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DECEMBER 1, 1970

**Baptists Warned To Prepare  
For Rising 'Brown Power' Tide**

by Orville Scott

DALLAS (BP)--Texas Baptist leaders, concerned over reports of the possibility of violence in the state's Chicano movement, heard Mexican-American pastors and laymen warn at a special meeting here that potential for violence already exists in parts of the state.

The meeting coincided with the showing of a television special on the Chicano movement in Texas. A Baptist, Jerry Taff of WFAA-TV, Dallas, produced and narrated the film.

Charles McLaughlin, secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' State Missions Commission, arranged the meeting. He told the group that some militant phases of the "brown power" movement are accelerating rapidly and demand the understanding of church leaders everywhere.

"The television film and the discussion that followed contributed much to better understanding and initiated a decided effort toward improved communications," McLaughlin said. He said he expected more meetings of a similar nature.

Chicano power is being felt in other states with large Mexican-American populations.

The Mexican-American population of Texas is reported to be from 2 to 3 million, about one-fourth of those in the United States. The largest concentrations of Latin Americans in Texas are in the Rio Grande Valley and the San Antonio, Corpus Christi and El Paso areas; however, most major cities have a significant number of Mexican-American citizens.

Both pastors and laymen agreed that Mexican-Americans in Texas have been oppressed, sociologically and economically, for 135 years. Most said there seems to be immediate danger of violence in parts of the state.

Newsman Taff told the group, "I put the Chicanos on TV because you ought to know they're there, and you ought to understand them."

Taff said the film sought to show that the Mexican-American is not inferior just because he's different.

A Dallas Baptist layman, Raul Trevino, said the film correctly pictured the Mexican-American struggle for equality.

"If we do not accept what is happening, there is going to be a revolution," said Trevino, an administrative intern for the Dallas Independent School District and a member of the Mexican-American Task Force of Dallas.

Rudy Hernandez, second vice president of the Texas Baptist convention, differed with some of the speakers concerning the scope of the "brown power" movement.

Citing what he called the "silent majority," Hernandez said he believes the militant or revolutionary elements constitute a small minority of Mexican-Americans.

Hernandez, who said he grew up in San Antonio "in a very poor home," served for 15 years in the Texas Baptist evangelism division before becoming pastor of First Mexican Baptist Church, Corpus Christi.

"I think the terms Gringo and Chicano should have been left alone," said Hernandez.

"We do have problems," Hernandez said, "but I don't believe that getting involved in political action groups is the way to overcome it.

"I am trying to point out to my people one solid group. Solidarity is to lead them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."

Trevino said he had lived in a situation in Crystal City, Tex., that was almost unbearable to anyone, but said he is not a rebel.

He said mere toleration of Mexican-Americans by Anglos is "not going to be accepted."

If Mexican-Americans do not get the respect they demand, Trevino said, "we're going to lose, not only spiritually, but to physical violence. Many of us will be lost."

A Dallas fifth-grade school teacher, Tim Villasano, who attended Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., with the aid of a Baptist scholarship, said lack of communication between Anglos and Mexican-Americans is a major factor in the current unrest.

"If we continue to fail to communicate with those who I feel truly have something to say, there will be a physical problem," Villasano warned.

Dallas P. Lee, secretary of the Texas Baptist language missions department, said the problems are bad but added that Texas Baptists have demonstrated a love for Mexican-Americans in many ways, including the expenditure of millions of dollars in such projects as the three-year-old Rio Grande River Ministry.

Lee said the denomination has four mobile medical units ministering to needs from El Paso to Brownsville, Tex. Other major signs of Baptist concern, said Lee, are the investment of more than \$750,000 in scholarships for about 550 students during the past 15 years; salary supplement for 225 pastors and subsidies and loan funds for Mexican-American church buildings; a Mexican Baptist Children's Home in San Antonio; and schools for Mexican-Americans in Harlingen and San Antonio.

Epifanio Salazar, pastor of the Second Mexican Baptist Church of Corpus Christi, and president of the Mexican Baptist Departmental Convention of the BGCT, said he used to call the Mexican-American the sleeping giant.

"But I have changed one word. It's the waking giant...and we need to be prepared when the giant is fully awakened."

