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August 19, 1971

**SBC Mission Board Official
Reports On Pakistani Scene**

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Members of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, meeting here, heard a report from one of their administrators on conditions encountered while traveling recently in East Pakistan and India.

In his report, John D. Hughey, the board's secretary for Europe and the Middle East, also said that Southern Baptist mission work in East Pakistan is being jeopardized by denial of visas to some missionaries wishing to enter that country.

The report was given during a business session of the board, most of whose 67 members were among 2,584 persons registered for a Foreign Missions Conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly.

Upon a recommendation of its administrative committee, the mission agency appropriated an additional \$10,000 for relief work among Pakistani refugees in India. An initial \$10,000 was allocated for that purpose in July.

Hughey said that the initial appropriation was administered in cooperation with the Mennonite Central Committee. If attempts of Southern Baptists to become directly involved in relief work are unsuccessful, the second appropriation may also be channeled through other groups he said.

Since March, East Pakistan has been the scene of civil strife between forces of the West Pakistan-based government and supporters of independence for the Bengalis of East Pakistan. Thousands have been killed and about seven million have fled to India.

Many people have told "hair-raising stories" about others being killed and of hiding in villages and rice fields and wandering from place to place, Hughey said. Hindus, who make up 80 per cent of the refugees, have suffered most; Christians have fared much better, he added.

On his trip, Hughey visited with the Thomas E. Thurmans and James F. McKinleys, the only Southern Baptist missionary families then in East Pakistan. After fighting erupted in March, five other missionary families left there and proceeded to the United States.

Shortly before the Pakistani army captured the town of Feni, where the McKinleys were stationed, they made a two-day move--most of it by rickshaw--to Dacca. They were not fired upon in either Bengali or army-controlled territory, Hughey said.

A few days later, the Thurmans made a similarly uncertain trip from Faridpur to Dacca. The two families set up joint housekeeping in the Baptist guest house there. The Thurmans have moved back to Faridpur.

"A constant stream of visitors--Bengalis, Americans and others--passed through the guest house while I was there," Hughey told the board members. "Our missionaries were a source of comfort and strength. Their presence has meant the difference between hope and hopelessness for many."

Since Hughey's visit, the Troy C. Bennetts and J. Howard Teels have returned to East Pakistan. "Fortunately, they had visas," Hughey said. "The Charles A. Becketts, who applied for visas more than a year ago, before coming to the States for furlough, have been denied re-entry by Pakistani authorities in Islamabad, the capital.

The visa officer at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington told Hughey it is less for the time being to appeal the decision. Consequently, the Becketts will be given a new assignment in Malaysia, pending the granting of visas there.

Two other missionary families hoping to return to East Pakistan are without visas, and another holds a visa granted some time ago.

Hughey was told by a Pakistani official in Islamabad that visa applications of missionaries are carefully screened now. Specialists are being admitted, but person suspected of wanting to engage in proselytism may be turned down.

SBC missionaries who do publication work for Baptist churches and those who work at the Baptist industrial, agricultural and welfare centers, or in other service projects, have a better chance than field evangelists of being admitted, Hughey said.

Citing the enormous relief needs in Pakistan, Hughey said: "The devastation of the civil war followed that of a cyclone and tidal wave. So far little in the way of relief has been possible.

"I talked with Mr. El Tawil, the United Nations relief coordinator for Pakistan while I was in Dacca. He agreed to present to the Pakistan authorities our request that Baptists be given certain relief responsibilities in areas they know well--Faridpur, Comilla, Feni and Dacca.

"We do not yet have the reply. Our missionaries have some relief funds on hand and have been assured other money will be made available when it can be used.

"The plight of the Pakistan refugees in India is the most heart-breaking thing I have ever seen," Hughey continued. "It is as if the entire population of North and South Carolina should move into Georgia--expect that India is already terribly overcrowded and short of food."

