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March 8, 1972

Chinese Pastor Says Nixon
Visit Offers Ray of Hope

By Gary Mitchell

FORT WORTH (BP)--The pastor of the world's largest Chinese Baptist church said here that President Nixon's recent journey to China offers a ray of hope that some day China might be more open to the gospel.

"I hope he (Nixon) didn't negotiate just for the country," said Daniel Y. K. Cheung, pastor of the Kowloon City Baptist Church in Hong Kong. "I hope and pray he can be used of God to open the door for a way back to China."

Cheung, a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, and his family are currently attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Three of his five daughters and a son-in-law, as well as the Hong Kong pastor, are studying toward degrees at Southwestern. Another daughter and son-in-law are studying at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and his oldest daughter and son-in-law are active in Chinese Baptist work in St. Louis.

Though Cheung said he feels President Nixon's visit to mainland China offers a ray of hope, he has no illusions of an immediate shift of policy in mainland China to permit "foreign missionaries.

Presently China strictly forbids missionaries. Religious activities are carefully supervised, although little information is available on the strength of organized religion or even underground churches in China, Cheung said.

The Chinese pastor observed that Nixon's trip and subsequent negotiations indicate that the once-closed door to China's interior has been opened to exchange students, politicians, and other professional people.

"If China opens to other groups for exchange, I hope they will open more for religious leaders," Cheung said. "I hope they can give more religious freedom."

Preparatory plans are already being set in motion by Chinese Baptists for China's eventual opening, according to Cheung.

"If China opens," he said, "Chinese will go in first. The Christian churches over there plan to go back to China to evangelize.

"Our churches are now in the process of praying, preparing, writing literature, and training people to get ready to go," Cheung said. "We hope and pray that China will change her policy."

Many Chinese refugees make their way to Hong Kong every year, according to Cheung, who said his church seeks to provide a ministry to these refugees. His ministry is infused with the hope that someday it will be possible for these converted refugees to return to their homeland to evangelize.

"That's why we try to preach the gospel," he said. "We all love China because we are Chinese; but we also believe in God, and we want to have the freedom to worship Him."

That's also why Cheung has come to Fort Worth to study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned the bachelor of religious education degree in 1953.

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He is placing more emphasis on evangelism studies to prepare him both for evangelistic work among the Chinese, and his responsibilities as regional chairman for Asia during the Baptist World Alliance's "World Mission of Reconciliation through Christ" emphasis, 1973-75.

During his first studies at Southwestern, he concentrated on religious education and the principles and methods of building the Sunday School. "Before I came here, my church had 300 in Sunday School," he recalled. "Now we have a full-graded Sunday School with 1,200 enrolled."

The entire Cheung family is following in their father's path of seminary training to equip them for more effective service.

Daughters Edith and Grace Cheung both plan to teach after graduation from Southwestern Seminary. Edith is working on the master of church music degree, and Grace is studying toward the master of religious education degree.

Mr. and Mrs. James Cheung are working on doctorates in theology and music, with hopes of returning to Hong Kong Baptist College which has no Chinese instructors with doctorates in theology. James Cheung is the son-in-law of the Hong Kong pastor, although they share the same surname.

Through teaching and preaching, the Cheung family is dedicated to communicating to the Chinese people the faith in God they have found through Jesus Christ.

"With the years we have, we hope to do as much as we can," Cheung said. "We hope God can work miracles."

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Portland Chosen as Site
For 1974 World Youth Meeting

3/8/72

WASHINGTON (BP)--The eighth Baptist Youth World Conference will meet in Portland, Ore., July 31-Aug. 4, 1974.

The site for the conference was selected here by the youth administrative committee of the Baptist World Alliance after considering 20 other possible North American sites.

Theo Patnaik, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, said Portland was chosen over Squaw Valley, Calif., because of its proximity both to travel terminals and university campuses. The committee previously had planned to hold the conference in Squaw Valley.

The 1974 meeting will be the first time the youth conference will have met in the United States. Previous conferences were in Prague, Stockholm, Zurich, Rio de Janeiro, Toronto, Beirut and Berne.

A poll of youth after the Berne conference showed they preferred the United States as the next meeting place.

Patnaik said an attendance of 10,000 young people from about 60 countries is expected. General sessions will meet in the Portland Memorial Coliseum, with discussion groups meeting on the campuses of the University of Portland, Oregon State College, Reed College and Lewis and Clark College.

Attending the meeting here were youth from seven Baptist groups, in addition to members of the committee. Charles Roselle, director of National Student Ministries for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and vice chairman of the committee, presided in the absence of Karl-Heinz Walter of Hamburg, Germany. Walter had endorsed the Portland Proposal by mail.

In separate action, the committee voted to project plans for a World Youth Day of Prayer and youth rallies around the world on the Saturday before Baptist World Alliance Sunday each February (the first Sunday of February each year).

The youth rallies will sponsor interracial fellowship, joint work projects and musical presentations bearing on the 1973-75 Baptist World Alliance emphasis on "Reconciliation through Christ," Patnaik said.

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