



# -- FEATURES

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75-08

## 'World Evangelism Thrust Has Lasting Momentum'

By C. E. Bryant

WASHINGTON (BP)--The World Mission of Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ, a Baptist World Alliance (BWA) project originally scheduled to end this year, probably will continue indefinitely.

Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary, said that the worldwide emphasis on evangelism and Christian ministry has gathered so much momentum that it is no longer dependent on calendars and promotional literature.

Hundreds of thousands of Baptists in almost a hundred countries are engaged in acts of evangelism and Christian service, Denny said. "The momentum is great, and the people in a score of developing lands are excited with this new outreach of Christian witness."

"One of the Mission's greatest gains," Denny said, "has been the enlistment of laity in church activity." He referred to unordained persons--men, women and youth--who "have been trained in Christian ministries and have accepted responsibility for Christian witness in their everyday lives."

His observation came on the eve of Baptist World Alliance Sunday, February 2. Churches throughout the world are urged by the BWA to mark the date--or even a week of special activity--with prayer, study and meditation on Baptist people in more than a hundred countries.

"Baptists are a minority people in every country of the world except the United States," Denny said. "Many of them work courageously under very difficult circumstances."

The World Mission of Reconciliation (WMR) was launched by the 12th Baptist World Congress, meeting in Tokyo in 1970. It had twin goals: reconciliation of man to God (evangelism), and reconciliation of man to man (in projects of Christian brotherhood and ministry).

Reports reaching the BWA offices have brought news of tens of thousands of converts to Christianity. Some churches in India have baptized more than 1,000 new believers in a single day. Baptists of Nigeria counted more than 20,000 "first time decisions" in a series of evangelistic crusades. And Baptists of Brazil, where Southern Baptists first sent missionaries in 1882, are in a campaign to boost their membership from a present 408,000 to one million by the 1982 centennial date.

World Baptist membership increased 2.25 per cent in 1973 to a total of 33.5 million in January 1974. The 1975 statistics are now being compiled. There are Baptist churches or chapels in 138 countries and dependencies.

The WMR calendar adopted at Tokyo showed the years 1971 and 1972 as a time of preparation, with the 1973-75 period as the time for action.

One looks back now to a unilateral action by the Baptists of the USSR in 1973 and views it as prophetic. The official logo, or emblem, for the WMR carries the dates 1973-75, but the Russians would have none of it. They repainted the emblem, substituting Russian words for the English language "Reconciliation Through Christ," and giving the scripture reference 2 Corinthians 5:19 rather than the date.

"We left off the dates," Alexsei Bichkov, general secretary of the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR, told a BWA Executive Committee meeting in Switzerland. "The people of my country cannot understand how we can limit our responsibilities of reconciliation to three years. It is a continuous obligation that must never end until Christ comes again."

The USSR, incidentally, has the third largest Baptist membership of all the world's countries. Its 535,000 is exceeded only by India's 734,000 and the United States' 29-million.

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Denny believes that because of this concerted effort on reconciliation the last few years, Baptists of the world will feel more united than ever as they observe Baptist World Alliance Sunday on February 2.

"The BWA emphasis throughout the years has been one of fellowship," he said. "We still have fellowship, but beyond that we have gained a new appreciation of cooperation and sharing. Both small and large conventions in the fellowship have learned from one another as we worked together on evangelism and Christian ministry.

"Most of all, we have been encouraged as we watch small groups of believers like the 720 Baptists in Togo and the 2,600 in Poland rise against majority odds to achieve their Christian objectives."

Joseph B. Underwood, a staff member of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board who has served as chairman of the WMR emphasis, is author of plans for BWA Sunday observance this year. He suggests that churches who desire to do so go beyond the traditional one service program of prayer, study and meditation on the world fellowship, dedicating a full week to community ministry in keeping with WMR goals.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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Illinois Baptists  
Just Love 'Oscar'

Baptist Press

By John Whitman

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (BP)--"OSCAR," a new Honeywell 58 computer, which has been printing address labels for Illinois Baptists since mid-1974, has apparently developed "his" own fans.

Data processing director Janet Craynon, who programmed the computer to print address labels for Southern Baptist churches, pastors, church staffers and major church officers in Illinois, reports some interesting results.

"Oscar" was so concerned that church treasurers know about his new duties, that he wrote them a "personal letter" composed by Mrs. Craynon and Honeywell representative, Lawrence Cullen.

"AS OF THE FIRST QUARTER 1975, I WILL ASSUME THE DUTIES OF MAINTAINING MANY OF THE FINANCIAL RECORDS" for the Illinois Baptist State Association, Oscar wrote in his familiar all-capital letters.

Little did "Oscar's" friends realize he would get fan mail. First to arrive was a "Dearest Oscar" letter from Peoria, also in ALL-CAPS:

"I WAS SIMPLY THRILLED THAT YOU WOULD WRITE TO ME. I JUST KNOW OUR FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE IS GOING TO SPARKLE WITH EXOTIC EXPRESSIONS SUCH AS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM, MISSION OFFERINGS AND ALL THOSE OTHER CUTE PHRASES.

