

October 23, 1950

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST MISSIONS AVOID UNION IN INDONESIA

DJAKARTA, Indonesia--(BP)--"You must have a lot of Dutchmen in the Southern Baptist Convention to be so stubborn," gracious Mr. V. H. Von Beymer, himself a Dutchman and Missions Consul of the Indonesian government told Duke K. McCall. It was all in good nature and came at the end of a long hearing on Indonesian treatment of Southern Baptist missionaries. The government wants the missionaries to promise to work together in inter-denominational organizations in the nation. McCall told him, "Our spirit is cooperative but our refusal to join any such official organization is final."

The conversations developed when McCall, accompanied by W. A. Criswell, Dallas, both representing the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, attempted to get immediate recognition of Dr. and Mrs. G. W. Strother and Dr. and Mrs. M. A. Bryan as missionaries in the country. McCall was advised that Bryan (M.D.) might be required to spend a year in service in a government hospital before being allowed a private practice. Confusion over our use of title "Dr." had led them to handle Strother's application the same as Bryan's. Strother is not an M.D.

"A Mr. Mitchell of the American Embassy estimated that since visa involved permanent residence, the couples would be treated as immigrants and applications might take six months for processing," McCall said. "The new independence of Indonesia means many inexperienced men in government offices and therefore frequent delays in handling a matter of this sort."

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## CAREFULLY IDENTIFY ALL SOLICITORS!

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Watch out for irresponsible salesmen falsely selling books and church supplies as representatives of the Baptist Sunday School Board Mr. Harold E. Ingraham warned this week. He said, "Please urge our people everywhere to carefully identify all solicitors. The Sunday School Board does not send out, sustain, acknowledge, or accept any responsibility for private solicitors for any kind of books, magazines, or other material."

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LETTERS FROM McCALL  
READ LIKE PENTECOST

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--"The lost can be won through an interpreter." Reading like letters from Pentecost, dispatches from Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, describe the great evangelistic opportunities of the Orient. "Best of all we have had some wonderful revival services," McCall recently wrote. "Tuesday night at Kowloon on the China coast there were 27 professions. Last night at Hong Kong there were 22. At the schools from 40 to 50 signed cards indicating acceptance of Christ. Criswell is having about the same results. The evangelistic opportunities here are beyond anything I have ever seen. We want to stay on but the services in Japan are already planned. Never have I seen such response when I preached in the United States."

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DOCTORS McCALL AND CRISWELL AID  
S.B.C. MISSIONARIES SECURE VISAS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Missionaries going into "fringe" countries around China are apparently welcome but are having a difficult time getting their visas properly processed. Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Convention, and Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, have been able to give assistance. Dr. McCall sent the following dispatch from Djakarta on work in India:

"In India I found the request for visas for Dr. and Mrs. H. H. McMillan and Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Hipps had been referred by national government to state government of United Provinces. It was apparently pigeon-holed there until repeated inquiries from American Mission Consul L. V. Steere at my behest, caused the national government office to request action by the United Provinces office.

"At the time I left India inquiries were being made of British Baptist Missionary R. C. Cowling, who gave good references for and agreed to be responsible, if necessary, for the expense of the four. Visas soon available, I think.

"No trace of a request for a visa from Dr. and Mrs. S. E. Ayers (M.D.) could be found. They also are supposed to go to India.

"Inquiries in Singapore indicated the resident permit for Miss Lora Clement, who is on her way to that city, would be available by the time of her arrival."

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**\$20,000 IN GIFTS DECREASE  
RADIO COMMISSION DEFICIT**

ATLANTA, Ga.—(BP)—The Radio Commission went to the bank last week. They plunked down a payment of \$20,000 on their \$60,000 note — all because people who believe in the Southern Baptist Radio ministry are sending in their offerings.

Two sisters sent in their offering with a note: "...We do not have a radio but God has given us \$10.00 so that those who do have one can hear and believe..."

A sick war veteran wrote from his hospital bed: "...The Lord provides. When I got your letter the postman gave me two letters, and I read yours first and wanted to send you some money, but did not know how. But I opened the second letter and in it was \$2.00 from my sister, and I sat right up in bed and am sending you \$1.00.

Dr. S. F. Lowe, director of the Commission, believes that a large part of the deficit accrued from this year's Baptist Hour will be liquidated by January 17.

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**"OUR COUNTRY IS WAKING UP,"  
SAYS DIRECTOR OF EVANGELISM**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—"America is thinking," declared Charles E. Matthews, director of evangelism, Southern Baptist Convention. "Our country is waking up to the need of a spiritual reawakening. Look at MacArthur's call for a theological revival. Look at Warren Austin's call for the United Nations to pray."

Matthews was here conferring with Dr. T. L. Holcomb and other representatives of the Baptist Sunday School Board on cooperative publicity plans for the 1951 simultaneous revivals east of the Mississippi.

