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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 13, 1982

82-74

HMB Appoints 45
to Mission Service

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By Patti Stephenson

ATLANTA (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Home Mission Board in its May meeting approved 45 persons for mission service, including 10 missionaries, 11 missionary associates and 24 who will receive church or language pastoral assistance.

Appointed missionaries were Manuel and Ivette Alonso of Paterson, N.J.; Bernard and Margaret Dougharty of Santa Fe, N.M.; William and Katie Duke of Shelbyville, Ky.; John and Norma Ross of Renton, Wash., and William and Myra Mastriani of Grand Canyon, Ariz.

Missionary associates are Tommy Barton of Fort Worth, Texas; Michael and Janet Brooks of New Orleans; Jerry Geddie of Harlingen, Texas; Kenneth and Fayrene Grimes of Grand Terrace, Calif.; Barbara Harris of Richmond, Va.; William and Vivian Tua of Hillsboro, Texas, and Dennis and Sheila Watson of Brooks, Ga.

The Alonsos will work in Syracuse, N.Y., where he will continue to be language program leader, a position he has held since 1978. A graduate of New York University and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, he has been pastor of churches in Florida and California.

The Doughartys will remain in New Mexico, where he will become director of associational missions for Mountain Valley and Estancia Valley associations. He has been pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Santa Fe since 1969 and is a member of the SBC Stewardship Commission. He holds degrees from Hardin-Simmons University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; she is also a graduate of Hardin-Simmons.

The Dukes will be assigned to the Pennsylvania-South Jersey area where he will be director of associational missions for Northeast Baptist Association. He has been director of missions for Shelby County Baptist Association since 1978 and is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and Golden Gate seminary. She holds degrees from California Baptist College and the University of Oklahoma, and has been a librarian since 1966.

The Rosses will move to New Mexico where he will work as director of associational missions for the Plains and Portales associations. He has been pastor of churches in Washington, California and New Mexico, and earned degrees from Eastern New Mexico University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is also a graduate of Eastern New Mexico University and has been section coordinator of the enriched living worship for women at Renton's Trinity Baptist Church.

The Mastrianis will remain in Arizona where he will continue as pastor of Grand Canyon Baptist Church and direct resort missions. He is a graduate of Arizona State University and Southwestern seminary. She holds a degree from Appalachian State University and has taught school since 1972.

Barton, a native of South Bend, Ind., will be assigned as a church planter apprentice. He is a graduate of the University of North Alabama and Southwestern seminary and has served as a Home Mission Board summer missionary.

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The Brookses will move to Baltimore, Md., where he will become pastor/director of Canton Center. A graduate of New Orleans seminary, he has been a counselor at the Baptist Rescue Mission in New Orleans since 1980. She is a graduate of Furman University and New Orleans Seminary, where she taught piano.

Geddie will continue to teach physical education at Valley Baptist Academy; he is a graduate of Austin State University.

The Grimeses will remain in California where he will direct church extension in the Los Angeles area. A graduate of California Baptist College, he has been pastor of California churches since 1959. She has been sales manager for Caddock Electronics in Riverside, Calif., since 1964.

Harris will remain in Richmond to assume her duties as associate director of Hillside Baptist Center. She is a graduate of Virginia State University and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond. She has been part-time director of Christian education at Grace Institutional Baptist Church since 1979.

The Tuas will move to San Juan, Puerto Rico, where he will direct Christian social ministries. He is a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico and Southwestern seminary and former minister of music for the Puerto Rico Baptist Association.

The Watsons will stay in Georgia as church planter apprentices at Harps Crossing Baptist Mission in Fayetteville. He completed degrees at Atlanta Christian College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and has been associate pastor and youth minister of Georgia churches.

Those approved for church pastoral aid were Rodger and Irene Branson of East Palestine, Ohio; Daniel and Gail Duffy of Carey, Ohio; Jack and Addie Fortenberry of Red Lodge, Mont.; Ronald and Brenda Leggett of Tallahassee, Fla.; Glen and Debra Martin of Anderson, Ill.; Laddie Paul and Susan Pierce of Torrington, Conn.; Royce Pile of Sanford, Mich.; Joseph and Ellen Shaler of Harrison, Mich.; Augustus and Terry Sharkey of Sequim, Wash.; and Ronald and Melanie Stewart of Bettsville, Ohio.

