



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Black SEC Church Hosts HMB Commissioning Service

ATLANTA (BP)—Union Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., recently hosted a Home Mission Board commissioning service—the first time such a service has been held in a black Southern Baptist church.

Emmanuel McCall, director of the HMB's black church relations department, preceeded the commissioning of 102 home missionaries with an explanation of the black worship experience. McCall outlined three aspects of black worship—recognizing God for who He is, worshipping God through personal experience and worshipping God through sustaining loving relationships with others.

Gerald Palmer, HMB vice president of missions, challenged the 102 missionaries working in 25 states, Canada and Puerto Rico to remember "you are linked to the purpose of God—proclaiming the Good News in Jesus Christ which heals the sick, brings wholeness to broken lives and a home to the homeless."

Most of the 45 missionaries appointed by the HMB's church extension department are church planter apprentices, including six in California: Mark and Helen Caldwell (West El Camino), Timothy and Mary Gentry (Roseville) and Kenneth and Fayrene Grimes (Long Beach).

Three couples are working in Washington: Jack and Hazel Hartley (Burbank), Charles and Dorothy Jolly Sr. (Puget Sound Baptist Association) and Bruce and Ruth Johnson (Seattle).

Five church planters in Georgia were commissioned: Charles and Marleen Robinson (Hinesville), Grover Thomas (Lawrenceville) and Dennis and Sheila Watson (Fayetteville). Four Iowa missionaries were: Joe and Rebecca Gardener (Adel) and Calvin and Patricia Hall (south-eastern Polk County).

The remaining church extension missionaries across the country are Wesley and Patricia Eader in the Talent/Medford area of Oregon; Claude and Erlene Brown in Delta, Utah; Terri Willis in Houston and Carol Childress in Dallas; Michael and Nancy Strohm, Loveland, Colo.; Robert and Delores Smith, Sterling, Kan.; Lawrence and Lisa Heskett Jr., Rhinelander, Wis.; David Allen, New Albany, Miss.; Michael and Doris Freeman, Bloomfield, Ind.; Terry and Deborah Tomlinson, Coldwater, Mich.; Stephen and Frances Waddle, Mannington, W.Va.; Tommy Barton, Steubenville, Ohio; Truett and Sarah Smith, Miami, Fla., and Gary and Joye Zafuto, Lewiston/Youngstown area of New York.

The second largest number of missionaries (22) were commissioned to work with the HMB's Christian social ministries department. Steven and Gale Golden, Dover, Del., and William and Vivian Tua, San Juan, Puerto Rico, were appointed jointly with the special mission ministries department.

Willie Berry, commissioned with his wife, Kathy, is co-director of the Baptist center in Manhattan. Michael and Glendora Williams are also in New York where he is pastor/director of Harlem ministries.

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Michael and Janet Brooks are in Baltimore, Md.; Sig and Jan Hamilton in Springfield, Mo.; Gary and Linda Hargrove in Des Moines, Iowa; Barbara Harris in Richmond, Va.; Richard and Debra Ann Humble in Tulsa, Okla.; Robert and Rhonda Sowell, in Fort Worth, Texas; David and Tena Walker in Cleveland, Ohio, and Debra Joyce Weldon in Columbia, S.C.

Six of the 16 rural-urban missions appointees were from New Mexico: Bernard and Margaret Dougharty (Estancia Valley association); John and Norma Ross (Plains and Portales association), and Don and Doris Seigler (Mountain-Western association).

Two directors of missions from Arizona were: Timothy and Carolyn Logerquist with the Yuma association and Robert and Grace Whitehead of the Estrella association.

Other rural-urban directors of missions were: H. Clifton and Mary Davis, Mountain States association and in the southern area of West Virginia; D. Allen and Beverly Haynes, West Central and White River associations in Indiana, and James and Jessie Perry, New York, with the Adirondack association.

Seven persons serve with language missions: John Slim, commissioned with his wife, Sunny, an Asian catalytic for Texas; Jerry Geddie, a teacher at Valley Baptist Academy in Harlingen; Andrew Chan, a Chinese-Asian language consultant, and his wife, Edith, in Los Angeles, Calif., and Angel and Petrona-Nila Murillo, catalytic language missionaries in Lawton, Okla.

The black church relations department commissioned two couples: William and Sylvia Flippen in Atlanta, Ga., associate director of black church relations for Georgia, and Thomas Kelly, consultant for the greater Los Angeles area.

