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Foreign Board Elects Ballenger Area Director

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Isam E. Ballenger has been elected to succeed J.D. Hughey as the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's director for Europe and the Middle East.

Ballenger, 45, was elected during the July board meeting. He will assume the post after Hughey's retirement Dec. 31, following 17 years' service in that position. As area director, Ballenger will administer the work of missionaries assigned to 19 countries in Europe and the Middle East.

For nearly five years he has been associate to the area director, acting as a liaison between the board and missionaries in Europe. Stationed in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, he had added responsibilities as president of the Baptist Theological Seminary from 1977 to 1980.

Following their appointment as missionaries in 1965, Ballenger and his wife, the former Katherine Thomason of Laurens, S.C., were stationed in Hamm, Germany, where he was pastor of an English-language Baptist church, and in Offenbach, Germany, where he was pastor of a German-speaking church until he assumed his present position.

For three years prior to their appointment he was pastor of Carey Baptist Church, Henderson, N.C.

A native of West Palm Beach, Fla., he lived in Charleston and Inman, S.C., while growing up. He received a bachelor of science degree from Clemson (S.C.) College (now Clemson University), then taught for a year at Iwo (Nigeria) Baptist Boys' High School.

Following a six-month stint in the U.S. Army, Ballenger attended North Carolina State University at Raleigh and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned the bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees. He received the doctor of ministry degree from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

The Ballengers have three teen-age children: John, Beth and David.

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

Appointment Service
Largest On Record

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Eighty-four men and women were named missionaries July 21 in the largest appointment service of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's 136-year history.

The group, from 34 states, far surpassed the previous record of 56, set in April 1947 when a war-ravaged world was begging for missionaries.

They brought with them caravans of relatives and friends who filled the new sanctuary of Derbyshire Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., and spilled into the aisles on folding chairs.

They were pastors, church musicians, business managers, farmers, teachers, nurses, a fertilizer salesman. They ranged in age from mid-20s to late 50s (several missionary associates have grandchildren). Typical Southern Baptists. Ordinary folks bound by a common call to leave home, family and country to spread Christ's gospel.

"I want to plant New Testament churches," explained Dwight Reagan of Texas, a pastor for 26 years, who will be an evangelist in South Africa.

Sue Kavli of North Dakota will teach computer science in a college in Thailand. "I want to gain the intellectual and professional respect of people there, and then share Christ with them," she said. "We can show them that you don't have to throw away your mind to find new life in Christ." Husband Steve will be a media specialist.

"This night is not an end or a beginning for me, but a bridge," said Nathan Corbitt of Texas. A music minister, Corbitt and his wife, Vickie, spent a month in Malawi as music volunteers. They are returning to Africa as career missionaries in Kenya.

Corbitt recalled an incident during his volunteer stint when a Malawi preacher pointed a long finger at him, and asked in a loud voice, "If the Lord calls, will you come back?"

"Tonight, I can say I'm coming back," Corbitt said.

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks challenged the 84 to be "good soldiers" of Christ, ready for battle, focusing all energies on the evangelical task.

"You'll suffer. Count on it. Expect it. Write it into your agenda," Parks said, declaring that hardship is the lot of Christian soldiers obeying God, along with a joy "beyond what this world can offer."

Counting the naming of 82 missionary journeymen and four special project workers in July, the new appointments brought the total of new missionaries for the month to 170, another all-time high. To date, new missionaries in 1981 number 229.

Those appointed as missionaries were Rusty and Peggy Chapman Alums, both of Alabama, assigned to Panama; Jim and Stephanie Ellison Bethea, Tennessee and Illinois respectively, to Lebanon; Boots and Sherry Weeks Blackwell, Louisiana, to Brazil; Nancy Carley, Illinois, to Zimbabwe; Allan and Trudy Edwards Carpenter, Kansas and Nebraska, to Venezuela; Richard and Jene Criswell Cheek, Arkansas, to Malaysia; Wes and Pam Emery Clarkson, Colorado and Texas, to Spain; Nathan and Vickie Crotts Corbitt, Texas and North Carolina, to Kenya; Kyle and Lois Tipton Cox, Texas and Missouri, to Chile; Phill and Lois Holderman Ellington,

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North Carolina and Missouri, to Brazil; Lynn Ellis, Georgia, to Nigeria; John and Debbie Watson Faris, South Carolina, to Rwanda.

