



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

January 12, 1970

Ghana Residence Law
Socks Baptist Rolls

by Susan S. Cahen

RICHMOND (BP)--A recent crackdown on alien residents by the government of Ghana has sapped about two-thirds of the Baptist strength in that West African nation.

"This may be the most critical time Baptists have faced in Ghana; it must be the most challenging," said Maurice Smith, Southern Baptist missionary stationed in Kumasi, Ghana.

The Ghanaian Ministry of Interior announced in mid-November that all aliens must have proper passports and residence visas by Dec. 2. According to Smith there were over 1 million aliens--Africans from other countries--in Ghana at the time of the announcement.

Smith said missionaries were not personally affected by the government's action, as they have proper credentials.

However, the majority of Baptists in Ghana were Yorubas, of Nigeria. Last year 66 of the 106 Baptist congregations in Ghana were Yoruba in membership.

By the end of December, 95 per cent of the Yorubas, including all but two of the Yoruba Baptist pastors, had already left the country and more were preparing to leave.

At least 60 church buildings and 20 pastoriums were left vacant by the dispersing Baptists. Muslims and other non-Christian groups attempted to take over much of this vacated property.

Missionaries and Ghanaian pastors hastily prevented the take-over by informing these groups that the property had not been abandoned.

By the first of January, 1970, only eight organized Baptist churches remained functional. "Some Yoruba members will remain and some will return, but it will never be the same," Smith said.

He added that the convention and work programs there would have to undergo a complete reorganization and that missionaries would have to make a redeployment of personnel and resources.

When the crisis first erupted and it became evident that Baptist churches would be affected, Southern Baptist missionaries attempted to arrange transportation, care for displaced persons and help churches and pastors to secure church records, keys and property.

Smith commented that some churches formally disbanded but others just seemed to melt away when their members were not able to gather to "organize or to unorganize" the church's business.

Members of many of the Yoruba churches expressed the desire that their facilities continue to be utilized for Baptist witness; to this end some of them left their church funds with Southern Baptist missionaries.

All 60 members of a small church in Ejura left Ghana in early December. Before they left however, they met officially and handed over their building, pastorium, furniture and church funds to Mrs. Ossie Littleton, veteran Southern Baptist missionary there.

In another church, members met for the first and last time at the end of November in their new \$5,000 building. Only two or three members remain.

In less than two months the attendance of a church in Kumasi dropped from 1,997 to 167 and most remaining members planned to leave. They gave their pastor three months' salary and allocated money to charter a bus to carry him and his family to Nigeria. They asked another pastor to take their new organ with him as a gift to the First Baptist Church in Ogbomosho, Nigeria.

A \$40,000 construction for a second church in Kumasi was completed early in December, after 98 per cent of their 1,000 regular Sunday attendants had left the country.

-more-

Church members never met in the building; they assembled at its site only for the cornerstone dedication. Before disbanding they turned the structure over to Southern Baptist missionaries.

A third Baptist church in Kumasi had a congregation of over 500; members dispersed before the church could get its affairs in order.

Smith attributes the dilemma of the Yorubas to the following causes.

--Africans had not needed passports and visas for years, and when the law was suddenly enforced many were caught short. Aliens were required to have a current passport, an income tax clearance certificate and a letter of authorization to do business.

--Petty trading was stopped by the "quit order" and this radically affected most Yoruba. Even though some of them were able to remain in the country they would no longer be able to earn a living.

--A new law in Ghana, to be instituted over the next two years, restricts certain sectors of the economy and most small businesses to Ghanaians.

--The confusion of these radical changes brought about a general ill feeling against the Nigerians; many of them were taunted as "aliens."

At first, most people were confused at the new crackdown and made no moves to comply. Then the situation became clearly serious and the police began making arrests of those not possessing proper credentials.

As the mass exodus began toward border posts the cost of transportation skyrocketed. Many people had to wait days for available busses. Ghanaian police and border guards were usually helpful in trying to alleviate hardships for those who had suddenly become refugees, Smith said.

-30-

SBC Foreign Board Sends
\$15,000 For Nigeria Relief

1/12/70

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board meeting here has appropriated \$15,000 for relief and rehabilitation ministries in Nigeria.