"HOWEVER, DEAR, SWEET OSCAR, MY NAME IS WOODLAND BAPTIST CHURCH NOT WOODLAWN. COULD THIS LITTLE SLIP MEAN THERE ARE OTHER GIRLS IN YOUR LIFE BESIDES ME? I'LL TRY NOT TO BE JEALOUS.

"ONE OTHER QUESTION BUGS ME A TINY BIT. HOW WILL I EVER KNOW IF YOU LOVE ME FOR MYSELF OR FOR MY MONEY?"

Another error shows that Oscar may be only "human." A woman treasurer wrote: "I'm not as crazy about being liberated as some women seem to be, but I dislike being called 'Mr.' I'll cooperate with you if you will do likewise. Good luck, Oscar."

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## African Converts Multiply Says Foreign Mission Board

75-08

RICHMOND (BP)--Rapid growth of churches and emphasis placed on evangelism by Southern Baptist missionaries in Africa in 1974 resulted in thousands of new Christians in several different nations, according to a report during the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's January meeting here.

Joseph B. Underwood, the board's consultant in evangelism and church development, cited example after example of what he called "1974's continuing evangelistic victories."

He told of a church which was constituted with more than 5,600 charter members in Angola. The church resulted from steady growth of 74 different groups of believers.

In Tanzania, more than 8,000 members of churches sought to become part of the Baptist Convention of Tanzania. They are now studying and "turning to the Lord Jesus Christ in faith," Underwood said. They are the outgrowth of the witnessing efforts of one man in their number who became a Christian.

Kenya is experiencing a great revival, according to Underwood. "So great is the spiritual awakening," he said, "that they discontinued plans to invite 12 or 15 outside evangelists."

During the first six months of 1974, Rhodesian Baptist churches baptized more new converts than during any previous year of their history. Underwood said 4,545 first-time professions of faith in Christ were made in August during a special evangelistic campaign, which included 77 churches and preaching points.

"Nigeria continues to be the scene of dramatic and spirit-inspired triumphs," Underwood said.

The last of 17 regional evangelistic campaigns was conducted there during the month of November, 1974. More than 26,000 decisions were reported on the part of young people and adults, who were individually counseled and who, in that counseling and in response to the messages preached, made a public decision to follow Christ.

Ninety-eight preachers, musicians and laymen from all parts of the United States joined with Nigerian Baptists, at the invitation of the Baptist Convention of Nigeria, in these evangelistic endeavors.

Among those responding in Africa were government leaders, officials, chiefs, kings, nurses, teachers and young people.

Results of the evangelistic projects have encouraged more. In several countries, including Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Kenya, Mozambique, Angola, Lebanon, Jordan, South Africa and Zambia, similar projects were planned for 1975, Underwood said.

"These are only a few of the challenging and inspiring plans of the Baptists around the world as they continue their emphasis on training every member for personal witnessing and at the same time multiplying through every conceivable manner and method their evangelistic outreach," Underwood concluded.

Louisiana Doctor Wins One,  
Loses One in Abortion Cases

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)-- In a pair of related actions, a Louisiana physician who, by his own admission performed illegal abortions, won one case and lost another before the U. S. Supreme Court.

On balance, however, the physician appears to have won the more significant victory. The high court ruled that the doctor's license cannot be revoked, in spite of the fact that he performed illegal abortions prior to the landmark 1973 decisions legalizing most abortions (Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton).

In the other action, the court let stand a malpractice judgment against the doctor for alleged injuries suffered by a woman during an abortion procedure.

Both legal battles resulted from a bizarre incident which occurred in Amite, La., where Dr. I. I. Rosen was practicing medicine. During 1969, Linda Lawrence, a college student, was persuaded by the sheriff and a deputy sheriff of Tangipahoa Parish to do undercover work in a plot designed to develop a criminal case against Rosen. The law enforcement officials suspected that Rosen was performing abortions in his clinic.

Lawrence went to Dr. Rosen's clinic and told him she thought she was pregnant. Rosen examined her and asked her to return for a second visit with a urine specimen. The woman presented a specimen obtained from another woman who was, in fact, pregnant.

After analyzing the specimen, Rosen agreed to perform an abortion. The sheriff and his deputy had urged Lawrence to proceed with the pose up to the point of allowing herself to be sedated in preparation for the abortion, with the assurance that they would enter the clinic at a prearranged signal to rescue her.

The woman agreed, and shortly after the sedative had been administered, the sheriff's deputies arrived, placed Rosen under arrest, and terminated the dilation and curettage procedure the doctor was about to begin.

Later the same day, Lawrence noticed spotting of blood and was examined by a gynecologist who diagnosed a punctured uterus. The gynecologist kept Lawrence in a hospital for about a week for observation and then released her.

The woman then proceeded to file suit against Dr. Rosen for physical and psychological harm. She also sued the sheriff and his deputy for arriving at the clinic too late to prevent the alleged injury.

At the trial, a jury awarded the woman \$10,000 in damages from the doctor, but dismissed the charges against the officers.

Rosen fought his case through the federal court system, but the trial court's verdict was upheld both at the district and appellate levels.

