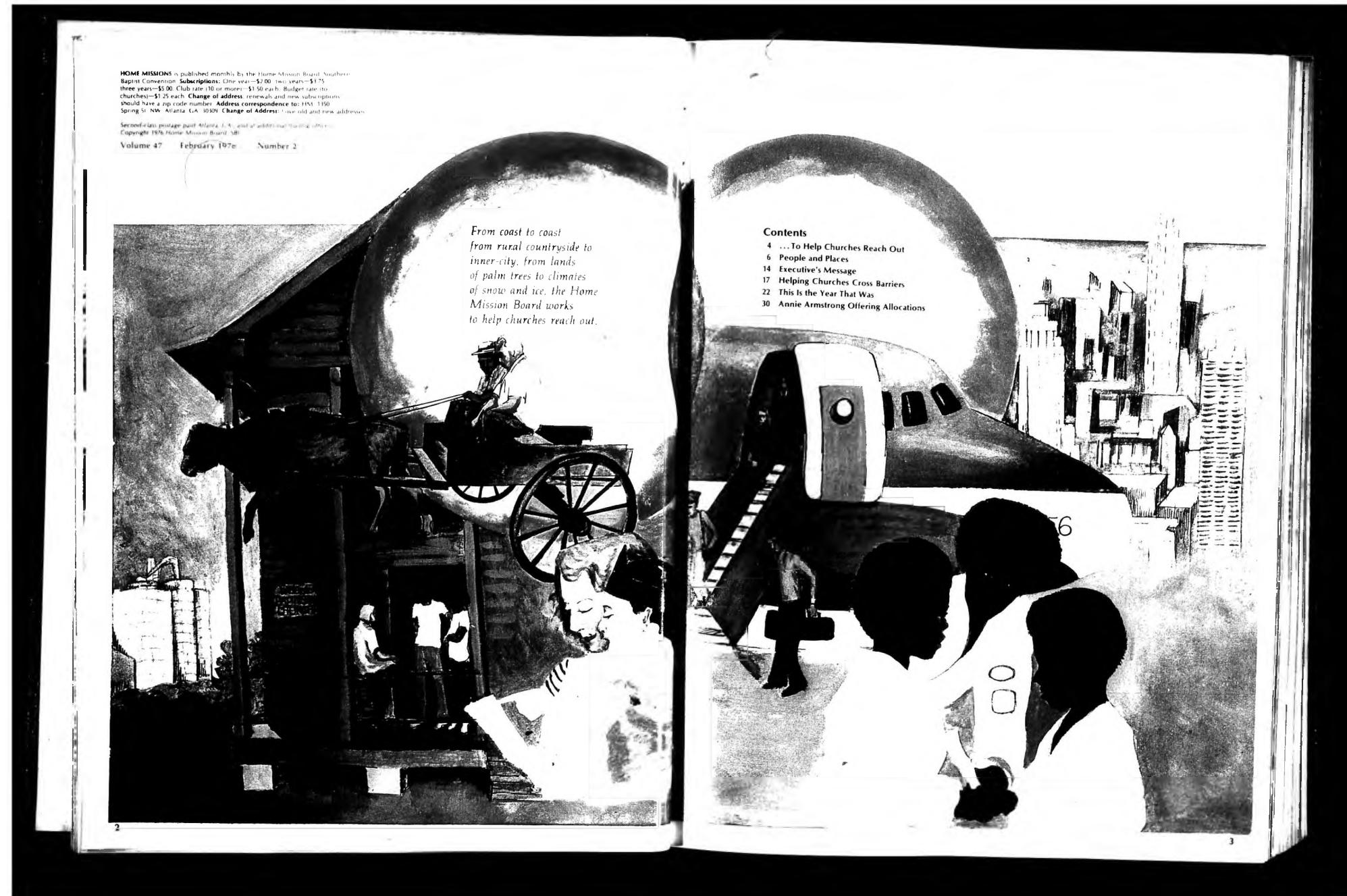




home missions

Annual Report

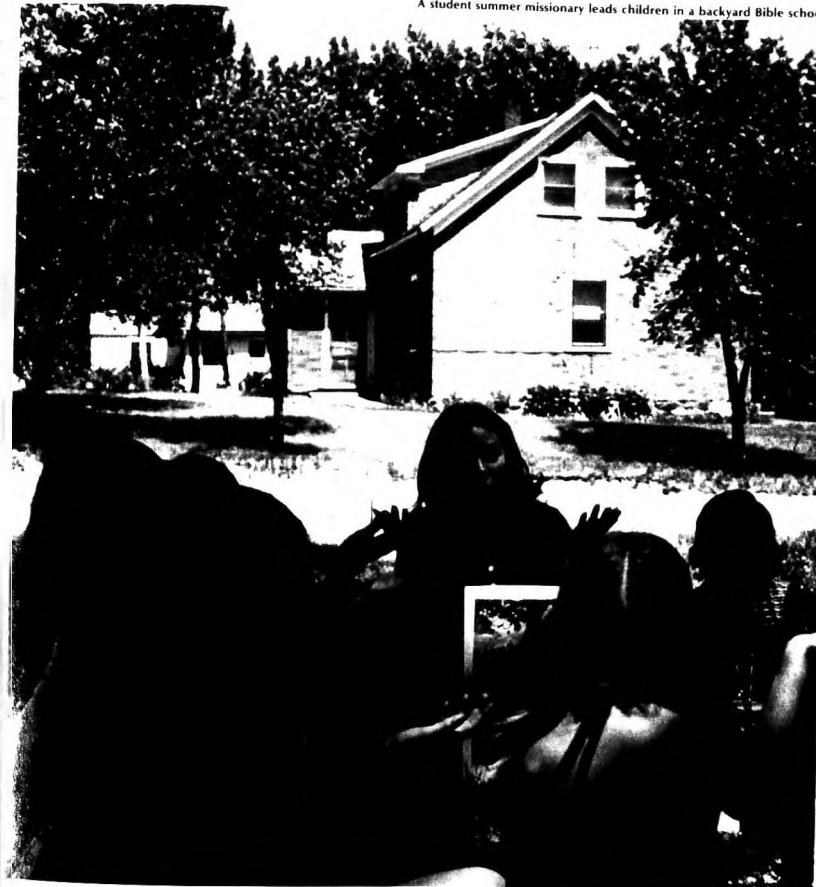
Helping
Churches
Reach
Out



...To Help Churches Reach Out

For almost two decades, a subtle shift has been taking place in Home Mission Board philosophy. It is a shift that envisions a new role for missionaries scattered across the United States; a shift that necessitates a new approach for Home Board planners, strategists and administrators headquartered in Atlanta. For it is a shift that focuses as never before, on the local church as the hands of mission work, on the layperson as the fingers that must grip the needs of individuals from Hawaii to Maine. The shift began in the late 1950s with the HMB's first efforts to build cooperative missions agreements with the state conventions; it continued in the 1960s with the "rise of the laity" and the recognition that the missionary could serve more efficiently as an enabler—one who helps others perform ministries—than as a doer. The missionary who could multiply himself by visiting and training others became critically important in HMB plans to capitalize on the era of volunteerism. What these trends occasioned was a Home Board that could reproduce itself by using its limited numbers to draw in and give expertise to thousands of other Baptists... and an HMB whose workers acted in consort with state conventions to avoid duplication of effort while gaining the most from each individual's service. In the developmental process, the Board drew from a nebulous, euphoric vision of "helping churches reach out" a crystalline definition of what it means to aid churches' efforts to "cross barriers with the gospel." Of course, in all this, the HMB's goal did not change. The same concept that led Board planners to encourage simultaneous revival for more concerted evangelism, for example, never shifted. But emphasis did. The Board's reaction to the concept, too, shifted. Now, most Board thinking revolves around the idea that, as the HMB's Wendell Below says, "ultimately, everything we do is to help the churches reach out." Interpreting this in the miles and moments of missionaries and Board staffers is the promise of this report. On following pages, you will meet some missionaries and HMB staff members whose work is to create strategies through which churches can more effectively minister and witness, as they touch the lives of people of all races, all ages, all backgrounds—people who play, laugh, cry, work, loaf, love; people who stroll in step with the top ten tunes, people who march to a different drummer's beat; people who are the American mosaic... people who are without the abundant life offered by the person, Jesus Christ.

