



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 27, 1983

83-164

Quinn Pugh To Head  
Baptist Convention Of New York By Daniel J. Nicholas

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (BP)--R. Quinn Pugh, executive director of Metropolitan New York Baptist Association since 1979, has been elected executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of New York.

Pugh, 54, will replace interim director-treasurer, Roy D. Gresham, former executive of the Baptist convention in Maryland on Feb. 1, 1984. Gresham took the position last year after the resignation of Jack P. Lowndes.

The population of the tri-state convention area is 28 million. BCNY churches in New York state, southern Connecticut and northern New Jersey worship each Sunday in 17 languages including Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic, English and Portugese.

Pugh came to New York City in 1962 and participated in the formation of both Metropolitan New York Baptist Association and the Baptist Convention of New York. He was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Belair, Md., for six years. He has served churches in New Jersey, Georgia, Kentucky and Louisiana.

The native Texan earned a doctor of ministry degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He also has degrees from East Texas Baptist College (Marshall, Texas) Oglethorpe University (Atlanta) and Columbia Theological Seminary (Atlanta). He and his wife, Norma, have two children.

He has held numerous denominational offices at the national level and in Maryland and New York including a stint on the board of directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. -

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(Dan Nicholas is chairman of the communications committee for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association and assistant editor for National Religious Broadcaster, Morristown, N.J.)

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

Iowa Baptist Fellowship  
Looking To Future

Baptist Press  
10/27/83

AMES, Iowa (BP)--An escalating commitment to the national Cooperative Program and progress toward organizing into a state convention highlighted the 12th annual meeting of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship.

More than 300 people, including 192 messengers, attended the Oct. 21-22 meeting at Grand Avenue Baptist Church in Ames, Iowa.

The actual date of constituting into a state convention will be determined by the executive board but messengers were told the ISBF is steadily progressing in achieving the six guidelines adopted by the executive board as criteria to know when the fellowship's strength is sufficient to assume convention status.

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Robert H. Stuckey, executive director-treasurer, said all functions of a state convention are now administered in the Iowa state office except pastors' annuities which are paid by ISBF through the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Another sign of the move to independent status involved action on Cooperative Program (the unified giving program of the Southern Baptist Convention). The messengers approved a plan where ISBF contributions will go directly to the national Cooperative Program.

Last year Iowa sent 30 percent of its income to Missouri as Cooperative Program gifts. Missouri treated it as any church contribution to the state convention and sent 35 percent of to the national level while keeping 65 percent for Missouri Cooperative Program causes.

Effectively, Iowa was contributing 10.9 percent of its income to national programs. Now, however, ISBF will designate itself how much goes to the national Cooperative Program. For 1984 that figure will be 11 percent, with one percent annual increases planned through 1994.

The 1984 ISBF budget of \$775,000 was approved. Approximately \$185,000 will be provided by Iowa Southern Baptist churches. Most of the remaining \$590,000 will come from the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board. Iowa churches contributed \$140,000 of the 1983 budget of \$704,000.

Stuckey reported total gifts received by the churches in the fellowship increased \$421,000 in 1983 and the fellowship has baptized more than 650 people annually each of the past two years--a ratio of one baptism for each 13 members.

The state mission offering--a five-year drive called Project 55--is now 60 percent complete toward a goal of \$100,000 after three years. Half the mission offering will be used to start churches with the remainder being divided among language missions, Christian social ministries and Baptist student ministries, Stuckey said.

Messengers also voted to establish an Iowa Southern Baptist Foundation beginning Jan. 1.

Tom Nesbitt, pastor of Grand Avenue Baptist Church in Ames, and John Adams, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church in Des Moines, were reelected president and vice president of the fellowship, respectively.

The 1984 meeting will be Oct. 19-20 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids.

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Atheists Use Fake Petitions  
To Fool Christians: Murray

By Bob E. Mathews

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10/27/83

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP)--Atheists keep alive the RM 2493 petition rumor to make Christians look foolish, according to William J. Murray.

Murray, the son of America's best known atheist, Madelyn Murray O'Hair, is now a Christian and a Dallas minister.

