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77-175

**Uganda Missionaries Await
Call To Meet With Amin**

JINJA, Uganda (BP)---Southern Baptist missionaries here are still awaiting a call from President Idi Amin for a meeting to discuss the future of Baptist work in Uganda.

The missionaries, the G. Webster Carrolls and the James L. Rices, have submitted documents and papers concerning their work and have been assured they may remain in the country as expatriates.

The meeting with Amin, who is allowing Ugandans to attend services of only three Christian denominations and the Muslim religion, was scheduled the week of Sept. 26-30, but was postponed by the president.

Carroll and two national Baptist leaders, Timothy Baluku, chairman of the Baptist Union of Uganda, and John Eceru, secretary of the union, plan to meet with the president and other government officials for further interpretation of the ban.

The missionaries have been communicating with Mrs. Tumubwaine, the permanent secretary for religious affairs in the office of the president.

Davis L. Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for that part of Africa, talked to the missionaries in Uganda, Oct. 4. He said they expressed no sense of danger and had been given assurances there were no problems with their staying, but the churches simply would not be allowed to meet.

Banned with the Baptist church was the work of the Seventh-Day Adventists and the Salvation Army, along with some 24 local African church bodies.

Ugandans, according to Amin's decree, may worship with the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church of Uganda, the Uganda Orthodox Church, or the Muslim religion.

Amin claimed the banned churches were not "conducive to national security" but assured Baptist missionaries they could do social work if they desired. Carroll had been serving in Jinja as a general evangelist and Rice had been serving there as business manager for the organization of missionaries in that country.

Baptists affected by the ban include some 12,000 to 15,000 members in about 130 churches, 76 of these churches directly related to Southern Baptist work, which began in Uganda in 1962.

Saunders said that both missionary couples in Uganda will probably leave for a visit to Nairobi, Kenya, the weekend of Oct. 23, when the Carrolls' daughter will have a vacation from Rift Valley Academy, a boarding school near Nairobi.

A third couple assigned to Uganda, the Harry B. Garvins, are currently on furlough in the United States. The Carrolls are from West Virginia and Florida; the Rices from Virginia; and the Garvins from Texas.

**Baptists Stand For Human
Rights In All Nations**

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--Representatives of major Baptist bodies in America strongly supported "human rights" throughout the world during the semi-annual meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here.

After hearing a report on the Helsinki Accord, signed by 35 nations, and anticipating the assembly of signatory nations at Belgrade for the implementation of the "Helsinki Final Act," the Baptist Joint Committee reiterated its stand for human rights.

Specifically, the Baptists voted "that we affirm our strong belief that all nations which are signatories to the Helsinki Accord should seek to show in every way possible respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief."

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, declared, "The need is for the churches to help furnish direction for, not directives to, the social and political order."

Meanwhile, impelled by Christian faith, as Baptists, we must not fail now or in the future, to identify ourselves with the cause of human rights for all persons everywhere."

In another action the Baptist Joint Committee expressed alarm at the threats to religious liberty and human rights in the United States if forces to call a constitutional convention to amend the U. S. Constitution are successful. John W. Baker, director of research services for the committee said, "I don't think that the Bill of Rights and separation of church and state would have a ghost of a chance in a new constitutional convention."

The committee voted for its staff "to move forward vigorously with a review of concerns that would involve human rights in a constitutional convention" and report back to the March meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee.

Wood also reported to the committee general alarm among religious groups about declining religious liberty in Egypt. According to Wood, there are pending threats of execution for anyone in Egypt who converts from the Muslim faith to another religion. He said that a delegation of American church people may visit Egypt in December to investigate the violation of religious liberty and human rights there.

In another action, the Baptist Joint Committee rejected a proposal to investigate possible legal action against President Carter for the appointment of a personal representative to the Vatican. Instead the committee voted to "express its unalterable opposition to the appointment of any representative to the Vatican by the President of the United States."

The Baptist Joint Committee has expressed its opposition 11 times in the past 30 years to United States diplomatic representation to a religious organization such as Vatican City. President Carter's recent appointment of David M. Walters as his personal representative to the Pope triggered the committee's action.

The Panama Canal treaty was discussed at the meeting. Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, and a member of the Baptist Joint Committee, said that he was personally in favor of the Panama Canal treaty but that he felt that such an item is not within the assignment of the committee. Many others expressed the same view.