A student summer missionary leads children in a backyard Bible school.



People and Places

Looking at some HMB missionaries who multiply themselves.



Brenda Forlines plays with youngsters in a summer missions program.

BRENDA FORLINES

Christian Social Ministries
Christian Social Ministries (CSM) Director Brenda Forlines helps Delaware Valley Association churches reach out to suburban communities and inner-city Philadelphia. Although some CSM work coordinates with city weekday programs, Brenda stresses the need for local churches to participate and also initiate their own ministries.

She encourages churches to use a four-step formula: begin with a community survey to "find out what's being done, and what the needs are"; evaluate the survey and set priorities to match needs with resources; train volunteers; then establish and maintain the ministry.

Despite a "sluggish year" for beginning new ministries, several association churches are now active in inner-city ministry. Forlines hopes to arouse more interest by educating churches to CSM possibilities through conferences and speaking to WMF.

Two full-time CSM missionaries now work with 12 church volunteers in Philadelphia inner-city. A number of women lead a sewing class or mothers' club. At Frankford Ave. Baptist Church, volunteer mothers watch television's Sesame Street with the children and then help in follow-up activities. "It's been just great," says Forlines.

Forlines is also excited about the "Friendly Visitors" program, in which volunteers spend time with

elderly persons living at the YMCA. WMU women teach written and conversational English to military wives at McGuire Air Force Base. Another WMU instructs Koreans in basic English. Low reading levels among school-age children and adults have opened opportunities for tutoring. Forlines acts as a resource for these volunteers, teaching workshops on the "how to's" of literacy training.

Brenda Forlines is a one-woman band. She sees her CSM directors as mainly supportive. Yet she often emerges from behind-the-scenes to take part in the ministries.

"Most ministry is done by CSM workers," she emphasizes. "My goal is to involve more church volunteers."



HENRY CHILES

Associational missions

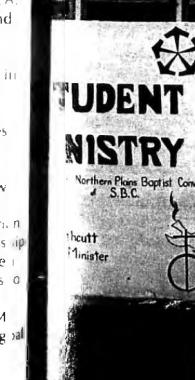
Self-described as a "servant of the churches," associational missionary Henry Chiles is a liaison and resource for South Dakota churches.

Whether recruiting a retired Oklahoma minister for a pastorless Northern Plains church, lining up Christian Service Corps volunteers for local mission projects, or locating an affordable builder for an expanding mission, Chiles works to stabilize churches from the inside out and equip them for reaching out to their communities.

Crisscrossing South Dakota in a travel trailer, Chiles conducts Vacation Bible Schools, revivals and clinics of all kinds. A typical pastors' continuing education retreat highlights a specific interest, such as outreach approaches to Armstrongism, a strong movement in South Dakota.

Directed by an area steering committee, church volunteers help staff three student programs. At South Dakota State University, the state convention and individual churches support a pastor and building which serves as both BSU and beginning mission.

Chiles is encouraged by the pioneer convention's commitment to missions: "If we just receive, then we're hurting. The more these churches give, the more they are going to grow."



One of associational missionary Henry Chiles' responsibilities is to relate to the Northern Plains Convention's student ministries; Chiles (left) talks to pastor Woody Northcut, who directs the BSU at Brookings, S.D.

...to help local churches determine directions."

CHUCK CLAYTON
Special Mission Ministries

In country known for natural beauty and open spaces, Chuck Clayton helps churches see the mission fields in the magnetic resorts around them.

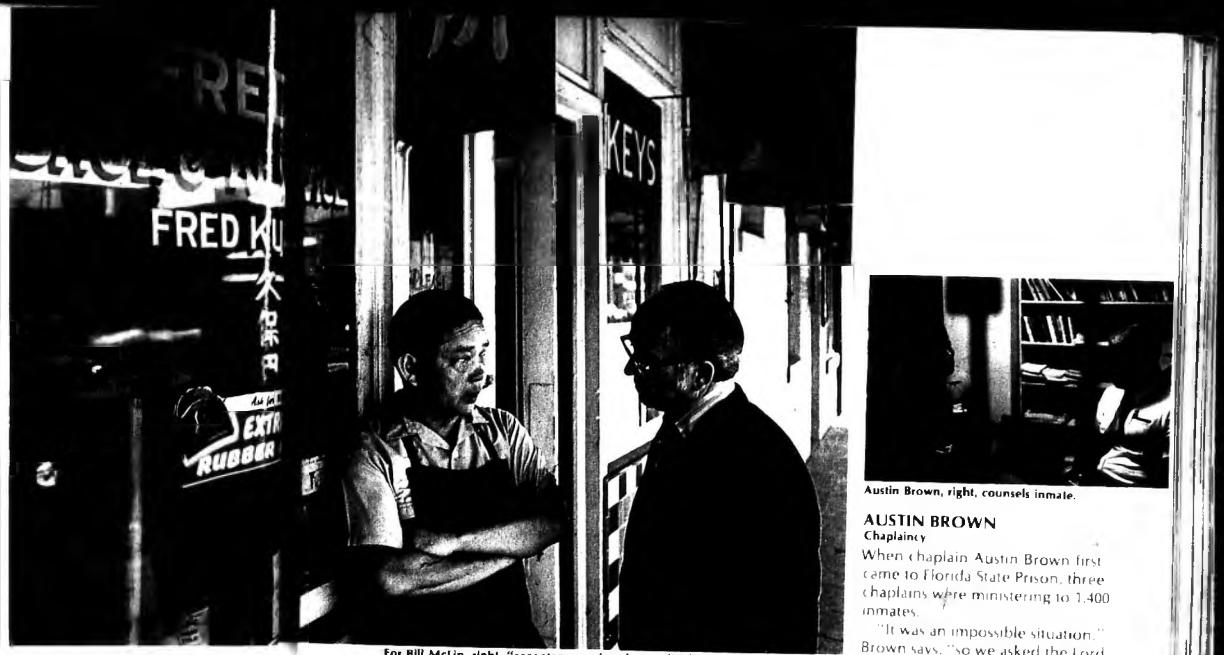
Clayton directs special mission ministries in the West. Located in Colorado, he uses statewide surveys of resort opportunities to aid churches in developing outreach strategies: these may be as simple as providing resources, such as camping equipment and staple food to summer missionaries, or as difficult as conducting a regular ministry to campers.

"The local church needs to determine its direction," Clayton says.

Another special mission ministries emphasis is Campers on Mission—

Chuck Clayton gets ready for a Christian High Adventure.





For Bill McLin, right, "acceptance and understanding" come first in witnessing.

BILL McLIN
Interfaith Witness

Interfaith witness director for 14 states, Bill McLin helps churches break through denominational molds and relate to all faiths.

