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Fay Jauw-Ha: 'I Never Tell  
People I'm a Preacher'

By Nancy Carter

LOUISVILLE(BP)--If you pass Fay Jauw-Ha on the street, you would never suspect the petite brunette was an ordained minister in Indonesia.

Ordained by Presbyterians, she became a Baptist while in Indonesia, but has not sought ordination by Baptists. She still considers herself very much a minister, but, "I never tell people I'm a preacher; it's hard for me. When people know me and someone tells them I preach, that's okay," she said.

Now a second year religious education major at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Louisville, Miss Jauw-Ha also studied music in Dusseldorf, Germany.

While in Europe, she preached in Chinese churches in the Netherlands and Germany, but has not preached during the year and a half she has been in the United States.

Although she misses being able to preach, "Sometimes I feel it is good for me to be quiet for a few years and prepare everything for my work," said the single coed.

In Indonesia it is not uncommon for a woman to be a minister to a small congregation, she continued. She feels the abundance of foreign women missionaries brings greater acceptance to Indonesian women in religious work.

"One thing that is a surprise in Indonesia is how well people respond to a woman preacher, even when you are so young.

"Sometimes I feel that I'm not worthy to have so many people listen, but in God's name you just do your best," she said.

Her first congregation was a hundred-member Presbyterian church. She gave the sermons on Sundays and was responsible for visitation and other duties.

She was apprehensive at first, but "when I got into the job and the deacons and the elders really worked together, I didn't feel it was so hard."

She was not allowed to give communion or baptize or perform wedding ceremonies, however, because these sacraments are so "holy" only men can perform them, she said.

Strangely enough, women are allowed to conduct funerals, but Miss Jauw-Ha was not anxious to perform this duty.

"I was scared because I was told that when someone died I was to help wash the dead body (a custom of poorer congregations)."

She decided at 17 to "dedicate my life to God." Although her entire family, including six brothers and sisters, are Christians, they did not want her to go into full-time Christian work. "It is very difficult for you in Indonesia when you dedicate your life," she said.

Her mother had been a Buddhist until shortly after Miss Jauw-Ha was born.

"When I was born, I was blind. My eyes would not open. A neighbor said, 'You should go to church,' and my mother did." Soon after Miss Jauw-Ha gained her sight her mother converted to Christianity.

Miss Jauw-Ha went to a Chinese high school and then attended Southeast Asia Bible College in Malan, Indonesia. Soon after graduation she became pastor of a small local church in Lawang.

In 1970 she became director of religious education at the Calvary Baptist School in Jakarta. In addition to teaching, she conducted regular worship services for the students, their parents and the teachers. One difficulty at that time was her inability to project her voice so that all the students could hear her.

In a newsletter to friends she said, "There are student worship services twice a week at the church. I have a hard time with this because my voice is not big enough for the students who sit in the back. Pray that God will provide a microphone for us."

And he did, two months later, she said.

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Born into a Buddhist home, ordained as a Presbyterian minister, now committed to a life of service among Southern Baptists, Miss Jauw-Ha is open to the future: "I am open to God's leadership."

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers, 9/30/75.

Nancy Carter is a staff writer for The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, public relations office, Louisville.

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Bicentennial Feature

Massachusetts Baptists Ask  
For Relief from Persecution

Baptist Press  
10/2/75

BOSTON, Mass., October, 1770--(BP)--Unless they are granted release from taxes to support the state church, Massachusetts Baptists threaten "to send to the British courts for help if it can not be had in America," Baptist spokesmen said here.

Baptists in New England say they have chafed for decades under laws requiring them to pay the support of ministers of a state church which they say persecutes rather than ministers to them.

Often, the dissenters refusal to pay the tax has resulted in jail, their property confiscated, and other persecution, they noted.

Although the laws have been amended several times in recent years and certain exemptions are now allowed, Baptists continue to protest vigorously any restrictions which limit their religious liberty.

Baptists have presented a petition to the Massachusetts General Court asking for "perpetual exemption to all Baptists and their congregations from all ministerial rates whatsoever." The petition also asks for the recovery of property and other losses sustained by Baptists because of their religious convictions.

As an example of the oppression to which Baptists say they have been subjected as a result of the clergy tax, the petition cited the case of the Baptist church at Huntstown, established nine years ago.

Several years after the Huntstown church was organized, the established church settled a minister and arranged for the building of a meetinghouse. Baptists, including their minister Ebenezer Smith, were taxed to support the state church.

When Baptists claimed exemption from taxes as the first organized church in the community, the established order simply had Huntstown incorporated as a new town under the name of Ashfield.

Three hundred and ninety-eight acres belonging to Baptists were seized and sold to make way for the new meetinghouse, at a loss to Baptists of more than three hundred and forty-four pounds. A Baptist cemetery was included in the property seized.

"They also have sold a dwelling place and an orchard, pulled up our apple trees, thrown down our fences, and made our fields waste places," the Ashfield Baptists charge.

If they are not granted immediate release from such persecutions, Baptists have said they will take their grievances before the king.

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Prepared for Baptist Press by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, Nashville.

**Missionaries Resume Work  
In Violence-ridden Beirut**

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries and Lebanese Baptists have decided to reopen the Baptist Seminary and Beirut Baptist School here even though a lasting peace is doubtful.

"The missionaries in Lebanon (seven families) plan to go on with normal activity as much as is possible. Morning church services are being held. The seminary . . . and the Beirut Baptist School will open . . . (in October). Both hope to function normally," said J. D. Hughey, secretary to Europe and the Middle East for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"Missionaries are working in the midst of uncertainty," Hughey continued, "but they are working."

Heavy fighting and strict curfews had previously kept missionaries close to their homes and forced a near standstill in certain areas of work. Although fighting continues, Missionary James W. (Bill) Trimble reports that shops and banks are open spasmodically and that the embassy has planned no evacuation.

Missionaries on furlough and volunteers have begun to reenter Lebanon. Previously the airport area was thought unsafe. Missionaries to Lebanon felt now was as good a time as any to reenter the country. One couple and two single missionaries will return from furlough in time for the opening of the Beirut Baptist School.

The American Community School has reopened with Lebanon missionaries' children attending.

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Foreign Fields Request  
1,217 New Missionaries

Baptist Press  
10/2/75

RICHMOND (BP)--A plea for evangelistic workers headed the request for an additional 1,217 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to reinforce, replace and begin new work in 1976.

The requests topped last year's number by almost 50 jobs. (Of the 1,014 missionaries requested for 1975, only 201 positions have been filled.) Southern Baptists now have more than 2,600 missionaries in over 80 countries.

The board's annual meeting to review the 1976 missionary situation was directed by Louis R. Cobbs, secretary of the department of missionary personnel. It was attended by staff members of the board's overseas division and the department of missionary personnel, including the four regional personnel representatives.

The regional representatives, located in Louisville, New Orleans, Kansas City and Fort Worth, will take the requests back to persons in area churches and nearby seminaries who are interested in missionary service.

Although the 1,217 requests for 1976 are divided into 46 categories of missionary service, 50 percent were for persons in the area of evangelism and church development.

For every general evangelist appointed last year, there were 10 unfilled requests in that area of ministry.

"Again and again area secretaries use terms like 'wide open, responsive, unlimited opportunity,'" said R. Keith Parks, director of the mission support division. "Even in a place like Bangladesh, with all of its needs in terms of human relief, evangelism still has the highest priority."

Of the 59 countries requesting additional missionaries, only 15 do not list general evangelists within the top two priorities. Many of the areas list general evangelists as the top 10 priorities, inclusively.

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