

February 18, 1948

MACARTHUR SAYS CHRISTIAN INFLUENCES  
IN JAPAN "RAPIDLY ARE BEARING FRUIT"

ATLANTA, Ga. --(BP)-- General Douglas MacArthur, supreme commander of the allied powers in Japan, has reiterated his contention that the solution of Japanese problems "largely rests upon the spiritual reformation of the Japanese people," and expressed belief that Christian influences "rapidly are bearing fruit."

His statements were made in a letter to Dr. Louie D. Newton of Atlanta, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The situation here has proceeded most favorably" in recent months, General MacArthur wrote from Tokyo. "There is increasing evidence of a growing veneration for the Christian concept, as its rudimentary understanding comes to the Japanese people from the living example of the application of its immutable tenets to which every phase of occupational policy is attuned, and of which every member of the occupation force is a practitioner.

"Through daily contact with our American men and women who are here engaged in the reshaping of Japan's future," MacArthur continued, "there is penetrating into the Japanese mind the noble influences which find their inspiration in the American home. These influences rapidly are bearing fruit, and apart from the great numbers who are coming formally to embrace the Christian faith, a whole population is coming to understand, practice, and cherish its underlying principles and ideals."

General MacArthur said that help from American churches, as suggested by Dr. Newton in an earlier letter, "will be most helpful and welcome. The Japanese, due to the inevitable strictures upon a people in defeat although still technically at war, are in dire need of food and clothing, although our country generously has supplied enough to sustain life itself. Such help from victor to vanquished not only provides for the bodily comfort but it leaves a lasting impression upon the human spirit as well. This is of incalculable aid in advancing our purpose and securing our cause."

FIVE NEW MISSIONARIES  
ARE APPOINTED

RICHMOND, Va. --(BP)-- Appointment of five new missionaries for lifetime service overseas and the appropriation of funds for new buildings in the Balkans and Hawaii highlighted the February meeting of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Board appropriated \$15,000 for the purchase of a Baptist headquarters building in Budapest, Hungary, and smaller sums for the enlargement of the Baptist deaconess home in Budapest and the Central Baptist Church in Bucharest, Romania.

"Despite the fact that missionaries are not able to get into the Balkan area now," Dr. M. Theron Rankin, executive secretary of the Board, said in comment on the action, "we are able to give assistance to the development of evangelical Christian work in Hungary and Romania."

Hearing reports of the rapid growth of Baptist missions in Hawaii, the Board made plans to help churches of the islands build the educational plants needed for their evangelistic opportunities. A sum of \$20,000 was appropriated for one church, and each of four others is to receive \$10,000 from the Christmas offering made by the Woman's Missionary Union of the Convention in 1947. A building and loan fund of \$75,000 was established to facilitate the construction program of the Hawaiian churches.

New missionaries appointed are Rev. and Mrs. Horace E. Buddin of Seminary Hill, Texas, for Brazil; Miss Dorothy Evelyn Donnelly of Seminary Hill, Texas, for Latin America; and Rev. and Mrs. Dennis L. Payne of Howe, Texas, for Nigeria.

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MADDOX ACCEPTS

RICHMOND, Va. --(BP)-- Rev. Samuel E. Maddox of Florence, Ala., and Brazil has accepted appointment as secretary of missionary personnel for the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and will assume his duties here April 1.

Mr. Maddox, the son of missionaries emeritus, was born and reared in Brazil, and after education at Georgetown College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was himself appointed to mission work in Brazil.

In making the announcement of Mr. Maddox's acceptance, the Foreign Mission Board emphasized that Maddox is uniquely fitted for the job in that he "has been called to overseas service, has accepted, been processed and appointed," and in that he also has lived on a foreign field. He succeeds Rev. J. W. Marshall, who resigned in April 1947 to become president of Wayland College at Plainview, Texas.

BAPTISTS PLACE CANDLES IN  
EUROPE'S "DARKENED ROOMS"

ATLANTA, Ga. --(BP)-- Because Mrs. John Spalding read of students in Vienna who could not study at night because of lack of light and then resolved to do something about it, Southern Baptists have added a new phase to their relief campaign.

Mrs. Spalding read of the dark rooms in Austria, and thought of the candles standing idle in her own home. She mentioned it to her Sunday school class and suggested that perhaps hundreds of candles were similarly idle in homes represented by the women present.

Armloads of candles were brought to the class on the following Sunday -- for packaging and shipment overseas.

Dr. Louie D. Newton, pastor of the church and also president of the Southern Baptist Convention, commended the women in an announcement of their deed. "Everybody can share in this," he said, "and it will mean much to the darkened homes of war-ravaged lands."

Miss Martha Roberts, an artist and member of the church, volunteered to do a poster under the caption "Light a Candle in a Dark Room."

Seven thousand candles were brought to the church the following week and last Sunday's contributions shoved the total near 12,000. They have been sent to the Southern Baptist Relief Center at New Orleans, La., for overseas shipment.

The idea has been approved by Dr. George Sadler, chairman of the relief committee of the Baptist Foreign Mission Board of Richmond, Va., and Charles Gage of the Relief Center in New Orleans. Gage said the appeal is to be publicized throughout the 20-state Southern Baptist Convention territory.

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EDITORS MEET

BILOXI, Miss. --(BP)-- Editors of 20 state Baptist papers in the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting here in the annual session of their Southern Baptist Press Association, heard three university professors lecture on various aspects of their publications and then named committees to work for the overcoming of deficiencies.

Dr. Lewis A. Myers, editor of the Baptist New Mexican of Albuquerque, was elected president of the group. Dr. R. T. Skinner, editor of the Western Recorder of Louisville, was named vice-president, and A. L. Goodrich, editor of the Baptist Record of Jackson, Miss., secretary.

Total circulation of the 20 state papers and two mission magazines is 955,397.

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