

JUL 26 1985

**(BP)**

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(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, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201-3355, Telephone (214) 720-0550  
**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. Hasty, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

July 25, 1985

85-86

HMB Honors Missions  
Directors, PACT Workers

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Two associational directors of missions, a missionary and a local church were honored for contributions to home missions by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during the board's annual conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Don Reed of Norman, Okla., and Herman E. Wooten of Los Angeles were named outstanding missionary leaders for the West for their work as associational directors of missions. Kenneth D'Francis Taylor of Houston, was named western PACT consultant of the year and Wamba Baptist Church in Texarkana, Texas, was named western PACT church of the year.

PACT (Project: Assistance for Churches in Transitional Communities) is a Home Mission Board effort to help churches facing transition evaluate church ministries and programs as well as the changing demographics of their communities in order to be more effective in community outreach and ministry.

Reed, director of missions for Union Baptist Association in Norman, Okla., was named outstanding missionary leader for a rural-urban association.

Reed, director of missions in the association since 1979, has "bridged the gap" to minister to internationals who have moved into the Norman area, noted Quentin Lockwood, HMB director of rural-urban missions. He added Reed has led the Union association in church starting efforts, with a primary emphasis on establishing ethnic churches.

The association now boasts 44 churches and 14 missions and has set a goal of establishing 27 more missions during this decade, said Lockwood. Reed also has led the association to employ a church planter to enable the association to begin more new congregations, said Lockwood.

The Post, Texas, native, Reed has been pastor of churches in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas. He is a former director of missions for Salt Pork association in Oklahoma and was a Baptist Student Union director at Northwestern State College in Oklahoma. He also was a missionary to Peru from 1971 to 1976 with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Reed is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Named outstanding missionary leader in the West for a metropolitan area was Wooten, director of missions for Orange County Baptist Association in the Los Angeles area.

Wooten, a director of missions for the past 20 years, was lauded for his efforts in church starting and handling associational conflicts.

In 1965 Wooten took his first director of missions post and began working with the 28 churches which at the time comprised Sacramento Baptist Association, noted Jere Allen, HMB director of metropolitan missions. In nine years he led the association to begin 23 new missions, 20 of which became self-supporting churches, he said.

In 1974 Wooten became director of missions for the Orange County association, which also had 28 churches at that time, said Allen. The association was weathering a crisis after 10 churches had withdrawn from the association, noted Allen.

--more--

Since 1974 Wooten has led the association to begin 35 new missions. Almost all the churches which withdrew from the association have returned, he added.

Wooten recently was elected director of missions for California's Redwood Empire Baptist Association just north of San Francisco, which bears characteristics similar to the other associations Wooten has worked. Empire association has 28 churches; eight churches recently withdrew from the association, noted Allen.

If approved by the board and the Baptist General Convention of California, Wooten could begin as director of missions for the association in September. If approved for the post, Wooten said reconciling churches in the Redwood association would be one of his goals.

"I've no idea why I've gone to three associations which were fussing and fighting," said Wooten. "I wish Southern Baptists would learn Christians are supposed to love each other and get along."

In addition to working as a director of missions, Wooten has been pastor of churches in Washington, Missouri and Texas. The Oklahoma native is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern seminary.

Taylor, a missionary of the board's metropolitan missions department, was named the 1985 PACT consultant for the West. He is national PACT Blitz coordinator for the board and coordinates 12 PACT Blitzes per year in major cities throughout the United States, noted Robert T. Banks, HMB executive vice-president.

The Blitzes involve six or more churches and consultants. The consultants work with the churches for several days, conducting interviews and reviewing church programs. The consultants then make recommendations concerning programs or mission strategy to the church.

Taylor, noted Banks, consults with about 100 churches each year. Two of the churches with which Taylor has consulted have been recognized by the board as PACT churches of the year.

Taylor, who divides his time between work with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and his national duties, was unable to be present for the award due to eye surgery.

Before becoming national coordinator in 1984, Taylor was director of Christian social ministries for the Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association and the St. Joseph Baptist Association in Missouri. He also worked for eight years as a service representative for Pitney Bowes, Inc., in Kansas City. He is a graduate of Penn Valley Community College, the University of Missouri and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

In honoring the PACT church of the year for the West, Banks explained Wamba Baptist Church was almost ready to fold when it entered into a PACT study last year.

Located in the midst of growing subdivisions, the mostly blue-collar church found itself struggling to reach new residents, Banks explained.

In response to a PACT consultant's suggestions, the church remodeled its sanctuary, built a fellowship hall and expanded a parking lot. The fellowship hall is used to make contact with local residents, who use the facility for reunions, weddings and other community events, explained Banks.