The awareness conference, a smorgasbord of religions designed to acquaint churches with the main points of each faith, is one of McLin's ways of exposing church members to others' beliefs.

One recent conference at First Church, Norfolk, Calif., made a definite impact on the church's attitude toward interfaith witnessing: In morning and evening sessions, members absorbed the basics of Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Unity and others. In afternoon sessions, staff leaders took participants out for witnessing. McLin says the conference is still producing fruit, and "the bold witness of member

camping church members who share their faith at resort sites.

"Along with providing Christian fellowship and testimony, the Campers on Mission program is becoming a vehicle for witnessing training," Clayton says. Sessions have been held in California and at the Grand Canyon.

In Christian High Adventure, leadership expeditions designed for adult church recreation and youth leaders offer wilderness camping training. By equipping leaders, Clayton feels churches may be able to reach out to youth who have not responded to traditional approaches.

"When a local church helps a young person find God's purpose for his life, that young person can become a valuable, mission-minded member of the fellowship," Clayton concludes.

AUSTIN BROWN
Chaplaincy

When chaplain Austin Brown first came to Florida State Prison, three chaplains were ministering to 1,400 inmates.

"It was an impossible situation," Brown says. "So we asked the Lord to give us the people we needed." When evangelist Bill Glass brought in volunteers to help with a prison crusade, Brown asked them to come back. They did, along with other church laymen.

Two of them, Mickey Parrish and Jim Williams, Brotherhood members of Parkwood Baptist Church in Jacksonville, brought the prison's needs to Baptists' attention.

Now 20-25 men from churches in Florida work bi-weekly Saturday schedules at the prison.

Brown doesn't have a formula for ministry. "I just tell them the prison's rules. After that they each go about it in their own way."

Brown presents the need for prison ministry to Southern Baptist pastors' conferences and other meetings. Several SBC Brotherhoods now plan programs for their own city prisons.

"I talk straight to them," Brown admits. "This is a put-up or shut-up thing."

McLin has prerequisites to obtain results from interfaith witnessing. One is, "the people must learn their own doctrines before they can share with others."

For intensive instruction in one religion, churches hold training conferences.

"In each training conference, our goal is to produce 35 to 40 approved workers who will go on and train others," McLin explains.

Often these volunteers multiply: last year I baptized eight Mormons, eight Catholics, all witnessed to by laypersons," McLin says. McLin himself witnessed to an Asian family for seven years before converted to Christianity.

It's not an overnight process for persons of another faith to become Christians," he emphasizes. "But we're not responsible for results, for being faithful."

McLin also stresses the need for open communication among persons of different faiths. A recent HMB-sponsored Baptist-Catholic Dialogue in San Francisco, for example, emphasized similarities between the two faiths and opened doors.

Acceptance and understanding must be part of any interfaith witness approach," McLin asserts. "Building personal acquaintances, sharing without fear of hostility, an open atmosphere for interchange—all are essential."

McLin helps churches absorb the concept of "way-of-life" witnessing—he himself witnesses anywhere opportunity arises, whether in Los Angeles' "Little Tokyo" or at a county fair.

"I encourage persons to witness regardless of the religious persuasion of the other person. We have to mean business, be informed and be concerned, if we're going to be taken seriously."

... to develop congregations.

HOMER ALBRIGHT

Church Extension

On the edge of Southern Baptist pioneer missions in West Virginia, Homer Albright tackles church extension with grit and undaunted excitement. "It's the most thrilling work of my life," he says.

The enthusiasm bolsters his Moorefield pastorate and every fellowship inside his eight-county territory.

Though he often works alone in taking the spiritual temperature of unchurched communities and carving out missions singlehandedly, Albright depends heavily on churches and missions, some barely on their feet, to launch new fellowships.

He feels this should be the rule rather than the exception for Southern Baptist churches.

One mission sprang up when Albright helped three pastors hold a Vacation Bible School and tent revival in Franklin, West Virginia.

Albright reports mission needs to the churches in a monthly newssheet, "The Vision." He enlists financial aid from older churches who need to be involved, but doesn't beg. "I let the Lord move them if they need to contribute," he says. "Without fail, the churches that do help, benefit more from it than the missions do."

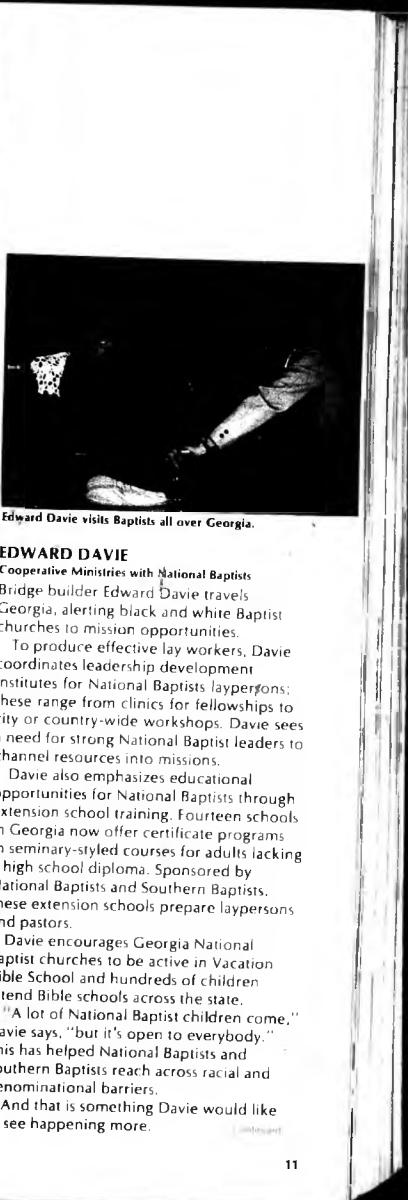
In recent summers, Albright has used church youth groups from North Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi in mission starting. He prepares them for discouragement ahead of time. "Then when no one comes to a Bible study, they will just stick with it and go out after them," he explains.

Albright helps local churches, such as Berkeley Springs Baptist Church, reach out year-round. Though meeting in a store building, the small congregation already sponsors two missions.

"At times I get discouraged in this work, too," Albright admits, "but if I just hang in there, I always see things happen."

Homer Albright, left, listens to a member of a mission.

10



Edward Davie visits Baptists all over Georgia.

EDWARD DAVIE

Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists
Bridge builder Edward Davie travels Georgia, alerting black and white Baptist churches to mission opportunities.

To produce effective lay workers, Davie coordinates leadership development institutes for National Baptists laypersons; these range from clinics for fellowships to city or county-wide workshops. Davie sees a need for strong National Baptist leaders to channel resources into missions.

Davie also emphasizes educational opportunities for National Baptists through extension school training. Fourteen schools in Georgia now offer certificate programs in seminary-styled courses for adults lacking a high school diploma. Sponsored by National Baptists and Southern Baptists, these extension schools prepare laypersons and pastors.

Davie encourages Georgia National Baptist churches to be active in Vacation Bible School and hundreds of children attend Bible schools across the state.

"A lot of National Baptist children come," Davie says, "but it's open to everybody." This has helped National Baptists and Southern Baptists reach across racial and denominational barriers.

And that is something Davie would like to see happening more.

| continued

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“...to work on strategies that enable churches to minister.”



Hearing pastors' evangelism needs is important to Howard Ramsey, left.

HOWARD RAMSEY

Evangelist

Director of evangelism Howard Ramsey leads 293 Northwest churches and missions toward "responsible evangelism."

