

November 9, 1961

Indonesian Architect
Visits U. S. Baptists

NASHVILLE (BP)--Fred Poel, Indonesian architect and builder, concluded a month's visit of the United States by stopping at Baptist offices in Nashville.

Mr. and Mrs. Poel were guests of Ross Coggins, Nashville, associate executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission.

A Baptist layman, Poel (pronounced Poo-ee) and Coggins were friends in Bandung, Indonesia, where Coggins formerly served as a Southern Baptist missionary. Poel designed the ultramodern Baptist Publishing House in Bandung.

Miss Mary Alice Ditsworth of Pascagoula, Miss., a missionary also, met the Poels in New York City on their arrival and drove them in her car for most of their visit in the States. They visited in Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and Washington, D. C., before leaving San Francisco for Hawaii en route home.

Poel said he was impressed by "the way everyone in the United States works in a responsible and cooperative way" and "by the way Americans make progress because they are working."

His greatest happiness, though, he added, came from his visits to many Southern Baptist churches. He spoke to church groups in Pascagoula; Ocala, Fla.; Bainbridge, Ga., and Nashville.

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Voiceless Preacher
To Preach Again

(11-9-61)

By the Baptist Press

What can a preacher do without a voice?

L. E. Leeper, a Baptist pastor and state missionary in Kentucky for 40 years, can tell you his solution.

Although Leeper had "retired," he was as active as ever in supplying pulpits and taking other preaching assignments. Then a small cancer on his vocal cord robbed him of his voice.

All that was left was a soft whisper. Depressed and without much hope for further usefulness, he left Kentucky to live near his son in Pomona, Calif.

He took to writing as an outlet for his frustrated desire to preach. In one article printed by the California Southern Baptist, he wrote, "I loved to preach. I could never quite understand anyone speaking of preaching as a burden; it was the joy of my life. I would give all the world to preach one more time."

The article touched a responsive chord in George B. Joslin, of Riverside, Calif., missionary to the deaf for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

"You can preach again," he wrote Leeper, and presented the challenge of a ministry to the deaf.

On the same day he received the letter, the "retired" preacher was at the missionary's home wanting more information. He left with an armload of tracts and articles on deaf work.

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At home he read every word in the material and the next morning he was calling for more information. Then he enrolled in the sign language class at California Baptist College. His wife has joined him in learning the new language.

The church where he is a member plans to start a ministry to the deaf, with the assistance of a college student as interpreter and Leeper as minister to the deaf.

Here's one preacher without a voice, determined to preach again--with his hands.

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(Photo coming with outline.)

Folks and Facts.....

(11-9-61)

.....Hans Luckey, director of the Baptist Seminary in Hamburg, Germany, was elected president of the National Council of Churches in Germany succeeding Martin Niemoller.
(BP)

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Texas Baptists Affirm Church-State Stand

AUSTIN, Tex. (BP)--Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting here voiced repeatedly their convictions that Texas Baptists should take no part in helping to crumble the wall that separates church and state.

More than 5,000 Baptists from virtually every Baptist church in the state:

- (1) Adopted without debate or dissent a complex interpretation of the Texas Baptist policy on church-state separation;
- (2) Approved five recommendations from the convention's Christian Life Commission on Christian citizenship that included a strong church-state separation statement; and
- (3) Heard a major address on the subject by Glenn Archer of Washington, D.C., executive director of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Convention messengers also voted unanimously to sponsor a vast five week evangelistic crusade in Japan April 28-May 31, 1963, and accepted a challenge to raise \$300,000 in "over and above" gifts to underwrite the crusade.

Evangelist Billy Graham is scheduled to participate in the crusade, at least one night and possibly for three days. Texas Baptist leaders said they will meet with Graham in hopes of getting a longer commitment for the crusade.

Southern Baptist Missionary W. H. "Dub" Jackson from Japan said "the crusade has unlimited possibilities to reach every person in Japan in five weeks with the message of Christ."

Jackson said that the crusade will begin with a revival in Tokyo, the world's largest city, spread to the five major population centers in Japan, and then mushroom into simultaneous revivals in 80-100 cities in Japan.

Evangelistic messages may be beamed on radio and television into nearly every home in Japan, and possibly into East Asia all of North Africa, and even beyond the Iron Curtain into Russia.

In other action, Texas Baptists adopted a record \$14,383,194 Cooperative Program budget, elected nearly 300 trustees and directors for 25 Baptist boards and institutions, and re-elected James H. Landes of Wichita Falls as convention president.

The complex church-state separation policy statement held that for Texas Baptist schools, hospitals and children's homes to accept government loans, grants or property at reduced rates violates the Baptist stand on the historic principle.

Not considered as a violation of the principle were loans or grants to individual college students; research grants in which the government contracts for the services of individuals; property made available to religious organizations at its actual value; and tax exemptions for church contributions.

In an effort to help provide the convention's schools with enough funds to meet building needs of the next decade, the church phase of a crusade to over subscribe a goal of \$28 million was launched.

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The convention adopted another resolution urging vigilance in keeping the Peace Corps free of church-state entanglements.

Recommendations from the Christian Life Commission urged Baptist dedication to church-state separation, not as a way of expressing bias against the Roman Catholic Church, but as a basic truth.

Another recommendation encouraged Baptists to "avoid using Communist tactics of hate, half-truth and slander," and to guard against becoming like those whom Baptists oppose.

In an address before the convention, Dallas pastor Herbert Howard suggested that the denomination change the name of the Cooperative Program "to what it really is---'world missions.'"

He said that local churches too often think of the Cooperative Program as just another item on the budget, "like the pastor's salary, to be held in check." By capitalizing on the name "world missions, which everyone wants to support," Southern Baptists could increase missions gifts, Howard said.

Alternate preacher John Rasco of Odessa, Tex., delivered the annual convention sermon, substituting for W. A. Criswell of Dallas' First Baptist Church who was ill with a virus.