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N.Y. Baptists Explain Strategy On TV Program

NEW YORK CITY (BP)—Southern Baptists will have a prime opportunity to explain their work in New York during a television program July 9.

"Pulpit to People," moderated by David H. C. Reed, pastor of New York's Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, invited two Southern Baptists to project SBC ministry plans in the Big Apple.

Sam Simpson, pastor of Bronx Baptist Church and vice president of the Bronx Shepherds Restoration Corporation, and George Bullard of Atlanta, consultant with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, explained Southern Baptist strategies and clarified some misconceptions about SBC intentions in the city during taping of the half-hour program.

Simpson, one of the founders of the Bronx Shepherds Restoration Corporation, a coalition of 75 Bronx churches involved in restoration projects, also is president of the Council of Churches for New York City.

Reed asked if Southern Baptists began New York missions because they believed other denominations have inadequate ministries there. Bullard replied Baptists came to the city "out of concern for the 45 percent of New York that remains unchurched. We have gifts that could possibly reach them," he added.

Bullard cited evangelism as "one of Southern Baptists' unique gifts." He conceded "mass evangelism has to give way to personal evangelism and ministry to the whole person for Southern Baptists to be effective in ministering in the large city."

Bullard noted Reed was surprised to learn Metropolitan New York Baptist Association had 145 congregations.

"We hope the program also will allow others to see Southern Baptists in a new light," Bullard said.

The program will air at 10:30 a.m. (EDT) July 9 on channel 11 in New York, and also will appear on 20 cable stations affiliated with the Independent News Network.

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HMB Appoints 58; Names
Communication Associate

Baptist Press
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ATLANTA (BP) — During its June meeting, the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointed 58 persons to mission service, elected a new associate director of the communications division and heard a report from the board's president that mission gifts are 21 percent ahead of last year.

Wayne Grinstead, the board's director of media production since 1979, was elected to a newly-created position as associate director of the communications division.

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Grinstead, 36, will assist Communications Division Director Kenneth Day in promotion planning, and organizing, implementing and evaluating the board's communication effort. Grinstead produced an award-winning film and a multi-image media presentation which won Baptist Public Relations Association competition in March.

In his report to the board, HMB President William G. Tanner said gifts for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions had passed the half-way mark of the goal, and were 21.4 percent higher than offerings by June 8 a year ago. So far in 1982, Southern Baptists have given \$12,012,008 toward the \$22 million goal. "These are difficult days economically," Tanner told board members, "but our people are giving more than ever, and I'm grateful."

Named missionaries were Lester M. and Alice E. Arnold of Overland Park, Kan.; Henry and Marilyn Blackaby of Saskatchewan, Canada; T. Edwin and Carolyn Lilly of Meraux, La.; Donald A. and Doris J. Seigler of Fayetteville, Ark.; and Robert M. and Rhonda Sowell of Arlington, Texas.

Appointed missionary associates were Charles Wayne and Erlene Brown of Mill Valley, Calif.; Carol S. Childress of Fort Worth, Texas; Wesley R. and Victoria A. Eader of New Orleans, La.; Randy P. and Pamela K. Evers of Gardendale, Ala.; Calvin R. and Patricia J. Hall of New Orleans, La.; Jackie S. and Hazel M. Hartley of Wake Forest, N.C.; Thomas and Fannie Kelly of San Jose, Calif.; Glen A. and Joyce F. Land of Lake Saint Louis, Mo.; and Terri W. Willis of Fort Worth, Texas.

The board also approved 28 persons for church pastoral assistance and four persons for language pastoral assistance.

The Arnolds will stay in Kansas City, Kan., where he directs Christian social ministries for the Kansas City Baptist Association. A graduate of South Dakota State University and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Arnold has been pastor of churches in North and South Dakota, and was interim director of associational missions for the Kansas City association before assuming present duties. Mrs. Arnold directs Southboro Day Care in Kansas City.

The Blackabys will move to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, where he will be director of associational missions for Capileno Baptist Association. A graduate of the University of British Columbia and Goldend Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, he has been pastor of churches in California and Canada. She is a graduate of California Baptist College and has been as a nursing assistant in Saskatchewan.

The Lillys will remain in New Orleans, where he directs Baptist Rescue Mission. He holds degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, with an emphasis in developmental and alcoholic studies. He has been minister of music, assistant pastor, director of Baptist Student Union and assistant director of Baptist Rescue Mission. He also has taught social work and ethics, and is a supplementary faculty member in clinical counseling at New Orleans Seminary.