Ramsey meets regularly with churches and associations to plan evangelism emphases for several years ahead. Associational clinics cover strategies, such as how to plan local revivals. Ramsey also gathers Northwest pastors at weekend retreats to share evangelism ideas. His work peaks with the annual convention evangelism conference, which draws more than 1,200 pastors and laypersons.

But Ramsey's greatest thrust is

through lay evangelism schools. "We're using the 'journey into lifestyle evangelism' approach," Ramsey explains, "which emphasizes renewal, discipleship, and training in personal evangelism."

A typical lay evangelism school spans five days. Mornings, Ramsey has conferences with pastors, evenings he conducts training in evangelism techniques.

Ramsey hopes such training will make reaching out a daily reality.

Make Reaching Out a daily resource for Northwest churches.



MIKE MOJICA

Language Mis.

Bilingual language missionary Mike Mojica helps churches reach out across the Rio Grande River that slices between the twin cities of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico and Laredo, Tex. Appointed to Laredo in 1971, Mojica works with seven churches and twelve missions.

Mojica helps churches minister to basic needs by delivering food and clothing gathered by the churches. Persons crippled by illiteracy learn to read from church volunteers, who spend hours themselves, learning how to teach.

In two churches and one mission, neighborhood teenagers enjoy fellowship and recreation—for some, the only opportunity to get together with friends. Weekday ministries at Emmanuel mission offer sewing classes manned by First Baptist volunteers.

First Baptist Church also furnishes a van to carry a Mexican church's members to services.

In the summer, Mojica works with church groups who come to Laredo to hold Bible schools.

Church volunteers often help Mojica to staff mobile dental or medical clinics, which offer aid to an average of 200 persons a week in various areas of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo.

Churches also sponsor an evangelistic film ministry, showing films in the missions or "on a vacant lot—wherever we can," says Matisse.

Mike Mojica, right, brings a truckload of children to summer mission programs. As "missionary to the two Laredos," Mojica leads churches to conduct many ministries: medicine for poor families, transportation for others—and Bible

Executive Director's Message

by Arthur B. Rutledge

"To assist churches, associations and state conventions"—this is a recurring phrase in the Home Mission Board's program statement.

To refresh your mind, in the early 1960s the Southern Baptist Convention approved what is called a "program statement" for each of its agencies. This statement set forth the several responsibilities of each of the agencies, defining the broad purpose of each organization and the purpose of each basic assignment ("program").

The Home Mission Board's program statement was approved by the Convention in 1966.

The total of 12 programs approved at that time has now been raised to 14. They are the programs of evangelism development; mass evangelism; personal evangelism; chaplaincy; church loans; church extension; associational administration service; metropolitan missions; rural-urban missions; language missions; cooperative ministries with National Baptists; Christian social ministries; interfaith witness and pioneer missions.

Reference to assisting churches, associations and state conventions occurs in each of these statements.

Almost a decade before Convention approval of its program statement, the Board had begun an effort to bring all of its work (or as much of it as possible) into a cooperative relationship with the various state conventions. A trial year in language missions with the Texas convention in 1958 was so satisfactory that,

in the next year the Board began a pattern of work with all the state conventions.

At this time the Board has a formal agreement with each of the 33 cooperating state conventions. These set forth the types of work in which the state body and the Home Board will cooperate.

In the newer conventions all aspects of missions and evangelism are included. In the older and established states, as a rule, selected types of work are included, usually limited to language missions, cooperative ministries with National Baptists and Christian social ministries.

The view that each state convention is responsible for missions and evangelism ministries within the territory served by the respective state convention is basic to this approach. The role of the HMB is that of a helper to the respective state conventions. The Board becomes also a channel through which Southern Baptists supply money and personnel to assist the state conventions.

Some of the young and still relatively weak state conventions are faced with overwhelming needs and opportunities. Other state conventions are mature and well established, but desire HMB involvement in certain new, unique and/or difficult types of service.

It has long been the view of HMB administrative leaders that the Board should not do missions or evangelism work that the churches, associations or state conventions could and would do effectively without HMB participation. The program statement's emphasis upon assisting these bodies has led to two important new developments:

First, the Board increased its Atlanta-based staff by providing specialists who would serve Southern

Baptists throughout the nation. They would be available to help identify urgent needs, discover methods of meeting these needs, and initiate actions to meet these challenges.

Second, an increasing number of home missionaries also have been given catalytic-type assignments.

Some of these have regional or multi-state responsibilities, such as certain workers with the deaf, with migrants, in ethnic evangelism, in cooperative ministries with National Baptists, in interfaith witness, as "church starters" in the church extension program, and as church loan consultants.

Others serve on the associational level, such as Christian social ministries workers or directors of associational missions. The work of all these is primarily that of helping others become aware of needs and opportunities, and helping to meet such needs through volunteer workers, who may serve only an hour or a day per week.

There will continue to be hundreds of fields calling daily for the direct service of the missionary. But the trend is toward locating missionaries in assignments that enable them to reach many fields by working

through others, rather than limiting themselves to what one person or one couple is able to do.

This strategy gives added importance to the use of lay volunteers in home missions. With trained, full-time workers providing leadership, both local volunteers and helpers from a distance (such as Christian Service Corps volunteers) support an exciting enlargement of outreach. This "people resource" is a vast reservoir we have only begun to tap.

But the God-called, employed missionary will continue to be a vital part of home missions outreach. The present missionary force, over 2,100, is expected to rise to 2,500 by 1980, 3,500 by 2000 A.D.

A climbing cost of living index will call for large amounts each year just to keep current missionaries' salaries abreast; this is the Board's first priority related to missionary personnel. We anticipate rising financial support for enlarging the missionary force while involving even more volunteers.

A growing population, teeming cities and millions of persons desperately needing to know Jesus Christ, set before today's Christians a challenge of the first magnitude. May we be responsive to the Holy Spirit of God as he seeks to equip us for the tasks ahead. ●

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Helping Churches Cross Barriers

HMB staffers want "individual Baptists to become involved in home missions."

M. WENDELL BELEW

Director
Division of Mission Ministries

The Missions Ministries Division appoints the largest portion of the 2,000-plus missionaries serving the HMB; five of the 14 SBC-assigned programs of the HMB are implemented by this division, which, with the divisions of Church Loans, Chaplaincy and Associational Missions, composes the large Missions Section.

"Everything we do is directed toward helping churches reach out. For example, Christian Social Ministries' purpose is to help churches find valid, loving forms of extension. Interfaith Witness and Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists show Southern Baptists how



they can minister to often-forgotten segments of their communities. Two of our departments, Church Extension and Language Missions, are primarily concerned with the establishment of new congregations. Last year alone the division was responsible for beginning 500 new churches and 20,000 other expressions of organized outreach. Basically we try to be catalytic; that is, we see our ministry as equipping laity, and through them churches, to meet needs."

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J. C. BRADLEY

Director
Department of Associational Administration Service

In 1975, the department held an orientation for new directors of associational missions and conducted Associational Leadership Clinics for directors of missions wanting to upgrade their skills. At summer HMB conferences, special training was given directors of missions and chairpersons of Associational Missions Committees



"We help churches by helping associations. We assist associations in the process of planning, implementing and evaluating their mission programs. We do this through training and providing educational resources. In other words, we help churches, through associations, determine needs and create strategies for meeting those needs."

EMMANUEL McCALL

Director
Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists

The ethnic emphasis of the 1975 graded missions books resulted in demands for more

study materials and teaching engagements from the department's staff. The staff also held a series of "listening" sessions in several state conventions to build, state by state, philosophies of cooperative ministries.

