



October 15, 1975

75-158

Festival Reminiscent
Of Ban on Christianity

By Shirley Cadenhead

NAGASAKI, Japan (BP)--The Shinto Festival, celebrated in October this year, is not a new event. Over 300 years ago, the Shinto Festival was used to expose secret Christians. Today participants perform only a few hundred feet from the Nagasaki Baptist Church here.

The festival, which honors the gods of nature, has strong ties to the Tokugawa era of the early 1600's. At that time the government, fearing a possible rebellion from the rapidly increasing number of Christians, banned the Christian religion.

The ban began with the crucifixion of 26 Jesuit priests and converts and did not end until 1853. Between 1614 and 1635, some 280,000 people are thought to have been persecuted for their beliefs; and as many as 1,500 may have died.

Reminders of the 250 year ban on Christianity still linger, and many are embedded in the festival.

According to the ancient story, anyone who refused to honor the city's patron nature god was suspected of secretly being a Christian.

Okunchie, as the event is called, continues to emphasize city-wide participation, each year accommodating tens of thousands at Suwa Shrine, the central shrine in Nagasaki. The shrine is located near Nagasaki's only Baptist church.

The festival also incurs great expense, this year costing more than a third of a million dollars.

During the ban, Nagasaki citizens were required to open their homes and gardens for public viewing four days prior to the festival.

The purpose of the niwamise, or garden viewing, was to prove that no symbols of Christianity were kept in the home. Today niwamise is an occasion for displaying festival costumes, family heirlooms and other decorations.

Featured in the Okunchie festival is the Jaedori, or Dragon Dance. The dancers hold the dragon (sign of good luck) on poles, as it chases a golden ball, representing the sun. The farming dance is symbolic of the dependence of all living things on nature.

After a performance at Suwa Shrine, the dancing processional moves along Nagasaki streets. On the final day of the three-day festival, the procession returns to the Suwa Shrine taking the nature gods home in the three mikoshi, or portable shrines.

Considered a feat of great physical strength, the dancers conclude the festival by running up the 200 steps of Suwa Shrine carrying the mikoshi.

Loyalty to the native customs of worship is still regarded as a high virtue in Nagasaki.

While the centuries of persecution are over for Christians, the resistance remains strong.

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Shirley Cadenhead is a missionary journeyman to Nagasaki where she teaches school and works with youth.

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House Unit Chairman Confirms
Agency Report on Taxation

Baptist Press
10/15/75

WASHINGTON (BP)--The chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means has confirmed an earlier report by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs that elimination of tax deductible contributions to churches is not on the agenda of the present congress.

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Contrary to reports otherwise that have been widely circulated through the nation, Rep. Al Ullman (D.-Ore.) told John W. Baker, director of research services for the Baptist Joint Committee:

"While we will be considering the matter of nonprofit charities, the question of eliminating tax deductible contributions is not even on the agenda for this year or next year."

At the October semi-annual meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee, Rep. James C. Corman (D-Cal.), a prominent member of the Ways and Means Committee, said that any tax reform law in the present congress will not include changes in the deductibility provision for gifts to churches and other charities.

Corman also expressed the view that the tax reform measure will not alter current tax laws which allow gifts of appreciated property to charitable institutions to be deducted at their appreciated value.

Hearings were held by the Ways and Means Committee during the summer of 1975. Current legislation relating to charities was not affected by these hearings.

The second phase of hearings related to tax reform is scheduled for November. According to a press release from the Ways and Means Committee, the hearings "will include, but not be limited to, the subjects of estate and gift taxation and the tax treatment of single persons and married couples."

Baker said that the hearings scheduled on estate and gift taxes could affect bequests to church-related institutions. However, he said, because the committee is holding general hearings without a specific bill before it, the direction it will move is uncertain.

Commenting on the tax reform proposals that might be of concern to churches, church institutions and agencies, Baker said of the Baptist Joint Committee staff is determined to remain alert and will report to the Baptist constituencies immediately if dangers are involved and if action is required to clarify the positions of the churches.

