



## BAPTIST PRESS

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April 16, 1971

25 Millionth Copy Of "Good News"  
Presented To Southern Baptists

NASHVILLE (BP)--An executive of the American Bible Society presented here the symbolic 25 millionth copy of "Good News for Modern Man" to an executive of the Southern Baptist Convention.

James Z. Nettinga, executive secretary of the American Bible Society's national distribution program, made the presentation of the red leather-bound Today's English Version of the New Testament to Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee.

An inscription on the inside of the 25 millionth copy said that the presentation was made "for the archives of the Southern Baptist Convention in recognition of Southern Baptist use of the Today's English Version and generous support of the Bible cause."

Nettinga, in making the presentation, held up copies of the Today's English Version (TEV) which had been published especially for Southern Baptists, with a total distribution of about 2 1/2 million.

He said one special version produced for the Baptist General Convention of Texas totalled 1 1/4 million--the largest single order in the history of the American Bible Society; another for the SBC Home Mission Board totalled 600,000; and two for Broadman Press totalled 550,000.

In addition, more than 6 million copies of portions and selections of the TEV version have been distributed by organizations of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nettinga said.

Nettinga also expressed appreciation for financial support from Southern Baptists for the work of the American Bible Society, pointing out that contributions from SBC churches had exceeded those from other denominations each year for the past seven years.

Last year, Southern Baptist churches contributed \$233,185 toward the support of the American Bible Society's work.

In accepting the symbolic 25 millionth copy, Routh noted that about 15 per cent of the 25 million copies printed had been distributed by and for Southern Baptists.

Both Routh and Nettinga pointed out that a former Southern Baptist missionary and a Bible scholar, Robert G. Bratcher, headed the team of translators responsible for translation of "Good News for Modern Man."

Routh added that it is important that 25 million copies of the version have been distributed, but even more important is the fact that "Good News for Modern Man" is being read.

"I believe," Routh said, "that much of the modern renewal of interest in the teaching of Jesus on the part of young people is due in no small measure to the distribution of this modern translation."

Later, Nettinga said at a luncheon with several SBC executives that it appeared likely that very soon "Good News" would surpass Dr. Spock's famed book on baby care as the all-time paperback best seller.

In addition to the 25 million copies distributed in the United States and Canada, Nettinga said that more than 2 million copies have been published by Bible societies and commercial publishers abroad and in the U.S.A.

The translation, illustrated with line drawings by French artist Annie Vallotton of Paris, was issued in September of 1966. Cost of the paperback edition has been as low as 21 cents per copy.

Similar in style to "Good News," the Bible Society also produced "The Psalms for Modern Man" last December, and plans to publish this summer a modern translation of the Book of Job.

Nettinga said the new translation of Job would be available in time for a special "January Bible Study" emphasis on the Book of Job scheduled in thousands of Southern Baptist churches in January of 1972.

The complete Old Testament will be published in 1975, he added.

Nettinga introduced Ed Cunningham of Lexington, Ky., a Southern Baptist minister who is special secretary for program and promotion of the American Bible Society, and pointed out that Cunningham has responsibilities for maintaining relationships with the Southern Baptist Convention for the Bible Society.

Routh said that he planned to present the red-leather bound 25 millionth copy of "Good News for Modern Man" to the Southern Baptist Historical Commission for transferral to SBC archives when the commission met the following week.

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BP Photo mailed to Baptist State Papers.

Missionaries Relate  
Flight From Pakistan

4/16/71

by Susan S. Cahen

RICHMOND (BP)--Damage to Baptist property because of fighting in East Pakistan has been slight, said two Southern Baptist missionaries who have just returned to the United States after evacuation from the war-torn country.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Jones, missionaries to Pakistan from Delaware, Ohio and Woodbury, Tenn., said in an interview here that at least two Baptist reading rooms just outside Dacca, Pakistan, had been damaged slightly, though not seriously.

Pakistan, since March 25, has been the scene of fighting between the Pakistani armed forces and supporters of an independent Bengali state.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones and their three youngest children left their home in Faridpur, East Pakistan, on the morning of April 1.

They described the area as quiet, but not calm. There was no fighting but the people there were beginning to arm themselves with whatever they could find, Jones said.

Jones had been serving as director of the Christian Industrial Center in Faridpur. Work stopped at the center during the third week in February, and the school closed officially on March 8.

Only a few days earlier, Sheik Mujibur Rahman called for a non-cooperation movement. Rahman is the leader of the Awami League, chief supporters of the independent state proposed for Bengali.

Under this order, schools, business establishments and other institutions were closed March 1-25, just before intensive fighting erupted.

The two older Jones children, home for a long Christmas holiday, were scheduled to return to a Christian boarding school in West Pakistan March 8. It was March 12, however, before they were able to begin their journey back to school.

When Mr. and Mrs. Jones and the three younger children arrived in Dacca from Faridpur, a night curfew was still in effect. Sporadic shooting was heard, although they did not see any evidence of it. Debris from earlier incidents had been cleaned off the streets.

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In Dacca, Jones said, they learned that the two Baptist reading rooms nearby had been broken into and small fires had been set to some of the furniture.

However, no serious damage was done to either of the brick and mortar buildings. So far as he knew, there was no loss of lives of mission employees, Jones added.

The Joneses and two other Southern Baptist missionary families left Dacca April 4 for Karachi, West Pakistan.

They attempted to contact their two older children who had returned to the Murree Christian School near Rawalpindi, East Pakistan, but communication by telephone was impossible. They were not sure if the children had arrived safely.

The Joneses proceeded to Teheran, Iran, where they sent word for the two children at Murree Christian School to fly to Iran.

The family was reunited in Teheran. From there they made arrangements to come to the U.S. for a short furlough. They are now in Woodbury, Tenn.

Two SBC missionary families have decided to stay in Faridpur and another has remained in Feni, East Pakistan, Jones said.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Ryther of Belle Fourche, S.D., and Gonzales, Tex., and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Thurman, of Monticello, Miss., and McWilliams, Ala., are "hoping to carry on as much as possible with the work there (Faridpur) as possible," Jones said. Ryther is in charge of the Christian Agricultural Center and Thurman is involved in general evangelism.

Mr. and Mrs. James F. McKinley, both of Kentucky, have been seen in Feni and are safe, according to a cable received here by John D. Hughey, the SBC Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Europe and the Middle East.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones do not plan to return to East Pakistan. After they complete a short furlough they will begin a new assignment in Taiwan, where Jones will teach in a Christian boarding school.

Their new assignment was not based on the conflict in Pakistan but was made before its eruption, Jones said.



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