"We try to help National Baptist churches whenever they ask. For example, National Baptist churches often need help in developing a missions program. We share Southern Baptists' know-how in that field. But our value to both National and Southern Baptist churches is helping them forge real, working cooperative ministries. The main



barrier we face is lack of communication—ignorance of what the other one is doing to reach people for Christ. We try to get them together to talk about their ministries and what they might be able to do better cooperatively."

J. N. EVANS JR.

Eastern Regional Coordinator
Planning Section

The Planning Section coordinates HMB mission strategy with plans of state

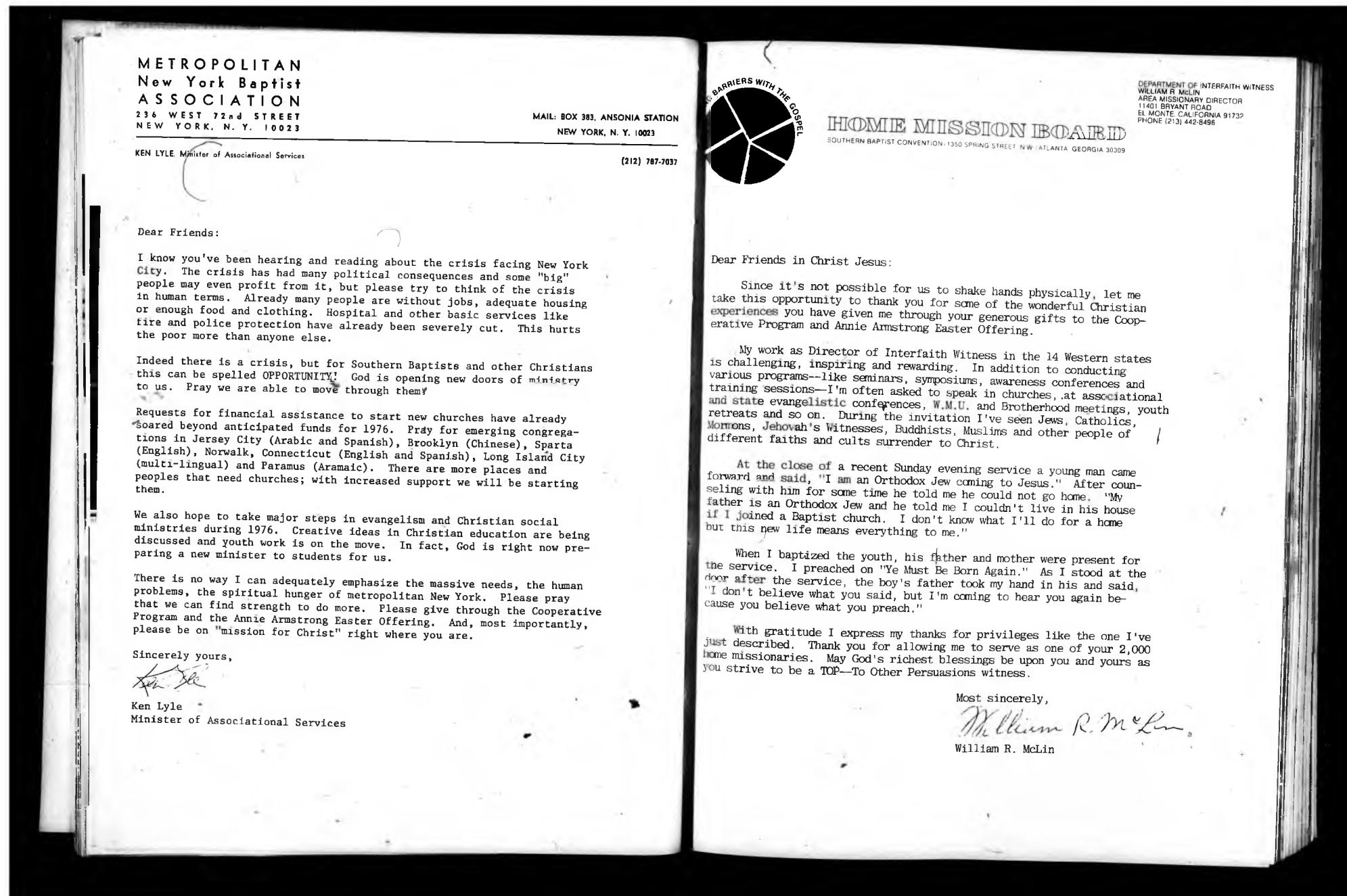
ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING LETTERS

Pastor:

Here are three letters written to your congregations from home missionaries on the field. They tell about home missions in troubled New York City, witnessing to people of different faiths on the West Coast and mission work in a Texas ghetto. The writers are real home missionaries; the words are their own.

Please try to read the letters to your church during February services. Since your church will be preparing for the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, your members will appreciate hearing these personal reports from the people their efforts and money are supporting.

There are other ways you can use the letters, too. You can print them in your church bulletin, insert printed copies in your mailouts or pin the originals to your church bulletin board. You may want to use them as supplemental study material to the Home Missions Graded Series Books. Another idea is to share them with the Baptists Men and Women of your church. They always welcome fresh mission information from the field. With a little imagination you should be able to find other uses for the letters.



METROPOLITAN
New York Baptist
ASSOCIATION
236 WEST 72nd STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10023

KEN LYLE Minister of Associational Services

MAIL: BOX 383, ANSONIA STATION
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10023

(212) 787-7037

Dear Friends:

I know you've been hearing and reading about the crisis facing New York City. The crisis has had many political consequences and some "big" people may even profit from it, but please try to think of the crisis in human terms. Already many people are without jobs, adequate housing or enough food and clothing. Hospital and other basic services like fire and police protection have already been severely cut. This hurts the poor more than anyone else.

Indeed there is a crisis, but for Southern Baptists and other Christians this can be spelled OPPORTUNITY! God is opening new doors of ministry to us. Pray we are able to move through them!

Requests for financial assistance to start new churches have already soared beyond anticipated funds for 1976. Pray for emerging congregations in Jersey City (Arabic and Spanish), Brooklyn (Chinese), Sparta (English), Norwalk, Connecticut (English and Spanish), Long Island City (multi-lingual) and Paramus (Aramaic). There are more places and peoples that need churches; with increased support we will be starting them.

We also hope to take major steps in evangelism and Christian social ministries during 1976. Creative ideas in Christian education are being discussed and youth work is on the move. In fact, God is right now preparing a new minister to students for us.

There is no way I can adequately emphasize the massive needs, the human problems, the spiritual hunger of metropolitan New York. Please pray that we can find strength to do more. Please give through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. And, most importantly, please be on "mission for Christ" right where you are.

Sincerely yours,

Ken Lyle
Minister of Associational Services



HOME MISSION BOARD

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION 1350 SPRING STREET NW ATLANTA GEORGIA 30309

DEPARTMENT OF INTERFAITH WITNESS
WILLIAM R. McLIN
AREA MISSIONARY DIRECTOR
11400 BURBANK ROAD
EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA 91732
PHONE (213) 442-8496

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus:

Since it's not possible for us to shake hands physically, let me take this opportunity to thank you for some of the wonderful Christian experiences you have given me through your generous gifts to the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

My work as Director of Interfaith Witness in the 14 Western states is challenging, inspiring and rewarding. In addition to conducting various programs--like seminars, symposiums, awareness conferences and training sessions--I'm often asked to speak in churches, at associational and state evangelistic conferences, W.M.U. and Brotherhood meetings, youth retreats and so on. During the invitation I've seen Jews, Catholics, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Buddhists, Muslims and other people of different faiths and cults surrender to Christ.

