



December 13, 1967

1163

812

**Indonesia Baptists Gain  
In Nationwide Revival****By Gainer E. Bryan Jr.  
For The Baptist Press**

DJAKARTA, Indonesia (BP)--Southern Baptist mission churches of this island kingdom are benefiting from a great revival that has been taking place here for the past two years, Southern Baptist missionaries in Indonesia have confirmed.

The Christian revival has been all the more remarkable in that Indonesia is predominantly Muslim--90 percent of the population, nominally.

This was the information given to John Edmund Haggai, Southern Baptist evangelist from Atlanta, Ga., here on a preaching and fact-finding mission with three companions from the United States.

They are Felix Snipes, his associate and music director, also from Atlanta; Gay Juban, Baptist layman and trustee of the Haggai Evangelistic Association from Baton Rouge, La.; and myself.

We personally experienced the moving of the Holy Spirit in Indonesia when Haggai preached and Snipes sang in a Southern Baptist mission church and churches of others denominations, and people responded in large numbers to the invitation to accept Christ as Savior and Lord.

Southern Baptist missionaries and other Christian leaders with whom we talked expressed the conviction that God has intervened in history in Indonesia and that miracles of God have been taking place.

"It was only God's intervention that saved this country from the communists," said Keith Parks, treasurer of the Southern Baptist mission, veteran of 13 years mission service in Indonesia, stationed in Djakarta. "I have an abiding conviction that God's hand saved us."

All of the Southern Baptist missionaries and other Christian leaders with whom we talked said their names were on the Communist list for extermination before the attempted coup d'etat Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 1965. Two Council of Churches officials said they have the actual list. Roman Catholic, Muslim--all religious leaders would have been liquidated.

The coup came within a hair's breadth of succeeding. On the night of Sept. 30 five top Army generals were taken from their homes, tortured, mutilated and killed, and their bodies thrown down a well. Two top generals miraculously escaped, General Suharto and General Nasution.

The communists followed this with efforts to take over the machinery of government. In 24 hours, however, the Army, under General Suharto, was back in control. The press published and made maximum use of pictures of the bodies of the dead generals.

There followed one of the greatest blood baths in history, as disillusioned Indonesians turned on the Communists whom many had trusted as friends.

Basically, the killing was done by Muslim youth, called Angsur. They were very cruel. They came to the doors of Communists or suspected Communists, invited the head of the house to come out, and he was never seen again, in many instances. Many were found decapitated.

Sometimes all of the men in a village were killed. In the vicinity of one city of 50,000, an estimated 30,000 were murdered. Their bodies choked the rivers in some areas, and residents would not eat fish afterward.

At least 400,000 people were killed--more than the United States lost in World War II. Estimates as high as 800,000 have been reported. Many Indonesians consider this a Muslim holy war.

Not one single killing by a Christian has been reported, yet Christians stood to suffer as much as anyone from a Communist victory. Uncommitted people observed Muslims killing and Christians showing love, and they began to turn to Christianity, according to Indonesian Christian leaders.

Belief in God is one of the five principles on which the Indonesian republic was founded when it gained independence from the Dutch in 1945. After the coup, the government of General Suharto called on all citizens to profess a faith in God. This development seemed to cause the religious awakening to intensify.

Whole villages went over from Islam, Hinduism or animism to faith in God through Jesus Christ. Thousands of people at the grass roots were converted and awaiting baptism without preachers to take care of them.

Hundreds felt called of God to go forth and witness, and they did so "without script or purse." A total of 150 lay, untrained evangelistic teams are now operating out of the island of Timor.

"Until the coup, most church groups were inactive evangelistically," Parks said. "The opportunity is now running over them."

He said Southern Baptists, who have been evangelistic all along, had 4,000 members Jan. 1, 1967, and had experienced 2,700 additional conversions through November. He believes the revival is now over the crest in Southern Baptist churches.

The Southern Baptists and others are aware that there are some false professions among the thousands of conversions. Avery T. Willis Jr., from Arkansas, missionary in the city of Bogor said, "I think it is a genuine 'religious' revival. Whether it is 'Christian' or not remains to be seen.

"Many converts are communist or communist sympathizers, or those who say the two can co-exist," Willis said. His church, which he established a year and a half ago, requires a waiting period after conversion before admission to church membership. The church has only 46 members, although many more are awaiting admission.

William N. McElrath, publication missionary in Bandung from Murray, Ky., said, "Many of the reported conversions are genuine. Some are communists and not sincere. Many start from circumstances and become sincere."

Parks said many Baptist converts are coming from Muslim and other Indonesian backgrounds. "I would not want anyone to get the impression that only Communists are coming."

-30-

Gainer E. Bryan, Jr., a writer from Atlanta, Ga., is former editor of The Maryland Baptist.

# # # #

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) 523-2393  
**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 13, 1967

"Nobody Cares," Assailant  
 Tells Brotherhood Workers

1164

462

NASHVILLE (BP)--Four workers from the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis subdued and disarmed a gunman who tried to shoot his former wife and himself in a downtown motel restaurant here.

Frank C. Watson, about 55, was arrested after firing twice at point-blank range at both himself and Mrs. Lida Watson, a waitress.

At the time, the Ramada Inn Restaurant was filled with an estimated 50 Baptist Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union workers here for staff planning conferences. Some sat petrified in fear, some fled from the room or ducked for cover, others didn't realize what was happening.

