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March 31, 1977

Evangelists Are Primary
Missionary Need in Africa

By Ruth Fowler

RICHMOND (BP)--General evangelists to preach, start new churches, train leaders, and advise associations are needed throughout Africa, two area secretaries of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board said on return from tours of their sectors.

The second most important missionary personnel need in Africa is medical workers, according to John E. Mills, area secretary for West Africa, and Davis L. Saunders, who carries the same responsibility for eastern and southern Africa.

Together, these two types of needs account for three-fourths of the personnel requests for career missionaries to Africa.

In view of current political and economic conditions in Africa, Saunders said, there is a "strong sense of urgency" about these needs. The openness to the gospel in most areas makes serving in Africa even more imperative, he added.

Saunders explained that the term "general evangelist" can mean almost anything depending upon the individual's abilities. "If a man is a city boy, there are opportunities in cities as big as Houston or Dallas. If he is a country boy we've got country and anything in between."

"He will be overwhelmed, if he is sensitive, by human need," Mills said, "and by so many opportunities that he can't get around to doing what he sees that he wants to do. You can go there with your training, your love for people and your following of the Lord and look around and see what needs to be done.

"It's different from place to place, but you use the same basic tools and principles as in the United States," Mills continued. "We still want Bible teaching, . . . missionary education. . . . leadership training, . . . work with youth and women.

The big need is for evangelists, but the second most critical need is doctors. Saunders said his area needs six doctors, both male and female, nurses, a dentist and a lab technician. Mills said he could find a place for a doctor of any specialty or a general practitioner. He also needs a dentist to begin mobile clinic work in a country where there is virtually no dentistry."

"I think you ought to stress too that these men go out as doctors, but not just doctors--they need to be medical evangelists," Mills said. "We can never meet the medical needs of these countries. We feel that doctors go to meet physical needs and at the same time bear their witness.

"We don't have a mold in which we fit the doctors," Mills continued. "Each is free to be his own man and bear his own witness."

Requests also have been made for student workers, youth workers, agriculturalists and literacy workers in both areas. West Africa needs mass media workers and also social workers to go out to help improve living conditions.

But the bulk of the need is for general evangelists--people to get the word out, the two men stressed.

"This is the routine, old workhorse man that makes the whole thing go," Mills said. "The difficulty is how to emphasize the spiritual needs as dramatically as you can the physical needs.

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"The responsiveness is there," Mills said. "We need to get there while it is."

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Religious Liberty Congress Plans Continued Vigilance

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands (BP)--The first World Congress on Religious Liberty here took steps "to monitor the world religious liberty situation and deal with specific religious liberty concerns," according to a resolution approved by the participants.

The congress by its resolution authorized a continuing committee from various religious traditions to pursue the objectives of religious liberty around the world.

After three days in late March of discussions and reports on conditions in several nations, the congress voted "to draw attention to governments to religious liberty as a fundamental human right flowing from the dignity of the human person, the violation of which is incongruous with international law and contemporary human social relations."

Specifically, the congress urged that an interreligious peace conference to be held in Moscow, June 6-10, "underline the importance of religious liberty in every nation of the world as an important factor making for peaceful, individual, social and international relations."

Three hundred and fifty participants from 30 nations in Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and Australia made up the congress. It was sponsored by the International Religious Liberty Association, Washington, D. C.; L'Association Internationale Pour la Defense de la Liberte Religieuse, Bern, Switzerland; and Liberty, a magazine devoted to religious freedom.

Deeply involved in the planning of the congress was the Seventh-Day Adventist Church as represented by its department on public affairs and religious liberty.

Two Baptists were prominent in the congress. James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C., delivered an address on "A Biblical View of Religious Liberty: A Christian Perspective."

President William R. Tolbert of the Republic of Liberia in Africa sent a special message to the congress. He is pastor of a Baptist church in Liberia and is a former president of the Baptist World Alliance.

A second world congress on religious liberty is contemplated within two years to be held in a yet-to-be determined place, possibly in Latin America.

During the special awards session, Baylor University, Waco, Tex., was recognized "for its active program of research and graduate studies in the area of church-state relations." The award for Baylor was received by Wood, who was head of the J. M. Dawson Studies in Religious Liberty and Church-State Relations while he was a professor at the Baptist school.