At the close of a recent Sunday evening service a young man came forward and said, "I am an Orthodox Jew coming to Jesus." After counseling with him for some time he told me he could not go home. "My father is an Orthodox Jew and he told me I couldn't live in his house if I joined a Baptist church. I don't know what I'll do for a home but this new life means everything to me."

When I baptized the youth, his father and mother were present for the service. I preached on "Ye Must Be Born Again." As I stood at the door after the service, the boy's father took my hand in his and said, "I don't believe what you said, but I'm coming to hear you again because you believe what you preach."

With gratitude I express my thanks for privileges like the one I've just described. Thank you for allowing me to serve as one of your 2,000 home missionaries. May God's richest blessings be upon you and yours as you strive to be a TOP--To Other Persuasions witness.

Most sincerely,

William R. McLin

BAPTIST MISSION CENTER

1638 Shreveport Avenue

Thomas M. Woo, Director
982-9270 Home 982-1114

Port Arthur, Texas 77640

"I am made all things to all men,
that I might by all means save some."

Dear Mission Friends:

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to tell you how Annie Armstrong Easter Offering dollars are used for mission work in Port Arthur, Texas.

Our work is located in a predominately Latin American and black section of the inner city. We provide handwork classes, socials, classes for personal improvements and other activities all for the purposes of bettering life and a chance to teach the Word of God. Even in citizenship and literacy classes we have gospel singing and personal soul-winning. We also conduct regular services at the local jail. During the last eight months 126 prisoners have asked Jesus to come into their lives.

Our mission center is located in a high crime area and few months are we fortunate enough to have less than two break-ins. During the hottest part of our Vacation Bible School four fans and one air conditioner were stolen and one class of unruly boys began disturbing the whole school. It looked like our Vacation Bible School would end in disaster. But the Lord was still Lord! We were given more fans and the classes quieted down. Before the school ended all 17 boys of the troublemaking class surrendered to Christ!

The mission center houses many of our ministries but not everyone can or will come to our building. So we take the gospel to them. We try to assist needy families with clothing, food and occasionally financial problems; we just try to let them know our God is no respecter of persons.

I think my biggest thrill as a missionary is watching new Christians begin to teach others about the Lord. We have new Christians working and teaching in all our ministries. One has already led ten people to Christ.

The inner city of Port Arthur is far too large for us to properly cover now. Please pray for more volunteers to serve with us and present a greater witness to these people. And thank you for caring.

In His Name,

Thomas M. Woo

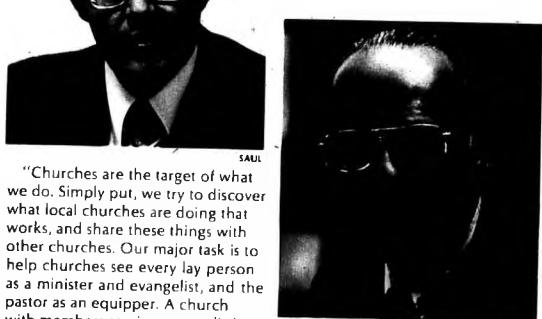
Thomas M. Woo, Director

conventions, associations and churches. "Cooperative agreements" are the tools used to fuse HMB and state convention goals and methods into comprehensive mission outlines. The agreements specify the mission needs of the states, how they can best be met and exactly how the costs will be shared by the Board and the conventions.

"Our relationships are entirely with state conventions, not churches;



engagements by missionaries and staff. HOME MISSIONS magazine helps many churches reach out; by reporting national trends and events and telling Baptists' reactions to them, the magazine has helped churches identify needs and come to grips with them."



"Churches are the target of what we do. Simply put, we try to discover what local churches are doing that works, and share these things with other churches. Our major task is to help churches see every lay person as a minister and evangelist, and the pastor as an equiper. A church with members serving evangelistic roles will be a church that can reach out."

JAMES NELSON
Director
Department of Rural-Urban Missions
Division of Communication

In 1975, the division produced the first of a series of photo books called THE HUMAN TOUCH, which overviews Board work through the activities of seven home missionaries. MISSIONSCOPE, a cassette news service, became a joint effort with the Foreign Mission Board. And "Explain Me A Missionary," a film about home missions work was seen on television in several states.

"Our department provides churches with information that reflects change and brings about awareness in the areas of associations and associational missions. This means research and special studies, equipping and awareness conferences through which the various programs of the Southern Baptist Convention can

OBERT SAUL
Director
Department of Personal Evangelism

In 1975, 2,900 churches held their first Lay Evangelism Schools; now one-half of all SBC churches have had at least one school. Lay new Weekend Jumped to 640, a 110 percent increase, and almost 1,900 churches newly participated in Youth Evangelism Strategy (YES).

"Everything we do is designed to make churches more effective in missions."



HETTIE P. JOHNSON
Director
Division of Business Services

In 1975, Hettie Johnson became the first woman division director in Home Mission Board history. She has served as Director of Payroll and Employee Benefits Services for almost five years. The division also increased its data processing capabilities by adding a new computer to its system.



WARREN WOOLF
Director
Division of Personnel

Recruiting missionaries was given higher priority in 1975. Ed Seabough, a division staffer, became a departmental director in charge of recruitment for missionary service. During the year the division also increased its in-service development programs.



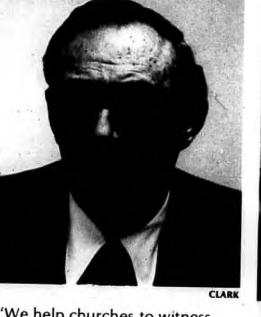
LOYD CORDER
Director
Division of Associational Missions

"Our purpose is to make sure money churches give for outreach through the Home Mission Board is handled as responsibly and in the most business-like manner possible. Our duty is management of existing assets; this includes wise and prudent cash flow practices and the careful investment of funds not required for day-to-day operation of the Board."



PAUL ADKINS
Director
Department of Christian Social Ministries

In 1975, the department held the first SBC National Conference on disaster relief. A literacy workshop for state convention literacy volunteers was held, and a guide booklet for enlistment, training and supervision of volunteers in Christian social ministries was published.



WILLIAM L. CLARK
Director
Division of Chaplaincy

While continuing to encourage active-duty military chaplains to enter the mainstream of Southern Baptist life, the division emphasized the volunteer chaplaincy. More than 40,000 guideline booklets were distributed to volunteer chaplains for working in city and county jails, hospitals and industry.



JOHN F. HAVLIK
Director
Division of Evangelism Development

The department initiated a plan to assist in conventions in developing balanced programs of evangelism. Using priority targeting, the staff hopes to help state directors create evangelism programs

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1975 HMB Almanac

A month-by-month summary of 1975 home missions news happenings.

January

HMB appoints thirteen; National Baptist worker added to HMB staff

In continuing efforts to increase Southern and National Baptist cooperation, the Home Mission Board assigned a worker, upon National Baptist's request, to help Progressive Baptists develop stewardship and mission concepts. Wesley Wiley became Northeast area director of the program of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists; he was assigned primarily to assist Joseph Bass, the new executive director of Progressive National Baptist's Home Missions Board.

In their first meeting of 1975, the HMB directors appointed 13 missionaries and missionary associates. HMB representatives promised support of a 15-year project of Baptists in seven North Central states; the goal is to double existing Baptist work by 1990.