Also appointed were John and Pat Nelson Gordy, Tennessee, to Ghana; Jim and Donna Nolting Haney, Missouri, to Nigeria; Ron and Lydia Barrows Hankins, Alabama and Georgia, to Japan; Homer Hawthorne, Texas, to Brazil; Ben and Linda Brown Hess, Missouri, to Kenya; Linda Hinderer, Kansas, to Taiwan; Roland and Linda Broxson Hodge, Mississippi and Texas, to Ecuador; Janie House, Tennessee, to Zambia; Steve and Sue Richmond Kavli, North Dakota and Texas, to Thailand; Crawford and Teresa Towe Keese, South Carolina, to Rwanda; Pam King, Texas, to Tanzania; Tommy and Beth Kugler Lerner, Texas, to Ecuador; Kenneth and Dian Yerger Loucks, Oklahoma, to Brazil.

Others appointed were Mike and Donna Knox McAleer, Texas, to Mexico; Don and Rose McGarrh McCain, Mississippi, to Portugal; Steve and Debbie Wall McCord, Alabama and Georgia, to Korea; Greg and Jackie Hunter Meeks, Arkansas, to Taiwan; Fred and Pat Merritt Merkert, New York, to Austria; Bob and Jean Miller Morgan, Kentucky and Ohio, to Indonesia; Larry and Kathy Lippard Phillips, South Carolina and North Carolina, to Peru; Larry and Dianne Blair Randolph, Alabama and Texas, to Rwanda; Paul and Janet Brooks Rohde, Texas and Oklahoma, to Guyana; Paul and Kathy Ricks Savage, Texas, to Tanzania; Jim and Becky Nichols Smith, Virginia and Kentucky, to Austria; Susan Stokeld, Louisiana, to India; and Keith and Sue Younce Vaughan, Kentucky and Ohio, to Japan.

Those employed as missionary associates were Mason and Margaret Montgomery Bondurant of Alabama and Georgia, assigned to Venezuela; Charles and Gayla Vardeman Corley, Texas, to Zimbabwe; Jerry and Barbara Nicholson Dowdy, Texas, to Malawi; Charles and Betty Chance Egedy, New Jersey and Louisiana, to Nigeria; Dwight and Lila Langwell Reagan, Texas, to South Africa; Jim and Olive Hundley Reppeto, Missouri and Mississippi, to Mexico; Mary Wheeler, Missouri, to Taiwan; and Ollie and Julia Lincoln Yost, Pennsylvania and New York, to the Philippines.

Four special project workers were also employed: Phil and Cindy Hoffner Cooke of Arizona and Colorado, assigned to Dominica; and Bob and Dot Stillman Needham, Michigan and West Virginia, to Ghana.

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

Pros and Cons Expressed
On Family Protection Act

By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press
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WASHINGTON (BP) — A revised "Family Protection Act" has been introduced in the 97th Congress, but supporters and opponents disagree over the central question of whether the measure protects or jeopardizes family freedoms.

Modeled after a 1979 bill sponsored by Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., the new bill introduced by Sen. Roger W. Jepsen, R-Iowa, as S. 1378 and Rep. Albert Lee Smith Jr., R-Ala., as H.R. 3955 contains a collection of conservative social and educational positions which sponsors claim is designed to get the federal government off the back of the American family.

Critics of the bill—including a pair of Baptist leaders—claim the Jepsen-Smith proposal is more threat than protection to the American family.

At a news conference announcing the bill's introduction, Smith called it "a first step in removing government intrusion from the lives of American families."

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Jepsen said: "Government policies interfering with the family have increased over the past decade and under the guise of 'solving' human problems in the areas of health, education and social services."

To remedy the situation, Jepsen and Smith have proposed more than 30 specific provisions in the areas of parental rights, taxation, federally-funded education, school prayer and rights of religious institutions.

The bill, among other things, provides for what it calls "voluntary" prayer in public school, and prohibits the use of federal funds for educational materials which "tend to denigrate, diminish or deny role differences between sexes."

