



## 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  
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

July 11, 1983

83-102

Juliette Mather, Missions  
Education Leader, Dies

ST. JOSEPH, Mich. (BP)--Juliette Mather, 87, longtime Baptist missions leader, died July 5 in St. Joseph, Mich., after a short illness.

She had been young peoples' secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention 1921-49 and editorial secretary of WMU, 1948-1957. After retirement, she spent 10 years as a volunteer missionary in Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

She launched and edited five missions magazines for young people: World Comrades in 1922; The Window of YWA in 1929; Ambassador Life in 1946; Tell in 1953, and Sunbeam Activities in 1953. After 1948, when she became editorial secretary of WMU, she edited Royal Service, WMU's flagship magazine and built annual subscriptions to WMU magazines to almost one million.

She also edited numerous leaflets and books. The books include: Taiwan As I Saw It, Telling You How, The Way of Missionary Education and organizational manuals. Her latest book, published in 1973, was the history of Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia.

She produced the first motion picture for Southern Baptists, Publish Glad Tidings and produced a 1932 radio broadcast that linked simultaneous banquets across the south celebrating the anniversary of Young Woman's Auxiliary.

She began annual encampments and conferences for Young Woman's Auxiliary at Ridgecrest, N.C., in 1924 and her YWA camp was the first official Baptist function at what became Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Miss Mather developed individual achievement plans, ranking systems for Girls' Auxiliary, Royal Ambassadors and Young Woman's Auxiliary.

After retiring from the WMU staff at age 61, she taught two years at the Baptist university at Fukuoka, Japan and for five years in Taiwan, then worked 15 months with Baptist Press in Hong Kong. She filled an emergency teaching slot for several months in Taichung, Taiwan, before returning to the U.S. in April 1968.

She continued actively writing and speaking on behalf of missions. In National Acteens Conferences in 1979 and 1975 she spoke to audiences of more than 10,000 girls.

The Juliette E. Mather Memorial Fund has been established and will be handled by WMU, SBC, with a special missions object to be named later by the family.

-30-

Annie Armstrong Offering Relies  
On SBC Churches of All Sizes

Baptist Press  
7/11/83

ATLANTA (BP)--A study of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for 1982 indicates the Home Mission Board's budget would be reduced by nearly 40 percent if the board relied solely on support from churches with 1,000 or more members.

In a six-page report research director Orrin D. Morris said 26,000 churches contributed \$20.4 million to the AAEO in 1982--an average of \$786.56 per church.

-more-

Statistics show churches with 2,000 or more members contributed one of very six dollars. These 577 churches represent only 2.2 percent of the reporting churches but their offerings represent 17.4 percent of the total AAEO receipts. Another 22 percent of AAEO receipts came from 1,949 churches with 1,000 to 1,999 members.

On the other hand there were 2,912 (11.2 percent) churches with fewer than 100 members contributing \$486,728 (2.4 percent of the receipts).

Another 5,582 churches with members ranging from 100 to 199 persons contributed \$1.4 million. One-third of the contributing churches have less than 200 members, but their contributions totaled nearly \$1.9 million--9.3 percent of the receipts.

The average Southern Baptist contributed about \$1.60 to the AAEO in 1982.

Per capita giving ranged from a high of \$3.66 per member in churches with fewer than 50 members to a low of \$1.54 for churches with 500 to 749 members. Most churches with memberships ranging from 150 to 1,499 members reported per capital AAEO gifts between \$1.54 to \$1.64.

Very large churches (3,000 or more members) reported per capital gifts averaging \$2.05 while churches with 2,000 to 2,999 members reported \$1.82 per member. Churches with 50-99 members averaged \$2.41 and those with 100 to 149 members averaged \$1.76.

"It takes all sizes of churches to fund home missions, but it is probably more important to conclude all sizes of churches are vitally interested in the success of home missions," Morris explained. "It is especially gratifying home missions is financially supported by more than 70 percent of the 36,300 SBC churches through this offering."

-30-

WMU Taps Adult Prayer Support  
For National Acteens Convention

Baptist Press  
7/11/83

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--More than 1,600 Southern Baptists have pledged their prayer support in a massive prayer plan for the fourth National Acteens Convention.

Sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, the convention will be held July 18-21, 1984, at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas. It is expected to draw approximately 14,000 teenage girls nationwide.