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Board Names Wakefield
Southeast Asia Secretary

Baptist Press
10/15/75

RICHMOND (BP)--William R. Wakefield, Southeast Asia field representative for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has been elected the new area secretary for Southeast Asia, effective Feb. 1, 1976.

Wakefield will replace R. Keith Parks, former area secretary, who was selected director of the board's mission support division in August.

Southeast Asia is one of eight areas into which the board divides its overseas administration. As area secretary, Wakefield will serve as a liaison between the missionaries and the board. He will be responsible for about 375 missionaries in Guam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

Wakefield and his wife, the former Delcie Musgrave, have been missionaries since 1960. As field representative for Southeast Asia, Wakefield has provided a personal link between the previous area secretary and the missionaries in the area.

Before Wakefield assumed the job of field representative in 1972, he and his wife were missionaries to the Philippines, stationed in Manila, where he directed Baptist student work. In addition to working with students, Wakefield served as consultant for Baptist student work in other parts of the Philippines. He served one year as chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines.

Wakefield went to the Philippines already experienced in a ministry to students. For three years prior to missionary appointment, he was Baptist Student Union (BSU) director in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Active in BSU during undergraduate days at the University of Missouri (now University of Missouri at Columbia), he was statewide president during his junior year.

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He was graduated from the University of Missouri with the bachelor of arts degree and from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, with the bachelor of divinity degree.

Wakefield also completed one year of work in a doctoral program at Southern Seminary during the couple's 1970-71 furlough. During the same furlough, the Wakefields served as missionaries in residence for the missionary journeyman training program at Meredith College, Raleigh, N. C.

While a student he was pastor of churches in Hallsville and Harrisburg, Mo., and Campbellsburg, Ind.

A native of Wright County, Mo., he grew up on a small farm near Hartville, the county seat.

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(BP) Photo to be mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Foreign Board Names
Regional Representative

Baptist Press
10/15/75

RICHMOND (BP)--Randy M. Wood, an instructor in the humanities division of McLennan Community College and staff counselor at Baylor University, both in Waco, Tex., was elected by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as a regional personnel representative during its October meeting here.

In his new position, effective December 15, Wood will counsel with persons interested in foreign missions and channel qualified volunteers into the screening procedures leading toward missionary appointment.

His base will be Fort Worth, and his area will cover New Mexico and Texas, including Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Wood takes the position vacated by Don A. Reavis, now an associate secretary in the board's department of missionary personnel.

In 1973, Wood was chaplain at Edna Gladney Home in Fort Worth.

Prior to that, he was assistant to the campus minister and a graduate assistant in the department of counseling psychology at Texas Christian University (TCU), also in Fort Worth.

While a student, during summers he served as a chaplain at Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta; youth minister at Southside Baptist Church, Perryton, Tex.; and a summer missionary to Alaska with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

A native of Dallas, Wood was graduated from Baylor with the bachelor of arts degree, Southwestern Seminary with the master of divinity degree, and TCU with the master of education degree. He expects to receive the doctor of philosophy degree from Baylor in the near future.

Mrs. Wood, the former Edna Huskison of Mississippi, served as a missionary journeyman in Nairobi, Kenya, from 1968 to 1970. While residing in Fort Worth, she was secretary to Roger Duck, former associate secretary for the Foreign Mission Board's department of promotion and furlough ministries in Arlington, Tex.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers.

Richard Hogue Starts
"Metrochurch" in Oklahoma

EDMOND, Okla. (BP)--Richard Hogue, a young Southern Baptist evangelist who has preached to thousands across the country during the past seven years, has organized and assumed the pastorate of a church in this Oklahoma City suburb.

And the move has created waves among some local Southern Baptist pastors and leaders.

The congregation, called "Metrochurch," will be Southern Baptist, he says, but will have "a transdenominational thrust," seeking a ministry which will attract people from different segments of society with "different mindsets."

"We will try to involve many people fully in the church's ministry," he said, "Maybe they'll never join, although we hope they will. We will minister to them whether they call themselves Baptists or not. But we will be Baptist."