A graduate of the University of South Florida, Mrs. Lilly has been a teacher, and presently is a consultant in alcoholic workshops.

A graduate of Wayland Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Seigler becomes director of associational missions for Mountain-Western Baptist Association in New Mexico. Before appointment, he was director of missions for Washington-Madison Association in Fayetteville and has been pastor of churches in Utah, California, Texas, Arkansas and New Mexico. She attended Wayland Baptist University and was a secretary for the Washington-Madison association.

The Sowells will remain in Arlington where he continues as director for Baptist Community Center in Fort Worth. A graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Southwestern Seminary and the University of Texas at Arlington, he also has been minister of music and youth in Texas, a social services aid for Federal Prison System Community Treatment Center in Dallas, and as recreation director at Baptist Center. She also is a graduate of Hardin Simmons and is a secretary in Arlington.

The Browns will move to Delta, Utah, where he will be a church planter apprentice. He is a graduate of Golden Gate Seminary and has been an X-ray technician and associate pastor at Bethel Island (Calif.) Baptist Church. She has been office manager for firms in Salt Lake City and Green Brae, Calif.

Childress will remain in Fort Worth where she will be a church planter apprentice for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. She is a graduate of Texas Tech University, the Institute of Urban Studies, the University of Texas and Southwestern Seminary. Before appointment she was a research assistant for the Texas convention.

The Eaders will be church planter apprentices in Medford, Ore. He graduated from Memphis State University and New Orleans Seminary and taught at Union Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans. She also is a graduate of Memphis State and has been a nurse at two hospitals in New Orleans.

The Evers will reside in Montgomery, where they will be evangelism interns with the Alabama Baptist Convention. Before appointment, he was associate pastor for Gardendale First Baptist Church. He also has been minister to youth for churches in Alabama and Kentucky. He is a graduate of Samford University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He holds two degrees in elementary education from Jacksonville State University, and before appointment was a teacher in Birmingham.

The Halls will serve as church planter apprentices for southeast Polk County in Iowa. He is a graduate of Park College-Crown Center and New Orleans Seminary. She attended New Orleans Seminary, and was a substitute teacher in New Orleans.

The Hartleys will be church planter apprentices in Burbank, Wash. He is a graduate of Appalachian State University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. She has worked as a seamstress for two North Carolina firms.

Kelly was appointed regional director of black church relations for Los Angeles. A former associate pastor and minister of education for churches in California, he is a graduate of St. Mary's University and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Kelly has studied at Dillard University, and has worked as a bookkeeper and an apartment manager in San Jose.

The Lands will remain in Lake Saint Louis, where they work as church planter apprentices. He has been pastor of churches in Missouri and California, and is a graduate of Southwest Baptist College and Golden Baptist Theological Seminary.

Also a church planter apprentice, Willis serves in Dallas. She was a student at Auburn University and is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The following people, listed with their places of service, were approved for church pastoral assistance:

David G. and Susan E. Hatch, Reading, Kan.; David K. and Carol Hilliard, Culver City, Calif.; Clyde C. and Kathleen F. Johnson, Norwick, N.Y.; Earnest L. and Angela K. Laughner, Flora, Ind.; Garth E. and Fredia Long, Kimball, W. Va.; James P. III and Mary E. McGown, LaPine, Ore.; Stephen L. and Janis E. Melvin, Marshall, Minn.; Lloyd and Linda B. Moss, Racine, Wis.; James R. and Ruth V. Nunn, Sharpesville, Pa.; W. Lawrence and Barbara Stewart, Beckley, W. Va.; Harry K. and Betty E. Watson, Monticello, N.Y.; Ralph J. and Bonita Jo Wheaton, Freeport, Ill.; William N. and Cora B. Wilkes, Port St. John, Fla.; and Richard L. and Linda B. Williamson, Ottawa, Ill.

Two couples, Camille G. and Aida Nouni, Lawndale, Calif.; and Thien An and Binh Minh Vo, Orange, Calif., were approved for language pastoral assistance.

Baptist Congregation Loses
Tax Appeal Over Parsonage

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)—A Southern Baptist congregation in Maryland failed to convince the U.S. Supreme Court to decide if the state may deny property tax exemption to a residence owned by the church and used by its minister of music.

First Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Md., asked the Montgomery County supervisor of assessments seven years ago to exempt a parsonage housing the congregation's minister of music. The request was denied, setting in motion a long legal dispute that finally ended June 21 with the high court's refusal to review the case.

Between its original application in 1975 and the final resolution of the case, the church appealed to a property tax appeals board, the Maryland Tax Court, a county circuit court, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, the Maryland Court of Appeals and the U. S. Supreme Court.

But at each level the supervisor of assessment's original decision to deny tax exemption to the parsonage was left standing.

Attorneys Garland E. Lowe and John W. Baker, both members of the suburban Washington, D.C. congregation, asked the nation's high court to review the case, arguing that "the state has no authority to examine the religious doctrines of a church or to determine ecclesiastical matters for a church."

They argued further that Montgomery County became excessively entangled in their congregation's affairs by an intensive examination into the minister of music's contributions to the "spiritual" needs of the church.

In addition, they noted that the county exempts three Roman Catholic parsonages and convents, thus favoring one religion over another.

For its part, the state of Maryland argued in a written brief that denying property tax exemption to an "alleged parsonage" for an "alleged minister" did not interfere with the free exercise of religion nor did the county review of the minister of music's duties to the congregation improperly entangle the state in church affairs.

"Governmental decision-making affecting only property taxation, rather than ideology, is not an area where strict separation of church and state entanglement must apply, the argument continued.

Further, according to Maryland Attorney General Stephen H. Sachs, the distinction made by the church between its parsonage and Roman Catholic properties was invalid, since "a state may impose different standards of taxation on different classes of property if the distinction rests upon reasonable consideration of the distinctions between those classes as a matter of public policy."

As is customary, the high court did not indicate its reason for rejecting the case.

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Students at Baptist School
Among Casualties in Beirut

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BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—A first-grade student at Beirut Baptist School in embattled West Beirut was killed when her house was bombed, according to Leola Ragland, one of seven Southern Baptist missionaries to leave Lebanon in June.

Lebanon has been the scene of fierce fighting since June 4 when Israeli troops invaded the country with the announced purpose of destroying Palestinian guerrilla strongholds.

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The girl who was killed and another who was critically injured are the only known casualties from the school but Mrs. Ragland fears there may be others.

Her husband, Jim, remains at the school in West Beirut, where he helped set up a clinic and continues to assist the injured and homeless in that Palestinian section.

Mrs. Ragland is one of six missionaries and four missionary children to leave the country since June 17. A group of eight people associated with the mission departed that day, including missionaries Mack and Linda Sacco and four of their children, missionary Ruth Spence and missionary journeyman James Wilson. Violet Popp, missionary nurse to Jordan, who was studying at the American University of Beirut while on furlough, also left.

Earlier in the conflict, on June 9, missionary Frances Fuller left Beirut to begin a scheduled personal leave in the United States. Her husband, Wayne, stayed in Lebanon.

Missionary Pete Dunn reported by telephone from Beirut June 21 that the remaining missionaries are "relatively safe" despite continued fighting.

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N.Y. Paper Ranks
Baptist Pavilion Tops

Baptist Press
6/22/82

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The New York Daily News has listed the Baptist Pavilion at the 1982 World's Fair as the top corporate exhibit.

The Daily News ranked Southern Baptist's pavilion at 6.5 on a scale of 1 to 10, the highest ranking in both the international and corporate pavilion categories. The Korean pavilion was listed first at 8.5, followed by the Chinese (7.5) and the United States (7) pavilions.

The paper cited the Baptist pavilion as both "entertaining and subtle," and added "you don't have to be religious to enjoy what is taking place." The article applauded the multi-media presentation entitled "The Word Is . . . Energy," and stated "the live show featuring a group of spirited singers and dancers called PowerSource is excellent."

"This is a testimony to the fact that we have accomplished our purpose of going into the marketplace and presenting the gospel in such a way that the secular press can acknowledge it as being Christian and at the same time recommend it to non-Christians," commented Bill Lee, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board representative to Baptist ministries at the World's Fair.

He added that Baptists came to the fair not only to share a Christian witness, but also "out of the conviction that an explanation of problems and uses of energy is basically a theological question."

"All energy sources come from God the creator," he said. "And there should be a prophetic voice in terms of the use or misuse of energy."

The Baptist pavilion is one of more than 30 participating nations and corporations with energy exhibits at the fair. Lee concluded, "It shows that the Christian gospel can hold its own amid corporate and international presentations in an arena such as the World's Fair."

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