Persons slated to receive language pastoral aid were William and Evon Andraous of Palm Springs, Fla.; Efrain and Celiana Lopez of Washington, D.C.; and Binh Thanh Nguyen of Wichita, Kan.

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1981 Lottie Moon Offering
Exceeds \$50 Million Goal

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Baptist Press
5/13/82

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)-- The 1981 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions has exceeded its \$50 million goal with a total of \$50,066,206.54.

The announcement, made by Foreign Mission Board president, R. Keith Parks, comes two weeks before the books close on the offering May 31.

"My deep conviction is that, given the conditions of our economy, this is evidence of the prayers of Southern Baptists and their commitment to world missions," said Parks. "This continued undergirding will help us to reach, as Southern Baptists desire, this world in our day."

According to Carl Johnson, FMB treasurer, the Lottie Moon offering, based on estimated receipts, will provide 47.7 percent of the FMB's total budget. The Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified giving plan, will provide approximately 39 percent. The remainder of the budget, approximately 14.3 percent, will come from other sources such as interest on investments and other contributions.

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, said, "To be over the goal before the closing of the 1981 offering May 31 is a tremendous accomplishment of faith. "WMU is grateful to God for his working in the hearts of Baptists to achieve this."

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The WMU executive board sets the annual offering goal, and WMU is responsible for promoting the offering in Southern Baptist churches.

The 1981 offering marks the first time an offering goal has been surpassed since 1979. Last year's offering garnered \$44,700,339.76, or 99.3 percent of its \$45 million goal.

Additional funds received after the official closing will count toward the 1982 goal of \$58 million.

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California Board Elects Man
On Basis of Video Interview

Baptist Press
5/13/82

FRESNO, Calif.(BP)-- Members of the California Baptist Convention's executive board elected a state church training director on the basis of a videotape interview.

Gil Brink, an associate in the church training department of the Missouri Baptist Convention, was interviewed by California Executive Director Robert Hughes, Church Services Division Director Wendell Foss and Board Operations Committee Chairman Nolan Kennedy on videotape, which was then viewed by the rest of the board at its May meeting.

The 17-minute interview, recorded several weeks earlier, was necessary because Brink had a long-standing commitment to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to lead a month-long mission trip at the time of the executive board meeting. Had an interview not been possible in May, the board would have had to wait until its September meeting to act.

Hughes repeatedly assured the board he would have preferred to have Brink appear in person. Hughes also said he did not intend the videotape utilization to set a precedent for future personnel recommendations.

Several board members were frustrated at not being able to talk personally to Brink, according to the California Baptist newspaper. Others said it was difficult to make a reasonable judgment without Brink present.

After considerable discussion, the board elected Brink. No negative votes were cast, although several board members abstained.

Hughes' reliance on videotape only as a last resort and board members' reluctance to accept the taped interview indicate such procedure, although likely a precedent in the Southern Baptist Convention, will be utilized little in the future.

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Hunger, Relief Allocations
Increase Sharply In 1982

Baptist Press
5/13/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Allocation of \$374,535 in hunger and relief funds during April brought the total released by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1982 to \$1,913,856, twice the amount allocated during that time in 1981.

During the same period, relief ministries receipts rose 46 percent over 1981, bringing the total to \$1,668,050.

From the April allocations, \$101,989 will go to start a vocational rehabilitation program for inmates being released from New Bilibid Prison in the Philippines. The program at the national prison housing 8,000 inmates will equip prisoners with marketable skills, enabling them to make a living in farming, woodworking or other self-employment. The training may enable men who normally would have little chance of finding a job to provide their families basic food and living necessities without returning to a life of crime.

The project stems from present vocational training projects started in the prison by Ceasar Guy. A wealthy businessman before going to prison, Guy started the projects after becoming a Christian and joining the Baptist church in the prison.

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Other major allocations went for a vocational training center and a multiminity center in Brazil and for rebuilding a clinic in Salima, Malawi. Smaller amounts aided victims of storms, flooding, fire, earthquake or volcanoes in seven countries and funded water projects, food and seed distribution and measles vaccination.

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US-2er Breaks Ground
in Pilot Evangelism Program

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Baptist Press
5/13/82

FRESNO, Calif.(BP)--Jimmy Stewart, the first evangelism appointee through Home Mission Board's US-2 program, had planned to be a "fine Christian businessman with a lake house for church retreats."

But Stewart, 24, "got more excited about evangelism than insurance."