It happened like this, according to George Euting of Memphis, assistant executive secretary of the SEC Brotherhood Commission, and other Baptist workers present.

Watson came into the restaurant brandishing a .32 caliber automatic, approaching a counter where his former wife and several other waitresses were working.

He fired point-blank at the woman's head, but one of the waitresses hit his hand just before the gun fired, and the bullet went into the wall.

Watson, a used car firm employee, then placed the gun to his head and threatened to kill himself. He fired, and the bullet went through his hat but missed his head.

The waitress ran into an adjoining dining room, and Watson followed, again pointing his weapon at her. Twice he pulled the trigger, but the gun didn't fire.

Then Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission Field Services Consultant Don Morie grabbed Watson from behind, pinning his arms to his side with a bear hug.

Brotherhood Field Services Director Norman Godfrey picked up a folding tray stand and belted Watson on the head, knocking both him and Morie to the floor.

Brotherhood Field Services Consultant Frank Black grabbed Watson's gun away from him, and Brotherhood workers Euting and Roy Jennings, editorial secretary, rushed up to help.

Euting and the others tried to calm the man, and Euting wiped blood from his face resulting from a cut lip. The man asked for a cigarette.

"I'm your friend, and I want to help," Euting told Watson.

"Hell, don't give me that," Watson replied. "Nobody cares about me, nobody ever cared."

Euting said there wasn't much they could do except keep him calm and try to let him know that somebody does care. As they waited for the police, the man began to pour out his story.

He had recently gotten out of a mental institution, and had been drinking heavily for the past three days. He said he still loved his former wife very much and if he couldn't have her, then he didn't want anyone to.

Mrs. Watson told police she and Watson were divorced four years ago, "and he hasn't left me alone since." She said he had called all night the previous night and was constantly bothering her.

Euting related the story to more than 600 Baptist state and Southern Baptist workers in a meeting here as an example of the human needs of people. He added that the workers had been talking about denominational plans and programs outlining what they should do in future years. This brings it down to the personal level, he said.

Some church needs to let this man and his former wife, and thousands like them, know that somebody cares, he said.

1164

Leslie Carlson, Retired  
Seminary Professor, Dies

1165

350

FORT WORTH (BP)--E. Leslie Carlson, retired professor of Old Testament, biblical background and archaeology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, suffered a fatal heart attack here Dec. 12. He was 74.

He had retired in 1964 after teaching for 42 years at the seminary. Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 14 on the seminary campus, with James G. Harris, pastor of University Baptist Church in Fort Worth, officiating.

Also assisting in the funeral were Gordon Clinard, pastor of San Angelo, Tex., and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; Bishop William Barnds, a very close personal friend and bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth; and James Coggin, chairman of the seminary's board of trustees and a Fort Worth Baptist pastor.

Carlson is widely known in Southern Baptist circles as an archaeologist, lecturer, author, traveler, and photographer. He had studied 15 languages and spoke many of them fluently.

He had visited every major biblical site in Palestine, and had studied almost all of the important biblical manuscripts. He had visited the site of the Dead Sea Scrolls and done extensive research concerning them in Jerusalem and surrounding areas.

A world traveler, he had also done much research in museums and monasteries in Sweden, Venice, Oxford, Paris and had taken seven extensive trips throughout England, Scotland, Denmark, Norway, Asia Minor, Egypt, Europe and Mexico.

He was consultant editor of the Wycliff's Bible Dictionary and the Baker Bible Atlas and during retirement years was assistant editor of Baker's Dictionary of Biblical Archaeology.

A graduate of Moody Bible Institute and Texas Christian University, he earned master and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Seminary where he taught for 42 years.

Last year the seminary honored him with presentation of a distinguished alumni award.

The family requested that contributions be made to a memorial fund for the seminary's archaeological library in lieu of flowers.

Carlson's first wife, Edna S. Massey, preceded him in death in 1956. In 1957 he married the former Marjorie Smyth. He and his first wife had four children: E. Leslie Carlson Jr., of Oklahoma City; John Edward Carlson of San Angelo; Mrs. Edna Louise Barner of Grapevine, Tex.; and Benjamin Eugene Carlson of Phoenix, Ariz.

-30-

Baptist Worker Appointed  
To Interdenominational Post

1166

12/13/67

224

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--A. Jase Jones, who is on the staff of the Kansas City Baptist Association here, has been selected by a group of Kansas City churches of several denominations to continue coordination of the chaplaincy work in hospitals and nursing homes in Kansas City.

The appointment was authorized at a meeting of a Metropolitan Inter-Church Agency task group that is concerned with the upgrading of chaplaincy work to institutions in the metropolitan area.

The work had formerly been on a part-time basis by a member of the Council of Churches staff. The Council of Churches was dissolved last July and a new-broader inter-church group set up.

The latter group includes participation by Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics, which had not been affiliated with the dissolved organization.

In his new position, Jones will coordinate the work of a large group of laymen who have been serving as lay visitors to hospitals and nursing homes.

Most of the larger hospitals in the city have chaplains on their staffs, but smaller hospitals and nursing homes often do not have such services.

The task group said it would continue its current program of evaluating the program of chaplain services here. It will examine such activities in other metropolitan areas and interview professional chaplains in metropolitan institutions to learn how the cooperative church effort can be strengthened.

Jones will be granted sufficient time from his duties with the Southern Baptist association here to perform the work in this new position.

-30-

1165-1166