Carlos Paredes, Austin, pastor and former BGCT vice president, had earlier warned the United States' first Latin American Congress on Evangelism in San Antonio that "the revolutionary element in ethnic groups poses a major threat to the spread of the Christian gospel.

He told Texas Baptists in Dallas "there are areas in our state that are a powder keg."

He deplored militants "polarizing the Mexican-American." The solution he said is to treat all people with dignity and to evangelize them.

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Dallas Church Oversubscribes  
\$2.6 Million Budget for 1971

12/1/70

DALLAS (BP)--Members of First Baptist Church, Dallas, have oversubscribed a record \$2.6 million 1971 local church budget by more than \$38,000.

The budget is reportedly the largest local church budget in the Southern Baptist Convention. The church has more than 15,000 members, and is the largest in the denomination.

Members of the church have given in excess of \$1 million since 1954, and passed the \$2 million mark in 1968.

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W. A. Criswell, pastor of the church and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, indicated that \$1,032,744 of the church's 1971 giving program will be directed to mission efforts at home and around the world.

Another \$1.29 million is earmarked for local causes, while \$325,000 will be applied to building expansion.

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Injured Journeyman Flown From  
Africa To Dallas For Treatment

12/1/70

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary journeyman Larry V. Hughes, 24, of Tulsa, Okla., has been hospitalized at Baylor University Medical Center here after being seriously injured in a swimming accident in Malawi, Africa.

Hughes was accompanied on the flight from Malawi by two doctors from Blantyre, Malawi, one of the country's two surgeons and an anesthetist.

In spite of a severe shortage of doctors, Malawi's president Hastings Banda granted special permission for the two physicians to leave the country.

Hughes sustained a spinal dislocation and skull lacerations after diving into shallow water during an outing with other young people in Mlanje, Malawi. He was taken to a hospital in Blantyre, where a surgeon found a dislocation in the area of the third and fourth vertebrae.

Hughes' neck was straightened and he was put in traction. At that time he had no motor control from the shoulders down but did retain sensation in his feet.

His condition remained critical at the time of his arrival in the states, but there was slight improvement, and feeling was gradually returning to the lower portion of his body. Three vertebrae are cracked but the spinal cord was not severed, physicians reported.

Arrangements had been made for Hughes to be hospitalized in Houston, and an ambulance and hospital personnel were standing by at the airport, as were his parents. But plans had to be changed in flight when the Houston airport was closed by fog.

Missionary Roy G. Davidson Jr., who had accompanied Hughes from Malawi, made the necessary change in arrangements, and the patient was deplaned in Dallas.

Mrs. Vicki Hickey, Southern Baptist missionary journeyman nurse from Sanyati, Rhodesia, also accompanied the group to help provide the constant medical care required by the patient.

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Baptist Group in Denmark  
Meets in Catholic Building

12/1/70

RINGSTED, Denmark (BP)--A small circle of Baptists in Denmark, lacking their own building, are now holding services in the local Roman Catholic Church.

It is the first such arrangement in Denmark, and perhaps in all of Scandinavia, said the pastor, A. Baungaard Thomsen, a former president of the European Baptist Federation.

About 20 adults comprise the Baptist group in Ringsted, a city of 35,000 about 35 miles west of Copenhagen. The group is one of five Baptist meeting centers in a wide, mainly rural, area which together form the Mid-Zealand Baptist Church, with a total membership of 300.

Thomsen said the Ringsted group, about 10 years old, had used a variety of rented halls, encountering all sorts of difficulties--such as a dance in an adjacent space that drowned out the worship service.

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Thomsen and the local Catholic priest discussed the problem, and agreed for the Baptist group to meet in the St. Knuds Catholic Church here twice a month. The bishop authorized the arrangement and even wished it well, Thomsen reported.

Catholics were invited to the first Baptist service held in the building. It was a communion service, but none of the Catholics partook of the wine and bread even though Thomsen said it was open communion and all believers were invited to partake.

In addition, Thomsen said that seven Lutheran ministers, the Catholic priest, and Thomsen have formed a minister's study group that meets every third week to discuss various doctrinal questions.



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