In India, Hughey visited a refugee camp of about 2,500 persons near Calcutta. He asked some who gathered around him if they had enough food and they said yes.

Their daily diet consisted of rice, vegetables (usually potatoes), and 100 grams of lentils, high-protein seeds. No fish or meat supplemented the diet with protein and children were already showing signs of malnutrition, he said.

The refugees told Hughey there had been a few cases of cholera and other illnesses. Yet, most of them seemed cheerful and had few complaints; they were accustomed to poverty and glad to be in safety, he said. Many talked of going home, viewing their present status as temporary.

Their only real complaint was about the water and mud in their camp, Hughey added. Water surrounded their bamboo huts and was inside, as the huts "leak like sieves in the monsoon rains."

The Indian government is doing a good job of coping with the refugee problem, Hughey said. With help from the U.S. and other countries, as well as the U.N., Indian workers are providing some kind of shelter and food for the refugees.

Their position is that they have the people to do the work, Hughey continued. Their greatest need is for material things--money and supplies.

A few voluntary organizations which are already established in India, such as the Mennonite Central Committee, are permitted to supplement what the government is doing. "Organizations such as ours, which do not already have personnel in the area, are not allowed in," Hughey told the board.

"I was much impressed with what the Mennonites are doing--providing tarpaulins or plastic to cover bamboo huts, giving milk to small children whose mothers cannot care for them, supplying cooking utensils and so forth," Hughey said.

For example, the Mennonites started a project with the refugees in one area, weaving mats for sleeping on the floor. After the refugees made mats for their immediate area, they were paid for helping to make mats for others.

"We must do what we can to help at least a few of the millions of hungry and homeless Bengalis," Hughey told the board members. "Help will be needed for a long time. I hope that Baptists will not only join with others in giving relief quickly but also will be ready for the long haul of rehabilitation and renewal," he said.

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St. Amant Elected President
Of Seminary in Switzerland

8/19/71

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--C. Penrose St. Amant, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, was elected president of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in a meeting here.

According to a recommendation approved by the board, St. Amant will take office next summer, after completing his current teaching commitment to Southern Seminary. He will be professor of church history as well as president at Ruschlikon Seminary.

His election is expected to be ratified by the trustees of the Ruschlikon seminary, which has been without a president since missionary John D. W. Watts returned to the United States for furlough last summer. Watts is visiting professor of Old Testament at Southern Seminary.

The board's action on St. Amant came during the board's semi-annual meeting at Glorieta Baptist Assembly. He and his wife were employed by the agency as missionary associates. They were one of 11 couples assigned to overseas posts.

St. Amant has been David T. Porter Professor of Church History at Southern Seminary since 1959. During his first 10 years at Southern he was also dean of the School of Theology. He resigned the deanship in 1969 to return to full-time teaching.

He spent the 1970-71 school year on sabbatical leave teaching at the seminary in Ruschlikon and studying church history at the University of Zurich.

Before joining the faculty of Southern Seminary, St. Amant taught at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for 16 years. Earlier he had taught religion for a year at Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo.

A native of Gonzales, La., he received the bachelor of arts degree from Louisiana College, Pineville; the master of arts degree from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; the master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary; and the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

He has studied at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary in New York and at the University of Paris (Sorbonne), where he served on the Protestant Theological Faculty of Paris.

Louisiana College and Mercer University, Macon, Ga., have granted him honorary degrees.

For four years he was chairman of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mrs. St. Amant is the former Jessie Davis of Brownsville, Tenn. Before their marriage in 1945 and for a short time afterward, she was secretary to the superintendent of Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans.

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CORRECTION

On BP story mailed 8/13/71, "Historical Commission Names Tonks New Research Director," please add to graph 1, effective January 1, 1972. Graph 2 should read: Tonks, 37, (not 34 as sent).