He also cited a recent telegram from President Harry S. Truman, commending the crusade. President Truman said: "I note with pleasure the effort Southern Baptists along with other religious groups are making to bring about a spiritual awakening in our nation. I wish the blessings of God upon all of these movements in this critical period of spiritual need in all nations.

The telegram came to Dr. Matthews in answer to a letter to the President only two days after it was mailed. "His quick response by telegram rather than by mail is a sign that the President is thinking along with the rest of us," Matthews said.

Next step in preparation for the crusade is a Southwide evangelistic conference of leaders and others interested in attending at Nashville, Tenn., December 11-12.

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KANSAS BAPTISTS TO MAJOR ON  
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM IN 1951

WICHITA, Kan.--(BP)--When the fifth annual meeting of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists scheduled for October 31 to November 2 opens in Pittsburg, the messengers face the challenge of approving a second Five-Year Program, according to Orbie R. Clem, editor, Kansas Southern Baptist Beams. The aim of this proposed program is five-fold, chief of which is the goal of 200 new churches with a total membership of 25,000 inclusive of the constituency of the existing churches. Other phases include appointment of standing committees to study the establishment of Bible chairs and a Bible institute, the development of building loan fund, and the setting up of a sinking fund for permanent headquarters property.

The major emphasis in 1951 is to be on the Cooperative Program goal. Contributions from the churches are expected to increase 50 per cent over 1950. State Secretary N. J. Westmoreland says, "The chief aim of our next year is bound up in our goal for the Cooperative Program totaling \$25,000. Of this amount, we can well anticipate \$20,000 from regular offering, and we seek to challenge our people to make a Fifth Anniversary Thank Offering of \$5,000 on March 18."

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ALABAMA BAPTISTS MAY ADOPT  
MILLION DOLLAR MISSION GOAL

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--(BP)--Alabama Baptists may adopt a million dollar Cooperative Program goal at their annual convention in Decatur, November 14. It is also expected that the convention will start a definite work among Negroes to be directed by the executive board of the convention.

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DR. POLING CITES UNITY  
AS NEED OF CONFUSED TIME

WICHITA, Kan.--(BP)--"Nothing short of a dynamic Holy Spirit-inspired unity will meet the need of this confused time," Dr. Daniel A. Poling, editor, Christian Herald, said in speaking on the proposed National Council of Churches. Naming a number of the major denominations, he stated that each would be made stronger by union with the Council. He spoke at the Central Christian Church to around 600 people that did not quite fill the auditorium.

He stated that the National Council of Churches will be as liberal as the constituency is liberal, as conservative as the constituency is conservative; in fact, whatever the membership is, that will the Council be. "It is not a super church, nor is it taking the place of the individual denominations," Poling said. "This Council is a Protestant front line -- a demonstration of unity and faith," he continued as he expressed confidence, "Surely, there is nothing in the world to keep us as Protestants from this unity, from having this plan."

Dr. Poling went on to say, "If some in the Council give a liberal interpretation of the Scriptures, that does not bother me because our unity is in Jesus Christ. I am a conditional conservative. I say to you as a constructive critic of the Federal Council of Churches and a loyal supporter of the Federal Council of Churches that the plan is the best Protestants have conceived since our faith began."

The meeting was reported by Orbie R. Clem, editor, Kansas Southern Baptist Beams.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Duke K. McCall (Nashville, Tenn.) and Dr. W. A. Criswell (Dallas, Texas) are on a special mission to various existing and prospective Southern Baptist mission fields of the world. Following is one of Dr. McCall's reports from Athens, Greece.

## THE ATHENS OF THE SOUTH

BY

Duke K. McCall  
Executive Secretary  
Southern Baptist Convention  
Executive Committee

I bought a twenty-cent ticket and caught the ferry from Europe to Asia. That was the climax of an exciting day.

That morning I woke up in Athens, Greece. Being a Nashvillian I headed straight for the Parthenon to see if the original was as beautiful as our copy.

As I approached the Acropolis which is crowned by the Parthenon, I was attacked by a swarm of guides. Finally I cast myself on the mercy of the guide with a Chicago accent (genuine). For the next three hours he tortured me with a bombardment of faintly familiar names and dates. It takes a smart man to forget as much ancient history as I have forgotten. I do not know what it takes to remember it.

About all I got out of the guide's lecture was that the British Museum has all of the Greek art treasures. The British are keeping them for the Greeks, but the Greeks feel competent to do their own treasure keeping.

I also built up quite a resentment toward the Turks for storing powder in the Parthenon. When it exploded, the most beautiful building in the world was destroyed. Now it is better to save your money and visit the copy in Nashville.

Still there is a sense of history which swirls around the many half-destroyed buildings of ancient Greece. Pericles and Plato and Socrates still walk the earth as ghosts. These mighty men brought order out of the chaos of human thinking. So mighty were their minds that men still follow the path they hewed.

I am especially intrigued by Plato's invasion of the kingdom of the spirit. In his own way he taught that man does not live by bread alone. In Phaedo he presented dramatically the arguments for human immortality.