Since the consultation, the church's Sunday school attendance has tripled; worship attendance has increased to 50, he added. "Through a PACT consultation the church has become a living, creative, vital presence in its community," said Banks.

Herbert Ekstrum is pastor of the Wamba Baptist Church.

About 56 percent, or some 3,000 Southern Baptist churches in urban or metropolitan areas are located in demographically changing communities, noted Banks. The Home Mission Board has provided training for 160 PACT consultants who work with churches, evaluating church programs and community changes in order to help churches more effectively reach their communities for Christ, he explained.

Southern Baptists Remember  
Missions Leader Marie Mathis

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Marie Mathis will be remembered for "replacing the three-point sermon with a three-act drama, and for the Christian musical complete with 1,000 actors and costumes, burning buildings, cloud machines, symphony orchestras, revolving stages, and scrim curtains," said Woman's Missionary Union Associate Executive Director Catherine Allen.

Allen and other Southern Baptist leaders gathered in Dalhart, Texas, July 15 to honor the memory of a woman who lived for the cause of missions.

Mathis excelled in her belief in Baptist missions by serving voluntarily as president of WMU, SBC, and by holding various offices in worldwide Baptist organizations.

WMU, SBC, Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford referred to Mathis as the "Mother of Missions" in her development of women for missionary causes.

A message received from Kerstin Ruden, past president of the BWA Woman's Department, commented Mathis was "not the master, but the servant" in her relationship with women around the world.

James Landes, former executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, credited Mathis for being a Martha in her work for the Lord and a Mary in her prayers. "She gave her best and her best quality was inspiring us to do our best to give a good performance for the Lord. She made us proud to be a part of Baptist missions."

Winfred Moore, first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said Baptists found "a worthy woman" in Marie Mathis. Her strength, knowledge and desire to work for the Lord challenged others to spread Christ's Great Commission.

Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the BWA, expressed all staff members of the Alliance "thank God for the unequalled contribution she has made to the cause of Christ around the world."

—30—

Brotherhood Commission President  
Undergoes Coronary Angioplasty

By Jack Childs

Baptist Press  
7/25/85

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Brotherhood Commission President James H. Smith underwent coronary angioplasty treatment to repair a blocked artery July 16 at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. He was released from the hospital July 18 and already has resumed his duties at the Brotherhood Commission.

"I feel good and my doctor tells me the angioplasty procedure was a complete success. After a few days' rest I expect to be back in full swing," Smith said.

He began to suffer discomfort in his upper back late in the spring. "The pain was particularly noticeable when I would mow my grass or take a brisk walk. Like most people, I thought it would go away," he said, "it didn't."

While in North Carolina during Brotherhood week at Ridgecrest, he consulted with Fred Graham, Brotherhood Commission trustee and medical doctor from Asheboro. Graham referred him to cardiologist who suspected a blocked artery and recommended he see a heart specialist when he returned home.

William Russo, a Memphis cardiologist and member of Bellevue Baptist Church, confirmed the earlier diagnosis when he conducted a heart catheterization study July 12.

—30—

BWA Women's Department  
Unites In Worldwide Sisterhood

By Carol S. Garrett

LOS ANGELES (BP)—Sisterhood was the operative word as a woman from Russia stood singing "Because He Lives" next to a blond American. And sisterhood was the word as black and white women from South Africa shared one Bible.

This unique sisterhood was studied biblically and experienced by 255 delegates from 80 countries at the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department Pre-Congress Leadership Conference and by more than 1,500 visitors and delegates at the BWA open sessions.

"God's Command—Our Response" was the theme for the June 28–July 1 conference, and also for the July 3 and 5 open sessions. Bible studies and speakers drew from Micah 6:6–8, calling delegates to "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God."

Edna Gutierrez of Mexico was elected Women's Department president in the final open session. New Zealand's Rena Smith was elected secretary/treasurer. Both will hold office through the 1990 Baptist World Alliance Congress to be held in Seoul, Korea.

Asian Baptist Women's Union President Esther Byu told those attending the final open session women must have the courage to admit "things are not right, something is wrong with our human society," and then begin to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. Only then, she said, will righteousness and peace prevail.

On the last night of the leadership conference, Birgit Karlsson said, "Tonight we are asked to grow a small step toward our spiritual maturity as we get trust enough not to be 'come people,' 'stay people,' and 'keep people,' but become people ready to depart for authorized and urgent mission." Karlsson is general secretary of the Baptist Union of Sweden.

Six continental unions make up the Women's Department. During the leadership conference, a panel of representatives from each union told of the work Baptist women are involved in on their continent, and tried to give delegates a flavor of their land.

