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October 27, 1972

**Irwin Calls on Korea's Chief
During Baptist-Sponsored Trip**

SEOUL, Korea (BP)--Former Astronaut James Irwin conferred with President Chung Hee Park, addressed Air Force Academy cadets and appeared on a television talk show during the first two days of a Baptist-sponsored visit to Korea.

Irwin is traveling and speaking in nine Asian and Pacific countries for one month at the invitation of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. He is being accompanied on most of his appearances by Joseph B. Underwood of the board's staff.

Underwood is consulting with Asian Baptists in his role as coordinating committee chairman of the World Mission of Reconciliation through Jesus Christ, a project of the Baptist World Alliance.

Irwin spent 20 minutes talking with President Park, with the president's interpreter being the only other person present. Details of the conversation were not made known immediately, but the President is reported to have said he wanted as many Koreans as possible to hear Irwin's message.

Park also offered to alleviate any problem Irwin might encounter, according to Underwood. Irwin excused himself after 20 minutes because he knew the President was busier than usual, having imposed martial law in Korea the previous day, Underwood added.

In remarks to the Air Force cadets, Irwin, himself a retired Air Force officer, referred to a man-made facsimile of a rock brought to earth from the moon. Then he told them their lives should be "built on the rock of ages, on the Word of God, and especially on the person of Jesus Christ."

About 40 cadets responded when Irwin invited them to make a Christian commitment of their lives, and their commanding officer was "deeply moved," reported Underwood.

Timothy Hyo-Hoon Cho, president of the Korea Baptist convention, was Irwin's interpreter for interviews, press conferences and speeches.

Korean television covered Irwin's arrival at the airport here, and the religious nature of his trip to Korea was explained. On the second day of his visit he was interviewed for 20 minutes on a morning news show.

Later in the day interviews were held with another Korean television channel and by the American Forces TV, and a feature writer for Stars and Stripes, the U.S. armed forces paper.

Irwin had held a press conference with reporters from about 30 papers soon after his arrival here from Japan, the first country on his Foreign Mission Board-sponsored tour.

In Japan Irwin talked with Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka and gave him several momentos of the Apollo 15 lunar mission on which Irwin and a co-astronaut explored the moon's surface.

The gifts to Tanaka included a plaque with a photo made on the moon, a flag of Japan that was carried to the moon and an Apollo 15 suit patch.

In addition, Irwin gave Tanaka a Bible and reportedly told him, "Here is a book much more important for you than even our trip to the moon."

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Irwin also talked with students of several Baptist schools in Japan and with scientists at the Japanese aerospace center. He was interviewed on the Japanese TV show "studio 102," which Underwood said is similar to the "Today" show in the United States.

Underwood said that "in all of these occasions Jim (Irwin) gives a very impressive testimony. It is positive, clear, decisive, unembarrassed, and at the same time presented in such a way that it could not be offensive to anyone."

Following his initial appearances in Seoul, Irwin was to attend mass religious rallies and call on officials in Taejon, Pusan and Taegu, Korea. He also planned to visit the Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan.

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Missouri Baptists Defeat
Lay Effort, Oppose Tax Moves

10/27/72

ST. LOUIS (BP)--A series of proposals apparently favoring greater participation of laymen in denominational affairs and more information on convention business sparked mild debate before being soundly defeated by messengers to the Missouri Baptist Convention here.

Following the brief debate, the convention went on with routine business, agency reports, re-election of its president, adoption of a budget, and adoption of resolutions with little further discussion.

Two resolutions strongly opposed taxation measures which the convention called unconstitutional, and a "threat to religious liberty."

The convention strongly disapproved a recent measure adopted by the Missouri legislature which would provide "preferential grants" to students of church-related and private colleges "provided these schools cease considering religion in hiring administrators (including the president), faculty (including teachers of religion), and staff."

The resolution called the restriction on hiring practices "a gross perversion of religious liberty" and called on the Missouri legislature to repeal "this dangerous law" as soon as possible before considering any tax increase proposal.

A second resolution opposed the "Tax Policy Review Act of 1972" proposed by Congressman Wilbur Mills (R., Ark.) and Senator Mike Mansfield (D., Mont.) which, the convention charged, would terminate all tax exemptions and deductions applicable for non-profit institutions and organizations, including churches.

The convention expressed "our judgment that tax deductions for voluntary contributions to churches should stand as long as the government policy permits a tax deduction for voluntary contributions to any not-for-profit cause."

