



May 20, 1977

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Pastor 'Dug in' To Work  
On Korean Health Clinic

By Cathy Dubowski

PUSAN, Korea (BP)--The predominantly Buddhist villagers were surprised to see a preacher throw off his shirt, grab a shovel and dig in to help excavate the village's new health care clinic near here.

They were impressed to see a pastor "get his hands dirty," according to Southern Baptist missionaries here. Charles D. Sands III, of the Wallace Memorial Hospital, James R. Swedenburg Jr., pastor of an English-language church in Pusan, and three Koreans--a pastor, a doctor, and nurse--are among those helping to make a health care program a reality in rural Korea. At the same time a new arm of Christian witness into the Korean countryside is being provided.

The health care program was two years in the making. In 1975, trustees of the Wallace Memorial Hospital in Pusan appointed a committee of evaluate the need for a mobile health clinic in Korea. The following year, a report described the situation and recommended that "the old mobile clinic program should become an integral part of the comprehensive community health care program projected from and supported by the base hospital."

A \$15,000 budget was approved for the 1977 program and a request made to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., for a community health nurse and physician. The program design was presented to the hospital in 1976.

The clinic program, which began in May 1977, is in an isolated area about an hour's drive from Wallace Memorial. Located in the mountains, the village area has no medical facilities--not even a Chinese herb doctor, according to missionaries. The area was chosen after several months of investigative field trips throughout Korea.

The district's population, where the work began, is about 3,500, according to the hospital spokesman. The total population of the area exceeds 12,000. The strongly Buddhist area has just two Christian churches 12 kilometers apart with a total membership of only 30 members.

"Thus, there is great deal of room for evangelism and church growth," the spokesman said.

A Korean physician, who is full-time staff member in the hospital's internal medicine department, serves as part-time head of the clinic. The nurse is a Korean who worked for two years in the community health project in Kojedo, Korea. She arrived in January 1977 and immediately began working to establish the department of community health care as one of the official medical departments of the hospital.

The villagers were asked to cooperate in creating the program, and they have fixed up the town hall for the clinic and have provided housing for the clinic nurse.

"We feel that if the community health care ministry is to succeed, it must become a program of the village people themselves, and not a 100 percent Baptist hospital-funded project," the hospital spokesmen said. "In addition, they (the villagers) have been asked to come up with a sum of money that each family in the district would be willing to provide yearly in order to maintain the services."

The clinic's first efforts will be in maternal and child health care, and the first evangelistic efforts will be in the showing of Christian films in the existing churches.

"We think the future is bright, but not entirely without its problems," the spokesmen said, "and we shall endeavor to continue to seek



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Witnesses Say Persecution  
Remains in Eastern Europe

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--Religious persecution and harassment are common in Eastern Europe, according to witnesses before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe here.

Jiri Hockman, now instructor in journalism at Ohio State University and formerly a journalist in Czechoslovakia, told the commission: "Even licenced ministers are subject to regular police surveillance. Their sermons are censored, their homes are bugged. Since it signed the final act (of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which met in Helsinki in 1975), the government of Czechoslovakia not only did nothing to ease this strangulation of churches. It made the pressure even tighter."

Dmitru Udrescu, formerly of Romania, stated that the Romanian government uses a law designed to "restrict acts of hooliganism, parasitism and anarchy" to prosecute and fine citizens with religious beliefs. "With the help of those so called laws, everyone caught in exercising his religious rituals out of the church building, and during the days and hours unspecified by the authorities, is subject to prosecution," he said.

"Known believers . . . are fired from their jobs, down-graded to lower positions or disciplinarily transferred to other towns," Udrescu continued.

A statement from Adam Michnik, a young Polish journalist and dissident, was read by Gustaw Herling-Grudzinski. Michnik returned to Poland on May 1, 1977, and was immediately detained by authorities for his activities while traveling in the West.

According to Michnik, Poland has no legal barriers to religious freedom. "Nevertheless," he testified, "a practicing Catholic's chances of a promotion in the professional career in the Polish state are about equal to an atheist's in the Vatican State."

