



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

April 19, 1982

82-60

Foreign Board Opens Door
To Naturalized Citizens

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Persons born overseas who become naturalized U.S. citizens can apply for appointment as Southern Baptist missionaries to countries other than their original homeland, according to new Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board guidelines.

Effective May 1, the guidelines extend eligibility for appointment consideration to naturalized citizens active in Southern Baptist churches, provided they meet requirements in education and experience. The rules seek to affirm appointment of those who've adopted the United States as their homeland, while encouraging growth of missionary movements in Third World countries.

The guidelines modify a previous policy that limited appointment eligibility to naturalized citizens who moved to the United States before completing secondary school and to those from countries to which Southern Baptists send no missionaries.

"I think this new step is more in line with the reality of the world in which we live and our own national makeup," said William R. O'Brien, Foreign Mission Board executive vice president. "We're a continental, multiethnic denomination. We're seeking ways to more effectively channel the energies and spiritual gifts of all Southern Baptists as they make themselves available."

William R. Wakefield, board director for south and southeast Asia and a member of the task force which developed the new guidelines, expressed excitement about sending foreign-born missionaries of varying ethnic groups to the nations in his area. He believes they will add "diversity and enrichment" to mission work and bring cross-cultural skills already learned in their move to the United States.

"Too often we've presented the image of a white, 'all-American,' group that doesn't model who we really are," Wakefield said.

Eighty-one different ethnic groups speaking 75 languages worship in Southern Baptist churches, according to the SBC Home Mission Board. About 3,850 Southern Baptist congregations worship in languages other than English, with an estimated membership of 250,000.

They include almost 1,700 Spanish-speaking congregations, some 400 Asian groups (Koreans, Chinese, Vietnamese and others), 61 European groups and 432 "international" congregations that attract members from varying language groups. Thousands of foreign-born citizens also attend English-speaking churches.

"These people have an honest commitment to missions and a sincere desire to be involved," said O'Brien. "They are of us, and should have the opportunity to use their gifts."

Naturalized citizens, however, will be considered for missionary appointment only to places other than their countries of origin. This rule, O'Brien explained, will guard against draining off national Baptist leadership in other countries.

-more-

The new guidelines state that citizens of other countries feeling a call to missionary service are "encouraged to relate to the Baptist work in their own countries in fulfillment of this calling."

In 14 countries where Southern Baptist missionaries work, national Baptists send their own foreign missionaries. Brazilian Baptists, for example, support more than 70 missionaries serving in 13 nations, including the United States.

Southern Baptists must encourage such missionary movements in Third World countries, not undercut them, O'Brien said.

Another reason for the rule, he added, is to engage ethnic Southern Baptists in "total cross-cultural missions. Many ethnics will feel led at the outset to go to groups that speak their own language, such as Chinese to Chinese," he said. "There's nothing wrong with that, but we also want them to have a sense of openness to anyone that God might lead them to."

-30-

Louisiana Missions Tours
Available To Messengers

Baptist Press
4/19/82

NEW ORLEANS (BP) --- Tours of New Orleans and south Louisiana missions sites will be available to messengers and other visitors during the 1982 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The missions tours, sponsored by the New Orleans Baptist Association, will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The first tour, scheduled for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 12, will be a guided bus tour of south Louisiana mission churches. Space on two buses is limited to 90 persons, at a cost of \$15 per person.

The second tour, limited to 156 participants, will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, and will visit four mission centers in New Orleans. Cost is \$5 per person.

Reservations should be made before May 15, to the New Orleans Baptist Association, 2222 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, La. 70122. Checks should include the notation they are for Account 615.

Participants in the 1982 SBC also may participate in walking tours of the French Quarter, conducted by National Park Service Rangers. The tours, which begin at the Pontalba Building on Jackson Square, are at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., and 2 and 3 p.m. At 1 p.m., there is a guided tour of St. Louis Cemetery. The tours, which last about an hour and a half, are free.

-30-

Wounded Pastors Find Salve
At Louisville Healing Church

By Susan K. Taylor

Baptist Press
4/19/82

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Life in the pastorate no longer has to end for the estimated 50 Kentucky pastors who are fired or asked to resign each year.

Even if a termination is justified, "a man shouldn't have to reject his call," says Bill Hancock, pastor of Louisville's Highview Baptist Church which offers a ministry to ministers that restores them to a place of service.

Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association is the only known association in the Southern Baptist Convention that provides unemployment compensation for terminated pastors. Others, says Hancock, including pastors in his association, "have that support cut out from under them immediately and they're out on the street begging.

"These guys are embarrassed to go to another pastor to ask for help, and I don't think they ought to have to go begging. When people are hungry and people are hurting they need help."

-more-

Highview offers parttime ministry positions with appropriate salary, additional financial and housing help if necessary, and exposure to ministry opportunities. Hancock also counsels pastors going through the "grief and readjustment" period and helps them re-evaluate vocational responsibilities and abilities.

Sam Smith is one of more than a dozen men who have received financial, spiritual and career assistance in the 10 years of Highview's program.

Smith is pastor of Stevens Memorial Baptist Church, Newport News, Va., but less than a year ago, the Louisville native was asked to resign a hometown pastorate.

"I was kind of numb because of what had occurred," Smith recalls. "We went to Highview looking for spiritual support. I wasn't looking for a staff position at all." But when Smith told Hancock why he was moving his membership, Hancock offered a place of service.

Smith began work immediately. He taught nursing home Bible studies, made hospital visits and church contacts and participated in other outreach ministries for nine months.

For parttime work as a special minister, Highview pays about \$300 a month, depending on need. The church's food closet is open to their families and the family of one minister who lost his pastorate lives rent free in the house the church owns for furloughing missionaries.

Hancock estimates Highview spends more than \$15,000 annually to support these ministers.

"I am convinced I would have left the ministry without the help from Highview," Smith says, "not because I threw up my hands and rejected it, but because I didn't have the contacts." Hancock connected Smith with several churches, one of which called him as pastor.

Hancock creates interview opportunities by contacting associational missionaries and pulpit committees about the available ministers. Pulpit committees can hear their prospects preach at Highview on Wednesday or Sunday nights.

A.B. Colvin, director of direct missions for Kentucky Baptists, is the state contact for pastors searching for new churches. He has about 35 pastors' names for each Kentucky church without a pastor.

That statistic is particularly enlightening in view of recent national stories relating an increase in the number of Southern Baptist pastors being terminated.

"Churches don't want you if you've been fired," says Colvin. "If you've been terminated, you are immediately stigmatized."

Highview's help is not contingent on the circumstances of termination, but the church does limit the length of stay. Limits are necessary, Hancock says, "to give them motivation to get out and find another job in secular work. If the Lord does not provide them a place in a church within a reasonable amount of time then they've got to be practical. They've got to earn.

Referring to a man Highview helped indirectly, Hancock said, "If he deserved to be terminated, he didn't deserve the kind of treatment he got. As far as I'm concerned we are unchristian in our treatment of our Christian brothers."

Hancock and Highview continue to play the good Samaritan who asks no questions and assumes no lifetime responsibility, but, Hancock says, "I'm going to help him until he's able to get out of the hospital."

-30-

Convention Child Care Director
Asks Children Be Pre-enrolled

Baptist Press
4/19/82

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Janet Kemp, child care director for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, is offering a discount to parents who pre-register their children.

-more-

Child care rates for the convention June 15-17 and its related meetings are discounted as much as \$4 per day for children registered by May 31.

Kemp, director of the preschool education center for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will return a registration form to each parent who writes her at the seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126. One form is required for each child and the request must be postmarked by May 31.

Rates vary session to session and day to day. Because of the special evangelism events this year, child care will be provided early, beginning with the Sunday afternoon witnessing blitz. Child care for that event will be at the Superdome and will cost \$4 per child, if pre-registered, \$6 at the door.

Child care during the Billy Graham rally that evening is at the Superdome for \$4 if pre-registered, \$6 at the door.

Child care for parents attending the Woman's Missionary Union June 13-14 will be available at the Hilton Hotel, site of the meeting, for \$4 June 13 and \$8 June 14. Prices at the door are \$6 and \$12. Lunch Monday is \$5.

Daily costs for child care during convention sessions Tuesday through Thursday will be \$8 per pre-registered child, regardless of the number of daily sessions involved. Daily cost per child after May 31 will be \$12.

Child care facilities will open 30 minutes before each session and remain open for 30 after the session closes. Kemp emphasizes that no local children will be accepted for care.