Clinics at Southern and New Orleans seminaries completed the first phase of a five-year program of continued education to sharpen the skills of directors of associational missions. These were the first of 14 sponsored by the HMB's Department of Associational Administration Services.

February

First all-deaf church joins SBC; loans to churches double, total \$81,000,000

When First Baptist Church of the Deaf in Portland, Ore., affiliated with the SBC,

it became the only separate and autonomous deaf Southern Baptist church. Other congregations, however, have programs for the deaf. US-2 missionaries Stan and Lynn Stepleton interpreted services for interim pastor, Harold Hitt, general secretary of language missions for Northeast Baptists, who served until the congregation called Thomas Jefferson Adams as pastor. Adams' previous pastorate at First Baptist of George, Washington, of course,

Oscar Romo, director of the HMB's Language Missions Department, reported that language missions is passing through one of its most critical periods. Romo said ethnic churches, which were started by HMB missionaries and/or loans, but have since become self-supporting, now need additional buildings and more financial aid for additional growth.

Romo also said he wanted more ethnics on SBC boards and agencies.

Romo made his comments at the 18th annual Language Missions Leadership Conference. Missions strategist Peter Wagner of Fuller Seminary told the group, "Southern Baptists are five to ten years ahead of any other denomination in your thinking about indigenous missions and ethnicity of the church."

A report prepared by Robert Kugore, director of the HMB's Division of Church Loans, showed the church loans portfolio—summary of all loans, securities, bonds and other articles in possession of the Board—had almost doubled in the 10 years from 1965-74. In 20 years, the HMB has made 4,692 loans totaling \$81,335,225 for new church buildings, church sites and renovation projects, mostly in pioneer areas (a term generally including any state convention that entered the SBC after 1940). California has received almost one-third of the loans made in pioneer states with 1,040. Kugore noted that more loans have been granted in

the state than there are churches in the Southern Baptist General Convention in California. Many churches," Kugore explained, "have received more than one loan."

In Arrowhead association, for example, the HMB has church loans that in their original amounts total more than \$1.5 million.

In that same association, reports its director of missions, Earl Crawford, more than \$30,000 from the HMB and state convention goes to Church Pastoral Aid (CPA).

Whatever may be involved in us reaching this mission field for our Lord," says Crawford, "we surely agree that the Home Mission Board has had a great deal to do with it."

Bobby Sena was named consultant in evangelism with ethnics and 33 missionaries and missionary associates were appointed. Sena, a Mexican-American, will develop procedures for assisting ethnic congregations in implementing evangelism.

Total giving to the 1974 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions reached an all-time record of \$8,130,141. This was almost \$1 million more than the \$7.2 million goal.

March

Evangelism program gains new HMB status; 400,000 baptisms again reported in SBC

This year's Home Missions graded school study subject was ethnics, with whom

The arriving Vietnamese refugees found Southern Baptists eager and ready to help in resettlement; the SBC sponsored more than 700 families.



South Vietnamese refugees find Baptists ready to help...

April

Church loans moratorium lifted as economy improves; Vietnam refugees expected

The HMB's church loans committee partially lifted a six-month moratorium on the processing of new church loans applications "since the economy has stabilized somewhat," said director Bob Kilgore. The new loans policy limited amounts to \$125,000, instead of the previous \$175,000, and promised to first process loans to churches in the newer state conventions. In other economic developments, Executive Director Arthur B. Rutledge reported record income in initial receipts to the Annie Armstrong Offering and the Cooperative Program. The directors approved three new staffers and appointed 24 missionaries and missionary associates and 21 US-2 missionaries (college graduates who serve in missions two years).

The staff members were James Nelson, director of the Department of Rural-Urban Missions; Roy Edgemon, director of evangelism development; and E. Carlisle Driggers, associate in the Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists.

All three staffers in Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists were completing requirements for their doctorates, writing dissertations relating to their jobs at the HMB. Driggers was writing on the role of the church staff in a transitional community; Emmanuel McCall, department director, was writing about an attempt to sensitize Southern Baptist denominational leadership to racial reconciliation; and Ed Wheeler, associate, was writing in historical theology, the development of black church thought.

With 410,482 in 1974, Southern Baptists passed the 400,000 mark in baptisms for the fourth consecutive year. But Evangelism Section Director C. B. Hogue pointed out that if the churches had equalled the past 20 years' best record of baptisms per 100 members, the total would have surpassed 650,000.

May

HMB gears up for work with influx of Vietnam refugees, urges "committed sponsorships"

With South Vietnam defeated and refugees flooding the U.S., HMB directors approved efforts of missionaries to aid in resettlement of refugees. Board President Russell Dilday encouraged HMB staff to continue efforts to assist the refugees. HMB efforts at each of three refugee camps were coordinated with FMB missionaries temporarily assigned to camp duties, assisting efforts by state Baptist conventions.

Oscar Romo of HMB's Department of Language Missions, warned potential sponsors that their commitment included "more than just providing food, housing and money. It also means witnessing to these people and expressing continued concern."

The HMB's Office of Immigration and Refugee Service outlined steps for churches to take in pursuing sponsorship of a Vietnamese family.

HMB directors named James Lewis, o the language missions staff and appointed eleven missionaries and missionary associates.

June

SBC adds new evangelism programs to HMB's 12; Kinnar Baptist churches grow rapidly

The upheavals and repercussions of the war in South Vietnam affected Baptists as seriously as any group in America. In April the last of the SBC missionaries left Vietnam, and individuals and organizations began preparing for possible entry of refugees into the U.S. SBC agencies, especially the Home and Foreign Boards, planned courses of action when the expected flood of refugees arrived.

Missionscope, the HMB's cassette tape program, changed from monthly to quarterly and was joined by the Foreign Mission Board. Each mission agency's 30 minutes per tape includes up-to-date news of mission activities and interviews with mission personnel.

July

Rutledge announces retirement; summer missionaries reduce resort-work turnovers

The economy, bouncing turbulent for months, changed again. Despite assertions that the nation's recession could become a major depression, and declines in unemployment and increases in inflation, Southern Baptists reported income for SBC causes continued practically unabated, with record gifts to the Cooperative Program and to Annie Armstrong Offering.

World Mission Journal, published by the SBC Brotherhood Commission, proposed combining the denomination's mission boards and mission publications.

In 1973, the concessionaire at Grand Canyon National Park had a turnover rate of 60 percent with summer help. In 1974, the concessionaire, with the help of local Baptist pastor Paul Milton and the HMB, hired students from church-

May

Gayles, one of 1,000 summer missionaries, teaches children in Casper, Wyo., to cook.

July

Palm Sunday offering taken by Air Force chaplains around the world, was forwarded to the FMB for world hunger relief.

Survey shows Baptists favor HMB's "ministry to human needs"...

related colleges. The turnover dropped to 16 percent. This past summer 50 more Baptists worked there at concession jobs. In their spare time, they organized religious services, VBS and witnessed personally to vacationers. Other resort managers began calling Milton for more information.

Arthur B. Rutledge, HMB executive-director, announced his retirement, effective Dec. 31, 1976.

The Department of Christian Social Ministries sponsored a workshop for

state disaster relief coordinators. The workshop included training for organizing volunteer efforts in responding to any type disaster.

Dissatisfaction by some SBC churches with the Vietnamese resettlement efforts of Church World Service led to a resolution by the HMB directors to study future cooperation with the resettlement agency. The HMB works through CWS in resettling refugee families.

