



December 5, 1967

"Aflame With Revival" Says
Evangelist About Indonesia

1133

By Gainer E. Bryan Jr.
For The Baptist Press

560

DJAKARTA, Indonesia (BP)--This nation, the fifth largest country in the world, is experiencing the greatest spiritual awakening in its history, according to a Southern Baptist evangelist from Atlanta.

Evangelist John Edmund Haggai and three traveling companions here on a fact-finding and exploratory mission for the evangelistic association in Atlanta have found Indonesia to be "aflame with revival."

The spiritual awakening is affecting all Christian groups--some more than others--and all areas of the country--again, some more than others. Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago, stretching along the equator from Singapore to New Guinea.

One religious leader reported that 10,000 people are awaiting baptism in West rn Indonesia, and 55,000 are awaiting baptism in North Sumatra.

Whole villages are said to be embracing Christianity. Thousands of conversions have reportedly occurred among military and police personnel under the leadership of chaplains.

The spiritual awakening has affected Southern Baptist mission churches. With 4,000 members, the mission churches with which Southern Baptists work have had 2,700 professions of faith this year, according to SBC Missionary Keith Parks of Texas, treasurer of the Southern Baptist mission in Indonesia.

All Christian leaders in Indonesia contacted here have said that they are convinced that the revival is the work of God, not of man, and that it is "Holy-Spirit led."

The impetus seemed to come from the social upheaval created when Communists attempted to take over the government in October of 1965, and were put down in a blood-bath in which more than 400,000 Communists and suspected Reds were slaughtered.

Some observers say that the killing was done primarily by the Muslims (Indonesia is 90 per cent, but nominally, Muslim); and that the Christians, in contrast, showed love instead of hate, even though the Christians stood to lose as much as anybody from Communist domination.

This difference in attitude, say informed observers here, captured the attention of the uncommitted and caused them to favor Christianity.

Religious leaders recognized, however, that some of the new converts might be merely Communists who are trying to save their skins, but they are convinced that most of the professions are genuine.

There seems to be a Muslim backlash to the revival, with a hard-core of the followers of Islam seeking to establish a Muslim state and suppress other religious groups.

Muslims have picketed evangelistic meetings, heckled preachers, and even done extensive damage to church property, especially in and around the city of Makassar on the Island of the Celebes.

Christian leaders here believe that God will lead the Church through its difficulties, as they believe He did through the periods of Dutch colonialism, Japanese occupation, and the Communist threat.

There are constitutional guarantees here to protect freedom of religion. The Indonesian constitution is based on five cardinal principles, the first of which is belief in God.

Under the regime of Acting President Suharto, the government is encouraging everyone to profess a monotheistic faith in God.

Four religions are officially recognized: Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, and Roman Catholicism. There is a department of religion in the government, with a division for each major faith.

more

1132

December 5, 1967

2

Baptist Press Feature

Haggai, the Baptist evangelist who came here to observe and evaluate the spiritual awakening, reported that many responded to his invitation to accept Christ as Savior and Lord when he spoke in churches of various denominations here.

Traveling with Haggai were Felix Snipes, his associate and music director; Gay Juban, a businessman from Baton Rouge, La.; and Gainer E. Bryan Jr., a writer and former editor of The Maryland Baptist, Baltimore.

- 30 -

BP PHOTO mailed to Baptist State Papers.



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593

DALLAS R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996

WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

December 5, 1967

Senate Pushes House For
Judicial Review Action

1134

1784

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Senate almost unanimously and without opposition for the fourth time in four years has attempted again to push a "judicial review" bill through Congress.

This time the effort took the form of an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments Act of 1967 earlier passed by the House of Representatives.

Sponsored by Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D., N.C.) and five other senators, the amendment is identical to the judicial review bill sent to the House by the Senate on April 11.

The bottleneck to the judicial review legislation has been in the House of Representatives. Sen. Ervin pointed out to the Senate that the House has consistently blocked such a bill and that no hearings have been held there even in a subcommittee.

Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.), floor manager for the 1967 education act, in order to impress on the House Conference Committee that the Senate means business this time, demanded a roll call vote on the amendment.

It passed by a vote of 71-0. Twenty-three other Senators announced that if they had been present they would have voted for the amendment, making a total of 94 Senators for judicial review with none expressing opposition.

The purpose of a judicial review bill is to provide a way to test the constitutionality of certain acts of Congress by the religion clauses of the First Amendment. These are known as the "no establishment" and the "free exercise" clauses. They read:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The problem of testing the constitutionality of federal expenditures under the first amendment arises from a 1923 Supreme Court decision in the case of Frothingham V. Mellon.

In that case it was decided that an individual taxpayer does not have sufficient money involved in federal spending to give him "standing to sue" or to challenge the expenditure in court.

Referring to First Amendment restrictions on federal spending, Sen. Ervin told the Senate that "all other constitutional rights which are susceptible of judicial resolution may be placed before the federal courts for protection."

"Yet, despite the priority which is given this constitutional principle," he continued, "it is the only personal liberty which, because of a legal technicality, cannot adequately be resolved by the Supreme Court."

The judicial review bill, Ervin contends, would enable the courts to break through this impasse and to rule on religious liberty and separation of church and state issues in nine acts of Congress.

The nine are: (1) The Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, (2) Title VII of the Public Health Service Act, (3) The National Defense Education Act of 1958, (4) The Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963, (5) Title II of the Act of September 30, 1950 (Public Law 874, Eighty-First Congress), (6) The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, (7) The Cooperative Research Act, (8) The Higher Education Act of 1965, and (9) The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

Sen. Ervin gave four reasons the Senate leadership decided to attach the judicial review bill to the Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments Act.