Just to the west of Arepagus is another hill not so much frequented by tourists. It was there that I forgot Plato. It is called Mars Hill. There the Apostle Paul delivered his great sermon to the Athenian philosophers.

My traveling companion had his Greek New Testament with him. We turned to the seventeenth chapter of the Book of Acts and read the sermon just as Paul preached it. Listen to some of its phrases:

"God that made the world and all things therein...hath made of one blood all nations of men...that they should seek the Lord...because he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness...." The Athenian philosophers never did let Paul finish his sermon. Maybe history would have taken a different turn if they had.

Just at noon we left Athens for Istanbul, Turkey, the old city of Constantinople. We stepped off the plane to be met by a Turk named Thomas Cosmacles. He is not a Baptist, but he had heard through a friend in the American Bible Society that two Christian ministers were coming. He had left his little shop and caught the train out to the airport. It was one of the finest gestures of Christian fellowship I have ever seen. He was our volunteer guide.

Thomas had a motive in the help he gave us. He wanted to ask for missionaries to be sent to his land.

Most Turks are Moslems, but like the United States, Turkey recognizes no particular religion and grants religious freedom to all. The Turkish Moslems are the modernists

(more)

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of their faith. Women go unveiled. No one may wear religious robes on the streets. Religion is not taught in the schools.

Turkey is the only country in the world where there are fewer Christians today than twenty-five years ago.

After a Turkish dinner in a little restaurant, I was ready to fall into bed. Just then Thomas invited us to ride the ferry across the Bosphorus Strait to his home on the Asiatic side. I had never put my foot on Asia before, but it was the purpose of the trip which gave me a shot of new energy. I was to join in the weekly family prayer service in his home. I liked the thought of making my first visit to Asia to join in family worship of Jesus Christ. Also it gave me the chance to follow my habit of going to prayer meeting on Wednesday night.

It was almost two o'clock the next morning when I found my way back to the hotel alone. It was worth it!

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## DAMNATION IS CONTAGIOUS

by

Duke K. McCall  
Executive Secretary  
Southern Baptist Convention  
Executive Committee

My first night in Germany I saw Orson Wells in his version of Faust. That oft told tale of a man who bartered his soul to the devil for power is at home in Germany, especially Munich where Hitler got his start. The Orson Wells' version of the story ends with an atom bomb ticking on the stage. The last line spoken is "Demnation is contagious."

I visited Dachau where Hitler's stooges exercised the power of God over the life and death of millions of their fellowmen. I walked through the door marked "Shower room" (in German of course) and found myself in the gas chamber. I swung back the heavy iron door to enter the room where efficient vultures robbed the dead of even the gold in their teeth. I looked into the furnaces especially designed to cremate bodies by the thousands. I shuddered.

The dog pens where vicious dogs were trained to kill by practicing on prisoners still stand. Bullets are still imbedded in the tree to which men were tied as targets for pistol practice. Only the band which played to drown the cries of the dying is missing to give the proper atmosphere of horror.

There are many beautiful trees around the execution yard. It was hard to find an open spot in which to dig a hole for the ashes of a million people.

Only one of the great trees is dead. It is the tree whose limbs held the hangman's rope. It is the tree whose leaves provided shade for the executioner and a shroud for the naked bodies of the murdered. That tree withered and died. "Damnation is contagious."

Munich was a beautiful city when I first visited it in 1931. That was between the beer-hall Putsch of a two-bit politician named Hitler, and the Reichstag fire set by Chancellor Hitler.

Now Munich is an ugly city. The contagious evil of near-by Dachau has left it pock marked and misshapen. The opera house is a pile of debris. The cathedral is in ruins. Unless the world is an insane asylum there has to be some sort of retributive justice. Somehow judgment must fall upon evil.

The German people do not like to talk about Dachau. They say they did not know about the horrible things done there. Maybe not, but ignorance does not keep damnation from being contagious.

The Bavarian people of southern Germany blame the Prussian warriors of northern Germany for their plight. But Hitler got his start in Munich, the capitol of Bavaria. Strange how we hate to own the buzzards when they come home to roost.

Like Faust, a man in Munich gave his soul to the devil for power. The disease of his damnation spread all over the world. It destroyed millions of people and it destroyed him. But the disease continues to spread.

The great army barracks where the Nazi elite guard was trained is now a home for refugees--15,000 of them crowded fifteen and more to a room. It is necessary to keep reminding oneself that they are human.

What is to become of these twelve million refugees already in Western Germany plus the 30,000 a month who slip under the iron curtain? They have asked for poison to be distributed to them in case the East German communists try an "anschluss a la Hitler." I feel a little sick in my stomach.

The people of Munich expect an invasion from the east at any moment. Funny thing, the war scare blows hot in the American sector of Germany and cold in the British sector. It is a crazy world and damnation really is contagious. That was why God took such drastic measures to save it. Nothing less could help.