

(BP)**-- BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor**BUREAUS****ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041**DALLAS** Richard T. McCartney, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996**MEMPHIS** Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) L. Bracey Campbell III, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2798**RICHMOND** Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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**Baptists Claim Harassment
In Questioning Of Minister**

By Elizabeth F. Smith

JERUSALEM, Israel (BP)--Jewish Christian minister Baruch Maoz was summoned to a police station and questioned "for his own protection from religious extremists," police authorities told David Efrati, director of ecclesiastical affairs in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Baptists and others believe that the action is harassment related to the new law passed making it a criminal offense to offer any benefits for the changing of one's religion.

Maoz, editor of a Christian quarterly in Hebrew and director of Hagefen Publishing House in Rishon Letzion, believes the police explanation for his summons is a cover-up of the real intention to intimidate Israeli Jewish believers under the new law.

A news story out of Israel had stated that police had asked Maoz to give an account of all of his activities and to list all of his friends and acquaintances.

"Previous threats to implement the law to impede Christian liberty of expression now take on an ominous reality," Maoz said.

Efrati is trying to set up a meeting between Maoz and police officials, in consultation with the attorney general, to determine why police ignored the attorney general's orders "not to initiate an investigation under this law without the complaint being first brought before the attorney general or the state attorney."

Robert L. Lindsey, veteran Baptist leader in Israel, said, "The fact that such an incident could occur despite the firm assurance of high Israeli authorities that the new law would not affect the normal operation of Christian institutions and ministers underlines the need to continue to expose this new law as a breach of accepted democratic freedoms of religious practice."

The moderator of Israel Baptist Mission, Norman F. Lytle, said, "It is evident that the law is being used as an opportunity for legitimizing the usual harassment of believers and thus indicates the real danger in this law."

"At this point, I don't see the threat of arrest of any of our Baptist ministers, but we may be subjected to harassment," Lytle said.

Maoz believes that the law is intended to be used against local Jewish believers and not against expatriate Christians "who have backing from abroad."

This opinion is also held by Roy Kreider, vice chairman of the United Christian Council and convener of that group's special Christian Monitoring Committee set up to handle all matters relating to this law.

"We early came to the conclusion that the target of attack would be the Israeli Jewish believer, although the messianic assemblies here believed that the law was aimed at the missions and the churches sponsored from abroad. Now the assembly leaders are shocked at the incident involving Maoz," Kreider said.

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"We are carefully investigating all cases of harassment of local believers and seeking solidarity and support from such groups as the American Jewish Committee and the Israel Interfaith Committee," he said.

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Elizabeth (Mrs. James W.) Smith is Southern Baptist press representative in Israel.

Allen Sees Missions Emphasis
And Biblical Conservatism

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SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)--Jimmy Allen sees Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust and Mission Service Corps as "a happening of the Holy Spirit, calling us to a new agenda," and he maintains that Southern Baptists hold to conservative biblical beliefs.

Looking back on his first year as Southern Baptist Convention president, the 50-year-old San Antonio pastor reflected on issues which will face the SBC meeting, June 13-15 in Atlanta, the progress of BMT and MSC, and his activist role as SBC president in an interview with Toby Druin, associate editor of the "Baptist Standard."

Allen, expected to be re-elected to a traditional second one-year term without opposition, said Bold Mission Thrust will be the big emphasis at the SBC meeting. But he said other issues could include continuation of the debate over women's role in the church, world hunger, and concern by some ultra-conservatives over orthodoxy, biblical authority and trustworthiness of institutional trustees.

"I think it's healthy for people to ventilate their feelings," he said. "My only concern is that we not react to accusation from outside Southern Baptist life that we are not staying with the Bible. I think Southern Baptists are staying with the Bible. The people who are in our evangelism and missions forefront are people who believe in the authority and accuracy of the Bible."

Allen believes Southern Baptists "have caught the heartbeat" of Bold Mission Thrust, the plan to evangelize the world in this century, and of Mission Service Corps, a Bold Mission Thrust program to enlist 5,000 volunteer missionaries by 1982.

"Our people have not learned the terminology, but they have caught the heartbeat...both from pew to pulpit and pulpit to pew," declared Allen.

"We have had basically a year of tooling up, of trying to define terms, of trying to help people adjust programs that were put together before there was a Bold Mission Thrust," he said. "They (denominational leaders) have to ask themselves where their programs fit under the mandate of Bold Mission Thrust and Mission Service Corps... (which have) not had the birthing of a long range planning committee gradually putting together the structure of a program, which is generally true with us."

But Allen believes leaders must provide more impetus to make the ambitious plans work--especially in state Baptist conventions.

"At first there was a feeling that the great energy of the idea would sort of promote itself, but no idea or movement ever promotes itself," Allen said. "You have to get the information to the people so they will know how to respond."

Baptists need "an acceleration of promotion and communication on the state level of these new concepts of participation missions--immediate organization for both personnel and resources," said Allen, a former state denominational worker and former state convention president in Texas.

"The (national SBC) agencies have responded more quickly than the states have, which is normal," declared the pastor of San Antonio's First Baptist Church. "The agencies are structured now so that they can deal with what we have. They are moving into the promotional stance that they have not had before. We have gotten over the initial shock (of a program which burst on the SBC scene), the questions have been answered and we are tooling up to promote it."

Allen said he does not favor the concept of one person to direct Bold Mission Thrust because it could have the effect of creating another agency and result in competition with current mission agencies. "What we need is correlation (which is being provided through a Bold Mission Thrust Steering Committee). We will need personnel to promote it, but it should

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be in the states, and then we can use volunteers."

Druin asked Allen if a recent meeting in Washington to raise Mission Service Corps funds, called by Allen and former SBC president, Owen Cooper, and featuring President Jimmy Carter, departed from the usual SBC method of mission support. About 200 well-to-do Baptists attended and pledged \$750,000 at the meeting. Allen expects the final total to top \$1 million.

"We asked them to come together and talk about Mission Service Corps and to present to them the challenge of giving over and above their tithes and other mission support in major gifts to sponsor volunteers here and overseas," Allen said.

"As to it being a departure from previous giving patterns, we have plowed the same ground for institutions in the past," he continued. "There has never been any hesitation to ask people of financial means to build some building, but we have not tapped this resource for ongoing mission expansion in the ways para-church groups have tapped our resources. This is a one-time meeting, but I hope it is a pattern of things that will be happening in every state in the SBC."

He said that the financing of Mission Service Corps awaits "the same kind of emotion that the enlistment of people awaits...I think the money is there and it's not a threat to the Co-operative Program or mission offerings to seek it. I think it is new money and people who have been giving to other causes--to para-church groups--will get excited about it and channel it to mission causes. We are just waiting on communication; people just don't give to what you haven't asked them to give."

Allen, who has gained a reputation in SBC leadership circles as one of the most active and aggressive SBC presidents in recent memory, said, "The structure of our convention doesn't give a president any authority and that guards the democracy and strength of local decision-making by agencies. But the president is the only person elected by the people at large. In a very real way, he represents the convention. He is on every board and agency--the only man who can move in and out of every one as a welcomed, participating member of the Southern Baptist constituency.

"I feel the president has a responsibility to help be a pacesetter for what the convention has expressed its will on and what its needs are," he continued. "He helps set the agenda for Southern Baptist life. Our convention has set its agenda for Bold Mission Thrust...I consider that a mandate to every agency and to the president that we are going to move into this aggressive new expansion in missions which we have voted on in two conventions.

"The president also becomes in some way a kind of extended profile of Southern Baptists to the nation at large," he said. "Because of the attention that has come to us in recent times, we have a real opportunity for the people at large to know who Southern Baptists are, what we are and what we are doing. It will be a brief attention span, and the president should do what he can to communicate to society at large who Southern Baptists are."

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NOTE: A question and answer version of the Allen interview was mailed to state Baptist editors.

23 Named As Missionaries;
Need For Many More Stressed

Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Twenty-three missionaries, including one home office staff member, were named to serve in 10 different countries during the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's May meeting.

The additions brought the total number of missionaries appointed this year to 53, but mission leaders alerted board members that many more are needed.

John E. Mills, area secretary for West Africa, said that his area alone needs 72 more missionaries this year. Total personnel requests for the 90 countries or territories where Southern Baptists have work add up to 1,406.