First, the number and size of federal aid programs involving sectarian participation have mushroomed in recent years.

Second, recent judicial decisions, both state and federal, have clouded the constitutional lines to such an extent that a definite Supreme Court decision is necessary.

Third, it appears that the House of Representatives will not act on the separate judicial review legislation now before it.

Fourth, the recent decision of the Supreme Court to review Flast V. Gardner involving the question of "standing to sue" could "create chaos" if the Congress does not act immediately.

Explaining point four, Ervin said that if "standing to sue" is granted in the Flast case, many retroactive cases involving federal funds might spring up. Under the judicial review bill only expenditures after its enactment could be considered.

Ervin further explained that supporters of judicial review are found among those who believe that violations of separation of church and state are involved and those who believe that the acts of Congress are constitutional.

"What we want," he said, "is to end once and for all the doubt, controversy, and the divisiveness created by the church-state issue.... on this we are agreed: the court should have the opportunity to decide."

Sen. Morse is among those who think that no violations of the First Amendment are in the acts of Congress under consideration. Others like Sen. Ralph W. Yarborough (D., Tex.) disagree.

Yarborough said, in discussing recent developments in the church-state arena, "The greatness of America is built upon religious freedom of the people. In actions such as the ones to which I have referred it is not being eroded away a little, but it is galloping away."

The next step in the judicial review controversy between the House and the Senate will be considered by the Conference Committee that will be appointed to iron out the differences in the Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments bill passed by the two houses of Congress.

-30-

Japanese Baptists Launch
Vietnam Prayer Movement

1135

12/5/67

240

TOKYO, Japan (BP)--The Japan Baptist Convention has launched a prayer movement for world peace, especially peace in Vietnam, and has appealed to Baptists in America and around the world to join them.

In a letter to the Southern Baptist Convention, Japan Baptist Convention Executive Secretary Yoshikazu Nakajima wrote that Japan Baptists are praying that the "growing war in Vietnam may end at once, and that the Vietnamese people's desire for peace may be quickly realized."

Saying that a prayer movement has already begun in Japan Baptist churches, the Japanese Baptist leader said: "We sincerely call on the Baptists of the world to join with us in this movement, so that together we might pray and work for world peace."

The letter also stated:

"In spite of our desire for peace, our world is still the scene of conflict. War continues in Vietnam, and many soldiers and civilians are being killed or wounded.

"As fellow Asians, we are deeply grieved over this war. We fully realize our own responsibility for World War II, but at the same time we affirm our conviction that war is evil and contrary to the will of God, for God desires that all people love one another.

"We further believe that true peace comes only from Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, and we accept the task of proclaiming the gospel of peace in today's rapidly-changing social order. We have resolved, therefore, to pray and work to the end that peace may be established soon.

In Nashville, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, H. Franklin Paschall, responded to the letter by replying that Southern Baptists are increasingly burdened about the Vietnam issue, and are already praying for an honorable peace as soon as it can be achieved.

Paschall, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Nashville, added that mankind desperately needs peace in the world today, especially in Vietnam.

-30-

1135

December 5, 1967

3

Baptist Press

SBC Missions Gifts
Top \$42½ Million

1136

294

NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions to Southern Baptist world missions causes exceeded \$42.6 million during the first 11 months of 1967, only slightly short of the \$42.9 million given during the entire 12 months of 1966.

The \$42.6 million includes \$22.8 million in undesignated contributions through the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget plan; and an additional \$19.7 million in gifts to designated mission causes.

A monthly report compiled by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee here disclosed that the 1967 contributions have surpassed 1966 gifts for the same 11 month period by \$2.3 million, or an increase of 5.9 per cent.

Cooperative Program (undesignated) gifts for 1967 are \$1.4 million more than the contributions for 11 months in 1966, an increase of 6.73 per cent; and designated gifts are up \$931,508, an increase of 4.95 per cent.

Contributions during the month of November exceeded \$2 million through the Cooperative Program, and \$197,864 for designated causes.

The Financial Planning Secretary for the SBC Executive Committee, John H. Williams of Nashville, predicted that the convention would meet its basic budget probably during the second week in December, going into what is called the "advance section" whereby all additional undesignated contributions are divided two-thirds to foreign missions and one-third to home missions.

The 1967 basic budget is \$24.2 million, including \$2.2 million in capital needs, and \$21.9 million in operating funds. All in excess of the \$24.2 million goal will go to foreign and home missions.

Of the \$42.6 million contributed thus far in 1967, \$26.3 million has gone to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, to support world-wide missions efforts; and \$9.1 million has gone to the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, for missions in the United States.

Nineteen other Southern Baptist organizations and agencies have received funds through the Cooperative Program unified budget plan.

The amounts reported in the monthly summary do not include funds contributed to support local and state-wide Southern Baptist missions efforts, but only nation and world-wide SBC causes.

-30-

Olson Named Executive
At William Jewell

1137

12/5/67 70

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)--B. G. Olson, director of university relations and assistant to the president at the University of Alaska for the past four years, has been named executive vice president of William Jewell College here.

Olson will assume charge of all departments except those of academic or religious nature, and all financial affairs of the Baptist school. H. Guy Moore is president of the college, affiliated with both Southern and American Baptist Conventions.

-30-

1136-1137