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**Missionaries In Riot
Areas Face Hot Summer**

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By Dallas M. Lee
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The shotgun attack on Negro civil rights marcher James Meredith in Mississippi early this summer triggered a wave of tension in large Negro communities across the country.

Racial crises that followed have resulted in a long hot summer for Southern Baptist missionaries in three metropolitan centers.

In the Watts area of Los Angeles, nearly 2,000 miles away from the Meredith incident, the tense atmosphere blocked a Southern Baptist plan to penetrate the area.

Later in June, riots broke out in Chicago, a Puerto Rican neighborhood, rumbling at the doorstep of a Southern Baptist chapel, a church-type mission that majors in a weekday program

A bullet imbedded in the wall of a newly decorated worship area and several bullet holes in the new sign that reads Rockwell Baptist Chapel remain as grim reminders of the violence.

And more recently, a Baptist church on the fringes of the riot-stricken East Cleveland area pledged in a Wednesday night business session not to sell out and move in the face of Negroes who are moving into the neighborhood.

In a July business meeting, the Lakeside Baptist Church in that tense Cleveland area voted to ask the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for help in starting a day-care center. Members voiced approval of a plan to develop a full weekday program for the next several years, and then as the neighborhood completes transition, call a Negro pastor.

On a Wednesday evening of one of the riots, two Negro families worshipped at the Lakeside Church and announced that they had chosen to worship there to show "there were no hard feelings."

Negro children have been attending Sunday School and worship services at the Lakeside Church for some months, but Negroes have yet to "seek" to join the church.

In Watts, California's director of work with National Baptists, Jack O'Neal had planned to take advantage of student summer missionaries and enter the Negro community to work out of a National (Negro) Baptist Church there.

But Negro pastors advised against it after Meredith was wounded in Mississippi.

O'Neal's alternate plan has been to work through churches on the fringe of Watts with integrated revival teams of student missionaries and California Baptist College students going into both Negro and Anglo churches for evangelism services.

In Chicago, a Christian Service Corps couple was alarmed to learn that Richard Speck, the itinerant seaman accused of slaughtering eight student nurses, was found bleeding from the wrists in a hotel one block from their apartment.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Faling of Cushing, Okla., had volunteered to serve with the Christian Service Corps, a Home Mission Board ministry that offers laymen and women an opportunity to serve at mission points for two to 10 weeks.

The Falings were "shook up" by the discovery of a murder suspect so near their temporary home, but they have continued their project of door-to-door visitation for the Near North Loop Baptist Church, an inner-city congregation that meets in a YMCA building.

Most of the recent riots by Negroes have been confined to Westside Chicago, where there are no Southern Baptist workers.

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However one pastor's wife, Mrs. F. E. Moffitt, who works at a Westside Sears Building, was caught in the middle of rioting on the way home from work and a brick was thrown through a window of her car. She was not injured.

Mrs. Moffitt's husband is pastor of the 26th Street Baptist Church in Berwyn, a predeominately Czechoslovakian community in the greater Chicago area.

It was the night after a Chicago riot, during the Training Union hour, when a bullet crashed through a third-story window and lodged in a wall of the Rockwell Baptist Chapel, a Home Mission Board-sponsored weekday ministry.

The Training Union group was meeting downstairs at the time, although the redecoration in the new worship area where the bullet was fired originally had been scheduled for completion that Sunday.

Plainclothes detectives were used to investigate the incident, since the police department feared an outbreak of violence if uniformed officers entered the apartments across the street.

City Missions Director Preston Denton said the riots in Chicago have resulted in a rash of calls from parents checking on the safety of student summer missionaries in the area. There are 11 such summer missionaries.

These incidents point up vividly that the nation's boiling points also are primary targets for Baptist mission thrusts, and that the potential explosiveness of these areas confronts the missionary with an added barrier to acceptance--physical danger. (BP)

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Dirksen Side-steps Test
On 'Prayer' Amendment

7/25/66

WASHINGTON (BP)--Announced plans by Sen. Everett McK. Dirksen (R., Ill.) to seek action in the Senate judiciary committee on his proposed "prayer amendment" did not materialize here.

The Illinois senator earlier had expressed dissatisfaction with eight days of hearings scheduled by the subcommittee on constitutional amendments on his proposal.

Dirksen announced that he would move in the full committee to "discharge" the subcommittee from further consideration of his proposed amendment.

When the committee met the senator did not ask for such action. A spokesman close to the committee indicated that an attempt to take the amendment away from the subcommittee would have been defeated.