ROUNDUP

FMB Appoints 22; Proposes Meeting
Between Nixon and Baker J. Cauthen

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting during an annual foreign mission conference here, named 22 new missionaries and reported 244 commitments by conferees regarding Christian life and work.

The board heard Executive Secretary Baker James Cauthen report on the impact on missions of President Richard Nixon's recent announcement concerning national fiscal policy and his proposed trip to Red China.

Board members unanimously requested a meeting between President Nixon and Cauthen to discuss the President's visit to Peking and U.S.-Chinese relationship as they may affect Southern Baptist work in Asia.

It was suggested that a meeting be sought at the President's earliest convenience and that the assistance of Evangelist Billy Graham might be enlisted in setting up the proposed meeting.

In other action, the board appropriated funds for relief of Pakistani refugees in India and for relief work in Chile. Also it elected C. Penrose St. Amant of Louisville, Ky., president of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Commenting on President Nixon's newly implemented economic measures, Cauthen said that they will have far-reaching effects on mission fields as the amount of local currency received for a U.S. dollar goes down.

"We will undoubtedly receive from missions throughout the world requests for adjustments as they feel the pressure of reduced funds," Cauthen said.

"At this point, however, . . . it would **not** be advisable to begin recommending additional appropriations for individual countries until the full effect of this can be tallied," he added.

About the President's proposed trip to Red China, Cauthen told the board members that "we must undergird our President and those close to him in policy-making matters with prayer. . . ."

Cauthen cautioned that it would be premature to conclude that "the opening of doors to Red China for missionary work is near at hand." Asserting that Southern Baptists stand ready to cooperate with Chinese Christians on the mainland . . . if that door should become fully opened, we would face a very great missionary challenge," Cauthen said.

He called for intercessory prayers on the part of Christian people everywhere "that the day may come when there shall be freedom in China to witness to the love of our Lord and to serve in his name."

Cauthen reminded the board members that Southern Baptists must continue their work among the many Chinese people living in other countries of Southeast Asia, where there are many open opportunities to witness.

"Ultimately, we believe that from these places there will go back to China many who will be able to share in the ministry of the Word," Cauthen said.

Southern Baptist missionaries in East Pakistan have been requested to help build 200 houses in a village that was destroyed recently, according to John D. Hughey, the board's secretary for Europe and the Middle East.

Funds are available and the Baptist Mission in East Pakistan will probably move ahead with the building project, Hughey said.

The board appropriated a second \$10,000 for relief of Pakistani refugees, having allocated an additional \$10,000 for that purpose in July.

Hughey told the members that the Pakistan mission will probably call for about \$50,000 within the next few weeks for relief work in East Pakistan.

A missionary in that country told Hughey: "We believe all is not lost and there are possibilities here. Tell Southern Baptists to pray for East Pakistan and to send help."

Hughey said that a UN state department spokesman to whom he talked expressed confidence in Indian officials administering relief to Pakistani refugees in their country and that large scale relief would be underway in East Pakistan itself very soon.

C. Penrose St. Amant, professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was elected president of Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. He will take office next summer after completing his current teaching commitment to Southern Seminary. He also will be professor of church history at the Ruschlikon Seminary.

In an evening service preceeding the board's business meeting, St. Amant and his wife were employed by the agency as missionary associates for a four-year term.

Also employed as missionary associates were Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Williams of Owasso, Okla., for service in Brazil.

Twenty-two new personnel were added to the board's overseas staff during an evening service in the Glorieta Baptist Assembly auditorium, bringing the number of career missionaries appointed and missionary associates employed this year to 119. In addition, 67 missionary journeymen were commissioned for two-year terms in July.

Appointed as career missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Glenn T. Boyd, formerly of Lubbock, Tex., for East Africa; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Cleary of Winter Haven, Fla., for the Middle East; Mr. and Mrs. V.M. (Pat) Hoaldrige Jr. of Fort Worth, Tex., for Israel; Mr. and Mrs. E. Philip Langley, formerly of Grants Pass, Ore., for Rhodesia.