Michnik asserted that Polish authorities systematically discriminate against seminaries and religious communities and obstruct new construction of religious buildings.

"State anti-church activities sometimes border on the absurd: religious sisters, who for many years worked zealously and unselfishly as nurses, were barred from hospitals and clinics, which is a paradox since there are not enough people willing to work in these institutions," Michnik said.

Kazimierz Lukomski, vice-president, Polish American Congress, told the commission, "There is an outward calm in state-church relations in Poland . . . In several speeches in the later part of 1976, Edward Gierek (Communist Party leader) claimed that there are no serious tensions or problems between the state and the church. The Communist government of Poland is not only unable to openly challenge the church, but in times of crisis seeks to create an impression of almost friendly relations."

Lukomski went on to say, however, that the long-range policy toward the church by the Polish government is antagonistic. "Kazimierz Kakol, head of the office for religious denominations, when meeting party activists in May, 1976, openly treated the church as an enemy, which should be 'annihilated'. . . The current policy of normalization of relations with the church remains an expedient tactical means expertly used by the regime . . . In spite of the superficial calm, eventual elimination of religion remains the policy of the Polish government."

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Each witness discussed other violations of human rights in the Warsaw Pact countries (German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Poland, Hungary, and Bulgaria). They said dissenting from official policies leads to interrogations, short term arrests, surveillance, house searches and confiscation of books and other personal property. Censorship of foreign mail and bugging devices in private homes are common practices.

Foreign travel is severely restricted, especially for those with known dissenting views. Authorities also frequently refuse to allow families to be reunited when parents have left their country. The official Czechoslovakian position is that if the parents wish to be with their children, they should return to Czechoslovakia, according to Amnesty International, an independent worldwide human rights movement.

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe is an independent agency created in 1976 to evaluate and encourage compliance with the agreement signed in August of 1975 in Helsinki. The United States, Canada and 33 European nations signed the agreement. The commission is made up of six U. S. senators, six U. S. representatives and three presidential appointees.

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Carson-Newman Picks  
Maddox as President

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5/20/77

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. (BP)--J. Cordell Maddox, president of Anderson (S.C.) College, will succeed the retiring John A. Fincher as president of Carson-Newman College here, Sept. 1.

Maddox, 45, a native of LaGrange, Ga., has served as president of the Baptist junior college since 1973. He came to Anderson 1972 as executive vice president. Carson-Newman is a Baptist senior college.

Before coming to Anderson College, Maddox served at Furman University, Greenville, S. C., beginning in 1961, in several capacities. He began as director of alumni activities, became director of development and public relations with major responsibilities of fund raising, and then became assistant to the president in 1967.

He spent four years as Royal Ambassador director in the Brotherhood Department of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, after completing degrees from Furman University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He was also awarded honorary doctorates by Furman and the Baptist College at Charleston.

An ordained Baptist minister, Maddox served eight years in the U. S. Army Reserve as a chaplain with the rank of captain.

At Furman, Maddox was president of his class, was named Most Valuable Player on the football team and was captain of the tennis team and state collegiate champion.

He has served in many civic, professional and religious organizations, including presidencies of the Anderson Chamber of Commerce, the National Council of Independent Junior Colleges and the Advisory Council of Private Colleges in South Carolina. He is a deacon at First Baptist Church, Anderson.

He is married to the former Brona Faye Morrefield of Winston-Salem, N. C. They have three children.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Youth Camp Safety Act  
Advances in Congress

By W. Barry Garrett

Baptist Press  
5/20/77

WASHINGTON (BP)--The proposed Youth Camp Safety Act moved a step closer to enactment in Congress by a 25 to 7 favorable vote in the full Committee on Education and Labor in the House of Representatives.

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Incorporated in the revised bill (H.R. 6761) are proposals made by James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, to protect church camps from governmental interference.

He said of the original bill: "The act does not reveal a legislative intent either to prescribe religious beliefs or to limit religious practices." However, Wood did suggest that the guarantees of noninterference in the bill needed strengthening. He suggested substitute wording which members of the subcommittee conducting the hearing said they found acceptable, "even better than the original language."