On two other occasions the senator had announced such plans for bypassing the subcommittee. However, when the committee met a quorum was not present and no business could be transacted.

The proposed amendment, Dirksen says, is designed to provide or permit voluntary prayers in public schools and other public buildings. Hearings are scheduled for Aug. 1-5 and 8-10.

In March the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs responded to the Dirksen amendment by reaffirming its belief that the First Amendment is adequate for the protection of the "free exercise of religion."

In annual sessions this year the American and Southern Baptist Conventions reaffirmed 1964 resolutions favoring the First Amendment as it now stands.

Dirksen, Senate minority leader, says he may at any time substitute his amendment for other legislation pending in the Senate. He has indicated that the "vehicle" for the "prayer amendment" might be a resolution to proclaim Halloween as national UNICEF Day.

He reportedly has said that he would not see Congress adjourn "without getting a Senate vote on my amendment."

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Baptist-Led Protest
Staged Against Movie

NASHVILLE (BP)--About 300 demonstrators, led by several Southern Baptists, staged a sidewalk protest here against profanity used in the movie, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf."

Protesting "the use of the Lord's name in vain," the demonstrators carried signs and listened to statements by several ministers and laymen condemning the movie's profanity. There was no trouble in the orderly demonstration.

Southern Baptists were in the forefront at the "interdenominational rally." James M. Gregg, general superintendent of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, presided over the hour-long demonstration.

The president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Nashville, was unable to attend, but he issued a statement read at the rally.

"Profanity is blasphemous and degrading---nothing good can come from it," H. F. Paschall said. "In these troubled times, we should employ every means to encourage people to reverence, trust and love God, not to ignore his laws and profane his name."

Loud applause erupted when Roy Gilliland, secretary of the Brotherhood department for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, said: "It is my belief the people of this community would wish films to be shown which would strengthen the home."

The protest was held on a Sunday when Baptists, and other churches using the international Sunday School lesson series, had studied earlier that morning a Sunday School lesson on the third commandment---"Thou Shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."

The movie, which stars Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton who portray a couple staging a party spiced with profanity and drinking, had opened two weeks earlier at the Crescent Theater in Nashville, replacing the movie, "The Ten Commandments."

Three days after the movie opened, a Nashville police officer closed the movie, confiscated the film, and arrested the theater manager on charges of violating a city code which prohibits indecent exposure and profanity in a movie.

It was a Baptist deacon who started the whole thing. Sgt. Fred Cobb, the officer who made the arrest, called the movie "a disgrace." A deacon at Hillhurst Baptist Church here, Cobb and his wife had seen a portion of the movie the night before, but had left "in disgust."

Three days later, a local court tossed out the case against the movie, and the theater manager almost immediately filed a \$50,000 damage suit against Sgt. Cobb. Judge Andrew Doyle ruled that Sgt. Cobb's obscenity charges were made under an ordinance which applies only to live performances. An ordinance which would have been applicable provides for a board of movie censors, but such a board has never been appointed in Nashville.

Loud applause broke out at the Sunday afternoon protest rally here when Sgt. Cobb was introduced.

"Fred Cobb or Sgt. Cobb is not important, but the Lord does mean something," Cobb told the rally.

Several other Baptists spoke during the rally, most of them local pastors.

Five college students showed up to demonstrate against the demonstrators. They called the protest rally "ridiculous," and said that it would only give the movie more publicity and "make more people come to it."

One of the demonstrators, however, said that the church "needs to do more of the same to fight elements like this in the movies. Things like this reveal that the church is still concerned."

To add a touch of irony to the situation, the Crescent Theater which is showing the film is located on Church Street in downtown Nashville.

Oregon-Washington Board
Names Two Division Heads

PORTLAND, Ore (BP)--The Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington elected two division directors on the convention staff, voted to recommend a \$246,000 budget goal for 1967, and authorized a study of convention program structures.

W. C. Carpenter, pastor of the Orchards Baptist Church of Lewiston, Idaho, was elected director of the division of cooperative missions, succeeding Roland P. Hood who was promoted recently to executive secretary of the convention.

Bennett Cook, secretary of the convention's Sunday School department, was elected director of the convention's church services division, a new position created several years ago.

Carpenter, a former New Mexico pastor, will head a staff of six area missionaries, five language missionaries, two city missionaries, two rehabilitation workers, five US-2 Southern Baptist Home Mission Board workers, an associational missionary, and a missions superintendent in Canada when one is elected. He will also lead in stewardship promotion among churches of the convention.

