



- - 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 Jim Newton, 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. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

August 11, 1981

81-125

Partnership Efforts Need Tough Standards

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Today's partnership efforts among Christians in many nations must meet tough standards of reliability to fulfill God's work in the world, says J.D. Hughey, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for Europe and the Middle East.

Hughey made his remarks before more than 1,600 persons attending foreign missions week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. Southern Baptists in the United States have partnerships with Christians throughout the U.S. and the world; state to state, church to church, association to association and convention to convention.

Christian partners need to work together in common interests and concerns. "Our focus is on a worldwide partnership in the gospel," Hughey stated.

He told how Arab Baptist pastors wept as they voiced their concern that millions of Muslims hear and respond to the gospel. "How concerned are we?" Hughey asked. "How concerned are we about the cities? Jesus Christ wept over a city, Jerusalem. Are we concerned for Jerusalem, Belgrade, Cairo, Calcutta, Paris, Rome?"

Christian partners have mutual respect and confidence. Believers of many different races and nationalities must trust and work with each other, he pointed out.

Giving and receiving by all parties is a requisite for Christian partnerships, according to Hughey.

"How much we can learn from our partners in Eastern Europe—their courage, their perseverance, their faithfulness, their trust, their hope," Hughey said. We must learn to give and receive, and not just tangibly. "God expects us to give our lives," he emphasized.

Partnership missions and partnership evangelism are not new. Hughey cited the Apostle Paul's relationship to the Philippian church and said Paul praised the Philippians for "your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil. 1:5).

A successful Christian partnership is "a fellowship in the gospel," Hughey said. "The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ—his coming, his life, his death, his saving work, the transforming influence of Christ in individual lives and in the world."

Patti Stephenson Named
HMB Assistant News Editor

ATLANTA (BP)--Patti Stephenson, a former staff writer for the Chattanooga News-Free Press, has been named assistant news editor for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Stephenson, 27, succeeds Marv Knox, who resigned recently to study at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and to work in the seminary's communications office.

A former copy writer for Ballard & Puckett, a Christian advertising agency based in Atlanta and Chicago, Stephenson had worked previously in the editorial department for the Home Mission Board as an editorial assistant in the book publications office.

-30-

Paden Elected
To CBF Office

Baptist Press
8/11/81

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--E. Glen Paden of Fresno has been named executive director-elect of the California Baptist Foundation.

Paden, 51, spent the last 12 months as assistant executive director and church services division director of the executive board staff. He will begin on the foundation staff in September and will assume full administrative responsibility on or before Dec. 31, 1982, at the retirement of current executive director Cecil Pearson.

-30-

TV Network Moves Ahead
With Satellite Pact Signing

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press
8/11/81

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A \$2.1 million annual contract that will provide the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission "a home in the sky" has been signed.

The signing Aug. 10 provides the commission and the American Christian Television System (ACTS) a 24-hour-a-day transponder (receiver/retransmitter) on a communications satellite to be launched in early 1984 by Southern Pacific Communications Co.

"We are at the end of the beginning," said Radio and Television Commission President Jimmy R. Allen. "We are at the point of having a permanent home in the sky for the gospel and for entertainment and alternate kinds of clean television programming which can be shared with the 50 states."

The satellite link is one phase of an ambitious television strategy launched December 1980 by Allen, a former president of the 13.6 million-member Southern Baptist Convention who was named to head the commission only a year and a half ago.

During signing ceremonies in commission offices, trustee John Hughes from Independence, Mo., commented that "no other mainline Christian denomination has established a television network."

Bailey Smith, SBC president, said "Jimmy Allen has always been ahead of his time...ahead of most folks' thinking in terms of spreading the gospel."

-more-

Harold C. Bennett, executive director-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, commented the signing reflects the "vision in the minds of some people to accomplish the impossible."

Allen said the strategy to create a television network of cable systems and low-power stations has been put together under "tremendous" time pressure and that "there are a whole lot of loose stitches" in the planning.

Arranging the delivery system was the first step. "Until now, all of our time and energy has gone to get the delivery system," Allen said.

Other phases remain, such as programming, policies, licensing and constructing low-powered stations, cable systems contracts and other matters before the system is complete.

A key component in the strategy is to obtain licenses for at least 105 low-power television stations with a 10 to 15 mile range. When the contracts were signed Aug. 10, none of the proposed stations had been licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. In fact, the FCC probably will not decide until January 1982 if it wants to go ahead with the idea of low-power stations.

Allen, however, is positive the low-power stations will be approved, and that the Radio and Television Commission and ACTS will get at least 100 of them for its network. Each will cost approximately \$150,000 to become operable, Allen said. That is a revision of his earlier estimate of \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Some of the 105 license applications will be contested, Allen acknowledged, but he feels ACTS will fare well in any case and noted that an informal study of the 5,200 applications shows that 76 of the 105 license applications are uncontested.

He added that the licensing and constructing of the low-power stations are not critical to the establishment of the network, adding that a network can begin in early 1984 with cable contracts.

