



**-- FEATURES**  
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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

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Retiring Director Optimistic  
About 'Most Difficult Field'

By Susan Cahen

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—After 18 years as director of Southern Baptist work in Europe and the Middle East—a work that sometimes has been as difficult as it is diverse—J. D. Hughey will step down Dec. 31.

But he voices a strong optimism as he retires after 38 years in missions.

"The greatest satisfaction as I come to the end of my career as area director," he says, "is the progress of indigenous work, with missionaries and nationals in Europe and the Middle East planning, working together and trusting each other."

His area stretches from the rugged hills of Scotland, where missionaries minister to North Sea oil-field workers, to the tip of the Arabian Peninsula, where a Baptist hospital in Jibla, Yemen, serves an area once part of the ancient kingdom of Sheba. Between these two geographic extremes lie 16 other countries or territories in which more than 300 Southern Baptists work as missionaries or fraternal representatives.

In the Middle East, Hughey says, Baptists seem to be on firmer ground than at any point in the past. And he's pleased that the basis for cooperation between missionaries and middle easterners—both Arabs and Jews—seems to be firm and well established.

"It is probably the most difficult mission field in the world and maybe one most needing dedication, love, patience, perseverance, faith and hope," says the 67-year-old Hughey. "But I'm not discouraged about the Middle East. My hope and prayer is that Southern Baptists will continue their willingness to work and witness in places that very much need the gospel, but are slow to show results.

"I personally think places like the Middle East are in greater need of prayer and work and missionary effort in all its forms than areas where response is good and where there are many national Christians. The very difficulty is a missionary challenge."

The missionary effort in Europe, Hughey believes, has reached the stage where Europeans are not afraid of missionaries and where, therefore, they can be welcomed as real fellow workers. Though Southern Baptist missionaries live in only 11 European countries, they relate to Baptists all over Europe—more than 1,100,000. "It's quite a challenge to be in the midst of a Baptist constituency exceeded only by the Baptists of North America and Asia," says Hughey.

Under his guidance new Baptist work has been started in India and Bangladesh (both now administered by the director for South and Southeast Asia), Austria, Belgium, Iran, Libya, Morocco, Turkey, Yemen and Egypt. Missionaries in Iran and Turkey have had to be withdrawn.

The job of an area director, Hughey says, requires an ability to work with other people, both as a follower and a leader. "It requires more ability than I have and more ability than most people have," he observes. "So that means there must be some resources from above and within that make up for human inadequacies."

George Sadler, who was area secretary (now called area director) when Hughey was a missionary, has been his model. "He was a good area secretary who gave guidance when necessary, but basically trusted other people to do their job and that is what I have tried to do."

Hughey says he is pleased with the appointment of his successor, Isam Ballenger. He describes Ballenger in terms of the attributes others believe Hughey has brought to his office. "He is a soft-spoken with a keen mind, firm convictions, tact, a commitment to learning--especially theological education--a good administrator and person with the heart of a pastor and always a Christian gentleman."

Hughey will not sit on the sidelines of Baptist mission life, but says as long as he has the energy he will continue the active participation in missions he has known since he and his wife, Evelyn, were appointed Southern Baptist missionaries to Spain in 1943.

In January he will begin teaching at Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, an experience that, he says, "will be like going home." He taught practical theology and church history at the seminary and was its president for four years before assuming administrative duties at the Foreign Mission Board in 1964.

"I have thought of myself basically as a teacher who got into administration and found himself at home in it. And, I think, I have never ceased to be a pastor when I was teaching or in administrative work."

After a projected two years of teaching--first at Ruschlikon and then at two Southern Baptist seminaries in the states--plus some writing and touring, Hughey plans to settle permanently in Richmond.

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

Iowa Project Finds 28  
Places For SBC Work

By June Jernigan

Baptist Press  
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JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Fifty-two teams from five states found likely places in 28 Iowa counties to establish Southern Baptist work.

An ambitious effort to carry a Southern Baptist witness into 55 Iowa counties within 55 days, called Project 55, pulled the teams to Iowa. Forty-seven of the teams were from Missouri, a strong state convention working in a sister relationship with the Iowa Baptist Fellowship. Three teams were from Iowa and there was one each from Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee.

At the beginning of Project 55, there were 58 Iowa counties unentered by Southern Baptists.

Based on Project 55 survey results, a continuing witness--a chapel, home Bible fellowship or Sunday School--can possibly be started in 28 counties. In several areas, home Bible fellowships have already begun.

