

**(BP)****BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 23, 1977

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**Missionaries Expect To  
 Meet With Amin**

RICHMOND (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary G. Webster Carroll told officials at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here that missionaries or representatives from the Baptists, Seventh Day Adventists and Salvation Army expect to meet with Ugandan President Idi Amin during the week of Sept. 26-30.

The meeting comes after Amin reportedly declared himself "willing and ready to meet" with the representatives.

Amin announced on about Sept. 20 that 27 different religious groups, including these three international groups, are banned from Uganda because, he said, they "were not conducive to national security."

Baptist missionaries have been given assurances that they can stay in Uganda as expatriates if they want to do so. They also have permission to conduct any social service ministries they want. The Carrolls have been doing general evangelism work and the James L. Rices have been working in business administration for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Uganda.

Missionaries had discussed their situation with Uganda's secretary of religious affairs shortly after the ban. Carroll said that the West German ambassador and the Baptist mission's legal representative in Uganda had both communicated on the missionaries' behalf with the secretary of religious affairs in the office of the president.

In the absence of a United States embassy, the West German embassy is maintaining contact with the U. S. State Department and with Americans living in Uganda.

The meeting with Amin will be to discuss their situation as expatriates and perhaps to receive further interpretation of the order.

The four groups still allowed to worship in Uganda are the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church of Uganda, the Uganda Orthodox Church (related to Greek Orthodox Church) and the Muslim religion.

Two Southern Baptist missionary couples are in Uganda. The Carrolls are from West Virginia and Florida and the Rices are from Virginia. A third couple, the Harry B. Garvins, are assigned to Uganda but are currently on furlough in their home state of Texas.

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Baptists Aid Kansas  
 City Flood Victims

Baptist Press  
 9/23/77

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Baptist relief efforts are underway here following the devastating flash flooding which inflicted death and destruction in mid September.

The Missouri Baptist Convention, using \$5,000 of its own money and another \$5,000 from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, wired \$10,000 to the Metro Southern Baptist Mission Board, Inc., here to provide help for both Baptists and non Baptists.

Local Baptist churches, not affected by the flood, have also conducted disaster relief efforts of their own, which have included collecting funds for distribution and providing food and shelter.

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The flooding killed at least two Baptists and damaged at least eight Baptist churches, according to early reports. Paul Lambert, executive director of the Kansas City Baptist Association, estimated \$2.5 million in damage to the membership of Baptist churches, although the estimate is based on fragmentary information.

Leroy Negley, 15, a member of Calvary Baptist Church, and Paul Cutler, 65, a member of New Haven Baptist Church, both died in the flood.

The most severely hit church, according to a report in the Word and Way, Missouri Baptist newspaper, was Leeds Baptist Church. All of the church's educational space was submerged. No exact estimates of damage are available. Varying degrees of damage was done to the other churches.

Lambert said relief funds were already running short and said anyone wishing to contribute to the effort may send it to the Metro Southern Baptist Mission Board, Suite 310, 910 Pennsylvania, Kansas City, Mo. 64105.

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Thailand Work Receives  
Official Recognition

Baptist Press  
9/23/77

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP)--Southern Baptist work in Thailand has been officially registered with the Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Education--a recognition sought since Southern Baptists began work here in 1950.

The announcement by the Religious Affairs Department is the first of any kind this year. Only 16 such bodies of five major religions are recognized at the present.

"Some 16 years ago, the local Baptist Churches Foundation was listed with the Ministry of Interior as a benevolent organization for the purpose of holding land titles. However, that gave Baptists no official recognition in religious affairs," says Bobby L. Spear, Southern Baptist missionary in Bangkok.

The new registration describes Baptist work as "spreading and teaching religion in a way that does not conflict with a citizen's duties, does not conflict with good ethics of nationals, and does not conflict with peace and order of the country...The Religious Affairs Department therefore recognizes this organization as a religious denomination..."

William R. Wakefield, area secretary for Southeast Asia for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said that "a significant factor in the registration of Baptist work has been the excellent relief work among the Vietnamese, Cambodians and Thais by our Baptist Mission and missionaries. This recognition greatly enhances our official standing in the country and should facilitate our work there. The missionaries and nationals will be able to work with a confidence not experienced before."

The recognition also shows a greater tolerance by the government of non-Buddhist religions, according to Spear. He said Thais speak of three legs supporting the country: religion, nation and king. "Religion is being interpreted more and more to mean not only Buddhism, but faith of any recognized religion," Spear added.

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Indonesians Head  
5 Baptist Institutions

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9/23/77

BANDUNG, Indonesia (BP)--For the first time Indonesian Baptists direct more than half of the Baptist institutions in this country.

Developing local leadership has been a goal from the beginning of the 26-year-old Southern Baptist-supported work here, according to William N. McElrath, Southern Baptist missionary press representative. Missionaries started all nine of the Baptist institutions, but only four of them still have missionary directors.

