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July 16, 1970

Personnel Shortage Closes Indonesian Clinic: Stalls Hospital Construction

By Susan S. Cahen

RICHMOND (BP)--A medical clinic which had served over 40,000 Indonesians has been closed and the building of a controversial Baptist hospital has been seriously impeded for lack of medical personnel, according to R. Keith Parks, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board secretary for Southeast Asia.

The clinic and hospital site are located in Bukittinggi on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Earlier this year, the Foreign Mission Board announced that land and a building permit for the hospital had been secured and construction would begin shortly.

Although some opposition continued, a high-level Indonesian government figure gave the project unexpected support in a written document.

"Just as the doors open,...we suddenly don't have the personnel to go there," Parks said. "We've got to have a surgeon and a general practitioner just to open the hospital."

Currently, Dr. Kathleen Jones, stationed in Kediri, Java, is the only Southern Baptist missionary physician in Indonesia. Under her supervision, Missionary Nurse Ruth Ford maintained the clinic in Bukittinggi for some time, anticipating the arrival of Dr. Frank B. Owen from the States.

However, Dr. Owen died en route to Indonesia, leaving Dr. Jones as the only Baptist physician serving Bukittinggi and Kediri, which are about 1,000 miles apart and on different islands.

The clinic was closed because Indonesian law dictates that a physician must be on hand to maintain medical clinics, Parks said.

Dr. Owen, who suffered a heart attack in Honolulu June 24, was returning to Indonesia from a furlough to participate in building the new hospital, selecting its staff and setting up its equipment.

Ross B. Fryer Jr., missionary stationed in Padan, about 70 miles from Bukittinggi, will continue the supervision of the hospital construction.

When Southern Baptists began their ministry in Bukittinggi in 1963 they were the only evangelical Christian mission in a city of about 50,000.

Dr. Owen and his family left the hospital in Kediri to go to Bukittinggi (meaning "High Hill"), which is about 70 miles inland from the coast in Western Sumatra.

During his first year there, Dr. Owen sought to buy land for the proposed 50-bed hospital and to receive permission to begin the clinic. By 1964, when he left Indonesia for a furlough in the States, he had purchased the land for the project.

However, a permit was never granted by the local government because opposition from the Muslim faction, which complained that the site was too close to one of their mosques. Another location had to be sought.

During Dr. Owen's furlough, Dr. Jones filled in for him, and by March 1965 she had received permission to begin the clinic operations. She turned the operation over to him when he returned.

Within a year and a half the clinic employed six persons and treated a daily average of 55 patients five days a week.

Part of the land acquisition problem involved a unique custom of a local ethnic group, the Menangkabau, which owns much of the land in the area.

Ownership is corporate, by tribes and families. Before sale of land is final, each individual involved must agree, no matter how far away he may be.

Stiff opposition from some of the Muslim population also stood in the way of the project. Some Muslims welcomed it, but the more conservative elements were suspicious. To some extent their distrust was exploited by Communists, Fryer said.

The personnel prognosis is almost as grim for the Kediri Baptist Hospital. Dr. Jones, in addition to performing surgery, must assume the entire responsibility for administrating the 150-bed hospital and the outpatient clinic, supervising one resident and two interns and negotiating with the Indonesian government on plans for the work in Bukittinggi.

But Parks is optimistic.

"We believe Southern Baptists will rise up to meet the need when they understand the situation," he said.

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Susan S. Cahen is a staff writer in the press relations office of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, a bureau of Baptist Press, in Richmond.

Baptist UN Official
Urges Peace-Justice

7/16/70

By Jim Newton
Assistant Director, Baptist Press

TOKYO (BP)--The president of the United Nations General Assembly charged here that while the world's masses believe in justice and peace, the world's governmental leaders are showing by inaction "that they do not wish peace and justice for all."

Speaking to the 12th Baptist World Congress of the Baptist World Alliance, Mrs. Angie Brooks-Randolph, a Baptist from the Republic of Liberia, said the church, by its silence, is failing to prod government leaders toward peace and justice for all mankind.

She addressed about 8,000 Baptists from throughout the world at the Budokan near the Imperial Palace grounds.

Garbed in flowing African robes, the United Nations official called on member nations of the UN to put more emphasis on implementing principles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the covenants on human rights adopted by the UN.

"Even if the record has been uneven, and there are grounds for some disappointment, I still believe that the United Nations is essential to peace and justice," Mrs. Brooks-Randolph said.

"Can you imagine a world without a general international organization of the scope of the United Nations in which international peace and justice would flourish?" she asked. "To that my answer is a definite 'no.'"

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She qualified her statements by adding that while the UN charter "offers genuine resolution of differences, these have been in large measure ignored" and the world is plagued with localized wars.

"Sadly," she continued, "the International Court of Justice--the world's symbol of justice--is sitting idly without a single case on its docket, crippled because of the loss of faith--by world conscience."

She said public opinion is becoming a powerful force for justice and peace in our times. She added, however, that justice and peace are often praised in words but denied in deeds.

Commenting on the church's role in dealing with justice and peace, Mrs. Brooks-Randolph asked, "Is the church to continue only as a comforter--a source of solace, a help in time of family trouble, a place to marry or bury...a guide to salvation, a teacher of morals?"

"Or will it agree that it must also be involved in the crucial issues of today--race, poverty, war, human environment?"

Then she charged that if the church condones segregation, the denial of human rights, the criminal acts of war, it "might find ultimately that it is not able to hold its place and make the contributions it has in the past in the lives of men."

