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74-101

**Vietnamese in Camranh
Responding to Gospel**

CAMRANH, South Vietnam (BP)--It's quiet at Camranh Bay, an area that once knew the roar of American war planes and the noise of exploding shells and bursting bombs. Grass is growing on the large concrete runways.

It's quiet, but Southern Baptist missionaries report they are "hearing the rustling of God's spirit as Vietnamese people are responding to the gospel in phenomenal numbers."

Almost 300 new believers are awaiting baptism. Another 162 were baptized recently in an outdoor service, making 200 baptisms in 1974.

The Camranh population has been very transient. Refugees came to Camranh for safety during the peak of the war. Many of these have returned to their home villages, but new refugees have arrived "because the shuffling of the continuing conflict has driven them out of their provinces," said William T. Roberson, Southern Baptist missionary press representative.

Baptists began working in Camranh during the peak of the war and the response was good. Several churches and preaching points sprang up.

With the shift of the population, though, a small church, nestled among banana trees, was being used only twice a month. Missionary James L. Kellum Jr. and Vietnamese lay Christians conducted services there as they had time.

Toward the middle of 1974, the people became more responsive. In July, 34 people were baptized in the outdoor baptistry.

After the service, two interested high school students came, professing belief in Christ and wanting baptism. Kellum explained they would need to study the basics of the Christian faith and attend worship services before being baptized.

Preaching services were still held only twice a month, but after the July baptisms, new people began to express their belief in Christ every week.

"The once half-empty building soon began to be filled at every gathering. Twenty or more professions of faith were made during every worship hour," said Roberson.

No special program was responsible for the responsiveness, according to Kellum. It was done by the new converts witnessing among their own neighbors and acquaintances and because of an unusual working of the Holy Spirit, he said.

In October, the church began meeting every Sunday. The lay preachers and Kellum have shared preaching and teaching responsibilities among the new Christians.

Missionaries H. Earl Bengs Jr. and Kenneth L. Goad were invited from Dalat to assist with the mass baptism in November. In the morning, Bengs taught the candidates the meaning of baptism and then asked all those who wanted to publicly reaffirm their faith in Christ to be baptized that afternoon.

It was a moving experience, missionaries report. Roberson said among those baptized that day were several expectant mothers, two lepers, some amputees and war victims, as well as the young and old, rich and poor and sick and well.

Bengs carried one man, a paraplegic, into the water "like a father would carry his small child" and lowered him in the water. "The moving spectacle of that afternoon's baptismal service was hardly matched by any other scene to take place on Vietnamese soil," Roberson said.

Many things have happened in Camranh during the last few years, according to Kellum. "The more obvious marks of war are gradually disappearing, though the scars are deep," he said. "Nevertheless, God has not gone home nor has he withdrawn his troops."

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Texas Baptists Get "Bear
Fever; " Confront Crises

12/19/74

DALLAS (BP)--Members of the Texas Baptist Executive board caught a touch of "Bear Fever" during the board's annual meeting here.

But they also took time out to elect Chester L. (Chet) Reames as the new student division director for the Baptist General Convention of Texas and launch action on world hunger and financially troubled Dallas Baptist College.

Mrs. Grant Teaff, wife of Baylor University's head football coach, and Baylor President Abner McCall accepted a scroll citing Teaff for "practicing what he preaches" and for leading the Baylor Bears to the "promised land" of the Cotton Bowl after "40 years of wandering in the Southwest Conference wilderness . . ."

Calling attention to last year's 2-9 record at the Southern Baptist-affiliated school, Mrs. Teaff, who filled in for her husband who was out recruiting, said this year, in which Baylor recorded an 8-3 record and the Southwest Conference championship, was "like going from a valley to a mountaintop."

The executive board authorized James Landes, Texas Baptist executive secretary to give direction and leadership through established executive board channels in helping meet emergency world hunger needs. A provision in the board's action stipulated that the world hunger project should be a special emphasis, not a "single-shot project."

Funds for world hunger will be channeled through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The board passed a resolution commending the Dallas Baptist Association of churches for a \$935,000 fund drive to help salvage financially-troubled Dallas Baptist College and approved a plan for a \$5 million campaign to alleviate capital indebtedness.

The college's fate largely rests with the success of the association's fund drive, an executive board spokesman said, adding that one trustee made a \$250,000 pledge and that the Dallas business community will seek to raise \$335,000 for the college in its annual sustentation drive.

Reames, an associate in the Texas Baptist student division since 1964, will succeed W. F. Howard, who has held the post for 32 years. Baptist Student Union work is conducted on 83 college and university campuses across Texas.

A native of Altus, Okla., Reames is a former student director at North Texas State University, Denton, Tex., and has served churches in Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Teaff said Baylor's team and coaching staff had "committed this football season to the Lord."

She said that at midnight, following Baylor's defeat of the University of Texas, 34-24, she and her husband, a Baptist deacon and Sunday School teacher, "just walked out in the middle of that stadium and voiced a prayer to God for using the football team as an instrument to uplift Baylor University and Christian education in the field of athletics."

The attractive coach's wife said that God may not have won football games for Baylor, but she expressed gratitude that God had "sharpened them (the coaches and players) emotionally and physically and mentally and spiritually."

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World Baptist Leaders Ask Clemency for Prisoners

MOSCOW (BP)--An international delegation of Baptist leaders pled for clemency for a dissident Soviet Baptist leader, Georgi Vins, and other such religious prisoners in a meeting here with the deputy chairman of the Board of International Affairs of the USSR.

The delegation, led by Robert A. Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), was composed of international Baptist leaders attending the 41st Congress of the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (AUCECB).

Other members of the delegation with Denny were Jose Goncalves, president of the European Baptist Federation; Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the Baptist Union of West Germany; Andrew D. MacRae, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Scotland; David S. Russell, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland; and Knud Wumpelmann, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Denmark.

In particular, Denny noted, the position of the "Initsiativnia", a dissident Baptist group, and other non-registered Soviet evangelical churches was examined. Separatist church groups have been a target of Soviet officials, landing Vins and others in prison for breach of Soviet law, reports have stated.

Vins, 46, of Kiev, is secretary of the Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (CCECB), a movement considered illegal by the Soviet government. A founder of the CCECB, he was arrested in 1966 and released in 1969, in broken health, according to Christianity Today.

Reports indicate Vins secretly carried on the work of the CCECB, even after officials had opened a new case against him in 1970. He was jailed again in March, 1974, pending trial. He has since asked for a Christian lawyer from the West to represent him in court. Various members of his family have suffered imprisonment and job discrimination, reports say.

His father was arrested for illegal religious activities and died in a Soviet prison camp of torture, relatives said, according to Christianity Today.

Denny noted with "great satisfaction" that the AUCECB had made request in October for the release of dissident believers now in Soviet prisons and that many of them had been released.

The delegation of Baptist leaders was impressed, Denny said, by the efforts of the AUCECB to bring about reconciliation with separated Baptist groups. They were heartened by the numbers who had returned, but shared the disappointment expressed that greater progress had not been possible, delegation spokesmen said.

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CORRECTION

In the BP story, "SBC Has Role in Programs to be Televised Nationally", of 12/17/74, the day of airing should be Dec. 29 inst ad of Dec. 30.