Children birth through sixth grade will be cared for June 13-14. For convention sessions, care is provided for children ages birth through five.

-30-

High Court Will Settle Race Bias Cases Next Term

WASHINGTON (BP) -- Ending weeks of speculation, the U.S. Supreme Court announced it will decide if religious schools practicing race discrimination are entitled to federal tax exemption.

According to the high court's public information office, the cases of Bob Jones University, Greenville, S.C., and Goldsboro (N.C.) Christian Schools against the U.S. government will be argued next term. The court previously announced it will hear the last cases of its current term April 28.

In its April 19 series of orders in the cases, the high court cleared its docket of pending motions and counter-motions filed by several parties, including the Justice Department, Bob Jones University and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The tangle of motions in the celebrated cases began Jan. 8, when the Justice Department asked the court to allow the government in effect to withdraw and to nullify a lower court decision against the schools. At that time the Justice Department said it agreed with the schools that the Internal Revenue Service had overstepped its legal authority by revoking Bob Jones' tax exemption and denying similar status to Goldsboro Christian Schools.

For its part, the IRS since 1970 has routinely denied tax exemption to private institutions, including religious schools, which maintain racially discriminatory admissions policies. But under orders from President Reagan and the Justice Department, that policy was renounced in the Jan. 8 motion.

Four days after the motion was filed, however, Reagan denied that the action was racially motivated and announced he would send Congress a bill specifically forbidding tax exemption to such schools.

-more-

Congress' reaction to the proposal was lukewarm and, on Feb. 25, the Justice Department filed a new motion with the high court asking it to decide the Bob Jones and Goldsboro cases after all. At the same time, acting attorney general Lawrence G. Wallace said the government's new position was to oppose Bob Jones' and Goldsboro's claim that the IRS violated their free exercise of religion, while agreeing with the schools that the IRS lacked specific legal authority to deny tax exemptions to private institutions for practicing race discrimination.

In its new actions, the court agreed to grant the government motion and invited Washington, D.C. attorney William T. Coleman Jr. to participate in oral arguments defending the IRS policy. Coleman, who was clerk to former Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, was the high court's first black clerk.

While asking Coleman to argue the IRS view--that the Federal Civil Rights Act gives the taxing agency all the legal authority it needs for its policy, the court denied an NAACP request that it be allowed to argue that view. Instead, the court said, the civil rights group may participate by filing a written friend-of-the-court brief.

Also denied was a motion by Bob Jones University that the court direct the government to reinstate its tax exemption and to reverse the lower court ruling upholding the IRS decision to strip the fundamentalist school of its exemption.

The new set of orders, while not saying when the cases will be heard, does remove any lingering question about possible congressional action, at least for now. Members of Congress, many already campaigning for re-election next fall, will gladly leave the prickly constitutional and legal questions in the cases to the nine high court justices.

—30—

Missionary Larry Thomas
Dies in Nairobi, Kenya

Baptist Press
4/19/82

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — Larry S. Thomas, Southern Baptist missionary to Tanzania since 1977, died in a Nairobi hospital April 19 after a short illness.

The 42-year-old Texan developed pneumonia after he was admitted two weeks earlier with a malignancy of the lymph system.

Thomas, appointed as a general evangelist, was developer and coordinator of strategic planning for the Tanzania mission and also assisted other missions in eastern and southern Africa as a planning consultant.

Before going overseas, he was a missionary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Hawaii from 1972 to 1977 where he did pastoral work. Previously, he was state student director for the Hawaii Baptist Convention; minister of music at First Southern Baptist Church, San Mateo, Calif., and pastor of churches in Portland, Ore., and Ellensburg, Wash.

He was a graduate of Baylor University and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He was born in Jasper, Texas, and had lived in Dallas.

Survivors include his wife, Gayle Brian Thomas of Texas and California; three children-- Roger Scott, 18, a senior at Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya, Pamela Joy, 16, also a student at Rift Valley Academy, and Tanya Kuipo, 5— and his parents, James B. and Georgeanne B. Thomas of Basking Ridge, N.J.

-30-

CORRECTION: In BP mailing 4/15/82 "Board Reorganizes Treasury Names Development Officer," please correct date in graph 3, line 3, from June 11 to June 1. Thanks, Baptist Press.