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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Christians Urged To  
Cooperate in Evangelism

By Ruth Fowler

RICHMOND (BP)--More than two-thirds of humanity has not heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ and bringing that message to them is the task of all Christianity, working together, according to Gottfried B. Osei-Mensah.

Osei-Mensah, a national from Ghana now living in Nairobi, Kenya, is executive secretary of the Committee on World Evangelization formed at the International Congress on World Evangelism in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1974.

He visited the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board home office here during the board's September meeting and spoke to board personnel on several occasions about the role of the missionary in evangelism.

Osei-Mensah said missionaries "should develop a real partnership with the local church to involve national Christians directly in missions.

The nationals, he said, should be involved at every level they can be, with the resources they have but "unless they are put into a situation where they are giving meaningfully and sacrificially they will never mature."

Osei-Mensah also expressed concern over the lack of adequate Christian "discipleship training." He called upon missionaries to restructure the whole discipleship training program so that new believers are integrated into a discipleship ministry.

Africa has been one area of the world where response to the gospel is almost phenomenal. "One problem that lies in the masses of people coming into the church is that they are not being disciples at the same rate," Osei-Mensah said. He pointed out that without discipleship the church presents a poor witness. "The teaching ministry is lacking everywhere."

He also pointed to the growing belief among some students that Christianity is foreign to Africa. "They're saying it doesn't deal with life's problems among Africans today."

Speaking not only as an African, but as a member of a world wide committee given the "mandate" to open communications between evangelicals around the world, Osei-Mensah outlined the committee's four specific work groups.

One of the groups works with the idea of intercession, calling the church to pray for world evangelism. A second deals with theological education to redefine biblical terms on salvation and evangelism, many of which have become "so stretched they have lost their meaning."

A third work group is on strategy and planning. Osei-Mensah pointed out that huge groups of people have never been evangelized. He said that this must be the task, at least in part, of missionary agencies which send evangelists to foreign countries.

The fourth work group deals specifically with communication, both between evangelical groups in cooperative efforts and in evangelization.

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Osei-Mensah commented on the resurgence of the Muslim faith in many parts of the world, saying that it is the second largest faith, with the exception of Catholicism, in France. He attributed the resurgence as a direct reaction to the excessive gains Christianity has made around the world.

"South Africa is really a scandal to Christianity in Africa today," Osei-Mensah continued. He praised the Dutch Reform Church there for its sacrificial giving to missions but said they have a "blind spot" to what God teaches in regard to racism. The South African government maintains a strict policy of the separation of the races with a white minority rule.

"The answer to the problem in South Africa is not violence or arms," Osei-Mensah said. "The only answer as Christians is in reconciliation based on Jesus and the work that Jesus Christ has to be done."

"Unless the Church of Jesus Christ is addressing itself to these problems found on our continent today, we'll find the integrity of the gospel is questioned," Osei-Mensah continued.

He commented that during a recent meeting of missionaries and nationals of the Association of Evangelicals of Africa and Madagascar he "could see a maturity of African leadership."

Osei-Mensah in conclusion pointed out that missionaries are not sent by churches, but by Jesus Christ. He said 30 percent of the world's lost could be reached by "near neighbor evangelism," the reaching out of nationals to their own and bordering nations, but the others must have the gospel brought to them and "this is the task of the total Church of Jesus Christ."

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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277 New House Churches  
Set As Goal in Uruguay

By Wally Poor

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (BP)--Plans to start 277 new house churches by February 1978 were made by leaders of 10 denominations during a workshop-retreat held near here.

Baptists attending the retreat projected the opening of 44 new preaching points and set as a goal the training of 350 church members to staff the new work.

The planning event was in connection with Crusade Uruguay '78, a united evangelistic effort to be led by Argentine evangelist Luis Palau. The crusade is set for April 1978 in a 20,000-capacity football stadium.

Some 150 pastors, missionaries and lay persons gathered at the retreat site about 80 miles west of here. The planning session was one of the largest events of its kind ever held preparatory to a Palau-led campaign, according to Edward Murphy, professor of missions at Talbot Theological Seminary in La Mirada, Calif. Murphy, a Baptist, is an author and has held pre-campaign workshops for the Palau team in Central and South America, Europe and Africa. He expressed amazement over the number of persons attending the Uruguayan workshop.

Church leaders attending the workshop, each in consultation with other members of his own church, set the goals for how many new house churches they will seek to start and how many people they will seek to "disciple" by February 1978.

Persons making professions of faith, unless they state a preference, will be directed to the nearest church or mission point. A crusade commission will make certain a mission point has regular meetings at the same place before it refers names to the mission, it was noted.

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Work will begin with "prayer cells" in which a believer in some area of the city will invite neighboring evangelicals to gather once a week for prayer. Unbelievers will not be invited to attend the prayer cells, but will be told of the meetings and asked for needs for which the group can pray. They will be asked to tell the group when the prayers are answered. Three church members trained by their pastors will direct each meeting. Later, an evangelistic meeting will be held and nonbelievers will be invited to attend. From this, it is hoped, a new mission point will develop.

The formation of the new work follows the "Rosario Plan" --named after the city in Argentina where it was developed. There 22 new churches were started, attendance in existing churches climbed 69 percent and baptisms tripled after a Palau-led crusade. Within six months nearly half of those making professions of faith either had been baptized or were scheduled for baptism.