"Even though some of these persons are acting in interim positions of leadership in these institutions, it's still a notable achievement," said William R. Wakefield, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Southeast Asia.

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"This is in keeping with the plan of the Foreign Mission Board to place institutions begun by missionaries in the hands of national Baptists as rapidly as possible," Wakefield added.

One of the national Baptists, Suyoto I. Prawoto, has directed of the Baptist Publishing House since 1970. He is an active deacon in one of the Baptist churches in Bandung, where the publishing agency has its headquarters.

Karl Saragih, a Baptist pastor, became director of the Baptist Student Center in Yogyakarta at the beginning of this year.

Three other Indonesian Baptists are each serving temporarily as interim director or acting director of an institution: R. Albert Moniung will become the full-time director of the Baptist Student Center in Bandung by 1979. He also serves as full-time lay pastor of a nearby church. Tertius Sudiono, dean of the Indonesian Baptist Theological Seminary, with headquarters in Semarang, is also acting seminary president during the 1977-78 furlough of Avery T. Willis Jr. Andi Salihin is top-ranking staff member of the Baptist Student Center in Semarang, presently without a director.

The other four Baptist institutions in Indonesia are also looking toward the time when nationals will take top leadership posts, according to McElrath. These include the Baptist Hospitals in Kediri and Bukittinggi; the Baptist Radio-Television Board, headquartered in Semarang; and the Baptist Student Center in Jakarta.

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Southern Baptists, Other  
'Mainline' Groups Break Even

Baptist Press  
9/23/77

ATLANTA (BP)--Eight out of 10 persons who joined Southern Baptist churches from other faiths in 1976 were from other mainline Protestant denominations, according to a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board survey.

Southern Baptists received nearly 39,000 persons from other religious groups and lost 46,000 to other faiths. About nine out of 10 leaving Southern Baptist churches affiliated with mainline Protestant denominations.

An almost even trade occurred between mainline Protestant denominations and Southern Baptists, according to Clay Price, Home Mission Board research assistant.

Southern Baptists gained four times as many members from Catholic churches as they lost and 12 times as many members from non-Christian world religions. However, Price said, about twice as many were lost to small Christian sect groups as were received.

Glenn Igleheart, director of the board's interfaith witness department, explained: "We have always thought the majority of movement was between mainline Protestant denominations, but previously did not have statistics to prove it."

Price emphasized, "The key to this survey is that one out of every three Southern Baptist churches experience gain and loss to other faiths. This is one argument for church members" becoming aware of other religions.

"Generally, the established areas of the Southern Baptist Convention lose more members to other faiths than they gain in newer pioneer areas," Price said. "However, Southern Baptists gain more than they lose," overall, Price said.

The board's sample included a survey of 1,420 churches which had reported gains and/or losses of five or more members on the Uniform Church Letter compiled by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Earlier statistics told how many persons changed from one religion to another but did not specify which religion and why.

The Home Mission Board's survey will be broken down into states and the interfaith witness department will supply specially tailored gain/loss information to interfaith witness coordinators in each state.

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"These figures will help the states know how to plan and how to motivate churches by giving numbers in each category of change," Igleheart said. "In addition, the questionnaires gave us specific names of churches interested in hosting an interfaith awareness conference."

The mainline denominations provided 79 percent of the gain among those coming into Southern Baptist churches, while Catholics provided 14 percent, Christian sect groups, 4.2 percent, and non-Christian world religions, 2.3 percent. Of the 79 percent, Methodists comprised 34 percent; Presbyterians, 12 percent; Assembly of God, 4.2 percent; Lutherans, 4.2 percent; Episcopalians, 2.8 percent; and others (Church of Christ, independents and other Baptists) 22 percent.

Within the losses from Southern Baptist churches, mainline Protestants received 89 percent; Catholics, 4 percent; Christian sects, 7 percent and non-Christian world religions, only two tenths of one percent.

"One important factor is the number of persons moving into sect groups. There we lose more than we gain," Igleheart emphasized.

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Baptist Scout Group Elects  
Lineberry, Sets Goals

Baptist Press  
9/23/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--Albert S. Lineberry, of Greensboro, N. C., has been elected national chairman of the Association of Baptists for Scouting, succeeding Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss.

In other action, the association, which H. M. "Smoky" Eggers of Nashville serves as executive secretary-treasurer, approved "Bold Mission Goals," gave a progress report of work, and elected committee members.

The "Bold Mission Goals" include having personal conferences with 1,000 key Baptist leaders, participation in 100 Baptist pastors conferences and Baptist associational meetings, having a booth and participating in 10 Baptist conventions and developing a program to participate in 21 major Baptist seminaries and colleges.

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CORRECTION:

In Baptist Press story "ABC Reportedly Giving Free 'Soap' Advertising," mailed 9/22/77, graph three, please change "John F. Murphy" to "John F. Murray."

Thanks, Baptist Press