



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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81-102

HMB Elects Banks, Sets Up  
Subsidiary For Church Bonds

By Jim Newton

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board elected Bob Banks, an executive of the SBC Brotherhood Commission, as associate to the president and named 11 persons to the board of a new subsidiary corporation to issue church bonds.

In other action, directors elected four other staff members, including a director of payroll and employee benefits, associate directors of the language missions and church loans divisions and an assistant director of Mission Service Corps.

Banks, 50, Royal Ambassador division director for the Brotherhood Commission, will become associate to HMB President William G. Tanner effective Aug. 15.

Eleven directors were named to the board of a newly created subsidiary corporation, the H.M.B. Service Corp., which will be authorized to service church bond issues in most of the 50 states. The board also approved an indemnity agreement with Aetna Casualty and Surety Co. to protect the bonds from loss.

Board members were told by the church loans committee that the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Los Angeles also approved a proposal that the church loans division join with the SBC Stewardship Commission in a campaign to raise \$10 million for new church building construction.

Both the bond issue program and the fund campaign are part of the Home Mission Board's Bold Mission Thrust efforts to increase the total number of SBC churches to 50,000 by the year 2000. Financing of new church buildings in today's economy is a major problem facing new congregations, board members were told.

In other action, the directors approved a motion from the floor by O. Wyndell Jones of Montgomery, Ala., asking that other SBC agencies, especially the SBC Sunday School Board, join with the Home Mission Board in producing more Bible study materials for the various language groups with whom the board works.

Jones called the lack of such materials "a very serious problem," saying almost every one of the 80 language groups need Bible study materials in their own language, but because the groups are often small, it is not profitable to publish such materials.

The directors met in San Antonio for their semi-annual session in connection with the centennial celebration of Hispanic Baptist work in America. One session was a joint commissioning service for 10 home missionaries during sessions of the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas.

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Seven of the 10 missionaries commissioned were Spanish-speaking missionaries: Gayle Prettyman of San Antonio; Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Moraga of Waco; Mr. and Mrs. Donoso Escobar of Atlanta; and Mr. and Mrs. Armando Ramos of El Paso.

Other missionaries commissioned during the service were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mitchell of New Orleans and Joe Jones of Freeport, Texas.

During the joint service with the Mexican Baptist Convention, HMB language missions division director Oscar Romo said the Southern Baptist Convention is the world's largest Spanish-speaking Baptist convention, with more than 1,550 Spanish-speaking congregations and more than 150,000 Spanish-speaking members.

During business sessions, the Home Mission Board elected Jose A. Hernandez, minister of community outreach for Rosen Heights Baptist Church, Fort Worth, as associate director of the language missions division, effective Sept. 1.

Paul Montgomery Jr., minister of education for First Baptist Church, Tupelo, Miss., was named associate director of the church loans division.

Wilson Mathews, a computer expert now serving as systems analyst for the Home Mission Board, was promoted to director of payroll and employee benefits services for the board's business services division.

Robert T. Mills, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bethel in Kansas City, Kans., was named assistant director of Mission Service Corps for the Home Mission Board, effective Aug. 1.

In other action, the board approved detailed allocations for a proposed \$22 million Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal for 1982.

Tanner told the board that as of July 1, almost \$15.3 million had been given through the 1981 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, an increase of 8.38 percent same date last year. Noting the \$15.3 million is 88.7 percent of the \$17.25 million goal for 1981, Tanner predicted offerings will exceed the goal by the end of the year.

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HMB Appoints 36  
To Mission Posts

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SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — Eight missionaries and two missionary associates were among 36 persons appointed for mission service during the summer meeting of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Appointments also included 16 persons who will receive church pastoral aid and 10 persons granted language pastoral assistance.

Elected missionaries were David and Nancy L. Baldwin of Metairie, La.; Betty Lynn Cadle of Baltimore, Md.; Gloria Ann Guidry of New Orleans, La.; John and Lynn McBride of Knoxville, Tenn.; and Tobias and Cathy Pitman of Slidell, La.

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Named missionary associates were Cloyd and Claudette Harjo of Pascagoula, Miss.

The Baldwins will move to Fairbanks, Alaska, where he will be pastor-director of Friendship Baptist Mission, a Christian social ministries center. Baldwin has been youth director, associate pastor and pastor of churches in Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida and Louisiana. He is a graduate of Bluefield College, Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Cadle will relocate in Rochester, Minn., and she will become director of Christian social ministries and the Woman's Missionary Union for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Fellowship. Cadle, a former foreign missionary and director of WMU for the Colorado Baptist Convention and the Baptist Convention of Maryland, is a graduate of Georgia Southern College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Guldry will remain in New Orleans, where she is supervisor of women at Baptist Rescue Mission, a Christian social ministries center. Guldry formerly was a Home Mission Board summer missionary, music and youth director and school teacher. She is a graduate of Louisiana College and New Orleans Seminary.