Fred Moseley, Project 55 coordinator for Iowa, told of "a real success story" in Harrison County. The survey group found 21 families in the area and immediately started a Thursday night Bible study. Now a US-2 church planter is on his way to the area.

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The same group also surveyed the Carter Lake area and found 78 families. They started Sunday morning services. A chapel is to be organized at Carter Lake in October.

Now Iowa leaders are trying to meet the needs uncovered by Project 55 teams. Presently bivocational pastors are committed to three of the areas.

"To fail to cultivate these works is a lot of sweat, tears, prayers and witnessing down the drain," emphasized Moseley.

Webster Brown, Missouri Baptist Convention liaison with Iowa, agreed, saying it would be very hard to re-excite the prospects (about Southern Baptist work) at a future time.

"From my point of view," said Moseley, "Project 55 has been a tremendous success. For the most part, the teams have really prepared, worked while here, and shown the kind of compassion needed.

"By October, we should have 20-25 ongoing new works--maybe even 30," said Moseley.

"The results are even better than expected," said Brown. "We (Missouri and Iowa staffs) felt that if Project 55 could get 10 or 12 areas where progress could be made in new work, we would have been happy. But we have 28 areas."

Forty-eight conversions were reported in the evaluations. Approximately 23 of those conversions were in one county where 75 percent of the homes were surveyed by Project 55 team members.

"Many teams thought they were going to start a new church that week. Some may have felt they failed," said one director of missions during an evaluation session.

But they did not fail, he emphasized, because the purpose was only to enter the area, find the needs and show a Christian witness.

"The witnessing events contacted over 30,000 people," said Mike McKinney, interim executive director of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship.

Several local sponsoring churches now are developing home Bible fellowships. Also the directors of missions are working to enlist Mission Service Corps volunteers or bivocational people to join the staffs of sponsoring churches to develop the new work.

"Many sponsoring churches are already involved in carrying out plans," said Moseley. "That was the whole point of having the Iowa churches involved."

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Mission Board Sends Aid  
To Storm-Struck Mexico

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10/9/81

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released \$20,000 in hunger and relief funds after a storm hit coastal Mexico.

Southern Baptist representative Mike Hull, who lives in Los Mochis in Sinaloa State, where the storm hit, telephoned the Foreign Mission Board within hours after the storm, requesting \$10,000 in hunger relief money for immediate food aid and another \$10,000 in relief funds to provide temporary shelter for those who lost their homes.

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The worst damage, said Hull, was in the surrounding villages where farmers lost their crops.

The Foreign Mission Board anticipates sending additional aid after more evaluation, said John R. Cheyne, relief ministries consultant.

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Kenny Duncan's Magic Touch  
Dispels Fear of Witchcraft

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press  
10/9/81

LIMURU, Kenya (BP)—Kenny Duncan's sleight-of-hand artistry preaches a powerful message in Kenya, a land where witch doctors still overawe many people.

When Kenny, now a junior at the University of Tennessee, returned to Kenya last summer to visit his parents, Southern Baptist missionaries Marshall and Margie Duncan, he discovered his magical feats still draw crowds.

One day Kenny, who may become a missionary to Africa himself, and his family visited a church where they weren't expected.

People began to flock to the church when the word went out that Mr. Duncan's son was there and maybe he would do some magic.

Kenyan pastor Enos Karanja encourages Kenny to respond to such opportunities because they equip his people to withstand witch doctors who attempt to frighten them.

Kenny perfected his techniques as a magician during his high school days at Rift Valley Academy in Limuru. Soon, he began combining his talent with Christian teaching, using magic to illustrate points. Now he performs in the States as well as in Kenya.

Witchcraft employs many magician's tricks, explains Kenny, whose older brother, Alan, starred as a football placekicker at the University of Tennessee.

"I tell them in the beginning that I will do tricks any of them could do with practice," Kenny says of his magic. "Then I use the magic to illustrate a simple sermon and teach them how to perform a trick themselves."

"That does more good than any sermon against witchcraft you or I could preach," pastor Karanja told Kenny's father after watching the younger Duncan perform at Uplands Baptist Church, near Limuru.

Karanja explained that some of the people in his area recently went to town, where a witch doctor confronted them and tried to frighten them with his witchcraft.

"Oh, we're not afraid of that," they exclaimed. "Mr. Duncan's son taught us how to do that."

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

NOTE TO EDITORS: (BP) photos to accompany stories on Religious Liberty Conference mailed 10/7/81 and 10/8/81 will be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Washington bureau 10/9/81.