He was in Oklahoma City recently and distributed a pamphlet, "Please Sign Here...The Great 2493 Fraud." In it, he says the American Atheist Center in Austin, Texas, continues to circulate a petition addressed to the Federal Communications Commission.

Murray alleges the fake petitions, which ask the FCC to deny an effort by O'Hair to ban all religious radio and television broadcasts, are printed by the atheists and circulated primarily in Baptist and Assembly of God churches and lately in Catholic churches as well.

Since 1975 more than 22 million of the fake petitions have been sent to the FCC even though the federal agency says O'Hair has never asked it to remove religious broadcasts from the air waves.

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He says the tactic is designed to "make Christians look foolish before the FCC which must approve applications for Christian radio and TV stations" and "issue to get even more free radio and TV time" for atheists.

Murray says, in reality, his mother does not want religious broadcasting off the air. "If it were removed, she could not demand free equal time," he said. The American Atheist Center has radio programs broadcast free throughout the nation, he noted.

"In addition, Mrs. O'Hair follows the religious leaders such as myself around the nation demanding free TV time from stations which broadcast our message of the saving grace of Jesus Christ," Murray noted.

Murray gives this advice: "Never sign any petition which does not have the name and address or the individual or group who sponsors it. None of the petitions titled '2493' has a name or address, just further proof that these are the work of the atheist groups."

Missouri Double-Times Celebration,  
Sidesteps Controversial Resolutions

By Bob Terry

Baptist Press  
10/27/83

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP)--The Missouri Baptist Convention opened with a celebration of the successful conclusion of Bold Mission Taiwan and closed by kicking off a year-long celebration of the Convention's 150th anniversary.

Pastor Paluf F.P. Kung, president of the Chinese Baptist Convention of the Republic of China (Taiwan), highlighted the Bold Mission Taiwan emphasis.

The three-year partnership involving Missouri Baptists, the Chinese Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board resulted in more than 6,000 persons trained in the work of the church, more than 20 new churches and chapels established, more than 3,000 professions of faith, and more than 5,000 inquirers about the Christian faith.

Kung, pastor of Amoy Street Baptist Church in Taipei, led the evangelistic effort of the three-year program. In presenting Kung to an overflow crowd, Bob Terry, coordinator of Bold Mission Taiwan for Missouri Baptists, noted the Chinese leader is a 74th generation descendant of the Chinese philosopher Confucius.

Kung described the September revivals and media evangelistic campaigns as "the greatest time of revival in the history of Christian work in Taiwan."

The premier of "They Came Through Providence" initiated a year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Missouri Baptist Convention. The play is an original historical drama by Ron Boutwell, professor of speech and drama at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar.

The play illustrates the beginnings of Baptist work in Missouri and the events leading up to the formation of the Missouri Baptist Convention at Providence Baptist Church in 1833.

Carl Garrett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carthage, was unopposed for the convention presidency.

During business sessions, messengers adopted a record budget and approved 13 resolutions but managed to sidestep several potentially controversial issues.

A two-tiered Cooperative Program budget was approved by messengers. Total budget receipts are projected at \$13.5 billion with an operating budget of \$12.96 billion. For the third consecutive year 35 percent of all undesignated receipts were allocated for the national Cooperative Program.

Through resolutions the messengers called for a warning labels to be placed on alcohol beverage containers, opposed diplomatic relationships between the United States and the Vatican and declared opposition to a pending state lottery proposal.

The resolutions committee declined to report out resolutions on President Reagan's proposed constitutional amendment on school prayer, opposition to the ordination of women, and seating messengers from Canadian churches by the SBC.

The resolutions committee declined to report out the three proposals.

Citing expensive 1982 debate on the prayer amendment, the committee argued the position of the convention on school prayer was widely known. The 1982 resolution opposes "government scheduled and/or government directed prayer in public schools."

Concerning the ordination of women the committee pointed to a parliamentary ruling in the 1978 Missouri Baptist annual meeting that such a resolution would violate the body's constitution by interfering in the responsibility of local Baptist churches.

A motion to endorse seating of Canadian messengers was bypassed because the committee said messengers had not been given sufficient information about the ramifications of the issue.

An attempt to take the three proposals from the committee and consider them on the convention floor was defeated by almost a three-to-one margin.

