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**Baptist Group Directs Resolutions
To Russian and Israeli Governments**

PETAH TIKVA, Israel (BP)--Resolutions in behalf of Russian Jews who wish to emigrate and Arab Christians who had to leave their villages in 1948 have been adopted by the Baptist Convention in Israel--the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries here.

Declaring it a basic human right for people to emigrate from a country without having to buy their way out, the Baptist group called upon the Russian government to allow Jews or any other people to emigrate from Russia to Israel or any other country without having to reimburse the Russian government for their educational expenses.

The resolution adds that emigrants should not have to pay any other tax that would hinder their leaving Russia for another country of their choice.

A second resolution petitioned Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, the cabinet and the Knesset to move with haste in implementing a high court decision granting displaced Arab Christians the right to return to the villages of Ber'em and Ikrit.

According to the resolution, the villagers were asked by the Israeli army to leave their homes temporarily during the Arab-Israeli hostilities in 1948. Despite army assurances that they would soon be allowed to return, the villagers were kept from returning.

On appeal from the villagers, the Israeli high court ruled in separate decisions in 1951 and 1952 that they could return. However, continued the resolution, the army illegally demolished the two villages, except for their churches, several months after the court's ruling.

The Southern Baptist group urged that the Arab Christians be allowed to return to their homes and lands, and lauded "their patience and peaceful approach to the solution of their problems."

The resolution pointed out that the villagers "have waited patiently for more than 24 years without perpetuating any violence or attempt to force the implementation of the high court's decision concerning their legal right to return to their villages."

The missionaries also noted that they "have voiced their strong belief in and commitment to the cause of Jewish-Arab friendship and coexistence."

Both resolutions were passed unanimously by the Baptist Convention in Israel.

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**Atlanta Baptists Approve
Admission of Black Church**

10/20/72

ATLANTA (BP)--One of Atlanta's largest black congregations, plus a small integrated mission on Atlanta's South Side, were welcomed into the fellowship of the Atlanta Baptist Association here.

Union Baptist Church, a 1,300-member predominantly black church, and Baptist Chapel, an integrated mission, both were accepted into "watchcare" membership of the previously all-white association.

A year of "watchcare" status is routine for churches seeking membership in the association.

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Union Baptist Church is believed to be the first predominantly black fellowship to affiliate with the Georgia Baptist Convention, although several hundred other black churches are affiliated with other state conventions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Pastor James Wilburn and several leaders of the Union church were present when the association voted on the membership request. Although the vote was not unanimous, there were only seven negative votes cast.

The credentials committee which recommended the church's acceptance quoted Wilburn's letter of application, stating that the church subscribes to the Southern Baptist Statement of Faith and Message, that the church has used SBC literature for years, that the church had studied the SBC's Cooperative Program and missions efforts and wanted to participate in them, and that the church felt they might reach some white people if they were in the association.

The committee also recommended acceptance of Baptist Chapel, a mission in Southwest Atlanta, with about 35 members, one-fourth of them black. The pastor, N.M. Williamson, is white and the chairman of deacons, M.C. Bryant, is black.

The association also gave unanimous approval to the proposed merger of Atlanta Baptist College and Mercer University. Final approval of the proposed merger must come from the Georgia Baptist Convention when it meets in Savannah, Nov. 13-15.

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71-Hour "Bibliothon" Begins Texas Revival

PEARLAND, Tex. (BP)--Remembering an Old Testament account of a spiritual revival resulting from reading of the Books of Law, the new pastor of First Baptist Church here led his congregation in the reading of the entire Bible in preparation for a week-long crusade.

Harvey Kneisel, pastor of the church near Houston, said the idea wasn't original. The second book of Chronicles tells of finding the first four books of the Bible during King Josiah's reign in the 7th century, B.C. The king had the books read to him, and then to the people, who returned to the worship of God.

On a Thursday morning, members of the First Baptist Church here, began to read: "In the beginning God..." Each person took 30-minute turns at reading.

The "Bibliothon" continued under a magnolia tree on the church lawn during the day, and moved inside at night. The last few verses of Revelation were read in unison by the people present, finishing at 7:15 on Sunday morning.

It took 71 hours for the reading. Kneisel said he hoped it would cause a renewed interest in the Bible. He added that he felt that Bible reading had been virtually "lost" in the average American home.

Less than three hours after the "Bibliothon" was completed, there were 961 persons in attendance for Sunday School, the largest crowd in the church's history.

At the end of the crusade, the church counted 81 professions of faith, also a record for the congregation.

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