Cook, also elected associate executive secretary to Hood, will continue to serve as Sunday School secretary and will serve as administrative heads over the Sunday School, church architecture, Training Union, music, Brotherhood, student work, Woman's Missionary Union, and evangelism departments.

Carpenter and Cook will begin their new responsibilities effective Sept. 1.

The budget goal of \$246,000 will be recommended to the state convention in November for final approval. If adopted, it would be an increase of \$21,000 over the current budget. Ten per cent of the budget would go to support Southern Baptist Convention worldwide causes through the Cooperative Program unified budget.

The board elected Pablo Flores of National City, Calif., language missionary at Crewport, Wash.

Board members also requested the convention's executive secretary to initiate an immediate study of the program structure of the convention's work, including job descriptions and evaluations. The study, to be completed by the first of 1968, will be used to develop a policy manual. The board also adopted a program structure for the department of student work.

Roy Johnson, city missionary for the Portland metropolitan area, was requested to write the history of Southern Baptists in the Northwest to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the beginning of Southern Baptist work here.

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Indiana Baptists Purchase
Camp, Approve '67 Budget

7/25/66

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--The Executive Board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana voted here to purchase land for a Baptist encampment, to recommend a \$428,000 budget for 1967, and to approve setting up a Baptist center in downtown Indianapolis.

The encampment will be built on a 280-acre tract 25 miles southwest of Indianapolis. Previously, the board had approved purchase of a site in Western Indiana, but they were unable to complete the transaction.

The 1967 budget of \$428,275 will be recommended to the state convention when it meets here in November. The total includes a \$288,000 goal for the Cooperative Program, state unified budget plan.

The missions center in downtown Indianapolis will be jointly sponsored by the state convention, the Central Baptist Association here, and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. A director will be hired and a week-day program started in temporary quarters by the end of the year.

A \$100,000 building will be built to house the center by 1968. A similar Baptist center has been operating in Gary, Ind., since 1964.

In other action, the board also set a goal for a special foreign missions offering at \$34,000, voted to expand parking facilities at its state headquarters building, and authorized an increase in subscription rates for its weekly newspaper.

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Priest, Minister Lead
Baptist-Catholic Funeral

HENDERSONVILLE, N. C. (BP)--In what was described as the first such service in the state, a Baptist pastor here and a Catholic priest officiated together in a funeral service for a Baptist businessman whose wife is a Catholic.

The funeral service helped to widen "the crack in the ancient wall of suspicion and sometimes hostility between Baptists and Catholics," said the Baptist pastor, M. M. Gross of First Baptist Church in Hendersonville.

Gross presided over the funeral for Christopher Rogers, 53, of Hendersonville, a Baptist.

Hugh Clark, associate pastor of the local Catholic parish, read a scripture from the Psalms, and led in prayer.

Earlier, both Clark and Gross had visited together in the home of the deceased man. The widow is a member of the Catholic church.

Gross said he had never heard of a similar Baptist-Catholic funeral service in the state, and indicated that it might even be the first such service in the nation.

Several weeks earlier, a Baptist pastor and a Catholic priest had conducted a joint wedding ceremony in Memphis, Tenn., for a young couple who wish to continue their Baptist and Catholic memberships.

The Hendersonville priest had the approval of his immediate superior to participate in the joint funeral service.

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For Sale: Baptist
Building--Bargain

7/25/66

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--A tax auditor's error here almost resulted in the sale of the \$265,000 office building of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

The convention had received 100 per cent tax exemption status, but somehow this was not recorded on one set of the 1963 Marion County (Ind.) tax rolls.

Suddenly, a notice appeared in a local newspaper listing the 3½ year-old building with property to be sold to pay for back taxes.

Until then, Baptist officials here had received no notices or bills for the 1963 taxes.

Fortunately, the matter was cleared up before the \$265,000 building could be sold for the bargain price of \$143.53, the amount of taxes due for 1963.

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Baylor Receives Grant
From Scripps-Howard

7/25/66

WACO, Tex. (BP)--The Scripps-Howard Foundation of Cincinnati has granted the Baylor University department of journalism \$3,000 for establishment of a basic audio-visual library.

The award was among 22 scholarships and several general grants announced by trustees of the foundation set up to encourage education and excellence in journalism.

The grant to the Baptist school was the largest award made to any educational institution under the current program. The money will be used to buy still and motion picture equipment, projectors and other basic audio-visual teaching aids.

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