In its action, the U. S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case thereby letting stand the judgment against the doctor.

Rosen's main argument was that the high court should apply its controversial 1973 decisions to his case retroactively. He also maintained that the trial judge had made prejudicial statements to the jury that convicted him and had cross examined the doctor during his testimony at the trial.

Lawrence's attorneys argued that the 1973 decisions had no applicability in her case because they dealt with criminal sanctions for performing previously illegal abortions, while her action was a civil medical malpractice suit.

In the other case involving Dr. Rosen, the high court affirmed a lower court ruling that the doctor could not be suspended from practicing medicine by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

The board had sought to suspend Dr. Rosen's license in the aftermath of the Lawrence episode. A U. S. district court at first ruled against the physician in 1970, thereby upholding the constitutionality of Louisiana's anti-abortion law.

In May 1973, however, the U. S. Supreme Court vacated that judgment and sent the case back to the district court for further consideration in the light of its historic decisions declaring most states' anti-abortion statutes unconstitutional.

The district court reversed itself in July 1974. The Louisiana Board of Medical Examiners then appealed to the Supreme Court to reconsider its 1973 decisions or, at the least, to declare that those decisions could not be applied retroactively.

Dr. Rosen's brief before the Supreme Court argued that "unless this court wants to reconsider its decisions in Roe and Doe, there is no substantial question presented by this case which calls for further argument."

The high court agreed with the physician and affirmed the district court's second judgment. (Rosen v. Lawrence, Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners v. I. I. Rosen, M. D.)

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Foreign Board Appoints Five;

Approves \$25,500 for Relief

Baptist Press

**RICHMOND (BP)**--The appointment of five missionaries, the appropriation of an additional \$25,500 for relief efforts in Honduras, a report by the executive secretary on relief, and reports from several other board officials highlighted the January meeting here of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"We are having an upsurge of interest in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) about the world hunger crisis," said Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive secretary. "We anticipate the flow of money designated for relief in 1975 will be much larger than in 1974."

"This matter of relief related to world hunger is going to be a long-range thing," he continued. "We're going to have to take some further steps in organization to deal with it properly, both here in the Foreign Mission Board and out on the mission field as well. We will be getting ready for a larger involvement in relief than ever before."

Cauthen indicated many had asked about the possibility of shipping clothing and material goods to needy areas.

"It's very difficult and very expensive," he explained. "At the present time, the most effective means of relief is by gifts of money."

"Relief work is the hardest work we're called on to do. It is frustrating. It is emotionally draining. It is physically exhausting. I suppose missionaries who have spent decades on the fields would say of all the jobs they do, relief work is the hardest. "And yet," Cauthen continued, "with all of their regular responsibilities, the missionaries stand ready to go as far as they can go in the ministry of relief."

Continuing to respond to relief and rehabilitation needs in Honduras following September's hurricane, the board appropriated \$15,500 for land and building materials to construct church buildings in Las Brisas and Salama, and \$10,000 for relief needs in the San Pedro Sula area.

The board also heard reports, summarizing progress during 1974, from Louis R. Cobbs, secretary for missionary personnel; Winston Crawley, director of the overseas division; and Joseph B. Underwood, consultant in evangelism and church development.

Cobbs reported that in 1974 the number of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries was increased to an all-time record of 2,606. The 250 new missionaries appointed during the year represented a net gain of 68, the largest net gain in five years, Cobbs said.

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He also discussed job classifications for married woman missionaries, who have always been appointed as homemakers. Cobbs suggested that many could be categorized as nurses, teachers or any number of other assignments for which they might be qualified.

"Priority should be given to the feasibility of assigning married women to categories other than homemaking," Cobbs continued. "We should publicize this among seminary students and other prospective missionary candidates as freely as other organizations comment about equal employment opportunities.

"It is important for the board to support family life. This is being done. It is also important for those who are qualified, whether men or women, to be able to utilize their gifts and fulfill their calling in their overseas assignment."

Crawley reported that the Foreign Mission Board added five new mission fields in 1974, Panama (transferred from Home Mission Board responsibilities), Madagascar, Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica. This brings the total number of countries where Southern Baptists have mission work to 82. In addition, he said, the board has approved assigning missionaries to Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Underwood's report of "continuing victories" in 1974 evangelistic endeavors focused on several African countries, where thousands of professions of faith were recorded due to direct evangelism efforts.

In other action, the board employed W. Howard Bramlette as a special consultant in missionary education for a six-month period beginning Jan. 15.

Bramlette, former director of promotion for the SBC Education Commission, Nashville, Tenn., will work in the board's mission support division, developing materials for the missionary education task force responsibility the Foreign Mission Board has as a result of Southern Baptist Convention actions last year in Dallas.

The board also appropriated \$70,000 to assist certain Baptist workers from Southern Baptist mission fields to attend the Baptist World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden in July.

The five new missionaries will serve in three countries. Appointed were Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow E. Fletcher of Arkansas and Oklahoma, to Peru; and Miss Yvonne E. Helton of California, to Middle America. Dr. and Mrs. Daniel D. I. Gruver of Missouri and Arkansas, were employed as missionary associates to Panama



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