Three proposals submitted by an unofficial, ad hoc group of laymen calling themselves Concerned Baptist Laymen of Missouri were defeated on voice and standing votes after what was described as mild debate.

One motion would have called for the convention to meet on weekends rather than week days to permit more laymen to attend. Another called for quarterly publication of detailed receipts and expenditures of convention agencies. The third requested publication of the minutes of all Executive Board meetings as soon as possible after each meeting.

Two other proposed motions, mimeographed by Concerned Baptist Laymen of Missouri and distributed to the messengers, were withdrawn after defeat of the first three proposals. The withdrawn motions requested publication of salaries and allowances of all state convention employees, and appointment of a lay-dominated committee to evaluate the work of the convention.

Dr. Tom Anderson, a psychiatrist from Columbia, Mo., who said he was coordinator of the self-appointed organization, argued in favor of more participation by laymen in the life of the convention, urging that the meeting be held on weekends instead of week days to allow more laymen to attend.

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The motion was opposed by several pastors who argued meeting on weekends would drain leadership from church worship services and force the convention to conduct business Sunday. One minister decried "the implication that ministers don't have much to do anyway."

Several pastors spoke in favor of the proposal to publish a quarterly account of convention finances. One noted that "people give a lot better if they know for certain where the money is going." Another argued that it would be worth the expense "if it put to rest even the doubts of one person."

Opponents of the proposal argued that the convention already publishes its annual budget showing expenditures, that quarterly reports are not necessary, and that the convention already publishes its receipts quarterly.

In response to the proposal to publish minutes of all Executive Board meetings, opponents claimed this was impractical and impossible, explaining that much Executive Board discussion involved personnel matters that should not be published. They pointed out that few churches, for example, publish minutes of the deacon or finance committee meetings.

Dr. Anderson countered that the concept of accountability had been integrated into the thinking of laymen of every church, and that his proposals were designed not to indict executives but to inform laymen.

A resolution adopted later by the convention encouraged "an increased emphasis on openness and mutual understanding of all our relationships within the Missouri Baptist Convention."

In major business actions, the convention re-elected R.F. "Dick" Cole, pastor of First Baptist Church, Raytown, Mo., as president, and adopted a 1973 Cooperative Program goal of \$5.6 million.

The total goal includes a \$600,000 "advance" section; with 35 per cent or \$1.7 million of the basic \$5 million goal going to Southern Baptist Convention mission causes, 57 per cent to Missouri convention causes, and eight per cent to special denominational causes.

Other resolutions adopted commended churches for their growth and progress and expressed appreciation for the 19 years of service by Earl O. Harding, executive secretary of the convention.

The convention was marred by the death of Mrs. Dale C. Brubaker, head of the convention's church music department, who had been attending the convention.

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Tennessee Board Elects
Norton Executive Secretary

10/27/72

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)--Ralph E. Norton, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church of Chattanooga Tenn., for the past 24 years, was unanimously elected executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in a called session of the Executive Board here.

Norton, 59, will begin work with the convention Dec. 1, and assume full responsibility on Jan. 1, 1973, following the retirement of W. Fred Kendall, who has served 16 years as executive secretary-treasurer.

Kendall said he would spend much of his time after retirement writing a history of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Norton, a native of Chattanooga, has been pastor of the Red Bank church in his hometown since 1948. He previously had been minister of education and youth for Central Baptist Church of Chattanooga, which ordained him to the ministry.

For six years, he was pastor of Union Baptist Church, Cynthiana, Ky. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn. He taught math in a Chattanooga high school immediately after college graduation.

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Active in denominational affairs, he was president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1956, and has also been chairman of the state Executive Board. He has been a trustee for Carson-Newman College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and has served on numerous denominational committees.

The chairman of the administrative committee of the convention's Executive Board, who nominated Norton for the position, said in presenting his name, "We honestly believe we have found God's man."

William E. Harbin, chairman of the committee, expressed appreciation for the support shown the committee in their search for an executive, and appreciation that there had been "no pressure put on the committee."

During the board meeting here, Kendall praised Norton's selection, saying he had worked with every facet of denominational life, and understands the problems. "I am going to do everything I can to make the transition as smooth as possible," Kendall said.

In accepting the position, Norton told the Executive Board, "I commit to you, as I serve with you, all that I have, to the glory of God."

Norton is married to the former Louise Wilson of Chattanooga. They have three children, Ralph, a medical doctor in Houston; David, a law student at Memphis State University; and Linda, a student at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Norton's brother, Charles, is director of the church training department for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



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