It also would establish an education savings plan whereby parents or other relatives of a child could deposit up to \$2,500 annually tax exempt. Though not as direct as tuition tax credits, the proposal would be likely to benefit the nation's private schools.

The bill also would require schools receiving federal moneys to allow parents or community representatives to participate in decisions related to the "establishment or continuation" of religious courses, and would prevent such schools from limiting parental visits or prohibiting parental review of textbooks.

Former Alabama Congressman John Buchanan attacked the bill, declaring that the underlying philosophy of the Family Protection Act "is that of a federally enforced system of family life" ... (and) "would be more apt to do violence to the rights of American citizens than to protect them."

Buchanan, a consultant to the Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission, added that the bill would "extend the heavy hand of the federal government into the home and into the very personal and private lives of American citizens."

Referring to a section of the bill which prohibits federal interference with state child abuse statutes, Buchanan said the Jepsen-Smith proposal would "specifically exclude physical punishment administered by a parent from the definition of child abuse, no matter how severe that corporal punishment may be."

"I hardly think this is a service to the American people or something that will strengthen family life in our country," Buchanan added.

Further concern about the Jepsen-Smith bill was expressed by Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Executive Director James M. Dunn who described the measure as an "unwieldy patchwork quilt of attempts to find loopholes in the pattern of guaranteed constitutional liberties."

"Especially offensive," Dunn said, "are the oblique attacks on church-state separation found in the thinly-veiled attempt to provide aid for parochial schools and to offer permission for the exercise of religion in public schools."

Supporters and opponents disagree on the bill's chances in Congress.

Buchanan told Baptist Press he didn't think passage of the bill was "in the realm of possibility" but Laxalt, joining Jepsen and Smith at a press conference just before introduction of the bill, was expectedly optimistic.

The Nevada senator said chances of securing passage in the present political climate were "excellent," but admitted that the bill's sponsors had no "specific commitment" from President Reagan to back the measure and that it "would be well into next year before we're ready for floor processing."

Miami Association Plans
Active Liberty Summer

By Adon Taft

MIAMI (BP)—Some 30 teenagers and adolescents were cleaning up trash along 79th Terrace as part of a project started by the 79th Street Baptist Church.

Another 20 young people, ranging in age from 12 to 25 years, were in one-on-one reading classes at the Good News-Little River Baptist Center.

Six men were working at the Miami docks after having been placed in permanent jobs through the work referral service of that center.

At least 40 other kids—half girls and half boys—were playing in a softball league at Morningside Park set up by five participating churches in the Liberty City Summer Project of the Miami Baptist Association.

More than 100 persons had picked up free clothing at the distribution center at the Little River site.

Nearly half of the 25 elementary and junior high school-age children in the Vacation Bible School program at the Brownsville Mission had made professions of faith in Christ.

All of these were activities in the project described as its leaders as a small but effective beginning.

"It's working and we're happy with what's happening," said Morris Elliott, director of Christian social ministries for the Miami Baptist Association. He organized the summer project aimed at helping to avoid a repeat of last summer's Liberty City rioting.

The effort is smaller than he would have liked, said William Campbell, director of cooperative missions for the association and in charge of the actual operation of the project. But he is so encouraged by what is happening that he hopes to develop the project into a permanent, year-round program.

"We have had to sort of feel our way through on this thing," Campbell said, "but we can explode the Gospel through the neighborhoods if we get the personnel and the money."

The project has received \$17,000 from the Florida Baptist Convention and \$18,000 from the Miami Baptist Association.

Nearly 300 persons—most of them never before related to the church and a great many of them adolescents and young teenagers off the streets—have been involved in the program so far, according to reports from site leaders John Lavind and Don Wheeler.

In all, there are 13 different kinds of programs—ranging from training people to teach literacy classes, to working with Metro police, to day care for up to 62 preschoolers, to swimming lessons, to serious Bible study—being offered in the project, said Campbell.

The Baptist project is the most ambitious of several church programs—principally those of the Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist churches—to involve Liberty City area young people in wholesome growth activities and to aid youths and adults to get jobs.