"We hope this plan will sensitize adults to the life-changing significance of NAC, and perhaps even encourage them to provide financial support to help Acteens from their own church attend NAC," said Carolyn Weatherford, executive director for WMU, SBC.

The national and state WMUs are distributing the prayer cards, asking Southern Baptists to sign a prayer commitment and mail the card to national WMU headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.

Participants are being asked to pray for the convention, for those who attend, for the future of Acteens organizations and for Southern Baptist youth.

Prayer Commitment cards may be requested from WMU, SBC, Post Office Box C-10, Birmingham, Ala., 35283-0010, or from state WMU offices.

-30-

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Woman's Missionary Union.

HMB Approves Three Missionaries  
During June Board Meeting

ATLANTA (BP)--The personnel committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved three persons for mission service during its July meeting.

Acting on behalf of the HMB executive committee, the personnel committee named Irma and Pedro Aviles of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and Paul Wilkerson of Vista, Calif., as missionary associates. Neither the executive committee nor the board of directors met during July.

The Aviles will remain in Puerto Rico where he becomes an evangelism intern. He will graduate from Baptist Seminary in Puerto Rico in May 1984. He is pastor of Iglesia Bautista Getsemani. She is a secretary at Puerto Rico Baptist Theological Seminary.

Wilkerson will remain in California where he becomes director of associational missions, High Desert Association. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, extension center. Since 1974 he has pastored the Buena Vista Baptist Church and is a trustee of the California Baptist College.

-30-

Turner: Baptist Networks  
Support Local Church

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press  
7/11/83

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Southern Baptists' two satellite telecommunications networks will support local churches. That's why Chip Turner will go almost anywhere, anytime to talk about Baptist TelNet and ACTS.

"Reaching and teaching people through video is both relevant and realistic," said Turner, director of media services for the Louisiana Baptist Convention. "If we're going to come close in Bold Mission Thrust, we're going to have to use media in addition to person-to-person contact."

Baptist TelNet is a religious education network to churches, associations and state conventions which will be launched by the Sunday School Board in the spring of 1984. ACTS will broadcast Christian and family programming in the home and will be launched May 1, 1984, by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

"We're not going to put together an electronic denomination so people can stay at home," Turner emphasized during the Sunday School Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. "The focus of both networks is supporting the local church."

He predicted BTN programs will provide practical help to professional and lay workers in churches while ACTS will strengthen the image of Southern Baptists in communities by providing a positive alternative to current television programming.

Turner is putting together a volunteer team of special workers to go into the 1,350 churches in Louisiana to interpret the purposes, costs and equipment needed for participation in the two networks.

"Education is our greatest need right now," said Turner. "A lot of people don't know the difference between ACTS and Baptist TelNet."

In awareness conferences, Turner said he has found "intense interest. There is an immediate recognition of the value of Baptist TelNet for use in the church. The only thing that is slowing some down is a lack of understanding about satellite receiving equipment."

However, Turner said he does not believe fear about operating equipment will keep the church leaders from deciding to participate. People are terrified of audiovisual equipment such as the film strip projector, but they can operate a video cassette player, "because they have them in their homes."

-more-

Turner is convinced receiving religious education programs by satellite is a more efficient system than getting video tapes on similar subjects by mail.

"One of the biggest advantages will be the ability to receive dated material over the satellite, such as the Sunday school lesson previews for use in Wednesday weekly workers meetings," said Turner. "If I were still a minister of education and had had problems with weekly workers meetings, I would use the Baptist TelNet previews as a new start."

Also, Turner said, receiving programs by satellite will cost less money, despite the initial outlay of \$3,000 to \$5,000 for a three-or-four meter satellite receiving dish.

"I'm extremely pleased with the subscription price structure for churches for Baptist TelNet," said Turner. "There are very few churches in the Southern Baptist Convention that cannot afford Baptist TelNet. Ours will be not only quality material, but also targeted to Southern Baptists."

Turner said becoming an ACTS affiliate or participating in Baptist TelNet cannot be the top priority for every church, but he urges every church to consider it.

He said Baptist TelNet programs to train workers in church program organizations and other facets of church ministry will strengthen the quality of training in churches and not reduce the role of church staff members. Proper use of video training programs requires the facilitator to introduce the program and handle follow up, he noted.