Speakers at the congress included representatives from both socialist and democratic countries, spokesmen for Christianity, Judaism and Islam, and supreme court justices from Norway and Greece.

At an evening session where reports on religious liberty conditions in various parts of the world were reported, four special concerns were highlighted. The Church of Scientology felt that efforts at deprogramming young people who have joined unusual religious groups in the United States were violations of their religious liberty.

The Jehovah's Witnesses brought complaints particularly against the Malawi government, where, they declared thousands of lives of their members had been snuffed out.

Keston College in London discussed the problem of religion in communist lands. Underground Evangelism reported on their activities in providing Christian literature in areas closed to such material.

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Norway's Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Trygve Leivestad reported that in his country there is religious liberty, but there is not an equality of religions. The Lutheran Church is the state church of Norway, and although there are many advocates of separation of church and state, Leivestad predicted that it would be impossible to get a two-thirds majority in Parliament to disestablish the church.

From Greece, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Anastase N. Marinon reported that full religious liberty in his country has not yet been achieved, although he pointed out signs of improvement in that direction. The Greek constitution requires open information about religious bodies. There can be no secret religious groups legally in Greece, he said. Also, the Greek constitution provides that "no one can refuse fulfillment of his duties toward the state or expect exemption from laws because of religious beliefs."

President of the Commission for Liberty of Religion in Spain Don Rafael Mendizabal Allende, reported that progress is being made in his country. He said, "There are now 250 non-Catholic religious associations protected by law, which are prospering in our territory . . . The important thing to know is that every believer, every church, every group and finally every man may witness without obstruction, on the contrary, may count on the cordial help of the Commission for Religious Liberty over which I have the honour to preside."

Reports on religious liberty conditions in the Croatian Republic (Yugoslavia), the Serbian Republic (Yugoslavia), the United States of America, Poland, Brazil, the World Council of Churches, and the Roman Catholic Church were also heard.

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Baptist Bible Institute
Names New President

Baptist Press
3/31/77

GRACEVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Joseph P. DuBose Jr., a Pensacola pastor, has been named president of Baptist Bible Institute, a Florida Baptist Convention school here, effective May 1.

DuBose, pastor of East Hill Baptist Church in Pensacola, will succeed retiring President James E. Southerland, the school's top administrator since December 1957.

A native of Orangeburg, S. C., DuBose has been a pastor also in Indiana and North Carolina and has served as a trustee for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, vice-chairman of the BBI trustees, and has served on other statewide and local boards.

A bachelor of arts graduate from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, with a major in business administration, DuBose was graduated also from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, with the bachelor of divinity, master of theology and doctor of ministry degrees.

His wife, Sybil, is an English teacher. They have three sons, Danny, Steve and Johnny.

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Charlotte Neighborhoods
See S.P.O.T.S. In March

Baptist Press
3/31/77

CHARLOTTE, N. C. (BP)--Cherry community and Third Ward residents here saw S.P.O.T.S. during two weeks in March.

What they saw were 50 college students participating in the Southern Baptist Home Missions Board's (HMB) Special Projects Other Than Summer (S.P.O.T.S.).

The students spent the spring break picking up trash, digging gardens, scrapping and painting exteriors of homes and scrubbing and painting ceilings and walls.

The first week, 20 student volunteers from Mississippi State University, Gardner-Webb College and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Chapel Hill campuses, worked in the two economically depressed neighborhoods.

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The second week, 30 students from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC), the University of Louisville and the University of Georgia continued the cleanup.

The students began their weeks by hosting an afternoon fun and games party for neighborhood children on Sunday. In the Third Ward, for example, about 25 children played kick ball and ran a relay obstacle course race directed by the second week's students.

On Monday, the students began the cleanup. Work days averaged at least eight hours a day.

Houses in the neighborhood usually rent by the week--at \$14.50. Paint peels off the outside from the rotting clapboard siding grayed with age. The homes were built by a mining company as part of a company-owned town. Now the mine has closed and the community continues to decay.

Even though last year students cleaned and painted some houses, coal stoves in the living areas--the only heat for most of the homes--had charred and coated the walls afresh with smut and smoke.

