



BAPTIST PRESS

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June 20, 1974

U. S. House Passes
Postal Rate Delay

74-1

WASHINGTON (BP)--The House of Representatives passed and sent to the White House for signature a law which delays postal rate increases for many second, third and fourth class publications.

The measure, passed earlier in Congress' current session by the Senate, passed the House by a 227-129 margin.

The new legislation is designed to ease the increasing financial pressure being felt by many publications, including those of churches and other nonprofit organizations.

In 1970, when the Post Office became a semiprivate postal service corporation, Congress voted to allow five years before magazines, newspapers and other second class publications would be expected to pay their own way without government subsidy. Nonprofit mail and a fourth class library rate were to have 10 years to become self-sufficient.

The new law extends from five to eight years, or until 1979, the deadline for second class publications, and from 10 to 16 years, or until 1987, that of nonprofit mail and the fourth class library rate.

Last month, when the Senate passed the measure by a vote of 71-11, its chief sponsor, Sen. Gale McGee (D.-Wyo.) declared that his bill was "designed to benefit the general public by strengthening the free press."

Other senators, including Edward M. Kennedy (D.-Mass.), Barry Goldwater (R.-Ariz.), and Gaylord Nelson (D.-Wisc.) said they favored stronger legislation which would assure second, third and fourth class patrons of permanent government subsidy.

Nelson has promised to introduce "considerably stronger legislation" next year.

The new bill, S. 411, is expected to be signed into law by the president in the near future.

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Baptist Mission Work Begins
In Area Closed for 13 Years

6/20/74

LUANDA, Angola (BP)--For the first time in over 13 years the Carmona area near here is open to evangelistic work.

Since March 15, 1961, when an independent Baptist mission was closed, any gathering of 20 or more was prohibited. The people of the area had hoped for the reopening when promised that a Portuguese pastor would be allowed to preach. A Portuguese pastor and his family arrived from Lisbon but stayed only one week.

Harrison H. Pike, Southern Baptist missionary, decided the only thing to do was to visit the governor of the district. He proposed that work be opened again, asking if he could visit each month to direct the work in that area. Permission was granted.

The new church, which was to meet in the house originally secured for the pastor, began services on Sunday, with a national preacher and 80 people present. The next Sunday 180 people attended and the following week 237 came.

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Pike spent his first week there visiting the Portuguese authorities in the surrounding counties and visiting the villages.

"I literally preached to tens of thousands during the week," Pike said. "At least once a day I preached to crowds of over 1,000 in villages. My hand ached from shaking hands."

Pike continued, "Sunday, I baptized, with over 1,000 present. Picture a little creek winding between hills covered with giant trees, with coffee trees planted in the shade and a crowd of this size lining the banks, up the hillside and high in the trees."

Pike will return to the area one week each month to direct the Christians carrying on the work there.

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Campaigns in Nigeria
Net 20,000 Decisions

6/20/74

ZARIA, Nigeria (BP)--The united effort of Nigerian Baptists in a year-long evangelistic campaign has resulted in over 20,000 recorded decisions, including 13,000 first-time professions of faith.

A series of city campaigns were sponsored as a joint effort of the Nigerian Baptist Convention and 142 missionaries representing the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Betty Larimer, missionary associate to Sapele, Nigeria, writes that many lives were changed when people responded to Christ.

One elderly blind man who worshipped idols and made his living by making "juju" charms has had his life completely changed by Jesus, Miss Larimer reports. He now speaks in churches. Church members have shown their love, Miss Larimer said, by helping him financially since his livelihood of selling charms is gone.

At the invitation of Nigerian Baptists, some 100 pastors, musicians and laymen from the United States paid their own way to come and help in the meetings. Preaching in the central crusade here was Joao F. Soren of Brazil, past president of the Baptist World Alliance.

The special evangelistic effort was conceived by national leaders and missionaries over two years ago when they realized that Nigerians were unusually open to the direct presentation of the claims of Christ, according to a Foreign Mission Board report.

Following the civil war, the report stated, Nigerians were seeking reconciliation to heal the war's wounds and a common national purpose around which to rebuild their sense of nationhood.

Primary responsibility for planning was in the hands of local committees in each of the 17 cities where campaigns were held.

Southern Baptist Missionary Gordon E. Robinson served as special campaign coordinator at the request of the convention.

In each city a three-week plan was followed. The first week included a lay evangelism school in a central church. During the second week a central crusade was held, and during the final week simultaneous revivals in all the Baptist churches were held.

Highlights of the campaign included the first night service in Ogbomosho when over 10,000 persons stayed in spite of a power failure and several hundred made professions of faith; a nightly total attendance of more than 10,000 in Lagos in nine different locations; 21 persons accepting Christ in a photo shop after one of the leaders witnessed at the request of the owner; and a crowd of 2,000 students following. Evangelist Arthur Blessitt as he carried his cross through the University of Ibadan campus. Blessitt was in Nigeria on his round-the-world trek for Christ.

E. O. Akingbala, president of the 118,000-member Nigerian Baptist Convention, said, "Results from the crusades brought home to all the fact that when God's children unite for action He always blesses efforts."

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Baptist Meeting Circumvents
One-Ring Circus In Ecuador

PAJAN, Ecuador (BP)--Attendance at a week-long evangelistic meeting here apparently caused a one-ring circus, which was operating simultaneously, to give up and leave.

"Each night as crowds congregated to hear evangelistic messages, hardly enough people were on hand at the circus for the performance to begin," said Stanley D. Stamps, Southern Baptist missionary. "As a matter of fact, the circus closed down one night, pulled up stakes the next and left the small community."

Missionary Marvin R. Ford led the revival during which 10 persons made professions of faith.

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A. E. Prince Honored
For 70 Years In Ministry

6/20/74

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (BP)--A. E. Prince, 87, a fulltime Baptist minister since 1904, was honored by the church that ordained him 70 years ago.

Commemorating Prince's 70th anniversary as a minister was Barnhill (Mo.) Baptist Church and other friends.

Prince, who most recently served as the pastor of Water Tower Baptist Church, retired a few weeks before he was honored. He has been named pastor emeritus of the church and friends say he still preaches somewhere most Sundays.

The former president of Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo., Prince said, "In a sense a 70th anniversary in the ministry is a lonely time. And it makes you want some of your friends near you."

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Youth Postpones Sojourner
Stint to Rebuild Hometown

6/20/74

HUEY, Ill. (BP)--Dan Tucker wanted to be a part of the initial "sojourner" volunteer missions program this summer, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, but the 19-year-old has temporarily postponed those plans to be a missionary at home helping rebuild his hometown, severely damaged by a spring hailstorm.

Tucker lives with his parents and 11 brothers and sisters in Huey, Ill., population 205. His father is a carpenter and Tucker works for him as an apprentice.

He had planned to be one of the first sojourners this summer. The sojourner program is a new HMB effort to place volunteer high school students and recent graduates in mission settings at their own expense. The first group of 24 recently were appointed and are now on assignment in nine states.

Tucker hopes to join them later this year. The board's department of special mission ministries has consented to reassign him sometime in the fall or winter.

The young carpenter for Christ said he felt an interest in missions when he found himself witnessing on the job more than he was working.

"My dad is a Christian carpenter and an effective witness on the job," he said. "This is the way I started witnessing, but I found myself wanting to talk about Jesus more than I worked. Now I have decided to devote myself full-time to witnessing through missions."

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