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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Craig Bird, 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 (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

June 13, 1983

83-89

Hollinger Named
California Editor

By Polly McNabb

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--Herbert V. Hollinger, editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness, was elected editor of The California Southern Baptist, newsjournal of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, in a called meeting of the board operations committee of the Executive Board, June 7.

He will assume the office Sept. 1.

Hollinger succeeds Elmer L. Gray, who has been the editor since March of 1974. Gray is retiring but will continue with the paper as a consultant until December.

Hollinger, a graduate of the University of Idaho and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, began his career in journalism with secular newspapers. He worked with the Reminder and Reminder Morning News of Burley, Idaho, and later was editor and general manager of the South Idaho Press, also of Burley.

He was licensed to preach in 1970 by First Baptist Church of Graton, Calif.

Hollinger will be the sixth full-time editor of The California Southern Baptist. The paper was started in December of 1941 and edited by part-time employees. The first full time editor was Floyd Looney.

Hollinger is married to the former Mary Hartsfield and they have three children: Doug, 17; Kerri, 15; and Tracy, 12.

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Evangelist's March
Stalled By PoliceBaptist Press
6/13/83

PITTSBURGH (BP)--Cross-carrying evangelist Arthur Blessitt introduced area residents to Southern Baptists Sunday afternoon with a walk from Point Park to the Civic Arena.

After being detained initially while Pittsburgh police decided whether to let the California evangelist proceed into the park without a permit, Blessitt's march appeared to be well received by most area residents who stopped to talk with him.

The walk was the kickoff of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference scheduled prior to the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Pastor's Conference President Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., said the walk went "really good.

"We just wanted to share Jesus with the people of Pittsburgh."

Blessitt, who has carried his 80-pound cross through 65 countries during the past 13 years, reacted calmly to the initial refusal by police to let him carry his cross further into the park.

When told he couldn't proceed further because he didn't have a permit, Blessitt responded that he had just been through 65 countries, reminding the police, "We have freedom of religion in America."

Wolfe explained that the pastors' conference had a permit for the walk from the park to the Civic Arena but Blessitt had sought to walk through the park where a large crowd estimated by police to range between 100,000 to 150,000 had gathered for an art festival.

Wearing designer jeans and a denim shirt, Blessitt asked strangers if they knew Jesus as naturally as most people ask the time of day.

"I gave my life to Jesus when I went to Bible school," a seven-year old told Blessitt when the evangelist asked about his relationship with Jesus.

When asked if he was "saved," one man told Blessitt, "Yeah, I'm supposed to be."

"That's a little shaky," Blessitt responded.

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Home Mission Offering
Up, Below Anticipation

Baptist Press
6/13/83

By Michael Tutterow

ATLANTA (BP)--Receipts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions are up, but below anticipated revenues, directors of the Home Mission Board were told during their June executive committee meeting.

President William G. Tanner said offering receipts amounted to \$13,051,573.41 as of June 3, up 2.3 million or 21.2 percent, over receipts of June 1982. The increase however is slightly below anticipated receipts necessary to reach the \$25 million goal.

In other action, directors elected two new staffers and appointed 50 persons to mission service.

Michael A. Pattillo was elected director of auxiliary services, effective June 27, 1983, and Thomas E. Sykes was named associate director of the church extension division, effective July 1, 1983.

Pattillo, a native Atlantan, assumes duties as director, replacing Harold Culbreath who retires July 31 after 10 years in that role. Pattillo will coordinate the board's shipping and receiving services, warehousing, mail and materials inventory control and will supervise the centralized processing of orders for priced items.

Pattillo has worked as a shipping clerk and since January has been the purchasing agent for the board. He is a graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology and worked in supervisory roles for several Atlanta firms before coming to the board in September, 1982.

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Sykes has been a church extension consultant in the western United States since 1979 and was church extension and Brotherhood director for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention from 1975-79. He has been superintendent of missions and a pastor of churches in Arizona and Indiana, and is a graduate of Oswego State Teachers College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Appointed missionaries were C. Burt Jr. and Sara L. Potter of St. Joseph, Mo., and James M. and Karen Queen of Chicago, Ill. Approved as missionary associates were J. Stuart and C. Jeannette Cundiff of Goshen, Ind., Charles G. and Marcia L. Jones of Virginia Beach, Va., and Keith D. and Cynthia D. Wilson of Mill Valley, Calif.

The Potters will take up residence in New Jersey where he will become director of missions for South Jersey Baptist Association. He has been pastor of First Baptist Church of St. Joseph, Mo., since 1981, and has been pastor of churches in Texas and North Carolina. Potter also has held posts as director of missions in Nebraska and Maryland, associate Sunday school director of the Baptist Convention of North Carolina and director of Philadelphia city ministries.

He is a graduate of Baylor University, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

She is a graduate of Mars Hill College and Meredith College, and has taught school in North Carolina, Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The Queens will remain in Chicago where he is Christian social ministries consultant and pastor of Uptown Baptist Church.

Queen, a graduate of Missouri Valley College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was pastor of churches in Indiana and Illinois before coming to Uptown in 1976. He also has worked as a juvenile court coordinator and directed inner-city Athletic Mission in Chicago.

The Cundiffs will remain in Goshen where they will work as church planter apprentices. He was pastor of churches in Kentucky before appointment and has worked in Southern Baptist churches in new work areas, Europe and Turkey during his 22 years in the Air Force.

He has studied criminal justice at several universities and recently completed work at Southern seminary. She has worked as a cosmetologist and recently completed diploma work at Southern seminary.