Relief funds of at least \$10,000 a month will be needed by Baptists in Nigeria during the first half of 1970, according to H. Cornell Goerner, the board's secretary for Africa.

Meanwhile, Baptist work in Ghana has suffered a major setback, Goerner told the board during its first meeting of the year.

Ghanaian enforcement of residence laws for aliens has forced most immigrants without residence permits to leave Ghana. About two-thirds of Baptists in Ghana were Yoruba traders from Nigeria; they have had to return to their homeland.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Ghana have approved permits, however, and are under no pressure to leave, Goerner said.

Robert C. Covington, former missionary to Malaysia, was elected to the board's administrative staff as a regional personnel representative. Now pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church near Fayette, Ala., Covington has also taught in the extension program of Samford University, Birmingham.

Covington succeeds Melvin E. Torstrick in the New Orleans regional position. Torstrick became an associate secretary in the board's department for missionary personnel, based in Richmond, in May 1969, and the New Orleans office has been kept open with part-time help.

Paul Box, another of the board's regional personnel representatives, was relocated from Los Angeles to Kansas City, Mo. "This will locate Box in a better position to work centers of candidate activity," said Jesse C. Fletcher, director of the board's Mission Support Division.

"This does not mean we are going to neglect the West Coast," Fletcher continued, "but we believe we can cover it adequately from our Fort Worth and Kansas City centers."

Other regional personnel representatives of the board are Roger G. Duck in Fort Worth and Ralph A. West in Atlanta.

Fletcher said that 85 missionaries and their 90 children are gathering at Callaway Gardens near Pine Mountain, Ga., to begin a 14-week orientation before going overseas. Methods and procedures of missionary orientation continue to be updated by the board's orientation council and W. David Lockard, orientation director.

-more-

January 12, 1970 3 Baptist P
In the decade ahead, annual net gain in missionary personnel may reasonably average 125 or more, said Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the board. The total overseas force could number 3,500 to 4,000 by the end of the decade, compared to today's 2,490, he added.

Such a growth rate will call for \$ 2 million of new money each year, Cauthen said, and the board's annual budget should grow from the present \$33 million to over \$50 million.

The 1970s should see Southern Baptists expand their witness into many more countries than the current 71, Cauthen told the board. In part, this projected growth calls for open-minded utilization of communication media, more creative efforts in evangelism, and cultivation of national Baptist leadership at all educational levels, he said.

-30-

Expand In Decade
Cauthen Tells FMB

1/12/70

RICHMOND (BP)--With an outline for progress in the 1970s, the top administrator of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board challenged the board "to move into the decade with a firm determination to press forward steadily."

Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive secretary, spoke here during the organization's January meeting. He named several ways in which Southern Baptists should strengthen their witness overseas.

Cauthen suggested that the board approach the decade in two five-year periods and aim for an annual net gain of at least 125 new missionaries in the first period.

In the second period an even higher increase in personnel should push the Southern Baptist overseas force to as many as 4,000 by the end of the decade.

Such a rate of growth calls for \$2 million of new money annually, and this means that the current annual budget of \$33 million would increase to over \$50 million, Cauthen told the board.

"Obviously, the possibility for such financial dimensions depends upon growth in Southern Baptist life, both numerically and in commitment to the requirements of a worldwide task," Cauthen said. "Whether we can do it or not depends upon what happens to Southern Baptists."

"Can they remain united? If they do, one of the factors to bring that about will be the ministry of foreign missions. The foreign mission enterprise is one of the most, if not the most, unifying factors in Southern Baptist life. Rally around it!;" Cauthen declared.

This decade should witness geographical expansion of the ministries of Southern Baptists, particularly into additional Muslim areas of the world, Cauthen said. Also, many new missionaries will be needed in India if the medical and social work of Southern Baptists here should be allowed to expand.

"In the same way, we keep in mind that China may at some time present a changed situation that will enable mission labor to be projected there," Cauthen continued. He asserted that the 1½ billion people of India and China are too many to remain isolated from the gospel indefinitely.

In communicating the gospel abroad, Southern Baptists ought to greatly increase their use of publications, Cauthen said, "to fill the vacuum that exists for the Christian message on the printed page." Also, they should seek to develop their use of radio and television with "open-mindedness and creativity."