The McBrides will settle in Pascagoula, Miss., where he will be director of language and Christian social ministries, working primarily with internationals. He has been a member of the staff of the Home Mission Board, associational director of missions in Mississippi, pastor of churches in Louisiana and Mississippi and executive coordinator of the Commission on Religion in Appalachia (CORA). He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

The Harjos will move to Lawrence, Kans., and he will be pastor of Haskell Indian Mission. He has been a pastor in Mississippi.

Approved for church pastoral assistance were Harry and Ann Blalock of Traverse City, Mich; Jay and Catherine Hendricks of Moorefield, W.Va.; James and Juanita Holmes of Auberry, Calif.; James and Edythe Kirtley of Dillon, Mont.

Also Clark and Martha Llewellyn of Woodson, Ill.; Larry and Sonya Reagan of Chapmanville, W.Va.; Jerry and Lola Ruth Swint of Pueblo, Colo.; and Dan and Jan Waxell of Bancroft, Mich.

Granted language pastoral assistance were Miguel and Oralla Barrios of Aurora, Ill.; Elias and Andrea Bracamonte of Vallejo, Calif.; Man Yong and Ale Hee Hong of Wichita, Kans.; Paul and Rebekah Kim of San Pablo, Calif.; and Tok Su and Suk Cha Shin of Mill Valley, Calif.

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Texas Mexican Baptists  
Celebrate Centennial

By Orville Scott

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SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — Mexican Baptists of Texas were challenged to begin their second 100 years by starting a new mission for every 80 members by next year's Convention.

The challenge came as the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas celebrated its centennial meeting, held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's summer director's session.

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Sounding the challenge was El Paso physicist Ricardo Pena, re-elected president of the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas in a close contest with evangelist Rudy Hernandez of Catarina.

Earlier in the three-day convention, messengers were told an all-time record 77 new Spanish-speaking congregations were started since the 1980 convention. At that meeting in Abilene, Pena issued a centennial challenge to begin 100 new congregations within the year. There are now more than 600 Spanish-speaking missions and churches in the Mexican Baptist Convention and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Pena and other speakers, as well as a convention resolution, called for strengthening family ministries. The president noted that three of every 10 families are broken by divorce. "We need to preach against divorce but not hurt the divorcees," he said. "God hates sin but not sinners."

In the annual convention sermon, Rudy Sanchez, pastor of First Mexican Church, Corpus Christi, spoke of families, saying: "Our ancestors had great power because of the strength that was in the families. The family became strong because of what the church does for the family."

The resolution on family life encouraged churches to develop programs to strengthen families and suggested that the BGCT Christian Life Commission translate their family life series into Spanish and expand their family life ministries.

The election of officers included a half-hour debate precipitated by a motion that nominations be made from the convention floor rather than considering only the names presented by the nominating committee.

The convention approved the motion, and Hernandez was nominated for president to oppose the incumbent, Pena, the nominating committee's choice.

Pena was elected by a vote of 353 to 334.

Language missions coordinator Leobardo Estrada, who has announced retirement plans, received special recognition and awards during the convention.

A record number of 2,021 messengers and visitors registered, shattering the previous record of about 1,600 set in McAllen. The centennial goal for the convention was 1,881 registrants.

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Parks Tells Ways To Make  
'Bold Missions' A Reality

Baptist Press  
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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Baptist leaders from the United States and Nigeria outlined approaches to make Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust a reality rather than an impossible dream.

R. Keith Parks, president of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board, and Osadolor Imasogle, president of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, urged participants at the annual foreign missions week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center to take specific actions to fulfill specific goals.

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Parks declared that Southern Baptists should commit themselves to three measures, "not as a great convention but as individuals":

--Appointment of at least one missionary couple a year from every association of Baptist churches, which would more than triple the rate of missionary sending. Currently, he declared, Southern Baptists appoint only one foreign missionary couple for every 80,000 to 120,000 church members.

--An extra 10 minutes of prayer for churches, Baptist associations, the Southern Baptist Convention, and world missions.

--Mission giving increased at twice the rate of inflation.

Parks noted that only eight percent of Southern Baptist giving goes to all mission causes ("20 percent less than in the depths of depression"). Current gifts, he said, barely keep pace with American inflation, while 67 countries where Southern Baptist missionaries work have a higher rate of inflation than the United States.

"We can't win the world with inflated dollars given at the same rate we've given for years," he said.

Imasogie, leader of more than 260,000 Nigerian Baptists, called for improved orientation and training for missionaries which would better acquaint them with the world view of people overseas.

He urged that Christ be "fleshed out" in the cultures of all people, lest Christianity come to be regarded worldwide as a foreign religion.

The Nigerian Baptist leader also said: "Some might say that Bold Mission Thrust, the resolve to preach Christ to every person on the surface of the earth, is not only ambitious but presumptuous. I say that it is not only a sensible proposition, but a real possibility."

The time has come, he added, when "all hands must be on deck." The Christian is free in many ways, "but not free to be silent."

"As support for such a global missionary effort, I stand before you as flesh and blood validation of the authenticity of foreign missions," Imasogie said, explaining that he became a Christian 35 years ago through the witness of Southern Baptist missionary Ralph West.

"Millions around the world like me are waiting," he declared.