Also Dr. (D.D.S.) and Mrs. John W. Monroe of San Antonio, Tex., for Rhodesia; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Nabors of Smithville, Miss., for Gaza; Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Page of Houston, Tex., for Indonesia; Mr. and Mrs. William P. Roberts, formerly of Palatka, Fla., for Japan; and Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie G. Winstead of Essex, Mo., for Taiwan.

During the conference a total of 244 persons registered decisions regarding their life and work as Christians. Of these, 79 said they want to pursue the church-related vocation and 77 are exploring that possibility. Twelve persons professed faith in Christ for the first time and 76 reaffirmed their Christian commitment.

By the last night of the six-day conference, 2,584 persons had been registered by officials of Glorieta Baptist Assembly. Seventy per cent of them were under 23 years of age.

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Three Nationally-Known Pastors
Slate Southeastern Lectures

8/19/71

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Three nationally-known preachers will lecture in a new course offered at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here on "Preaching to Human Needs."

They are Ernest Campbell, pastor of Riverside Church in New York City; James T. Cleland, dean of the chapel at Duke University; and John A. Redhead, pastor emeritus of First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, N.C.

Four Southeastern Seminary faculty members will also participate in the leadership of the course. They are: Theodore F. Adams, John Carlton, Donald Moore and J. Carroll Trotter.

The course will provide an opportunity for pastors and other church leaders to study selected issues in the field of preaching and communication, said seminary officials.

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August 19, 1971

Pastor of Church for 49
Years Plans Retirement

ATLANTA (BP)--T. B. Thrailkill, holder of what is believed to be the longest currently-active pastorate in the Southern Baptist Convention, has announced plans to retire, effective Oct. 1.

Thrailkill has been pastor of Custer Avenue Baptist Church in Atlanta for almost 49 years. He is 79 years old.

When he became pastor of the church in 1922, it was called Southside Baptist Church. In 1954 it moved to Custer Avenue and changed its name.

Thrailkill has survived several major physical problems including muscular atrophy and cancer and has kept on preaching. "God has been better to me than anyone I know," he said.

In an interview in 1969 with the Christian Index on his 47th anniversary as pastor, Thrailkill said that the SBC Annuity Board "sends me a letter periodically which broadly hints that my retirement is all ready. But there are things yet to do. I can't retire. I still have a stack of prepared sermons I haven't preached."

A former education director and pastor of three churches in Atlanta, Thrailkill had earned two doctoral degrees, studying at Eastern Baptist Seminary in Philadelphia and at a congregational seminary in Atlanta.

Only 25 of the 550 members of Custer Avenue Baptist Church were members when he became pastor in 1922.

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Baptist VIEWpoll
Martin B. Bradley, Director

Baptists Want Stronger
Treatment For Criminals

8/19/71

by Ken Hayes

NASHVILLE (BP)--The overwhelming majority of Southern Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers polled in a recent survey feel that the courts are "not harsh enough" with criminals.

The Baptist VIEWpoll's national sample of pastors and Sunday School teachers was asked this question: "In general, do you think the courts in your area deal too harshly, or not harshly enough with criminals."

"Not harsh enough" was the response of 80.6 per cent of the pastors and 80.8 per cent of the Sunday School teachers.

There were those on the panel (14.8 per cent of the pastors and 16.2 per cent of the teachers) who feel that the courts in their area deal "about right" with criminals.

Only a few, 3.6 per cent of the pastors and 2.2 per cent of the teachers, had "no opinion" on this current social issue.

The Gallup Poll reports that three fourths of the United States adult population agrees with the VIEWpoll panel that the courts in their area do not deal harshly enough with criminals.

Findings for this report are based on 91 per cent response from the Baptist VIEWpoll panel, composed of approximately 300 pastors and 300 Sunday School teachers selected to represent a cross section of persons holding those leadership positions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

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