The church, which will not bear the word "Baptist" in its title, has attracted some disfavor from some Edmond-area pastors, who charged that Hogue proselyted selected leaders from area Baptist churches, according to a report in the Baptist Messenger, Oklahoma state Baptist newspaper. The charges were made on the basis of a letter Hogue sent 200 people in the area telling them about "Metrochurch."

Hogue told Baptist Press the letter "was a mistake." He said he had a meeting in his home of 70 friends in the organizational stages of Metrochurch and asked them for the names of any prospects they might be aware of who would be interested in the new church.

Hogue said he has a lot of personal friends in the area. He once served on the staff of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, another Oklahoma City suburb, and on staffs of three other Oklahoma Baptist churches. He is a native of Lawton, Okla.

"I got 200 names and sent a letter," he said. "I've been an evangelist, used to doing things in four or five days or not getting them done. I'm learning that a pastor's pace is different and that you can do things more slowly. A guy makes a mistake when he's going fast. I sent that letter before I stopped to think it would look like proselyting. It was not intentional."

He said the church called every name on the list when the question of proselyting was raised to apologize for any misconceptions. "Only five people asked to be taken off our mailing list," he said. In a door-to-door campaign Metrochurch has conducted locally, he added, visitors have been instructed to make it clear that they have no intention of disrupting already established church memberships.

Some Oklahoma Baptists have reportedly raised eyebrows because Metrochurch does not have "Baptist" in the title.

"Simply because it isn't called Metro Baptist Church doesn't mean it isn't a Baptist church," Hogue said. "I'm a Southern Baptist. I support Southern Baptists, and Metrochurch will give to the Cooperative Program (unified budget of Southern Baptists) through the Oklahoma state Baptist convention."

"We're trying to reach people--young people--who have closed minds to institutions and denominational titles. We want to attract them with the gospel; do something that will reach them spiritually. Once they're inside and the gospel has had a chance to touch them, we won't conceal the fact we're Southern Baptists.

"Metrochurch" is a lot like the word "SPIRENO," said Hogue, referring to an acronym for the Spiritual Revolution Now (Spireno) revivals he has conducted across the country. "Both Metrochurch and Spireno are not self-defining names. They create questions and give us a chance to respond," he said.

The Baptist Messenger said Hogue told denominational leaders he did not plan to petition the local association of Baptist churches for membership or send messengers to the annual state convention. Hogue said he was counseled by Oklahoma convention leaders to delay such actions for a year until he was established but that he plans to do so at the end of that time.

According to the Baptist Messenger, one member of the association's credentials committee said any such application for membership would be rejected.

Three of the four Southern Baptist churches in Edmond have indicated that they will regard Metrochurch as they do churches of other denominations and not grant letters of membership transfer to Hogue's church. The fourth church is pastorless.

Hogue describes Metrochurch as being "the center of evangelism for the emerging generation. Initial efforts of the church, which drew 215 persons to its first service, call for a large Bible study class for adults and college-age young people to "orient them about the deeper aspects of the Christian life and evolve into a more typical Sunday School structure of a Southern Baptist church."

He said other Southern Baptist church programs will develop, although the church may change titles to create interest, such as Metrochurch Women, instead of Woman's Missionary Union and Disciple Training rather than Training Union.

He said the church will use Southern Baptist Convention literature, as well as materials provided by the Metrochurch staff.

Noting that the younger generation was attuned to music, Hogue said Metrochurch will send out musical mission groups into various spheres of life to witness their faith, not launch an independent program of sending home and foreign missionaries as some had thought. "That's no different from any church sending mission groups to witness," he said.

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Home Mission Board Names
28 Mission Personnel

Baptist Press
10/15/75

ATLANTA (BP)--Twenty-eight missionaries and missionary associates were appointed for service in 11 states by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here.

The new appointees include 10 career missionaries, six missionary associates and 12 student missionary associates who serve in missionary capacities while completing their education.

Eleven of the new appointees will serve in Texas, 10 of them in language missions. The others will be scattered over Missouri, Louisiana, Kentucky, New York, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania-New Jersey, Arizona, Illinois and Michigan.

