citizens have organized nightly patrols of residential areas. After protests of the daily incidents of burglary, robbery, vandalism and harassment.

Properties of Nazareth Baptist School and church were burglarized in early February and Baptist leaders appealed for help to the ministries of police, religious affairs and interior, as well as to the Nazareth mayor and police chiefs of the city and region. Police have a suspect in custody in that case; a trial was scheduled for early April.

Officials have reassured Baptists that at least the first step has been taken to curb the crime wave and Daniel Rossing, director of the Christian desk in the Ministry of Religious Affairs, told Baptist leaders there is no evidence of anti-Christian motives for the crimes.

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Chopper Ride, Enrolment
Mark First Hours of Life

Baptist Press
3/27/81

SALEM, Ill. (BP)--Within three hours of his birth at Salem Memorial Hospital, Marc Snyder was enroled in the nursery of First Baptist Church and took his first helicopter ride.

Marc, born prematurely and weighing only three pounds, 8 1/2 ounces, was flown to St. John's Hospital in Springfield, where he will stay until he reaches a weight of five pounds.

But before the medical and flight crew picked him up, Sharon Kavanaugh filled out an enrolment form for him, making him a member of Sunday School at First Baptist Church. "I completed the form when he was just one hour old," she said.

Sharon, church secretary and a good friend of the Snyders, said she was anxious to enrol Marc since her church is involved in the "Each One Enrol One Campaign," a statewide emphasis for all Southern Baptist churches during 1981.

The Snyders are members of the Salem church. Marc is their third child.

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