However, Allen said: "God is going to give us a television network. We plan to put together a new national network for this nation. We are not going to do it because we sat around thinking it up, but because we feel God has given us the idea, affirmed it, and given the Southern Baptist family the vision to respond to it.

"We are moving on this faith pattern."

Allen indicated policies for the network currently are being drawn up: "You see if you have something to have a policy about and then you hammer out the policy."

As to programming, which will fill 12 hours per day and then be repeated to fill the entire 24 hours, Allen said he does not know what it will be nor what it will cost.

Programming, he said, will be a combination of RTVC-produced materials as well as that done by independent producers and others.

"We are working with producers all over the country," he said. "We are working on production now. Where the money will come from is also being worked on."

Currently, he said, the strategy is to provide 75 percent "alternate entertainment, pre-evangelism and family entertainment, with 25 percent to be direct religious teaching and preaching."

He believes both the audience and production money are available.

The audience is there, he said, but admitted uncertainty as to whether they will leave the "other stuff" they have been watching to view "alternate television."

"The networks say they do what gets the numbers (audience)," Allen said. "No network has tried to be too different for too long. We have pandered to the lowest taste of our society for so long that we might not be able to get them back."

Allen believes there is a "yearning" for clean television and warned that success for Christian television networks might not be measured by Arbitron ratings but by "what God wants done" in the lives of people.

In order to lease the transponder on Spacenet One, the RTVC posted \$175,000, the equivalent of one month's rent. The contract will engage, Allen said, when the satellite is launched and operating, probably by March 1984.

In the meantime, Allen said, time is being sought on satellites already up to begin the television network by late 1982 or early 1983.

By the time Spacenet One goes up, Allen hopes to have at least six hours of programming a day in progress, and really believes the full 12-hour component will be ready.

The Baptist Sunday School Board just leased a transponder on the same satellite, anticipating an information network to churches. Asked why the two agencies did not share a transponder to halve costs to each, Allen indicated there was "enough diversity" in programming ideas to warrant separate transponders.

Funding for the Radio and Television Commission's first two years of satellite time, as well as an uplink to beam the signal to the satellite, will come as special designations from "major donors." Allen said he has talked to 63 Southern Baptist millionaires in recent months, whom he characterized as willing to participate in the venture.

Allen said as of the contract signing he has "just under \$3 million on the table" for the funding of two years of satellite time as well as building an "uplink" to beam the signal to the satellite.

Earlier, he had predicted he would have the \$5 million necessary by early spring, but revised his estimates by noting "the Father seems to be giving it to us when we need it instead of just when we ask for it."

Asked about the enormous leap from minimal television programming to 84 hours of new material per week, and the cost of providing it, Allen admitted it is "incredible" but said he believes it is also "an incredible leap from an idea in December to 100 applications and a satellite in August. It is an incredible leap from zero to potential reality."

He added Southern Baptists "have seized this opportunity" for the network, because the cost of not doing it to communicate the gospel to "millions of people" would be "unthinkable."

Seminary Finds Spy
In Theology Classes

By Stephen Long

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A spy lurks in the classrooms at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. A retired spy, that is—one who decided to "quit running from the Lord."

Stu Cundiff, a 42-year-old theology student, was "called to preach" at age 17, but he went into the Air Force to avoid the call.

After five years as a security policeman, Cundiff joined the Office of Special Investigations, an Air Force version of the CIA and FBI combined. OSI also employed the more famous, though mythical, "Six Million Dollar Man," hero of a popular television series.

After completing a 47-week course in Turkish language and culture, Cundiff was assigned to Ankara, Turkey, where he earned the title "Boga" (The Bull). He investigated drug violations among American personnel with Turkish police. His caseload included felonies, smuggling, black-market, counterintelligence and counterespionage. Twice he investigated kidnappings of Americans by Turkish terrorists.

During his 17 years as a street agent, Cundiff was "shot at, stabbed at, clubbed at and swung at." He once had to move his wife and three children because he was the target of an apparent assassination plot.

Facing terrorists, however, was easier than confronting his call to the ministry. "Wherever we were stationed I did anything there was, all kinds of teaching and church leadership positions—anything to keep from preaching," he admits.

However, just before he retired from the Air Force in 1979, Cundiff traded his trench coat for a clerical robe, a decision which "made me completely happy for the first time."

He entered Southern Seminary in January 1980, and recently accepted a call to his second pastorate. His unique background as an undercover agent, he believes, has enhanced his ministry.

"I think I can understand pain and suffering because I've seen it," he explains. "I believe Jesus sought out the social misfits—the ostracized. My experience helps me to discover where people hurt and then to minister to them."

-30-

Stephen Long is staff writer for Towers, student newspaper of Southern Seminary.

CORRECTION: In (BP) story mailed Aug. 6 entitled "Missionary Helped Save Vice President's Life," name of missionary in first paragraph should be Hugo Parkman, not Hut Parkman.

Thanks,

Baptist Press