Henry and Marilyn Blackaby are with metropolitan missions in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; Kenneth and Linda Townsend, also with metropolitan missions in Kansas with the Kaw Valley association. Special missions ministries commissioned were: Elmer and Jacquella Goble, Olympics coordinators in Los Angeles, and Bill and Myra Mastriani, resort missions in Grand Canyon, Ariz.

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Texas SEC Sunday School
Attendance Nears 700,000

By Terry Barone

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DALLAS (BP)—Texas Baptists shattered their all-time Sunday School High Attendance Day record by almost 40,000 with a total attendance of nearly 700,000.

On Great Day in the Morning Oct. 31, Texas Baptist Sunday Schools reported attendance of 695,953, six percent more than the goal of 656,565. The previous high was 656,198 in 1980.

Bob Fuston, consultant in the Texas Baptist Sunday School division, said, "We are excited. We really can't explain what happened but we feel many of the churches across the state caught a vision of what they could do, the people got excited and they worked."

Fuston said reports from across the state were "phenomenal." Because of the high turnout Texas Baptist churches had 148,372 more persons attending than on an average Sunday.

Fuston said 55 of Texas' 113 associations reported the highest one-day attendance since Great Day in the Morning began in 1974.

Many of the churches reported to Fuston that offerings and professions of faith rose considerably.

"Many churches reported their offerings increased about \$10 per capita for the additional persons in attendance," Fuston said.

"With that kind of giving our churches could have received about \$1.4 million through their offerings. If churches give an average of 10 percent to the Cooperative Program that would mean \$140,000 for worldwide causes," Fuston said.

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"We think all of this is great. Because of these factors the prospects discovered will add significantly to increased Sunday School enrollment and '8.5 by '85" (the Southern Baptist Convention goal to have 8.5 million people enrolled in Sunday School by 1985).

He also added the professions of faith will help in reaching Texas' goal of baptizing 83,000 people and giving \$50 million through the Cooperative Program in 1983.

First Baptist Church, Amarillo, uses Great Day in the Morning not only to promote Sunday School attendance but also to emphasize stewardship. Roy Kornegay, minister of education of the church, said, "October is stewardship month in our church and we use this day to involve our members in Sunday School as well as pledges for our budget."

This year the church had 3,556 in Sunday School, 904 more than on an average Sunday, missing their goal by 26.

With a proposed budget of \$3.2 million, Kornegay said it was an exciting day because members oversubscribed the budget by \$500,000 on the first day of the emphasis.

"Our church has seen the benefits of observing High Attendance Day. Our members have been excited about it ever since it began in 1974. It's a perfect time to promote Sunday School and stewardship."

Fuston said many churches reported "unbelievable" increases in Sunday School percentage increases over average attendance. One church in a rural community, Board Baptist Church in Comanche county, reported a 304 percent increase over its average Sunday School attendance of 13.

Edward Garrett, vice president for financial affairs at Howard Payne University and pastor of the church, said the church had 53 in attendance.

Garrett said, "Our people set a goal of 50 for the day. They got excited and began beating the bushes and really worked at it."

Garrett said he was pleased and felt "that High Attendance Day has laid the groundwork for professions of faith and additions to our church."

First Baptist Church, Trent, reported a high attendance of 343 which is 30 more than the town's population. Their average Sunday School attendance was 97.

Pastor of the church, Carl Rae, said, "Last year we set a goal of 200 and made it, so we decided we wanted to have more in Sunday School than we have in our town."

The church dedicated a new fellowship hall and invited more than 300 families composed of church members, former members and people within the area.

"It excites people to see what can be done. It also increases their faith. We accomplished our goal with a lot of prayer and preparation," Rae said. "I think this has built new faith because people can see there is a job God wants done and they are not just here biding time."

Bernie Spooner, director of the Texas Sunday School division said, "We think the high attendance day record indicates rising interest of pastors and other church leaders in building through the Sunday School."

"In all my years of ministry I've never seen more excitement in Sunday School across our state than was generated by the 1982 Great Day in the Morning," said James H. Landes, who will retire as BGCT executive director Dec. 31.

"I pray this kind of enthusiasm will continue to build throughout our state. It can propel us on to reaching our Bold Mission Thrust goals."

Lay Renewal Leaders Review,
Affirm Direction Of Past Decade

By Patti Stephenson

TOCCOA, Ga. (BP)—Southern Baptists took a look backward, reviewing the past 10 years of the lay renewal movement within the Southern Baptist Convention during the recent national renewal evangelism conference.

