



BAPTIST PRESS

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March 15, 1972

**Ecuadoran Baptist Leaders
Want More Responsibility**

MANGLARALTO, Ecuador (BP)--Baptist pastors in Ecuador want to take more responsibility for evangelizing their homeland, according to views expressed during a retreat at the Baptist encampment here.

Thirty-three pastors and Southern Baptist missionaries met for three days at this Pacific Coast site.

A missionary spokesman assured the pastors that the missionaries are willing to follow national leaders and work with them.

Pastor Carlos Maldonado of Guayaquil said that Baptist work in Ecuador had gone forward because of the love of other people. "Now we are capable of carrying on," he added. "We have come of age."

Southern Baptist missionaries began work in Ecuador in 1950.

Other pastors expressed appreciation for the presence of the missionaries and their continuing contribution. They agreed, however, that the time has come for national workers to assume more leadership and responsibility for the work.

Guillermo Vasquez, a pastor from Quito, told the group, "We are at the point of reaping what has been sown in past years. There are no barriers that cannot be overcome. The time is ripe."

One goal explored was the organization of a national Baptist convention.

Regarding the future of Baptist missionaries in Ecuador, the consensus among the pastors was that they "have not reached the point of saying 'hasta luego' ('so long') to the missionary. There is yet much the missionary can do."

Some pastors say it is not a question of nationals versus foreigners, reported Southern Baptist Missionary Stanley D. Stamps. Rather, they say, Ecuadorans and missionaries should "work side by side, yet with a national focus."

Missionary Archie Jones, chairman of the Southern Baptist missionary organization in Ecuador, told the pastors: "We are willing to follow you. We will work with you."

-30-

**Evangelicals in Spain
Have Religious Freedom**

MADRID (BP)--Evangelical Christians in Spain are generally free to give open testimonies, publish and sell literature and begin new work, according to the secretary of the national Evangelical Defense Committee.

The 1976 Spanish law guaranteeing religious freedom to officially recognized non-Catholic groups is satisfactory to the government and evangelical churches alike, said Defense Committee Secretary Jose Cardona.

Cardona, a Baptist pastor, appraised the legal standing and activities of evangelical groups in Spain in a report to the Immanuel Baptist Church here.

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Initially, the government had misgivings about evangelical proselytism under the religious freedom law, but no real threat has materialized, said Cardona.

Evangelical membership has not grown faster since the 1967 law was enacted than in times of religious persecution, Cardona noted. In 1967, 12 churches were constituted in Madrid and about 50 in all of Spain. Most were begun with 25-30 members and were the products of evangelization by existing congregations.

Also last year 1,200,000 copies of 500 books were printed and four monthly magazines were published by evangelicals with government permission.

Some advances made by evangelicals in Spain in 1971 were entrance of the Salvation Army, tent evangelism by Pentecostals, opening of bookstores, and entrance of two youth groups, Campus Crusade and Torch Bearers, giving special attention to university students.

-30-

FMB Adds to Relief Funds;
Hears Reports of Officers

3/15/72

RICHMOND (BP)--An additional \$10,000 for relief work in Bangladesh was appropriated by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board during its March meeting here.

The board also heard its executive secretary tell of improved financial prospects, and its secretary for Africa outline the fledgling work of Baptists in French-speaking countries of West Africa.

The appropriation for Bangladesh relief work brought to \$111,500 the amount allocated by the board for that purpose thusfar. Missionaries are using most of the money to build houses for Bengalis whose homes were destroyed during the war which led to an independent Bangladesh.

Executive Secretary Baker J. Cauthen indicated that the board stands to receive approximately \$1,400,000 in additional Cooperative Program funds in 1973, based on recommendations to the Southern Baptist Convention by its Executive Committee.

"This good word along with the encouraging prospects of this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which is still being tallied, gives us a much improved financial outlook," he said.

Cauthen added that this would help offset difficulties brought on by dollar devaluation and worldwide inflation.

H. Cornell Goerner, secretary for Africa, reviewed for board members highlights of his recent tour of mission work in several countries of West Africa.

He noted particularly the opportunities for expanding Southern Baptist work in five so-called Francophone (French-speaking) countries. According to Goerner, it will be best to locate missionaries in the burgeoning cities rather than in rural areas.

Abidjan, capital of the Ivory Coast, was cited by Goerner as an example. In several communities on the outskirts of the city an aggressive missions program could result in a Baptist church's being the very first evangelical witness of any sort, he said.

Abidjan, with over a half million people, could keep four or five missionary preachers busy for an indefinite time, Goerner told board members. He added that the same is true of Dakar, capital of Senegal, but that work there might be more difficult because of the dominance of Islam among the Oualof people.

"The Pauline strategy of planting churches in the large cities with the faith that the message will then radiate out into the surrounding countryside was never more appropriate than in the rapidly developing French-speaking countries of West Africa," said Goerner.

Despite incumbent difficulties of missionary service in the Francophone countries, Goerner said there is an openness toward evangelical mission work in contrast to the restrictive nationalistic spirit in some other countries.

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March 15, 1972

3

Baptist Press

The board now has only two couples engaged in the required year of French language study with a view toward reinforcing the 22 missionaries already working in the five countries.

Goerner expressed the hope that other Southern Baptists "will accept the difficult assignment of learning to communicate the good news first in French and then in one or more of the African languages."

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Orville Scott Named
Texas PR Director

3/15/72

DALLAS (BP)--Orville L. Scott, a veteran of eight years as a Texas Baptist Press representative, has been elected public relations director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The Texas convention's executive board named Scott, 38, at its March quarterly meeting to succeed Billy P. Keith. Keith became public relations consultant for the A. B. Lightfoot Evangelistic Association in Dallas late last year.

Scott also replaces Keith as chief of the Dallas bureau of Baptist Press, Southern Baptist news service.

He served as Texas Baptist Press representative on two occasions, May 1959-August 1965, and June 1970 until his election as PR director.

In 1965, he became editor of Charity and Children, then weekly newspaper of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. During three years in North Carolina, he served also as public relations director and superintendent of the Homes' Print Shop.

Before returning to Dallas, he spent a year-and-a-half in Columbia, Mo., working on a master's degree in journalism at the University of Missouri.

A native of Magnolia, Ark., Scott was reared in Nacogdoches and Carthage, Tex.

He is married to the former Emma Jean Dunlap of Carthage and has three children, James, 13; Elizabeth, 11; and John, 9.

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