Leaders in the conference, in addition to Murphy, were Edgardo Silvoso, a member of First Baptist Church in Rosario and coordinator for the Palau crusades in Latin America and Bruno Radziszewski, Narzrene pastor in Rosario whose church membership tripled after the campaign in that city. Chairman for the crusade Uruguay '78 steering committee is Enrique Francia, pastor of Radio Norte Baptist Church of Montevideo.

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Wally Poor is a Southern Baptist missionary serving in Uruguay.

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SBC President Endorses  
National Day of Prayer

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), has joined the leaders of 11 other major religious groups in endorsing a congressional resolution calling for a national day of thanksgiving, prayer, and praise.

U.S. Sen. James B. Allen (D.-Ala.) introduced the resolution which asks President Jimmy Carter to designate December 15, 1977, as "National Day of Prayer for the Year 1977." This date was chosen because it marks the 200th anniversary of the first day of Thanksgiving proclaimed by the Continental Congress. That day celebrated the victory of the Colonial Army over the British at Saratoga, a victory which has been called the turning point in the American Revolution.

"What better day is there than the day of America's First Thanksgiving to be proclaimed as our 1977 national day of prayer?" Senator Allen asked. "The date is already historic, patriotic, and sacred in the life of our country."

Endorsement of the resolution also came from leaders of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the United Methodist Church, the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., the Lutheran Church in America, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Synagogue Council of America, the Islamic Center of Washington, the Buddhist Churches of America, and the United National Meditation Group.

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Cauthen Recovery Continues;  
Released From Coronary Unit

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9/26/77

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (BP)--Baker J. Cauthen, who suffered a heart attack here Sept. 18, has been transferred out of the coronary care unit at Medical Center Hospital and continues to make good progress toward recovery.

Cauthen, executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, eats and sleeps well and feels good, Mrs. Cauthen reported. He is being allowed to sit up for 30-minute periods three times a day, she said.

Another week to 10 days of regular hospital care was anticipated before his release. After a few days in a home here, he is expected to be able to return to his home in Richmond to continue his recuperation.

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Doctors have suggested a two-month period of recuperation before Cauthen resumes his responsibilities.

In Cauthen's absence, administrative responsibilities of the Foreign Mission Board are being carried by the staff's executive council composed of directors of the board's three main divisions--overseas, mission support, and management services--with Cauthen's administrative associate, Rogers M. Smith, presiding.

The officers of the Foreign Mission Board, accompanied by the chairman of the board's administrative committee, met with representatives of the Richmond staff Sept. 23 to confirm their backing of the executive council's leadership role during Cauthen's absence. This council is the group which normally gives direction to the board's activities whenever Cauthen has to be out of Richmond for extended periods.

Cauthen collapsed while speaking at the televised Sunday morning worship service of the Jackson Way Baptist Church here. Doctors said the attack damaged the lower front part of Cauthen's heart but he is expected to make a full recovery.

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Liberia's UN Ambassador  
Found Wife at Baptist Meet

Baptist Press  
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NEW YORK (BP)--David Thomas, newly installed ambassador from Liberia to the United Nations, credits Baptist influence at major points in his life.

Thomas was a young Baptist minister in Liberia when he travelled to the 10th Baptist World Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 1960. There, according to him, two important things happened to change his life.

First, he says, he got a world vision of Christian responsibility.

Second, he met a young Brazilian woman named Zuleika, whom in time he invited to Liberia as his wife.

After all, he says with a smile, part of the Baptist World Alliance's purpose is "bringing people together."

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Six to Teach  
At Golden Gate

Baptist Press  
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MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Six new members have been added to the faculty and teaching staff this fall at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

The new additions include David N. Roberts of West Point, Ky.; Harold Jones Jr. of Fort Worth, Tex.; and Nancy Giddens, wife of Golden Gate student Earold Giddens; visiting professors Richard T. Plampin, president of Parana Baptist Theological Seminary in Brazil; and Robert J. Hastings, editor of the Illinois Baptist, Springfield, Ill.; and Samuel Y. C. Tang, president of Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary adjunct professor for 1977-78.

Roberts, pastor of West Point (Ky.) Baptist Church the past four years, is serving as an assistant professor of church history. He earned the doctor of philosophy degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. A native of Atlanta, Ga., Roberts was graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1969 with a bachelor of science degree in applied psychology.

Jones, a bass-baritone, is teaching voice as a member of the seminary's church music teaching staff. He holds the master of music degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., and the bachelor of music degree from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla. Prior to coming to Golden Gate, Jones taught music for two years at Seminole Junior College in Seminole, Okla., and was a teaching fellow in instrumental ensemble and a tutor of graduate level conducting at Southwestern Seminary.

Giddens, a graduate of California Baptist College in Riverside, will teach several 10-week courses in dactylogy. She earned a bachelor of arts degree from California Baptist and a master of arts degree in education communications from the University of Hawaii.

Tang, who has been president of Hong Kong Seminary since 1971, will teach Old Testament interpretation. Plampin will teach several courses in missions; Hastings, a long-time Southern Baptist state newspaper editor and author, is teaching writing and stewardship courses at the Seminary through mid-October, when he will resume his duties with the Illinois Baptist.

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