The Jones, recent graduates of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will remain in Virginia Beach, Va., where they will be church planter apprentices. He has been a summer church extension worker in Washington; both are also graduates of Old Dominion University in Virginia.

The Wilsons also will be church planter apprentices and will take up residence in Clovis, Calif. He has worked as a minister of youth/music in two California churches and has participated in church extension work in Nevada.

He is a graduate of San Jose State University and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; she is a graduate of Samford University and has worked as a nurse in California.

Approved for church pastoral assistance were Gary L. and Hazel M. Balfour of Duenweg, Mo.; James E. and Hazel A. Blair of Glendale, Ariz.; Rodney D. and Linda Collier of Bakersfield, Calif.; Frank and Kathy S. Guiliuzza of Buffalo, Mich.;

Lane D. and Cherie A. Koster of Vanderhoff, British Columbia, Canada; R. Norris and Carolyn Norman of Salmo, British Columbia, Canada; Don L. and Annette L. Novey of Mt. Airy, Md.; Larry D. and Connie S. Spencer of Regina, Canada; Lynn and Maureen C. Wagner of Ormond Beach, Fla.;

H. Malcolm Jr. and Barbara Wansley of Vero Beach, Fla.; Gerald J. and Mary Wiggers of Riverside, Mich.; J. David and Donna L. Wilcock of New Melford, Conn.; and Claude F. and Geneva M. Wilson of Lehigh Acres, Fla.

Approved to receive language pastoral assistance were David and Rosa Marie Cisneros of Joliet, Ill.; Yung Hwa and Kwei Myon Park of Dover, Del.; and Manuel and Elizabeth Perez of Ulysses, Kan.

Approved as missionary pastor interns were Howard and Lee Bandolik of Cape Coral, Fla.; Delbert R. and Sophie L. Henderson of Fountain Hills, Ariz.; and Donald E. and E. Lucille Hodges of Panama City, Fla.

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Women In Ministry
Move to Form Group

Baptist Press
6/13/83

By Linda Lawson

PITTSBURGH (BP)--Taking steps to create an official organization for mutual support and encouragement, about 75 Southern Baptist women in church-related vocations adopted a purpose statement and unanimously agreed to hold a third annual meeting preceding the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City.

The need for women in ministry within the denomination to be servant-leaders and to challenge cultural barriers were themes sounded by several speakers in the two-day meeting.

Debra Griffis Woodberry, associate minister at Ridge Road Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C., said, "Cultural mores, attitudes and expectations about who women are constitute the greatest obstacle to enabling women to actualize their calls to vocational ministry."

Others speakers included Christine Gregory, president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, Danville; Anne Neil, visiting professor of missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; and Nancy Hastings Sehested, associate minister, Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.

The purpose statement says an organization for women in ministry should: "provide support for the woman whose call from God defines her vocation as that of minister, or as that of woman in ministry within the Southern Baptist Convention, and to encourage and affirm her call to be a servant of God."

Anne Davis, convener of the meeting and assistant professor of social work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said the eight-member task force which planned the meeting envisions an organization "on the model of the pastors conference or the religious education conference. This ought to be an independent group to speak to its own needs and not be tied to an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention."

An ad hoc group of women from Louisville, Ky., unveiled the first issue of a newsletter, Folio, for Southern Baptist women in ministry. Reba Cobb, minister of younger youth at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, said the group will publish four issues of Folio during the next year at their own expense and hopes the SBC organization will be in place to take it over in 1984.

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Woodberry cited as critical issues facing women ministers the lack of female role models, images of the ministry which don't include women and the inability of trained women to find placement in the denomination.

Woodberry contended many women ministers have been forced to take positions which are secondary to their primary calling. These represent "compromise at best and disillusionment at worst," she said.

She said her current church staff position, including responsibilities in education and youth ministry, is "okay for right now, but I have sermons I want to preach and pastoral skills I want to develop. I have a dream of walking through the door of a Southern Baptist church as its pastor. I have a nightmare of playing kickball with the grandchildren of those with whom I am playing now."

Gregory, also a laywoman, said in recent years "we've seen a vast number of women become professionally trained but not professionally employed."

However, she noted, "I believe we're seeing a positive turn in the attitudes of the two mission boards."

As the first woman president in the 159-year history of the Virginia convention, Gregory said, "The reason a woman hadn't been elected to this position earlier is that other women kept them from it. I like to see women look like women, but I like to see them function with heads that go with their bodies. I'm afraid our cultural upbringing has not helped us much here."

Neil, an emeritus missionary, cited low self-image as a common problem among women ministers. "We are free to respond to Christ's call. We need never be apologetic again. We can have a strong sense of personhood. Then we are free to choose servanthood," she said.

Niel emphasized dramatic differences between servitude and servanthood. "Servitude is imposed from outside; servanthood is chosen. It is energizing and enlarging," she explained.

Neil said if Southern Baptist men and women would respond in large numbers to the biblical challenge of servanthood, "it would change the world and the Southern Baptist Convention. It would result in mutuality and equality among all members."

Sehested described the current status of women in ministry as "an in-between time. We are called but not confirmed. We are trained but not employed."

Noting many women graduates of Southern Baptist seminaries have taken jobs in other fields or denominations, Sehested said, "Some of us feel if we had any sense we would do the same. But we remain. The best we can say is that this is where we're called to be, and that's enough."

Sehested challenged the women to "covenant to care for each other, listen to each other, encourage one another and allow each other the freedom to make different choices.

"We see glimmers of light here and there shining in the darkness, but we know the light shines from a great distance. We know it will be a long time before the entire room is full of light," she added.