Career missionaries appointed are as follows:

Laverne and Patsy Baker of Prescott, Ariz., were named director of missions in Tucson, Ariz. A native of Missouri, Baker has been pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Prescott, Ariz., since 1972, and previously served churches in Alaska, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Northeastern Oklahoma State College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Baker, also a native of Missouri, has attended the University of Arizona.

Clifford and Erlene Burchyett of Champaign, Ill., were named director of missions in Champaign. Both are Illinois natives. Burchyett is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He previously served as pastor of Plainfield Baptist Church, Plainfield, Ind., and churches in Carbondale, Eldorado, Harrisburg and Paxton, Ill.

Randy and Martha Cash were appointed missionaries to the deaf in New York, New Jersey, New England and Pennsylvania. A native of North Carolina, Cash has been minister to the deaf at First Baptist Church, Raleigh, N. C., for the last two years.

He is a recent graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received a master of divinity degree. He is also a graduate of the University of North Carolina. Mrs. Cash, a native of Greenville, S. C., is a graduate of Furman University and has been attending Southeastern Seminary.

Larry and Ellen Elliott of Jacksonville, Fla., were appointed director of Christian social ministries in Jacksonville. Both are natives of Atlanta. He has been pastor of Hogan Baptist Church, Jacksonville, for the last five years and is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southwestern Seminary. Mrs. Elliott also is a graduate of Carson-Newman.

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Charles and Beth Ward were appointed for weekday ministries in Akron, Ohio. Both recently received master of religious education degrees from Southwestern Seminary. Ward also has a master of divinity degree from Southwestern and is a graduate of Western Kentucky University. He is a native of Louisville, Ky. Mrs. Ward is a native of Waco, Tex., and is a graduate of Baylor University.

Missionary associates included the following:

Ray and Anne Gilliland of Park Ridge, N. J., were named director of Christian social ministries for Metropolitan New York Baptist Association. Natives of Kansas and Georgia, respectively, the Gillilands have been associated with the Baptist Convention of New York since 1969, where he has been minister to students in the New York City-New Jersey area. He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and has a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary. Mrs. Gilliland also attended Southwestern.

Michael and Dalia Gonzalez were appointed to work with a Spanish language congregation in Cameron, Tex. A native of Baytown, Tex., Gonzalez has been with Primera Iglesia Bautista in Cameron since 1974. He is a graduate of Howard Payne College and has a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary. Mrs. Gonzalez, a native of Edinburg, Tex., is a graduate of Texas Woman's University.

David and Aurelia Ybarra were appointed to work as pastor with a Spanish language church in Miles, Tex. Ybarra is a native of Victoria, Tex., and has been pastor of a church in San Angelo, Tex., since 1973. He attended the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute.

Student missionary associates included the following:

--David and Claire Baker of St. Joseph, Mo., appointed director of Christian social ministries in St. Joseph. Baker is a student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

--Garry and Mary Beth Breland of New Orleans, Christian social ministries appointees for work in the Baptist Rescue Mission, New Orleans. Breland is attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

--Reyes and Martha Garcia of Palacios, Tex., language missions appointees for work in a Spanish church in Palacios. He is attending Mexican Baptist Bible Institute.

--Mike Granados Sr. of Brownwood, Tex., where he is a student at Howard Payne University. Granados is a language missions appointee and serves as pastor of East Coleman Baptist Chapel, Coleman, Tex.

--Karen Jean Hansen of Louisville, Ky., Christian social ministries appointee while attending Southern Seminary.

--Richard LeMaster Jr. of Fort Worth, Tex., Christian social ministries appointee to work in Baptist Goodwill Center, Fort Worth, while attending Southwestern Seminary.

--Michael Lockhart of New Orleans, Christian social ministries appointee to work in the Baptist Mission, New Orleans, while attending New Orleans Seminary.

--Abiel Sifuentes of Rio Grande City, Tex., language missions appointee to serve as pastor of La Grulla Baptist Mission, La Grulla, Tex., while attending Pan American University.

--Rudy and Leticia Trevina of Idalou, Tex., language missions appointees to serve as pastor of First Spanish Baptist Church, Idalou, while attending Wayland Baptist College.

