



BAPTIST PRESS

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**Amin Bans Baptists And
26 Other Religious Groups**

RICHMOND (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in Uganda have confirmed that they have not been allowed an appeal on the ban of the Baptist churches of Uganda and some 26 other religious groups by Ugandan President Idi Amin.

International news services reported that Amin banned the groups because he believes they are not conducive to national security. Some 130 Baptist churches, including 76 related directly to Southern Baptist mission work, and 12,000-15,000 members of those churches will be affected.

G. Webster Carroll, one of four Southern Baptist missionaries living in Jinja, Uganda, reported by telephone to Ralph W. Harrell, Southern Baptist missionary in Nairobi, Kenya. Carroll said that the missionaries had not received deportation papers yet and would remain in Uganda for at least the next two or three days to visit personally with Baptist national leaders.

The missionaries, who include the Carrolls and the James L. Rices, intend to interpret Amin's ruling to the leaders and to offer what encouragement they can.

They anticipate putting their own affairs in order, Carroll said, and will probably visit Nairobi the early part of next week.

Davis L. Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for that part of Africa, did not express any sense of immediate alarm about the safety of the missionaries, but was eager to learn how the decision would affect mission efforts. The exact future of missionary efforts in Uganda remains unclear at this time.

Amin said Ugandans would be allowed to worship in four groups, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church of Uganda, the Uganda Orthodox Church (related to the Greek Orthodox Church), and the Muslim religion.

Among those groups banned were Baptists, Seventh Day Adventists, the Salvation Army, and several local independent churches.

Earlier this year, Amin ordered all Americans living in Uganda to report to him. The three Southern Baptist missionary couples, who were out of the country at the time, elected to stay in Kenya until the situation was clarified. The Carrolls and Rices returned to Uganda later that same month. The Harry B. Garvins, also assigned to Uganda, remained in Kenya working in Uganda during visits. The Garvins are now on furlough in Texas.

Baptist missionaries entered Uganda in 1962. Southern Baptist work exists in Jinja, Mbale and Soroti.

The Carrolls are from West Virginia and Florida and the Rices are from Virginia.

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Allen Urges Careful Look
At Panama Canal Treaty

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
9/21/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Jimmy Allen, speaking before the SBC's Executive Committee in its annual session here, claimed that "the gospel of Christ has a stake" in the Panama Canal treaty, indicating that the decision of Congress on the treaty may have a significant impact on missions efforts in the Third World.

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Allen referred to the canal as "a symbol of colonial exploitation which cripples our witness as American Christians."

"It may well be," he said, "that the agreement is an essential step toward clearing away the debris of yesterday in order to get to the tasks of today and tomorrow."

Allen urged Southern Baptists to study carefully the details of the agreement and to address themselves to the moral implications of the issue. He challenged them to "ask the basic questions which sweep away the rhetoric of demagogery--is it right, is it just, and in the light of our world today, is it wise?"

Although the San Antonio pastor made no specific reference in the address to his personal stance on the Panama Canal issue, Allen said in an interview later that he "has long been on record" for such a treaty.

"I've sensed from the people of the Third World that while Central and South American governments may not be as enthusiastic about the treaty as others, the common people with whom we have to work feel keenly about what they view as a symbol of exploitation," Allen explained.

"For Americans to witness with credibility in the Third World, we must be clearly committed to the aspirations of the common people whom the Bible says 'heard Christ gladly.'"

Allen, who has had a recent meeting with the President, said that Carter had not asked him to endorse the treaty agreement.

In his address, Allen spoke of an upside down world with inverted value systems and lifestyles, and he challenged Southern Baptists to take advantage of new opportunities to "turn the world up side up."

"The traditional family is fighting for its life," he said. "We are now having to defend the very concept of marriage. Fornication and adultery is promoted under descriptions of so-called 'open marriage.' Homosexuality is promoted as 'alternate lifestyles.' We are in a pitched battle for healthy sexuality which will demand our best informed and most serious commitment."

Another challenge Christians must face, Allen said, is "Biblical illiteracy of epic proportions." The Bible, he said, is a "foreign language" to many Americans.

"No wonder citizens are flim-flammed by every kind of religious pitchmanship," he said. "Not only are they patsies for Eastern religion and sects, but also for every kind of parachurch group which sounds the bugle calling for their attention. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Flimsy faith comes by not recognizing the Word of God when they hear it."

Allen called on the Executive Committee to take the lead in helping Southern Baptists "recognize a new day... Our people have a mind to work," Allen said. "They've given us their money, attention and attendance about as long as they can stand it. Now they are ready to give themselves."

He warned against cynicism on the part of Southern Baptist leaders, and he challenged them to seize new opportunities with a priority on missions and "an openness to the mystical."

The denominational bureaucracy "may dull the most exciting adventure in the history of Southern Baptists," he warned, "unless we take our organization and make it work."

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Bold Mission Thrust
Master Plan Approved

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Taking a step unprecedented in the history of inter-agency cooperation, the Southern Baptist Executive Committee approved a master plan here to coordinate the denomination's ambitious goal of proclaiming the message of Christ to everyone in the world by the year 2000.

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Basing its plan on Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) actions instructing it to coordinate the long-range plan, the Executive Committee approved formation of a 55-member Bold Mission Thrust Leadership Group to work with the Executive Committee to accomplish the coordination and promotion of Bold Mission Thrust.