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs neither supports nor opposes the Youth Camp Safety Act. In its testimony, the committee spoke only to the church-state aspects of the bill.

Specifically, the "noninterference" section of the proposed Youth Camp Safety Act reads as follows:

"(A) Nothing in this act or regulations issued hereunder shall authorize the director, a state agency, or any official acting under this act, to prescribe, determine, or influence the curriculum, admissions policy, program, or ministry of any youth camp.

"(B) Nothing in this act or regulations issued hereunder shall be construed to control, limit, or interfere with either the religious affiliation of any camp, camper, or camp staff member, or the free exercise of religion in any youth camp which is operated by a church, association, or convention of churches, or their agencies."

The noninterference section also exempts religious objectors from medical treatment, except during an epidemic or threat of an epidemic.

John W. Baker, director of research services of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, points out that the sole purpose of the Youth Camp Safety Act has to do with the health and physical safety of campers. Any regulation or implementation of the act must therefore be related to its purpose, he said.

Baker said that due to the expressed fears of many church groups about undue government interference with youth camps, the revised act and the committee report spells out precisely the intent of Congress, which relates only to the health and safety of campers.

"To this extent, the bill does provide for federal and state health and safety standards for youth camps, but the churches and their agencies have long since accepted government standards for safety, fire protection, health, sanitation and public welfare as a principle that does not contradict separation of church and state or freedom of religion," he continued.

The committee report on H. R. 6761 says, "The subcommittee received unanimous support from groups most experienced in youth camps as these groups generally believe federal legislation is a necessary catalyst in activating states into adopting such legislation." These supporting groups are listed as the American Camping Association, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America and the National Parents and Teachers Association.

During the hearings opposition was expressed by Christian Camping International and by Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. Opposition to the Youth Camp Safety Act within the Committee on Education and Labor comes from a minority of seven Republicans and from U. S. Rep. Mickey Edwards (R.-Okla.), who didn't sign the minority report but filed a separate dissent of his own.

Republican opposition stems from their traditional view on the expansion of government activity and on the charge that "there has been no evidence to establish that this legislation is needed." These opponents suggest a further 12-month study by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).

Edwards, in spite of the noninterference section of the bill, charges that "this legislation clearly attempts to bring church activities under the purview of the federal government."

Since 1967, efforts have been made in Congress to encourage states to develop health and safety standards for children and youth attending youth camps. Hearings have been held in the 90th through the 95th Congresses, with the exception of the 94th. A special study by HEW was released in 1974. In 1975, the House of Representatives passed the Youth Camp Safety Act, but no action was taken in the Senate.

Current efforts toward the enactment of the Youth Camp Safety Act are being led by U. S. Rep. Joseph M. Gaydos (D.-Calif.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Compensation, Health and Safety. Several other congressmen have also introduced bills similar to the one reported out of committee.

The Youth Camp Safety Act faces an uphill battle for enactment, due to opposition by the minority party, several church groups, and by the Carter administration. Although the opposition groups do not all give the same reasons, their combined force is formidable. If the bill should be successful in the House of Representatives, it will have to go through the legislative process in the Senate, which could easily spell its death in the present Congress.

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North Greenville School  
Against Merger Proposal

Baptist Press  
5/20/77

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--The North Greenville College trustees have voted to reject the proposal of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Committee of 15 pertaining to the college.

The committee recommendation is that the Baptist junior college be merged administratively with Furman University, a four-year Baptist school in Greenville. The proposal was presented to the North Greenville board for study on May 5.

The board voted its disapproval in a special meeting May 13. Eighteen of the 25 trustees were present.

Neither the committee report nor the trustee action can be considered as final.

The report will be made to the state Baptist convention in November, where it may be approved, rejected or altered.

If the convention approves the recommendations pertaining to North Greenville it will then be necessary for trustees of the two schools to act.

The relationship between the convention and the colleges allows the trustees to make all decisions pertaining to operation of the latter. The convention exercises its authority through its choice of trustees and through its allocations of financial support.

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