In one home that was cleaned and painted last year, the stove had exploded during the winter nearly burning down the house and re-coating the inside walls with black soot; so the students started over on that one.

The HMB contributed \$250 for supplies and promoted the two-weeks project through US-2 Missionary Jennifer Kennedy, who is serving with the board's department of special mission ministries.

Kennedy spent the second week of the project working alongside the students. "I just wanted to get a first-hand look at the kind of work I'm always asking these kids to do," she said.

Children in the neighborhood look forward to the students' return, calling them not by name, but "the students," she added.

Paul Larsen, University Chaplain at UNCC, a veteran of two similar projects in Baltimore, Md., and last year's projects in Charlotte, arranged the students' housing in Charlotte's Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church and St. John's Baptist Church. Woman's Missionary Union members from Metro and Mecklenburg Baptist Associations furnished meals.

It is not important that the community remember exactly who it was that came to help, Larson said, but that someone came back: "Usually in these situations a group will just pop in and pop out never to be seen again. I think we showed these people that someone does care, by just showing up a second year," he said.

The Charlotte project actually began at the request of local Baptist Student Union (BSU) members, Larsen said. They had participated in similar projects and wanted one in their area, he added.

Twice as many students participated this year, Larsen noted.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

"Shocking News" Predicted
In Assassination Probes

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By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press
3/31/77

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--A Kentucky congressman predicted here that investigations into the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. will reveal conspiracies.

U. S. Rep. Carroll Hubbard (D.-Ky.), speaking to a session of the annual national meeting of the Baptist Public Relations Association (BPRA) at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, said he believes "shocking news" will come out of investigations such as the assassination probe underway by a special House committee.

Hubbard, a Southern Baptist layman, came directly to the BPRA meeting from the floor of the House where congressmen were debating continuation of the committee investigating the assassinations. It won a two-year extension by a 230-181 vote.

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Although the Kentucky congressman said he had no, new specific evidence to support the conspiracy view shared by many Americans, he cited a continual build up of information over the years which make the conspiracy theory plausible.

He cited examples as old as a film of John Kennedy's 1963 assassination and as up-to-date as the recent allegations by a retired Louisville policeman that an FBI representative offered him money to kill King.

Elaborating on his comments, Hubbard told Baptist Press, "There are hints the investigations could be embarrassing to the federal government . . . I hope not, but that may be the situation."

Asked about the recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) ruling on what constitutes the functions of a church, Hubbard urged religious leaders to take their cause to President Carter and then, if that gets no results, to Congress.

The IRS ruling on "integrated auxiliaries of a church" has drawn fire from religious leaders of many denominations because they feel it violates the constitutional prohibitions against government interference with churches.

Hubbard also asked the BPR members for a detailed memo on the implications of the IRS ruling from the point of view of the religious community.

Hubbard, son of a Baptist minister, pointed to a "new time of opportunity and responsibility for Baptists who have gained national attention with the election of Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist, as President.

"It's a time of real testing to see how we'll respond to this opportunity," said Hubbard, one of 57 Baptists in Congress.

"Southern Baptists have been thought of as a sect . . . as a regional body, when we actually have work in 50 states and many foreign countries," he said, commenting that the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) should reappraise its name because of its widespread work.

Previous proposals to change the SBC's name have died because of widespread negative reaction in the 12.9 million-member denomination.

"We have been thought of as racist--and the situation in Plains, Ga. (where blacks sought admittance to Plains Baptist Church) didn't help . . . Too many people think of Southern Baptists as racists."

He challenged the Southern Baptist communicators, who were completing three days of meetings in Clarksville, Ind., and nearby Louisville, to help communicate the true image of Southern Baptists.

And Southern Baptists as a whole "must take a new look at racism," he declared in urging his fellow Baptists to remember a childhood Sunday School song, which says that Jesus loves all--that "red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in his sight."

The congressman's father, a Baptist minister for years in Kentucky, serves on the staff of Southern Seminary as director of community and church relations.

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CORRECTION

In the BP mailing of 3/29/77, page one, story headlined, "North Brazil Seminary Celebrates 75 Years, graph two, line two, delete the words "52 years ago."

THANKS

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