The entire plan--including support for the SBC's Cooperative Program giving and the newly formed Mission Service Corps--will operate under the banner of Bold Mission Thrust. That designation, previously applied to the SBC Home Mission Board's part of the overall Bold Mission emphasis, caught the imagination of Southern Baptist state and national leadership. It had become a generally used term.

The Executive Committee approved appropriations of up to \$30,000 to help with general coordination and promotion expense for the Leadership Group and a Leadership Group Steering Committee, which was also approved.

The Leadership Group will hold at least one regular meeting a year and at other times as needed. The Steering Committee will meet as often as needed.

Albert McClellan, associate executive secretary and director of program planning for the Executive Committee, will serve as staff coordinator for the Leadership Group, according to Porter Routh, the Executive Committee's executive secretary-treasurer.

Executive Committee chairman, W. Ches Smith, a Tifton, Ga., pastor, will chair the Bold Mission Thrust Leadership Group.

Smith also chairs the committee developing Mission Service Corps, the program which seeks to put 5,000 volunteer missionaries on the home and foreign mission fields for one to two years of service by 1982. The Executive Committee officially approved Mission Service Corps guidelines at the same time it approved the Bold Mission Thrust Leadership Group. Specific details for Mission Service Corps implementation are expected by mid October.

Neither the Executive Committee nor the Leadership Group, comprising a wide range of SBC agency and state convention representatives, will take over the role of any SBC agency. Coordination for the ambitious effort of the nation's largest Protestant denomination will involve staff assistance, general promotional aid, and general coordination in several areas of Southern Baptist life, as those areas relate to Bold Mission Thrust.

Those areas include Southern Baptist plan of Cooperative Program support, the Mission Service Corps committee, the Volunteer Involvement in Missions program, the Missions Education Council, SBC missions challenge recommendations for proclaiming the message of Christ to everyone in the world, and the Coordinated Promotion Planning function of the SBC Inter-Agency Council.

Volunteers Involvement in Missions is a short-term missions program for periods of service generally for less than one year operated by the Foreign and Home Mission Boards. Missions Education Council is made up of representatives of five Southern Baptist missions agencies to coordinate joint missions education projects. Coordinated Promotion Planning, made up of SBC agency program leaders, meets to do joint planning on what can be done to strengthen churches in implementing SBC emphases.

The Executive Committee's Bold Mission Thrust action also envisions a church emphasis plan to help churches lead its members to active Bold Mission Thrust involvement, increasing their commitment to missions and enlarging their support of missions.

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Wrapup

Committee Plans for Bold
Mission Thrust, Sets Budget

Baptist Press
9/21/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Executive Committee, meeting here, put together a master plan for coordinating a Bold Mission Thrust into all the world and recommended a national Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program budget of \$75 million for 1978-79.

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The \$75 million goal, according to Porter Routh, the Executive Committee's executive secretary-treasurer, symbolizes the SBC's first major effort at cooperation--the \$75 million campaign of more than 50 years ago.

The Bold Mission Thrust plan symbolizes a new and unprecedented step in inter-agency cooperation to coordinate SBC approved actions to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world by the year 2000.

Basically, the Executive Committee approved formation of a 55-member Bold Mission Thrust Leadership Group and a steering committee of the Leadership Group to work with the Executive Committee to accomplish the Bold Mission Thrust's coordination and promotion.

It will coordinate a variety of SBC efforts as they relate to Bold Mission Thrust, including the SBC's plan of Cooperative Program support, although it will not usurp the authority of any SBC agency, according to the proposal.

The newly forming Mission Service Corps, designed to put 5,000 short-term volunteer missionaries on the field by 1982, will be part of the overall Bold Mission Thrust effort coordinated by the Leadership Group and its steering committee.

Guidelines for the Mission Service Corps were also officially endorsed by the Executive Committee. The corps will come forth by mid October with specific plans for implementation.

The \$75 million goal includes \$62 million in basic operating needs for SBC agencies, \$2 million in capital needs, and \$11 ~~million in Bold Mission Thrust challenge funds~~ ^{million}.

The Executive Committee also approved a tentative Executive Committee budget of \$667,200 for 1977-78, ~~subject to SBC approval~~, voted a six percent cost of living increase for staff and brought itself into line with an Internal Revenue Service policy by designating 25 percent of ordained staff members' salaries as housing allowance.

In other developments, the Executive Committee heard an address by SBC President Jimmy Allen and authorized employment of R. Orin Cornett, a former executive director of the SBC Education Commission, to consult with SBC seminary presidents in revising and renewing the formula by which SBC Cooperative Program funds are distributed to the seminaries. The committee appropriated up to \$1,500 for that purpose.

The Executive Committee, in a series of other actions, appropriated up to \$30,000 from Convention Operating Reserves to help with expenses for general coordination and promotion of Bold Mission Thrust; recommended the Hyatt Regency as the headquarters hotel for the 1979 SBC meeting in Houston.

On second reading, the Executive Committee approved changes in wording of several articles in the SBC constitution to make gender terminology uniform, subject to SBC approval.

It also authorized the Radio and Television Commission to borrow against its 1977-78 capital needs allotment of \$56,700 to buy radio production equipment for updating control rooms for which the allotment was designed.

In another action, the Executive Committee asked its business and financial plan work group and the Executive Committee staff to meet with representatives of the SBC Home Mission Board to consider the feasibility of the board's church loans division working with churches considering church bond issues.

Murray