Representing the Asian Union, Grace Kukyuwa from primitive Papua–New Guinea told of the difficulties her country's women have participating in the Day of Prayer, a special worldwide Women's Department emphasis.

"We go up to the mountain, down the mountain and across the river to get to the prayer session. However, the Day of Prayer is very special to the women as they think of the sisters around the world. Money offerings are not always possible, but corn and peanuts are given in its place," Kukyuwa said.

Offerings collected on the Day of Prayer, the first Monday of each November, are divided between the Women's Department and the continental unions. The money received by the Women's Department is its yearly operating budget. Much of this money is used to bring delegates to the Women's Department meeting who otherwise would not be able to attend.

Sharing sessions gave the delegates opportunity to discuss individual concerns, problems, joys, answered prayers and prayer needs in small groups. Each woman also found prayer partners from six different continents.

Sharon Ruiz-Duremdes of the Philippines gave a stinging rebuke of "germ ministry," a strategy of helping meet human needs that only makes the problem worse, and the "band-aid" ministry, treating the symptoms of human need but ignoring the cause.

She stressed the importance of "surgical ministry" where the problem is diagnosed, the roots of the problem are identified and then are cut out.

Delegates voted to make several small bylaws changes, among them officially calling the Day of Prayer the worldwide Baptist Women's Day of Prayer.

Twenty Los Angeles area Baptist churches acted as hosts for delegates in Sunday morning worship services.

Delegates were honored with a banquet given by the Committee of Local Arrangements. Here the women wore the spectacular variety of national dress that symbolizes the diversity of the Women's Department.

The essence of the Women's Department meetings was captured by Christine Gregory, BWA first vice-president, when she said, "The 'we' of my Baptist women will speak to the 'you' of your national Baptist women and say 'Let's do something together!'"

—30—

Gutierrez, Smith Lead  
BWA Women's Department

COMMUNIST LEADERS  
101 205-1000  
10. 05 BY CAROL S. GARRETT  
1000 W.

Baptist Press  
7/25/85

LOS ANGELES (BP)—"We are not in church to play. We should be genuine Christians with a deep everyday experience of life in the hands of the Lord," insists Edna Gutierrez, newly elected president of the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department.

Gutierrez was elected by more than 250 delegates at an opening session of the Women's Department, held prior to the 15th Baptist World Congress in early July at First Baptist Church of Los Angeles. New Zealand's Rena Smith was elected secretary/treasurer. Officers hold office for five years.

"This is a great blessing and tremendous opportunity for service. I have a sense of unworthiness, but if the Lord wants me to have this office he will help me," Gutierrez said.

Smith felt the Lord had been preparing her for what was ahead. "I have been getting messages all this week—things I've picked up and all I've heard—of the Lord's sufficiency for those who will serve him," she said.

Gutierrez feels very much at home in the worldwide family atmosphere of BWA, an organization which provides for voluntary cooperation among more than 130 Baptist conventions/unions worldwide.

"I grew up in a home where we had no boundaries of any kind, racial or cultural. BWA is very much like my own home," she said.

This atmosphere provided Gutierrez with a deep understanding of Women's Department service. "When the Lord gave me that home, that background, those roots, he had a purpose."

Both new leaders have specific ideas and plans for the Women's Department.

"We must open the windows for our women, to give them a vision of Baptist women around the world," Smith said. Gutierrez wants to see nominal Christians gain fervor in their service for the Lord. "I'm not so interested in numerical growth, but in spiritual growth," she said.

Gutierriz does, however, want to help Baptist women in countries around the world find more channels of service, saying there is "tremendous potential" for this type of expansion. "We are living in a time of crisis all over the world. One of our main purposes should be to strengthen prayer," she added.

Smith also would like to see "Together," the Women's Department newsletter, used more as a means of communicating among the six continental unions how the Lord is working in specific areas. Gutierrez said it is especially important for Baptist women from around the world to come together and see they all have the same problems, joys, goals and dreams. Coming together as one in Jesus Christ is an important source of strength "when you face a world that doesn't love, that hates," she said.

"The Women's Department work isn't really done until its not just we who are blessed, but also the countries we've come from—until we've gone home and shared inspiration and the many things we've learned," Smith said.

Gutierrez's husband, Rolando Gutierrez, is a pastor. They have three children. She is a former president and treasurer of the Continental Union of Latin America. Smith's husband, Norman Smith, is retired. They have three grown sons and nine grandchildren.

**(BP)**

**BAPTIST PRESS**

901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

LYNN MAY           HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
901 COMMERCE  
NASHVILLE, TN. 37203

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION