



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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83-137

San Antonio Group Applies  
For TV Station For ACTS

By Greg Warner

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)--A group of San Antonio, Texas, area residents has asked permission to build a new television station to carry the programming of the American Christian Television System (ACTS).

San Antonio Educational Television Inc., a group including several Southern Baptist leaders from the area, filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Sept. 7 for a TV station on channel 23.

Under the proposal, channel 23 would operate as a full-power educational station, broadcasting programs from San Antonio educational institutions as well as from the ACTS network.

A board of directors, to include both Baptists and non-Baptists, is being formed to operate the station. Already the group has elected officers. They are Daniel Rivera, president of Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary, San Antonio, chairman; Jack E. Byrom, president of San Marcos Baptist Academy, San Marcos, Texas, vice chairman, and David A. Garrett, executive director of Baptist Memorial Hospital System, San Antonio, secretary-treasurer.

Others already named to the board are Patsy Ayers, longtime San Antonio resident now living in Sewanee, Tenn.; Claude Black, pastor, Mount Zion First Baptist Church, San Antonio; Buckner Fanning, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio; Jimmy Garcia, director of missions/ministries, San Antonio Baptist Association; George Harris, Castle Hills First Baptist Church, San Antonio; Jimmy Heflin, executive vice president, Coleman Company Insurance, San Antonio; Earl Lewis, head of the department of urban studies, Trinity University, San Antonio; Alton Newell, chairman, Newell Industries, San Antonio; Luke Williams, executive vice president, Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Texas and Charles Wisdom, pastor, Shearer Hills Baptist Church, San Antonio.

Channel 23 is the last unused TV channel assigned to the San Antonio market and is reserved for non-commercial or educational use. At least one other group, Commonwealth Foundation for Public Broadcasting, Feeding Hills, Mass., has filed an application for the station.

Unless an agreement can be reached between all applicants, the FCC will hold a hearing to determine which one should get the station. It is not known how long it will take the FCC to resolve the situation, but it is hoped the station can be on the air within the first two years of ACTS network operations.

Should channel 23 be licensed to the San Antonio group, money to build and maintain the station would come from private donations and income from the station's operation.

The San Antonio television market is the 45th largest in the country. More than half a million homes in the 30-county area use television.

Similar applications for full-power educational stations have been filed by groups in Fort Worth, Houston and Santa Rosa, Calif. In addition, a full-power station has already been approved in Greenville, N.C. All four will carry ACTS programs.

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The American Christian Television System will begin next May delivering 16 hours of family entertainment, inspirational and informational programs each day to cable television systems and television stations nationwide. ACTS has applied for 133 low-power television stations in 35 states and expects to have more than 200 cable systems carrying the programming by May.

The Southern Baptist Convention Radio and Television Commission is assembling the network and developing the programming.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Radio and Television Commission

SBC Missionaries Enter  
101st Country: Fiji

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries are entering Fiji, their sixth new field this year and their 101st country.

Fiji, a collection of 322 islands in the South Pacific Ocean, gained its independence from Britain 13 years ago. With a population of about 658,000, it is the geographic hub of the Pacific Basin, which includes hundreds of islands located between Hawaii, Australia and Asia.

Missionaries Hugh and Kathryn Smith, who have been traveling throughout Fiji studying its culture, were transferred there effective Sept. 13. They expect to live in Nadi, a city of about 12,000.

Nadi is less touched by the gospel than other Fijian cities, yet is reasonably close to areas of established Baptist work. Fiji's international airport is located there and developers are pumping money into business and residential growth in the city.

The Smiths, who served 15 years in Malaysia and four in Zambia, will be church planters. She will be treasurer in the newly established South Pacific Baptist Mission.

Earlier this year, Southern Baptists entered the Netherlands Antilles, St. Lucia, Swaziland, Angola and Mali. The Foreign Mission Board removed Jamaica from its list of mission countries because no missionaries are assigned there and none are planned in the near future.

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(BP) map mailed to state Baptists newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press)

Denominations Request Withdrawal  
Of Clergy Housing Ruling

By Ray Furr

Baptist Press  
9/13/83

DALLAS (BP)--An Internal Revenue Service ruling which revokes a sizable tax benefit for ministers buying their own houses should be withdrawn because it discriminates against ministers, says one denominational executive.

In a letter to IRS Commissioner Roscoe L. Egger, Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan requested a withdrawal of revenue ruling 83-3 which disallows ministers a federal income tax deduction on the interest of their home mortgage and real estate taxes for which they receive a tax exempt housing allowance.

Morgan said he first thought the ruling was "sound in law and analysis" but that he has since learned that the IRS is applying the law in a discriminatory manner.

"The IRS has unfairly singled out ministers with housing allowances for unfavorable tax treatment without applying its new interpretation to military personnel who have tax exempt quarters allowances," said Morgan.

Acting on behalf of the church alliance, an organization of 27 religious denominations, Morgan said, "Our concern is that the IRS has not applied the law equitably and equally. We don't want ministers to be singled out for a discriminatory application of the law."

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Morgan noted IRS officials were advised by their lawyers not to distinguish between ministers and members of the armed services in applying the ruling.

"The rulings revoked by revenue ruling 83-3 have been interpreted as law for more than 23 years," he said. "We question whether the ruling should have been announced without a change in legislation or a judicial decision."

Although the new ruling was made effective July 1, the IRS allowed ministers who were homeowners on Jan. 3 and were taking a housing allowance, to continue to take the deductions for interest and taxes until Jan. 1, 1985.

"However, in this delay the IRS placed restrictions on the mobility of ministers by making them forfeit their right to deduct interest and real estate taxes if they move or require a new home before 1985," Morgan said.

Legislation introduced into the house (H.R. 1905), which would overturn revenue ruling 83-3 is awaiting a hearing by the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill was introduced by Virginia representative Stan Parris who warned that "if the IRS is successful in taking this benefit from the clergy, military personnel may find themselves subject to a similar ruling in the near future."

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Miami Pastor Named  
To Florida Baptist Post

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9/13/83

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--J.C. Walters Jr., pastor of Miami's Wayside Baptist Church since 1980, has been named assistant executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Walters, 57, will assume the administrative post Oct. 15. He will be responsible for church-pastor-staff relations, as well as institutional relations and public affairs.

Prior to becoming pastor of the Miami church in 1980, Walters was director of missions for the Pinellas Baptist Association between 1977-79. Previously, he was pastor of Florida Baptist churches in Lake Worth, Lakeland and Tampa, as well as churches in Sadler and Gainesville, Texas.

He is a graduate of Stetson University, Deland, Fla., and holds the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

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Hardin-Simmons Receives  
\$92,000 To Purchase Books

Baptist Press  
9/13/83

ABILENE, Texas (BP)--The Rupert N. Richardson Library of Hardin-Simmons University has received \$92,000 for the purchase of books from a trust created 20 years ago, according to Richard M. Styles, vice president for development.

The Melvia Poteet Campbell Trust, at First National Bank of Abilene, has provided the funds in memory of Mrs. Campbell's daughter, Willie Beatrice Campbell who died in 1934.

Mrs. Melvia Poteet Campbell died in Abilene on June 2, 1963, and was the widow of the late physician Matthew Elmer Campbell, an eye, ear and nose specialist in Abilene from 1915 until his death in 1948.

The funds will be placed in an endowment account and the annual earnings will be used to purchase the books, Styles said.

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Kentucky Baptists  
Name Media Director

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP)--W. Mark Snowden has been named to the newly established position of director of media on the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board staff.

Snowden, 26, presently is staff producer at the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va.

Snowden was born in Louisville and attended Georgetown College 1975-77 and graduated from Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, with a BA in broadcasting in 1979. For 17 months, he was a production technician with the Kentucky Educational Television Network and has been on the staff of the FMB since 1980.

His wife, the former Mary Leigh Gilkison of Winchester, holds a master's degree from Eastern Kentucky University and is secretary in the office of the executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist General Association in Virginia.

As director of media, Snowden will be responsible for developing, coordinating and directing all media activities related to ACTS, the American Christian Television Network of the Southern Baptist Convention's Radio and Television Commission; Baptist TelNet of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and VTS, a Video Tape Service to churches.

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Baylor Trustees Select Site  
For Special Events Center

Baptist Press  
9/13/83

WACO, Texas (BP)--Baylor University trustees have approved a site for the construction of a special events center on campus and appointed a building committee to develop specific plans and raise funds for the multipurpose activities center.

Cost of the center and endowment to operate and maintain it is estimated to be \$11 to \$11.5 million for construction costs and \$2 million for endowment. Construction is not expected to begin until the funding has been arranged.

The planned center could seat 10,000 for basketball games, about 10,500 for convocations and concerts, about 8,500 for circus or ice show productions and about 800-1,000 for banquets. The center probably also will house dressing rooms, offices for the basketball coaches, a manager's office, kitchen, storage areas and concession areas.

Administrators also envision using the facility for denominational events such as hosting the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Sponsoring denominational rallies and evangelistic crusades might also be possible.

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Ad Hoc Committee Discusses  
Ethnic Baptist History

By Leisa Hammett

Baptist Press  
9/13/83

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Locating, gathering, preserving and communicating the history of ethnic Southern Baptists seems to be "everybody's task and nobody's task."

That was the view of five members of a seven-member ad hoc committee on ethnic Baptist heritage which met at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, to discuss solutions to the ethnic dilemma.

Ethnic Baptist history is recent and unrecorded according to minister to internationals at South Main Baptist Church, Houston, David D'Amico. If and when it is recorded, ethnic Baptist history will yield vital analysis of relationships and church growth.

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"Ethnic tensions need to be brought out. Why are some ethnics slower to get into Southern Baptist structure? Southern Baptist missionaries need to know this," said D'Amico.

Sunday School Board Language Division Editor Daniel Rodriguez stressed that books, pictures, bibliographies and bits of associational minutes on ethnic Baptist history existed in homes and "almost everywhere."

"We need to make our Baptist constituency aware we're trying to gather materials and we want to make our history available," he said.

"We may find we do not have any documents. But, we have the experiences of the pioneers. They're passing. They're evaporating," Rodriguez said in arguing for tape recording oral histories.

Ethnic heritage preservation, according to Georgia Baptist Convention Language Missions Director, Jerry Baker, is two-sided. "There are those who are doing and being involved, leading in the growth," he said. "If they could acquire the materials, someone else could put them together and teach people what to acquire and how to acquire."

The members felt the Southern Baptist Historical Commission is the logical depository for at least microfilm copies of ethnic materials.

The committee was formed under the leadership of Home Mission Board Director of Language Missions Oscar Romo as a result of the Historical Commission's April, 1983 ethnic-themed meeting.

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Gilliland Accepts  
WMU Marketing Position

Baptist Press  
9/13/83

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Dolores "Dee" Gilliland, Northern Plains Woman's Missionary Union executive director, will become the first marketing communications specialist for WMU, SBC.

Gilliland will begin her new duties at the national headquarters this December. She will direct the development and implementation of WMU's plan for marketing its program and materials. As marketing communications specialist she will also participate in developing and implementing dated plans and base designs, as related to marketing.

She holds a master's degree in education and a bachelor's degree from Black Hills State College in Spearfish, S.D. Her graduate works has included studies at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and the American Management Association.

Gilliland's husband, Ray, will retire from Northwestern Bell Telephone Company this month.

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