Mrs. Brooks-Randolph hit hard at the church's silence on the issues of poverty, disarmament, hunger, illiteracy, and disease.

The church, she observed, fully realizes that insofar as concrete measures of disarmament are achieved, a growing reservoir of money and skills will be available for both national and international development, alleviating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease.

She also charged that the church has silently observed man accomplish his ancient dream of voyaging to the moon, while human beings perish because funds are not available to combat disease, hunger and pollution.

"Peace and justice are essential to our continued survival," she declared. "I know that peace and justice will speedily come and be maintained, if the hearts of men will share in brotherly love as God would wish it."

After translation of her speech into Japanese, the UN official received a standing ovation.

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Stassen Urges Changes In United Nations Charter

By Catherine Allen
For the Baptist Press

TOKYO (BP)--A former governor of Minnesota who signed and helped draft the United Nations charter told the 12th Baptist World Congress here that the UN charter should be rewritten to include divided nations with communist and non-communist governments.

Harold Stassen, a lawyer from Philadelphia, Pa., and former president of the American Baptist Convention, said during a symposium on peace and justice that the United Nations has done much good, but now needs changing.

Stassen, the youngest of the seven United States drafters and signers of the charter 25 years ago, advocated changing the charter to admit both Chinese governments, both German governments, both Korean governments, and both Vietnamese governments.

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He also said that permanent members of the UN Security Council should include Japan, India, both Chinese governments, Brazil, both German governments, the USSR, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

"Such a new charter based on universality, should and would meet the new conditions in the world today," Stassen said. "No nation can veto such an essential step. We must not permit a frozen status quo to be a glacier sliding into a nuclear holocaust."

Relating his views on the United Nations to his personal religious convictions, the American Baptist layman and former presidential candidate in the USA, told the international Baptist audience:

"Is it not basic in our religion that all races, all peoples, are brothers under God? This principle must be applied to the United Nations."

Stassen, as well as others on the symposium's panel, urged their fellow Baptists to exert direct influence to achieve peace and justice in the world.

Alexsei M. Bichkov, vice president of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the Soviet Union, said that all people and nations have equal right to dignity and respect and personal national and religious freedom.

"Christians must put into practice evangelical ideals of sacrificial justice," Bichkov said. "Christians must support all actions directed to the development of peace and friendship among nations--to the unification of all efforts for disarmament."

He suggested that Christians, comfortable in some parts of the world, have forgotten the sufferings of people in the Middle East and East Asia. "May some of us be part of the evil?" he asked.

Sam Marseille, chairman of the education board for the Haiti Baptist Convention, said Christians must seek justice for all peoples as a means to peace. "Probably neither peace nor justice exists anywhere now," he said.

Marseille urged churches to nurture justice by sharing material things and the spiritual message.

Takaaki Aikawa, president of the Japan Baptist Union, reminded the panel that time for achieving peace is running out.

"We have no more than 50 per cent chance of survival to the end of the century," Aikawa predicted. He added that peace cannot be one sided, but must be a two-way street.

Aikawa concluded, as other panelists nodded in agreement, that true peace cannot be enforced by authority.

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Catherine Allen is director of public relations for the Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham. She is assisting in coverage of the 12th Baptist World Congress of the Baptist World Alliance in Tokyo.

Private Elementary Schools
Called Danger to Churches

7/16/70

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--A South Carolina Baptist Convention committee has encouraged churches to avoid getting involved in private elementary and secondary education.

A statement issued here by the convention's Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee, said that church participation in such

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private schools may be costly, deceptive, destructive, divisive and injurious to mission causes.

The committee, comprised equally of ministers and laymen, does not speak officially for the 1,592-church South Carolina convention, but is responsible for providing counsel on public, moral and social issues affecting the religious community.

A convention official said the committee's report was prompted by "general unrest" over the condition of schools in the nation.

Although there is no organized private school movement among South Carolina Baptists, he said that several churches in the state have participated in such efforts on a community level.

"Fear of integration of the public schools has been worse than the realities of integration in most cases," the committee said. It said that new programs in the public schools "could work much better than we anticipate, especially if we try to make them work."

"If, after a fair trial, there are those who feel that a private school is necessary, then let us keep it out of our churches," the committee suggested.

The committee said that the history of movements to conduct private schools in churches has been that the school soon "overshadows the witness of the church...and the church loses its spiritual purpose.

It questioned that an organization operating without experience, without proper equipment, and with haphazard support, could give "quality education," a reason often advanced for the establishment of private schools.

Concern was also expressed that private schools may be destructive to one of America's greatest democratic institutions, the public schools.

"Had it not been for the public school, we would have had a splintered society with various elements of our population withdrawing into hostile camps, making a democratic society impossible," the statement said.

Likelihood that the private school will further divide whites and blacks, rich and poor, was noted.

Private schools would encourage "snobbish intolerance" in the religious community, "which is difficult to justify from the Christian point of view," the committee said.

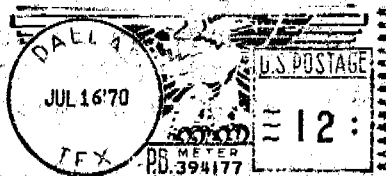
Fears were also voiced that operating private schools would divert support from Southern Baptists' worldwide missions program.

The committee said no cost figures are available, but warned that "sending a child to a private school without public assistance will be roughly equivalent to the cost of college." Also, it "does not relieve the parent of the necessity of paying taxes for the support of the public schools."



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