Participants, including representatives from the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, Brotherhood Commission, Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union and Baptist seminaries, reaffirmed a cornerstone laid at the first such conference in 1972 that "every Christian is called, gifted and sent by God as a minister," according to Reid Hardin, evangelism support director at the Home Mission Board.

The lay renewal program coordinated by the Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission was born 10 years ago when a small group met at Toccoa to forge a strategy for "awakening and equipping" laity for ministry.

A two-day evaluation which preceded the national conference produced consensus that "awakening laity is a common concern among all SEC agencies," Hardin reported. Henry Webb, deacon ministry consultant at the Sunday School Board, described lay renewal as a "concept rippling across the convention" beyond the boundaries of any one denominational program.

Review participants pinpointed lay renewal as a pivotal factor in increased volunteerism among Southern Baptists, as well as a catalyst in stimulating awareness of spiritual gifts and Bold Mission Thrust goals, Hardin said.

Bill Peacock, partnership evangelism consultant at the Foreign Mission Board, praised the lay renewal movement as a "recruiting ground" for mission volunteers. Calvin Cantrell, associate evangelism director for Louisiana Baptist Convention, credited the renewal emphasis with prompting increased attention to "discovering and using spiritual gifts" in denominational literature.

Dorothy Samples, national Woman's Missionary Union president, noted similarities between WMU and lay renewal efforts "to challenge every person to function fulltime in witness and ministry." Samples added, "Since half or more of our church members are women, having committed laywomen is critical to accomplishing Bold Mission Thrust."

Stating that "churches should equip laypersons for ministry and send them into the world," Hardin acknowledged "there is strong concern that Baptists recognize lay ministry as an extension, rather than an encroachment, on the church's mission." To achieve Bold Mission Thrust goals, he predicted, "we should move to a ratio of 20 percent of our people maintaining church programs and 80 percent serving on missions in the marketplace."

Hardin observed initial skepticism among some SEC pastors that "lay renewal involves an elite group wanting to do their own thing outside the church" has subsided during the past decade along with fears that the movement might be controlled by charismatics. "We've seen the movement survive and gain growing acceptance across the SEC," Hardin said. "What we need to do now is better train laity to communicate what lay renewal is."

Hardin also noted the need for seminaries to teach pastors how to train lay ministers. "Some pastors are more prepared to run a church than to equip a church," Hardin said. "That may be one reason some churches have difficulty sustaining lay involvement beyond church events."

Appreciation awards were presented to Findley Edge, retired Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor and to Leonard Sanderson, evangelism director for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, for their "unflinching support and invaluable contributions to the concepts and contents of the lay renewal movement," Hardin said.

Missionaries, Volunteers Safe
Following Upper Volta Coup

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—In the first phone contact with the Foreign Mission Board since a coup overthrew the government of Upper Volta, Southern Baptist missionary J.B. Durham reported Nov. 10 that missionaries and volunteers are safe.

His call confirmed a message he had sent Nov. 9 through U.S. Embassy channels. Disrupted communications had prevented earlier contact with the 22 missionaries and 25 to 35 volunteers in the country, said John Mills, Foreign Mission Board director for west Africa.

News reports indicated that disgruntled soldiers overthrew the two-year-old government of Col. Saye Zerbo and formed a junta. A radio broadcast Nov. 8 by the rebel forces said the new government would respect its international commitments but failed to indicate the political direction planned for the country.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention is cooperating with missionaries and Voltaic Baptists in a development project in the Diabo Circle region.

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One Killed, Two Hurt
In Zambian Accident

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KAEWE, Zambia (BP)—A Zambian Baptist was killed and another Zambian and a missionary journeyman injured in a one-car accident Nov. 6 near Kabwe, Zambia.

Killed was Clement Lungu, 21, who had made a public commitment to fulltime Christian service several weeks earlier, according to missionaries. He was being trained by the injured journeyman, David Griffin of Lubbock, Texas.

Griffin suffered a concussion and other head injuries. He was moved from the Kabwe Hospital to a hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe, Nov. 8, to be under the care of Giles Fort, missionary physician in Harare.

The other young man injured, Stephen Kabanga, was transferred from Kabwe to a hospital in Lusaka, Zambia, and later released.

Griffin's condition following the accident was listed as stable. He was reported to be conscious and alert but unable to speak because of facial swelling and cuts inside his mouth. Physicians in Harare predict an extended recovery period.

Griffin went to Lusaka, Zambia, in the summer of 1981 to work as a religious knowledge teacher for two years.

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