The directors also appointed Bobby Sunderland as director of mass

evangelism and appointed 27 new missionaries and missionary associates. A 1976 budget of \$22.5 million was approved.

The annual National Campers on Mission Rally was held at Woodland Park, Colo., with 309 campers present. A feature of the event was a national covered dish supper. "You could see, on a map on the table, the regions of the country represented," said Joel Land of the HMB's Department of Special Mission Ministries.

Board completes planning for Bicentennial celebration.

Near the end of 1975, the Home Mission Board completed eight special projects to help Baptists celebrate the Bicentennial. Three of the projects, available to churches, consist of materials to encourage local celebrations: television spots, reproduction proofs for newspaper or church newsletter advertisements, and biographies of outstanding and unusual home missionaries, for use by community print media.

Two projects are designed to help vacationing Baptist families put the Bicentennial in their travel plans. One, called "Bicentennial Circuits," maps out routes, places and dates that correlate Bicentennial and Baptist activities. The other, "Action Atlas '76," is a guide booklet detailing HMB Bicentennial projects.

The sixth project is promotion of Baptist youth choirs and groups for summer concerts and mission work at tourist-crowded American historical sites.

The final two projects are road shows. Both are expected to draw hundreds of people as they appear in shopping malls, parks and churches in 24 states.

"The Faces of America" is an art-photo exhibit that will be shown in 48 cities between December, 1975 and this coming

August. The exhibit illustrates the many faces of Americans in photographs and paintings.

"Fabric of Freedom," the other traveling exhibit, literally "sings out" in celebration of the Bicentennial. A musical-drama, it highlights American scenes from Valley Forge, the Oregon Trail, Gettysburg, the Great Depression and Philadelphia, 1976.

"Freedom" premiered this past summer at Glorieta and Ridgecrest; this summer it will tour the Eastern states for 10 weeks.

The musical-drama is built around songs written and composed by Ed Seabough and Bill Cates, HMB workers. For churches wanting to stage their own performances, the script and score are available at Baptist Book Stores.

For these churches, the HMB will donate program covers that include the sequence of scenes, lyrics and space for listing the cast.

With these eight projects, the Home Mission Board hopes to tell the country about Baptists' love for America and at the same time help SBC churches and families become more involved in their nation's 200th birthday, said Dick Parlier, HMB Bicentennial coordinator. ■

Twelve couples volunteered for Christian Service Corps projects next summer.

August

HMB-seminary program sends church extension workers into several pioneer areas

A summer program of the HMB and three SBC seminaries sent 35 seminarians into pioneer church areas to begin Southern Baptist congregations. The students, assigned by HMB's Department of Church Extension and receiving seminary course credit for their efforts, worked in Salem, Ore., the New York City area, plus Albany, Chicago, and in Utah and Idaho. The church starters were involved in survey, mission vacation Bible schools and Bible study fellowships.

"Of course, we will need more time to determine if the work the students started will continue to grow," said Jack McDowell, HMB's church extension director, "but we are pleased with the results thus far and plan to continue the program."

HMB appointed one staffer and 25 missionaries and missionary associates. Ethel Brooks, former church extension missionary, will serve as an associate of the Department of Missionary Personnel.

Independently conducted awareness attitude survey, sponsored by the HMB, indicated Southern Baptists are aware of the Board's activities in Asian social ministries. Respondents said the HMB should be "greatly involved" in ministering to human beings.

HMB decided to keep its link with Church World Service in resettling Vietnamese refugees. Lewis Myers, FMB

missionary to Vietnam who has been serving as coordinator of the volunteer efforts at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., was assigned temporarily to the HMB to work in post-resettlement efforts.

said Language Missions' Oscar Roma. More than 1,000 college student summer missionaries and 10,000 high school youths in mission youth groups performed mission services this summer.

HMB directors appointed 30 missionaries and missionary associates, named two staffers, including the first woman to head a HMB division, and increased the interest rate on church loans from 9 to 9.5 percent. Hettie Johnson was named director of the Division of Business Services and J.C. Bradley became director of the Department of Associational Administration Services. A committee to find a successor to retiring HMB head Arthur B. Rutledge was named.

September

Mission youth groups report 3,400 professions of faith; missionary force hits 2,082

As of September 30, the HMB missionary force stood at 2,082, a gain of seven over the same date in 1974.

Reports from the more than 300 mission youth groups that received assignments through the HMB included 3,400 professions of faith, 2,400 rededications, and 300 decisions to enter church vocations.

A national strategy for ministering to young adults was discussed at an HMB conference sponsored by the Evangelism Section. Development of committed leadership with discipling of the young adults were among approaches discussed.

Through the end of September, Southern Baptists had sponsored 1,896 refugees.

October

Vietnamese Baptist leaders plan evangelism strategy; 1,001 in summer missions

Vietnamese Baptist leaders met at the HMB to plan for evangelism and ministries among their 130,000 refugee countrymen. "Since May we've established 11 units for Vietnamese congregations and Bible fellowships,"

In the first seven months of 1975, more than \$1.2 million was sent to the FMB for hunger relief. The money, reflected a growing grassroots movement of Southern Baptists. Besides HMB, The Commission, World Mission Journal and Royal Service, in a unique cooperative effort, planned issues on the subject of world hunger and Baptist response. The HMB was among a number of SBC agencies and groups to "skip a meal"—in this case, a staff luncheon—and give the money saved to FMB hunger relief.

HMB directors elected one staffer and appointed 19 missionary associates. Margrette Stevenson is new director of payroll and employee benefits services.

Joe and Tricia Rhodes, two of the HMB's 20 young adults appointed to US-2, will serve their two-year stint in Ekwok, Alaska.

Annie Armstrong Offering nears \$8.5 million goal...

December

HMB offering nears goal; Evangelism sets approaches for equipping laypersons

As the year drew to a close, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering receipts totalled \$8,458,931, slightly below the 1975 goal of \$8.5 million. But Board officials expected to reach the goal by the end of the year.

At the monthly HMB directors meeting, three staff members and 24 missionaries

Missionary Don Moore visits a family in a Puerto Rican Barrio: SBC ethnic missions grew rapidly in 1975.

Staff:

Editor: Walker L. Knight
Design and illustration: Deborah Petticord

Writers: Richard Arp,
Patti Benton
Tim Nicholas

Photography: Don Rutledge
Knoan Benfield
Paul Obregon
Ken Touchton

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Annie Armstrong Offering Allocations

For Support of Missionaries and Field Ministries in the Home Mission Board \$7,200,000

Evangelism Projects \$ 300,000

Christian Social Ministries 985,000

Language Missions 2,600,000

Refugee Relief 95,000

Evangelical Witness 95,000

National Baptists 395,000

GOAL \$9,500,000

IV. All over \$9,500,000 Goal
To be used for Bold Mission Thrust in Evangelism and Missions

The major part of the HMB's operating budget comes from AAEO and Cooperative Program funds.

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You can grow a church in many ways—from campsite worship in an Arkansas resort to a children's garden project in inner-city Milwaukee. You'll discover a few of the ways in the HMB's new photo-text book, *Seven Beginnings*. Writer Walker Knight and photographer Ken Touchton visited churches from Alaska to New York to record stories and struggles of new fellowships.

- *Seven Beginnings*, second in the HMB's Human Touch photo-text series
- Written by Walker Knight
Photographed by Ken Touchton
- 192 pages, hardback, 8½" x 11"
- 60% black and white photos, 40% text
- \$5.95, Baptist Book Stores
- \$4.95, HMB book club