In response to the Moynihan-Packwood proposal in the U. S. Senate to provide tax credits for persons paying tuition to private schools, the Baptist Joint Committee reaffirmed its previous position opposing such tax aids to private and church-related schools.

The Baptist Joint Committee is a denominational agency maintained in the nation's capital by nine Baptist Bodies in the United States and Canada: American Baptist Churches in the USA, Baptist Federation of Canada, Baptist General Conference, National Baptist Convention, National Baptist Convention, Inc., North American Baptist Conference, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Treasury Official Offers
Help on IRS Regulations

WASHINGTON (BP)--Laurence N. Woodworth, assistant secretary of the Treasury for tax policy, asserted in a speech to a Baptist conference here that government has been forced into defining religion.

Woodworth cited a case where an individual started his own church. "Whether that constitutes a religion or whether it doesn't, the government is forced into trying to draw a line somewhere there, otherwise anybody can step in and call anything they're engaged in a religious activity," he said.

Woodworth was the kick-off speaker at the three-day conference on "Taxation and the Free Exercise of Religion" sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. James E. Wood Jr. is executive director.

Woodworth, a Baptist minister's son, pledged to work with church organizations in dealing with the difficulties raised by federal regulations which define "integrated auxiliaries" of churches. Numerous religious groups have protested the regulations of the Internal Revenue Service, which distinguish between activities of churches which are "exclusively religious" and those which are not. They charge that this puts government in the position of defining "church" and "religious."

Woodworth suggested that the definition of "integrated auxiliary" could possibly be changed to some extent. He did not specify how it might be changed.

He asked for a detailed analysis and interpretation of the various points of view on "integrated auxiliaries" represented at the conference. "I for one would be glad to look at your proposals...myself and give you a considered response," he said.

Woodworth told conference participants that Form 990, an informational form required of all charitable and religious tax exempt organizations, is necessary for church-related institutions because it would be "difficult" to ask the non-religious organizations to file and exempt religious groups.

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Mrs. Arthur Rutledge
Dies In Atlanta

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ATLANTA (BP)--Mrs. Vesta Rutledge, wife of Arthur B. Rutledge, emeritus executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, died Oct. 3 in Gainesville, Ga., from a massive stroke suffered two weeks earlier.

Services were scheduled Oct. 6 at Atlanta's Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church.

Mrs. Rutledge is survived by her husband, two children, David Rutledge, an attorney in Newnan, Ga., and Elaine Ables of Sebring, Fla., and eight grandchildren.

Rutledge said flowers would be acceptable but that gifts to the Home Mission Board or the American Diabetes Association would also be appreciated. Mrs. Rutledge was diabetic for 18 years.

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Cooperative Program
Finishes 11.16% Ahead

Baptist Press
10/4/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--Strengthened by strong giving in September, the Southern Baptist Convention's 1976-77 fiscal year closed out Sept. 30 with \$51,940,459 in undesignated contributions to the denomination's national Cooperative Program unified budget.

Total giving for the year, including the Cooperative Program figure and another \$42,445,624 in designated gifts, totaled \$94,386,083, according to figures released by the office of Billy D. Malesovas, assistant to the treasurer and director of financial planning for the SBC Executive Committee.

The \$51,940,459, which exceeded last year's national Cooperative Program contributions by 11.16 percent, fell \$3,059,541 short of the overall Cooperative Program goal of \$55 million but exceeded the basic operating and capital needs budget of \$50,080,000 and still had \$1,860,459 left over for two challenge phases of the Cooperative Program budget.

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Of that amount, \$1 million fully subscribed phase 1 of challenge operating funds needed for additional needs of the SBC's worldwide mission programs and \$860,459 partially filled needs of the phase 2 challenge operating goal of \$3,920,000.

Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, expressed enthusiasm for the giving upsurge. He said the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust effort to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world by the year 2000 received "an early boost with the strong giving in September," the final month of the physical year, which ran 23.04 percent ahead of the same month last year.

Thirty-three state Baptist conventions, which receive contributions from some 35,000 SBC churches, channeled \$4,487,642 to the Executive Committee for distribution in September through the Cooperative Program and another \$457,338 in designated contributions.

Phase 1 challenge funds were divided among SBC agencies via the regular formula for distribution, while phase 2 funds were divided among the Foreign Mission Board (50 percent), Home Mission Board (25 percent), Radio and Television Commission (15 percent) and the six theological seminaries (10 percent).