In a report on progress in his area, Mills said the 78 missionaries now serving in six nations of Francophone (French-speaking) West Africa constitute a significant beginning. But he added, "We are in a position to break out of the beachheads and make a real impact for Christ in these nations if Southern Baptists can and will provide through this board increased numbers of missionaries and larger amounts of work funds.

"It'll take both," he emphasized. "With adequate resources now, Africa can be won."

The new missionaries approved included 20 for career appointment and three employed as missionary associates. Associates go overseas for four-year renewable terms.

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The home office staff member appointed was Roger L. Swann, accounting supervisor in the treasury department. Swann, a Tennessean, and his wife Beverly, a Louisianan, both former missionary journeymen, will go to Tanzania, where he will serve as business manager for the organization of missionaries in that East African country. Mrs. Swann was a tax accountant at the board before their marriage.

Continuing to grapple with problems related to inflation and the declining value of the U.S. dollar in many nations, the board voted \$27,970 for further increases in cost-of-living allowances for missionaries in 12 countries. Cost-of-living adjustments have had to be made for missionaries in 34 other countries in board meetings this year.

The board also voted to send two of its members to meet with representatives of European Baptists to discuss the future of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. The international seminary, hit hard in the past year by inflation and the reduced buying power of the U.S. dollar in comparison to the Swiss franc, had a \$48,730 budget deficit in 1977. The seminary is seeking ways to trim its expenses and gain added support from European Baptists in view of a predicted \$100,000 deficit this year.

J.D. Hughey, secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia, will accompany two members of a special board subcommittee, Raymond L. Spence Jr. and M. Hunter Riggins Jr., as they meet with members of the council of the European Baptist Federation in Austria in September. Hughey said the subcommittee still hopes to bring some preliminary recommendations in June, but that a detailed report probably cannot be made until October.

Southern Baptists, through the Foreign Mission Board, supply more funds to support this seminary than to any other institution related to their work overseas, Riggins pointed out. Although it appropriated money to cover the 1977 deficit, the board has informed European Baptists it cannot continue to meet increasingly large deficits at the seminary.

In other actions, the board allocated \$13,700 in relief funds for projects in Brazil, Trinidad and the Philippines. It also allocated \$4,000 in hunger relief money to buy food for an agricultural school in South Brazil, where two periods of extremely hot, dry weather ruined the rice crops and then constant heavy rains made a bean crop impossible.

The board also voted \$50,000 to help buy a new machine for making backs for Bibles at the Bible Press in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and approved \$172,400 to help equip and finish out the new wing being constructed at its home office building in Richmond.

Executive Director Baker J. Cauthen, recuperating from a case of the shingles, was unable to attend the meeting. He contracted the illness on return from the April board meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. Shingles is the common name for herpes zoster, a virus infection of the nerves.

J. Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division, substituted for Cauthen in giving the charge to the 23 new missionaries and presenting their certificates of appointment.

Besides the Swanns, the new career missionaries, their places of birth and assigned countries are Mr. and Mrs. Darrell W. Adams of Virginia and Michigan, respectively, to Portugal; Mr. and Mrs. Donald V. Brown, Germany and Massachusetts, to the Philippines; Mr. and Mrs. James R. Burke, Missouri and Kansas, to Colombia; Mr. and Mrs. Ronald S. Cook, Zaire and Kentucky, to Kenya; Mr. and Mrs. G. Michael Greer, Ohio and South Carolina, to Gaza; Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Dennis Herman, North Carolina, to Colombia; Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Miller, Texas, to Zambia; Mr. and Mrs. Ronald J. Springate, Missouri, to Colombia; and Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Westbrook, South Carolina, to Japan.

The new missionary associates are Ruth Spence of Arkansas, assigned to Lebanon; and Mr. and Mrs. W. Kenneth Wellmon, North Carolina, to Grenada.

In a special recognition ceremony, Jerre Kannon, a registered nurse from Georgia, was employed as a special project worker for the Gaza Baptist Hospital. The board also reappointed two missionary couples, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Anderson for the Phillipines and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Stickney for Kenya.

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*460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

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LYNN MAY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE NO
NASHVILLE TN 37203

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