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Foreign Board Reports \$51
Million Budget; New Personnel

Baptist Press
10/15/75

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, in its major meeting of the year, voted a record \$51,036,424 budget, named two new staff members and appointed 20 missionaries.

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The newly-adopted 1976 budget exceeds that of 1975 by \$5,504,363, an increase of more than 12 percent over last year.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the board, said the \$51 million "reaches out to more than 80 countries where 2,600 missionaries are wrestling with problems and needs."

He spoke of the two main channels of foreign missions giving that combine to account for most of the budget--the Cooperative Program (the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget plan) and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, given annually in Southern Baptist churches for foreign missions. He said the two channels work hand in hand to carry out the Southern Baptist missionary efforts overseas.

Cauthen also expressed gratitude for \$2,057,126 in "challenge" funds recently received through the Cooperative Program above the regular Cooperative Program funds allocated for the Foreign Mission Board during the convention's fiscal year. The money will be used to help meet the many requests for funds not included in the current budget.

William R. Wakefield, currently the board's field representative for Southeast Asia and a missionary since 1960, was named secretary for Southeast Asia. He succeeds R. Keith Parks, who became director of the board's mission support division in August.

The board's new regional personnel representative, based in Fort Worth, Tex., is Randy M. Wood, an instructor in the humanities division of McLennan Community College and staff counselor at Baylor University, both in Waco, Tex. He replaces Don A. Reavis, who was elected in August to serve at the board's headquarters in Richmond, Va., as an associate secretary for missionary personnel.

In other action, the board appropriated \$35,000 for world relief. Of that total, \$20,000 will go to assist students at the Beirut Baptist School because of financial difficulties created by civil disturbances in Lebanon. Another \$10,000 is for disaster relief in Lebanon, and \$5,000 for earthquake disaster relief in Turkey.

The board also honored Eugene and Louise Hill at the board meeting and at a special luncheon. Hill is retiring as the secretary for missionary education. The Hills spent 20 years as missionaries to the Orient, and, for the past 20 years, he has served as a foreign mission board staff member. He was presented with a bound volume of letters from various denominational leaders, missionary colleagues, co-workers and other friends. He also received his 40-year service pin and a gift of appreciation from the Foreign Mission Board.

The appointment of 20 missionaries to nine countries brings the total additions to the missionary force in 1975 to 221. More than 2,600 missionaries now serve in over 80 countries.

Appointed were Mr. and Mrs. Karl D. Babb from Kentucky and Florida, assigned to Eastern and Southern Africa; Dr. and Mrs. Dale E. Beighle, Kentucky, to Ethiopia; Mr. and Mrs. H. Randa Bradley, Illinois and Tennessee, to Indonesia; Mr. and Mrs. Charlie E. Hawkins, Georgia and Illinois, to the Philippines.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Roberts, Florida, to Honduras; Mr. and Mrs. P. Vaughn Ross, Idaho and Texas, to East Africa; Mr. and Mrs. T. Lynn Sasser, Texas and Louisiana, to Chile; Mr. and Mrs. Ken H. Stephens, Texas and Illinois, to the Dominican Republic; Mr. and Mrs. J. Glen Thompson, Texas, to the Philippines; and Dr. and Mrs. Milton O. Womack, Oklahoma and South Carolina, to Malaysia/Singapore.

Four former missionaries were reappointed by the board.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie D. Spann, missionaries to Uruguay for 15 years before resigning in 1973, were reappointed to return to Uruguay.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby D. Compton, missionaries to Colombia for more than five years before resigning in 1972, were reappointed to Costa Rica.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

In headline and lead of Home Mission Board story on page 5 of today's mailing, change total missionaries to 30. Change missionary associate total in second graph from six eight. Then add, after graph 5 on page 6, the following: Steven and Shirley Davidson were appointed missionary associates by the department of special mission ministries to work with students in Laramie, Wyo. Both are Californians and graduates of California Polytechnic Institute. He attended Midwestern and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminaries. Both have served as US-2 missionaries in Laramie for the Home Mission Board.