BTN programs about missions and the tasks of workers "will enable people to pray more intelligently and to make better decisions about whether to accept a leadership responsibility," said Turner. "Video should not replace any kind of teaching tool or the written word."

On the state level, Turner said he has seen requests for video tapes through the SBC video tape service increase each month. The Louisiana convention is making plans to receive Baptist TelNet programs, and he is urging churches to consider becoming ACTS affiliates to broadcast programs to their communities either through local cable systems or low-power stations.

He said plans will be developed to produce programs about Baptist work in the state to broadcast into homes and churches.

"We'll be able to share with Louisiana Baptists what's happening in their convention," he said. "As they come to understand the state convention better, they'll appreciate the Cooperative Program more."

"We could produce a program every month about new work being started and lives being changed and never run out of material," he said.

-30-

Holman Director  
Odell Crowe Dies

Baptist Press  
7/11/83

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--E. Odell Crowe, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Holman Bible publishing division, died July 9 at his home after suffering a heart attack.

Crowe, 58, an employee of the Sunday School Board for 32 years, became director of Holman in 1980, shortly after the board purchased the Bible publishing firm.

Before moving to the Holman division, Crowe was manager of the operations department in the book store division for seven years. Prior to that he was manager of the advertising department, merchandise selection department and a trade representative for Broadman Press.

-more-

Crowe was a native of Gamaliel, Ky., and a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Peabody College. He had done graduate study at Vanderbilt and the University of Tennessee (Nashville).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, Tenn., to help establish an E. Odell Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund.

-30-

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by BSSB bureau of Baptist Press

Missionary Roger Thompson  
Presumed Killed in Air Crash

Baptist Press  
7/11/83

QUITO, Ecuador (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary Roger L. Thompson, 35, was among 116 persons presumed killed July 11 in the crash of a Boeing 737 airliner just two minutes before its scheduled arrival in Cuenca.

Thompson, of Linthicum Heights, Md., was enroute to direct a meeting at First Baptist Church, Cuenca, in the use of a soul-winners' New Testament in evangelistic witnessing.

George Lozuk, chairman of Southern Baptist missionaries in Ecuador, reported by phone another missionary had taken Thompson to catch the early-morning flight and had seen Thompson get his boarding pass. Thompson was listed among the 110 passengers aboard the plane.

Thompson's wife, the former Susan C. Rich, and their three children were in the United States visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rich of Burtonsville, Md. The Thompsons' home in Quito had been badly damaged in a five-foot-deep mudslide April 30, and they had been living in temporary quarters. Mrs. Thompson's mother had spent some time in Quito assisting her daughter and they had accompanied her back to the United States for a visit while awaiting completion of permanent accommodations.

Details on the air crash were sparse. Lozuk said it had been reported as a mid-air explosion with no survivors. One wire service report indicated the plane crashed in the suburbs of Cuenca and another that it had slammed into the side of the mountain.

No wreckage had been found. A military team had left to try to find the crash site. Lozuk said another Southern Baptist missionary who lives in Cuenca, Curtis Ferrell, and a Baptist pastor, Victor Molina, also had left to try to find the wreckage.

United Press International reported the Tame Airlines plane was part of a new fleet the airline had bought after two crashes had occurred in 1978 and 1979.

Mrs. Thompson and the children had planned to return to Ecuador July 14, Lozuk said. In addition to Mrs. Thompson and the children; Rachel, 8, Derek, 6, and Rebecca, almost 3, survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Thompson of Linthicum Heights.

Thompson, a general evangelist, was teaching Old Testament at Baptist Theological Institute, Quito. He had preached in English on July 10 at a Quito Baptist Church.

The Thompsons were appointed missionaries to Ecuador in December 1980. He had been from June 1979 through 1980 as a regional personnel representative with the Foreign Mission Board, stationed in Raleigh, N.C., working with missionary candidates in the Atlantic Coast states.

A graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Thompson had been pastor at Union Chapel Baptist Church, Clarksville, Va., and interim pastor of Liberty Lake Baptist Chapel, Randallstown, Md. Born Jan. 20, 1948, in Brookville, Pa., Thompson had lived in Richardsville, Pa., and Linthicum Heights while growing up. He was a graduate of University of Maryland.

-30-