As evangelists Southern Baptists, "must carry creative efforts forward to the greatest possible degree," Cauthen told the board. "Maybe we need to say what we have been saying in fresh, new formats."

"One of the signal services this board can render is to let it be known that in today's world we address ourselves to the truth of God's redemption in Christ and to calling people to personal, individual decision and discipleship."

The new decade also should bring deeper involvement than ever before in ministering to "the hurt of humanity," Cauthen said, "to apply the gospel of Jesus in ministries of love and mercy to the pain of human reality wherever the message is shared."

Turning to what he called "the work of cultivation," Cauthen said:

"We must strengthen all levels of Christian leadership training. We must not restrict Christian leadership to the concept that only the man who is blessed with superior education can function."

Regarding the supportive work of the Richmond headquarters staff, the executive secretary said that support would be given "with the quality the Lord wants as we serve

-more-

in an enterprise that stands right at the heart of our whole Christian task."

-30-

Russia Baptist Dissenters
Welcomed Back At Congress

1/12/70

RICHMOND (BP)--Many Russian Baptist dissenters were received back into the fellowship of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in a congress (or convention) held in Moscow, recently, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here reported.

A total of 478 delegates and about the same number of guests came from all areas of the Soviet Union to attend the congress.

Though it was the 40th congress of Russian Baptists, it was only the third held during the lives of many present. However, Russian Baptists agreed in 1963 to hold congresses every three years.

A report on the 1969 congress was written by C. Ronald Goulding of London, secretary of the European Baptist Federation, and released by the European Baptist Press Service. Goulding attended the meeting.

After John D. Hughey, secretary for Europe and the Middle East for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, read Goulding's report he related the history of the Russian Baptist dissenters.

It began after the adoption in 1960 of new statutes by the All-Union Council and a letter of instruction from the council to the churches, both concessions to a tougher Soviet policy on religion. The concessions were unacceptable to some Russian Baptists, and they became known as the initiative Baptists, reform Baptists, or the Action Group.

In 1961 these dissenters established an organizing committee and formed their own council which they hoped would replace the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists.

According to a 1929 law, Hughey said, Russian churches are subjected to close supervision and control, and religious activities are severely limited. The law began to be rigidly enforced again about 1959, after a "religious thaw" which began during World War II.

Therefore, the 1960 new statutes for the All-Union Council and the letter of instruction to the churches were attempts to find a modus vivendi for Baptists in the Soviet Union. They provided for more control of congregations by the central body, Hughey explained.

The dissidents considered the new statutes and the letter to be violations of the "commandment of Christ," and they wrote the All-Union Council, listing the violations and demanding that a general Baptist convention be called. Failing to get the response they desired, they tried to obtain from Soviet authorities permission to hold a Baptist Convention. They were not successful.

The dissenters openly disobeyed the laws on religion and were arrested. The Soviet Press reported many of these incidents, and Russian Baptists got more publicity than ever before.

Hughey said: "The dissenters have been demanding from the authorities rights which are taken for granted in most countries. Such people have in many lands served the cause of Christ and contributed to religious liberty.

"Also, the leaders of the All-Union Council have doubtless done what they regarded as necessary. It has seemed better to them to live with restrictions on religious activities than to run the risk of complete suppression of church life, as is demonstrated in Albania and China.

"The division of Russian Baptists would not have taken place if the government had not reduced their already painfully limited religious liberty. Perhaps the actions of the dissidents were necessary to call attention to the situation. And perhaps the diplomacy of the majority leaders is essential for securing the continuing place of Baptists in Russian life.

"The 1969 convention indicates a growing realization of their need of each other and nourishes the hope of a more generous government policy on religion," Hughey said.

Criswell Writes Book With
Chapter on Earlier Criticism

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention President W. A. Criswell of Dallas has written a new book, entitled *Look Up, Brother*, in which he devotes an entire chapter to answering critics of another book he wrote last year advocating literal interpretation of the Bible.

In the new book published by Broadman Press here, Criswell refers to those who condemned his previous controversial book on *Why I Preach That The Bible Is Literally True* in a chapter entitled "Baffled by a Book." He says of the critics:

"These...professors and their students apparently...do not need to read, to study, to try to understand. They just object."