Nearing the end of his two-year term, Stewart plans to attend seminary to specialize in youth ministry--a call he says was "clarified through US-2."

Stewart was assigned in 1980 to strengthen youth programs in California, working for three months at a time in individual Southern Baptist churches. Summers, he toured Southern California with a youth evangelism team.

During his first week, Stewart adjusted to "Los Angeles smog and small Baptist churches." Coming from First Baptist Church of Tucker, Ga., a large suburban Atlanta church, Stewart had to acquire a scaled-down perspective on ministry--but not his message.

Stewart told church leaders: "Quit babying your youth." "A program that only offers recreation and good times breeds a shallow relationship between youth and the church. It's churches who challenge their youth to get personally involved in missions and evangelism that have the strongest youth outreach."

Stewart reports that peer pressure, temptations to abuse drugs, alcohol and sex, and society's preoccupation with self are common problems among youth. "Our Southern Baptist kids are having trouble separating themselves from the world because it's so pervasive," he observes. "They've learned how to be spiritual at church yet melt right in with secular society."

The Georgia native found he was most effective at churches where he took a strong, no-nonsense stand with youth. "I told them if they weren't serious about growing spiritually, they could leave. They wanted somebody to set boundaries and get tough with them."

Reflecting on his experience, Stewart admits, "I was often lonely, moving from church to church without a home base or time to develop friendships." Stewart also faced what he terms "missionary syndrome. I thought once I put the label 'missionary' after my name, all my old bad habits would disappear. Of course, they didn't."

Finding himself sometimes "put on a pedestal," Stewart gained appreciation for "the human side of pastors, something all of us should cultivate."

Reid Hardin, HMB director of evangelism support development, says the success of Stewart's US-2 stint has prompted a "major increase" in appropriations for US-2 evangelism positions. A second US-2er to focus on evangelism was appointed last year and Hardin expects about a dozen assignments to be added this fall.

Stewart says US-2 showed him "the church ought to be the focal point of youth ministry. That's where I want to be. Business doesn't hold the rewards I'm looking for now."

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Southwestern Seminary
Featured in Documentary

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Baptist Press
5/13/82

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will be the subject of a documentary film this fall on CBS television.

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Film crews were on campus April 13-16 to film for the series, "For Our Times," aired by CBS on 40 stations.

Robyn Mendelsohn, a producer for the series, said Southwestern was chosen because it is the largest seminary in the world and because of the planned 75th anniversary celebration during the 1982-83 academic year.

"It seemed very appropriate that an ecumenical feature such a significant subject at such a significant time," Mendelsohn said.

"I personally was amazed to learn that training for ministry is not just theology at Southwestern," she said. "Here you train the mind and the body and provide specialized training in so many things like music, communication, recreation, childhood education and other areas."

Mendelsohn said many people do not know what a seminary is. "It will be a wonderful revelation for viewers to see that seminary is not pious people praying all day but rather wide and encompassing studies and activities," she said.

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Board Adopts Mandatory
Insurance for Volunteers

By Anita Bowden

Baptist Press
5/13/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A mandatory insurance package for all volunteers going overseas has been adopted by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Effective May 1, for those beginning the volunteer application process, the package includes \$100,000 accidental death and dismemberment; disability income of \$250 to \$1,000 per month, depending upon duration and cause of disability, and \$2,500 property insurance per family unit.

For volunteers who will be overseas less than six months, the package includes medical coverage of \$1,500 accident and \$1,250 illness per incident, with \$50 deductible. More extensive medical coverage, available through the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, is required for long-term volunteers.

Cost varies according to length of service. Short-term volunteers will pay \$1.60 per day. Those volunteers who will be overseas at least a month but less than six months will pay \$1.45 per day and the cost for long-term volunteers will be \$.80 per day.

Volunteers who have at least as much medical and disability insurance effective overseas as the mandatory package will not be required to subscribe to the additional insurance.

Though not mandatory for those volunteers already in process, the package is available and highly recommended, according to Don Lstrom, board controller.

The board voted May 11 to allocate \$20,000 to cover the cost of disability insurance for volunteers already overseas and for those in process.

Three volunteers have suffered disabling injuries or illness during the past two years, with two occurring in recent months.

Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, an international insurer headquartered in New York City, is providing the coverage. Payment by volunteer groups of their sponsors will be made through one of the board-sanctioned travel agencies.

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