

November 14, 1973

Church Enters Space Age;
Henry Kissinger Applauds

By John Sailhamer

EL PASO (BP)--The missionary program of Scotsdale Baptist Church here has entered the space age and drawn the attention of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

A simple idea about missions resulted in a full-scale "Dial-A-Missionary" program of communicating with and learning about Southern Baptist missionaries via satellite transmission, according to Alf Skogness, the church's pastor.

Congratulations for the unique program have come from Kissinger, evangelist Billy Graham, Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe and Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, among others.

The workings are simple, Skogness said.

The church was equipped with a special "conference phone" installed by the telephone company and connected to its main public address system.

One Sunday morning per quarter during the morning service, Skogness phones a Southern Baptist missionary family in the country where they are working and chats with the missionary via satellite transmission.

The missionary tells of his work in the field, and the congregation, in turn, is able to encourage the missionary on the spot.

The first phone call initiating the "Dial-A-Missionary" program was made last October to Missionary Donald Richards in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Discussion involved the current world evangelism pilot program being conducted by Richards in Brazil.

"This caused our people to feel the need for a definite emphasis on world missions," Skogness said. "We will be calling Europe, the Orient and many other places as part of the project," he added.

The idea of communicating with missionaries via satellite transmission was conceived by Skogness as a way of more directly involving the Scotsdale congregation in missions. Skogness said the aim is to bring more realism into the present missions program of the church.

"The opportunity to confer with missionaries and churches abroad will also serve as a contribution of our interest in other people and their viewpoints on world issues," he said. Skogness said he hopes the idea will catch on in other churches.

The initial "Dial-A-Missionary" service in October was broadcast locally on television, and several news reporters were on hand to cover the event. Skogness said, however, that the missionary calls will not be widely publicized in the future.

Other missionaries to be called in coming "Dial-A-Missionary" services are the William Graves family in the Caribbean area and the Thomas S. Adkins family in Gaza, Skogness said.

Besides Kissinger, Graham, Briscoe and Cauthen, others sending congratulations and telegrams included: Rep. Richard C. White (D.-Tex.), Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D.-Tex.), Texas State Senator Tati Santiesteban and W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas.



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November 14, 1973

**Dramatic Results Seen
In Korean Evangelism**

By Mary Ann Ward
for Baptist Press

A spirit of evangelism permeating Korea has displayed itself dramatically during recent months.

Southern Baptist missionaries and other evangelical groups are seizing every opportunity to share Christianity with Koreans who seem eager and have made "decisions for Christ" in great numbers.

"The evangelistic climate has never been better in Korea," reports Oscar K. Bozeman Jr., chairman of the Korea Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries). "Our people have never been more united and have never had greater vision than right now. The possibilities of great outreach and ingathering are almost staggering," he said.

The fact that more than one million Koreans attended evangelist Billy Graham's crusade last summer, the largest crowd of Graham's career, is only one indication of an increasing interest in Christianity among Koreans.

"Every area of Korean life is responsive to the gospel, with servicemen and student groups showing the most responsiveness," Bozeman said. "We have open doors in television, radio, schools, universities, factories, military bases and prisons. We are limited only by personnel, time and physical factors."

The evangelistic efforts have resulted in thousands of decisions for Christ. The Graham crusade, for example, attracted 4,648,000 Koreans, who registered 81,939 decisions of various types.

"Decisions registered in a land like Korea vary from expressions of interest in the gospel to profound conversion experiences," explains Winston Crawley, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's overseas division director. "We are grateful for these expressions of Christian belief and interest."

Southern Baptist missionaries and Baptist nationals will be among those involved in follow-up activities resulting from the Graham crusade.

Another successful evangelistic venture, resulting in 14,000 decisions, occurred in October when 173 laymen from Southern Baptist churches in Texas, Colorado, Tennessee and New Mexico spent over a week in Korea, working with missionaries and nationals.

Traveling at their own expense, the laymen and the pastors who accompanied them were sponsored by the World Evangelism Foundation, an organization based in Dallas.

The Americans spent each afternoon teamed with a Korean Christian, sharing their personal testimony in schools, jails, factories, shops and banks. They also encouraged people they met to attend services held each night in Korean Baptist churches.

The strength of this emphasis seemed to be that it was church-centered and the Korean laymen could identify with the American laymen.

The excitement in the Seoul churches has spread to other areas of Korea. Bozeman says that the Seoul Baptist Association will "do the same thing with one of the rural

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associations in Korea."

Missionary Billy R. Peacock in Taejon plans for Seoul laymen to come and team up with Taejon laymen in a similar witnessing effort.

The day-by-day witness of 77 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Korea underlies all these evangelistic efforts.

Of 3,000 junior and senior high school students in Shin Than Jin, a small factory town near Taejon, only 200 attend any Christian church, according to Missionary Don C. Jones. During a recent youth revival in the town's Baptist church, 40 more of these students professed faith in Christ.

Baptist missionaries have also had a strong outreach to Korean military personnel. Missionaries visited Korean troops stationed along the Demilitarized Zone during Christmas of 1972, delivering gifts and conducting services.

Some visited as few as 20 men in seaside bunkers; others preached to over 1,000 gathered on the larger bases. During the one-week evangelistic blitz, 1,500 decisions were recorded.

In the Korean armed forces today, almost 30 per cent have professed faith in Christ, as compared to only 10 per cent of the general population, according to Jones. Missionaries seek to relate the new Christians to local churches.