In February of 1969, the Association of Baptist Professors of Religion adopted a resolution criticizing the publicity campaign on the book, saying that the advertisements implied that Criswell's position reflected the official viewpoint of the Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday School Board, which published it through Broadman Press. The resolution said the book also undermines the use of the historical-critical method of biblical interpretation.

Referring to his first book, the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas wrote, "The fundamental criticism of the professors against the book lies in their allegations that I deny the historical-critical method of Bible study while they and all intellectually honest people employ it..."

"Although the method of dissecting the Bible is carried to a sickening extent by pseudo-scholars, I do not quarrel with a man confessing he believes in these sources if he honestly accepts the Bible as the Word of God," Criswell wrote.

Look Up, Brother! is an overview of his first year of service as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In the foreword Criswell points out that the book does not reflect the official position of "any body, any board, any agency, any commission, any association of churches, or any convention...least of all...the publishing company that distributes it. The volume represents me only."

Answering his own question of why he writes so fiercely and uncompromisingly about liberals in the convention, he says: "I cannot help but write that way. I think in my deepest soul that there is a brand of liberalism that would destroy us. I, therefore, express that fear..."

Broadman Press which published both books, is the general books publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention.

-30-

Nixon Sends Baylor
Anniversary Message

1/12/70

WACO, TEX. (BP)--Baylor University, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, has received a proclamation from President Richard M. Nixon, citing Baylor for its academic accomplishments and expressing confidence in its growth.

Bearing the Presidential seal and President's signature, the proclamation came as Baylor prepares for the highlight of the anniversary celebration that will be the week of Feb. 1-7.

The proclamation reads:

"As Baylor University marks its one hundred and twenty-fifth year of service to higher education, I am pleased to congratulate its students, faculty and friends.

"Baylor can take deep pride in a history that has been marked by steady progress toward the highest standards of academic excellence. For more than twelve decades it has distinguished itself through the productive careers of its many accomplished graduates. And it continues to prepare young men and women for satisfying, constructive futures and community and national service.

"I am confident that Baylor will further enhance its fine reputation in the coming years, and that America will continue to benefit from its achievements."

During the week of Feb. 1 through 7, such personalities as Evangelist Billy Graham; Bill Moyers, publisher of *Newsday*; William H. Crook, former U. S. Ambassador to Australia and board chairman of Translinear, Inc.; and Francis Robinson, assistant manager of metropolitan opera will speak

In addition to receiving the President's proclamation, Baylor, the world's largest Baptist university, has received congratulatory letters and praise from leading personalities in fields of government, education, business, science and art during the anniversary year.

-30-

Sheridan Named Index
Associate Editor

1/12/70

ATLANTA (BP)--George J. Sheridan Jr., will become associate editor of the Christian Index here three days after he receives a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in late January.

Sheridan succeeds Bert O. Tucker, who resigned to do graduate study at Syracuse University in New York.

A native of Elizabeth, N.J., Sheridan attended Rutgers University and is a graduate of Eastern Baptist College. He studied at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary before entering Southern Seminary in 1967.

He was a reporter, editorial writer and editor for daily and weekly newspapers in New Jersey for seven years. Currently, he is a news writer in the public relations office for Southern Seminary, Louisville, as well as assistant chaplain at Silver Crest Hospital in New Albany, Ind.

-30-

"Poor" Minister's Daughter
Marries Into "Royalty"

1/12/70

QUINCY, Ill. (BP)--R. G. Poor, pastor of the First Baptist Church here, is taking a lot of good-nature joking these days about the forthcoming marriage of his daughter.

Miss Janice Kay Poor will be married to Ronald Royalty January 31.

After the marriage when the "Poor" girl marries into "Royalty," the couple will make their home in Danville, Ill.

Royalty, a former Methodist who recently was baptized by his future father-in-law, plans to enter the Baptist ministry and will probably study at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

-30-

correction

On BP story mailed 1/9/70, headlined, "South Carolina Pastor Named To Welfare Post," please correct graph 3 to read: "A former vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, (1958-59), and...." Ellis was never president of the SBC. The word "vice" was inadvertently omitted. Thanks.

--Baptist Press



BAPTIST PRESS

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

RECEIVED
JAN 13 1970
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203