

News and Information Office
Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board
Box 6767, Richmond, Virginia 23230

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AVERY T. WILLIS JR.
Senior Vice President for Overseas Operations

Born: Feb. 21, 1934, in Lepanto, Ark.

Education: Received the bachelor of arts degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., and the master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Married: Shirley Morris, born in Nowata, Okla.

Children: Five grown children.

Published: MasterLife: Discipleship Training, Vol. I and II (Nashville, Baptist Sunday School Board, 1980). Translated into 52 languages. MasterBuilder: Multiplying Leaders (Nashville, Baptist Sunday School Board, 1985). Disciple's Study Bible (assoc. editor and developer/writer, 1988); Bible Guide to Discipleship and Doctrine (Nashville, Baptist Sunday School Board, 1989); Indonesian Revival: Why Two Million Came to Christ (Pasadena, William Carey Library, 1978); Biblical Basis of Missions (Nashville, Baptist Sunday School Board, 1979). "Contextualization of Theological Education in Indonesia," in Vergil Gerber (ed.) Discipling Through Theological Education by Extension (Chicago, Moody Press, 1980). Also authored or co-authored five seminary textbooks in Indonesia, and published numerous other materials.

Non-Foreign Mission Board experience: Student director, Main Street Rescue Mission (sponsored by First Baptist Church), Shawnee, Okla., 1953-54, and pastor of Center Point Baptist Church, Wilburton, Okla., 1954-56, Sunset Heights Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, 1957-60, and Inglewood Baptist Church, Grand Prairie, Texas, 1960-64. After 14 years service as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary (see below), he worked at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., 1978-93, as manager, adult section, church training department, 1978-80; manager, leadership development section, discipleship training department, 1980-90; manager, adult discipleship training, 1990-92; and director, discipleship and family adult department, 1992-93.

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Previous FMB assignments: Missionary in Indonesia, March 1964-August 1978.
He worked in evangelism and church development for six years, then served at Indonesia Baptist Theological Seminary, Semarang, Indonesia, for two years as a professor and six years as president. He also led in developing and pioneering innovative strategies and programs of Theological Education by Extension and worked with others to structure the MasterLife prototype.

Current FMB assignment: Senior Vice President for Overseas Operations at the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., since October 1993.