The 1984 Missouri Baptist Convention will be held Oct. 22-24 at Tan-Tara Resort on the Lake of the Ozarks.

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Do Not Ignore Marxist Challenge,  
Lochman Warns Baptist Seminarians

Baptist Press  
10/27/83

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Christians cannot afford to "ignore the Marxist challenge" which confronts them around the globe, an East European minister told students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Jan Lochman, professor of systematic theology at the University of Basel, Switzerland, delivered the 1983 Norton Lectures at Southern Seminary and discussed the "Christian-Marxist dialogue" currently taking place in many parts of the world.

Lochman knows his subject first-hand. The ordained minister of the Evangelical Church of the Brethren saw his native Czechoslovakia convert to communism following World War II.

He claimed the only practical Christian response to Marxism today is to confront it head-on and challenge its assumptions through constructive discussions.

"The church has to listen, even to the enemy," Lochman insisted. "We must scrutinize what there is to learn, even from strange voices." Yet, even while listening and scrutinizing, Christians must conduct a "campaign of hope," he said.

Both Christianity and Marxism offer hope and expect the realization of their hopes, Lochman noted. For Christians, hope means salvation. But for Marxists, it means political progress. "Marxists have held that the Christian hope is a 'narcotic' which blocks political progress," he explained. "That position is not based on the Bible."

He added, however, that many Christians have misunderstood the Bible. He noted the "New Jerusalem" mentioned in the Book of Revelation emphasizes a "political dimension" of Christianity which basically has been ignored.

"Christian hope for the future is too often thought of as other-worldly and purely spiritual," Lochman said. "In my opinion, individualistic interpretation of biblical hope is wrong. Far from ignoring the realm of the temporal, the prophets and Jesus Christ came to grips with it."

Referring to the Southern Seminary motto, he pointed out some Christians indeed have claimed, "We're out to change the world."

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"The biblical hope is not something in the air; it has to do with real human conditions," he said. "The New Jerusalem is related to earthly critics...In the Bible, the name of God is closely connected to liberation."

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Missionary Dentist Waits Years,  
Finally Starts Benin Practice

Baptist Press  
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BOHICON, Benin (BP)--After five years of waiting, Tom Starkey is finally doing the work he went to Benin to do. He's practicing dentistry.

Starkey's dental clinic in Bohicon, Benin, opened Sept. 11 with local and regional government officials and Baptists from across the country gathered under tents outside.

After music from three churches and addresses by Starkey and fellow missionary Dutton Bonnell, a local representative of the district government cut the ribbon and Starkey swept open the clinic door with the words, "By the grace of Christ, I open this door for the people of Benin."

Starkey had waited a long time for that day. The Memphis, Tenn., dentist and his wife, Pam, a Mississippian, were appointed Southern Baptist missionaries in October 1978. But by the time they completed French and Fon language study and moved to Bohicon, where Starkey planned to build a clinic, their first term on the mission field was almost over. They spent their time in Bohicon supervising a church in nearby Abomey while missionaries Marilyn and Dutton Bonnell were on furlough.

But Starkey found time to look for a clinic site. At first the search was frustrating, but then he decided to put the Lord in complete control of the search. That done, he put the word out he wanted to buy land. Before long he had a site just the right size on one of Bohicon's major roads. It even had electrical and water hookups.

After a furlough in the States, the Starkeys returned to Benin for a term that "has just seen one answered prayer after another," says fellow missionary Carmela Bartels.

Although construction projects usually move slowly in West Africa, Starkey found a builder who began work quickly. The man is now building the Starkeys a concrete-block home within walking distance of the clinic.

During their first term, Pam Starkey repeatedly asked the Lord to show her where to start women's work. But nothing came of her prayer. When she returned, she continued praying. Soon several young women came to her, asking for a Bible study. Some have become Christians.

Also during their first term, Starkey made a lot of evangelistic contacts, but saw few results. Within three months of arriving back in Benin, he baptized six new Christians. And he preached the service in Fon, "quite a major accomplishment language wise," says Bartels, who adds Starkey's command of the language will be invaluable to his dental work.

Now his clinic is open, Starkey plans to continue evangelism through a film and cassette ministry, and he's equipped the waiting room with a black board for regular Bible studies.

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