James L. Wooten, missionary associate, says that 25,000 men in the Korean military heard about Christ in 25 meetings conducted in July by six missionaries and several Korean pastors. About 3,000 decisions were registered.

Missionary H. Cloyes Starnes baptized about 500 Korean soldiers in a river north of Seoul, one of many mass baptisms missionaries have participated in, he said.

Missionaries have been working with base chaplains in the follow-up work with new Christians. One tool used is a Bible correspondence course, enrolling more than 6,500 servicemen as of last December.

Southern Baptist missionaries are encouraged by the spirit of evangelism in Korea. Current signs indicate that the effectiveness of evangelistic efforts in the east Asian country will continue indefinitely.

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Editor's Note: Ms. Ward is a staff writer for the Foreign Mission Board press office. Though written in Richmond, the information for the story came from various sources in Korea.

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Dean Learns: Never
Underestimate a Student

11/14/73

FORT WORTH (BP)--"Never underestimate good intentions." This proverbial statement came to have great meaning recently for Felix Gresham, dean of students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

A student approached him to inquire how to make a contribution to the seminary's student aid program. Gresham explained the simple procedure involved.

"Occasionally we have students make donations of \$10, \$15 and sometimes \$25," Gresham related. "So I thought, because of this man's interest, we might get as much as \$100."

But, several weeks later, the man returned with a cashier's check for \$10,000. To say Gresham was surprised would be an understatement.

The student, who asked not to be identified, owns a manufacturing company in the Fort Worth area and is enrolled in the seminary's School of Theology diploma program.

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He said that several years ago he made a promise to God to share a portion of his business' profits. The \$10,000 gift represents this year's share.

Gresham said the money will be placed in permanent endowment with the earnings to be used in aiding five or six students each year.

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Kentucky Editor Openly Faces
Emotional Illness "Stigma"

11/14/73

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP)--Once C. R. Daley Jr. "shared many of the misunderstandings and false notions people have about emotional illness and its treatment."

But now Daley, editor of the Wester Recorder, journal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, knows how it feels and how to "face the situation honestly and realistically."

Daley, editorializing in the Southern Baptist state paper, has stepped out from behind the cloak of secrecy most people throw around emotional illness to frankly discuss how he dealt with his problem during a recent six-week hospitalization.

"Emotional illness can wreck life for its victims but it need not do so," Daley wrote in what observers have described as one of the most courageous editorials they've ever read.

"Like all other human experiences which appear tragic, depression and its treatment can be redemptive instead of destructive. It depends upon how we respond to the illness and the available therapy," he said.

In an interview later, Daley said he conferred with the chairman of his board when he realized he needed treatment and was told to "go ahead and stay as long as it takes" and that his "job would be there."

With that assurance, Daley, a former college professor and pastor with an earned doctorate in theology, began six weeks of treatment.

Citing the "stigma almost universally associated with mental illness," Daley wrote, "The first inclination is to conceal it and try to overcome it as quickly as possible with the fewest friends possible knowing about it. Another temptation is to feel sorry for oneself and to complain about the treatment from doctors, nurses and others trying to help."

But, the editorial continued, "Experience has taught me that to face the situation honestly and realistically and to cooperate with those trying to help me is the only wise and sensible attitude."

"Hospital walls and strict regulations may make a prison for the body but not for the spirit," he continued. "The physical body can be restrained but neither space nor time is a barrier for the human spirit which soars upon the wings of imagination and sacred meditation.

"Now I know how it feels to be behind this door (of a psychosomatic medicine department). I have sat where the depressed sit and I have seen life through their eyes."

The Kentucky editor, citing an Old Testament event, said "I understand now why the Lord sent his prophet Ezekiel to sit speechlessly for seven days and nights with Hebrew captives before he tried to minister to them.

"This is not to say the Lord sent me to the hospital," he added. "My illness was my own doing. I am confident, however, the Lord's mercy and love were evident in the provision of the hospital, along with. . . (those) who constituted the healing team."

Daley said the "friendship and fellowship" of fellow patients provided meaningful relationships, wiping away "the usual barriers of age, sex, color and social status."

He vividly recalls their relationship at meals.

"Understandably there are no planned religious activities in the psychiatric ward but it seemed natural to pause for a blessing before we ate. After leading the prayer several
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times, I learned a friendly 16-year-old lad wanted to say the blessing."

The boy's "beautiful, memorized blessing. . . identified him as a Roman Catholic by faith but his attitude identified him as a brother in spirit to all of us."

Next, a 17-year-old girl, a Baptist, asked to lead the prayer.

"For all of us mealtime came to be keenly anticipated for more than the food," Daley wrote.

The first chapter of Colossians in the New Testament "became more understandable in light of my hospital experience," Daley continued.

"Paul besought for the Colossians the gifts of patience and longsuffering in their trials. To pray for such blessings seems proper but Paul asked for another blessing which seems contradictory," wrote Daley, a widely sought-after Bible study teacher among Kentucky Baptists.

"He (Paul) asked for the Colossians' joy in their tribulation," Daley continued. "This joy is more than the stoical resignation to grin and bear hardships. It is true serenity conceived and born of suffering and which relates to fellow sufferers with cheerfulness and responds to God with thanksgiving.

"Such joyful serenity is as available in a hospital room as it is in the sanctuary because it is not an accomplishment of man but the gift of God. This is at least part of what Paul meant when he said, "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him. . ." (Romans 8:28).