

June 5, 1978

78-89-A

\$500,000 Needed to Rebuild Church in Communist Capital

WASHINGTON (BP)--A minimum of \$500,000 in new money is required by Sept. 1 to guarantee the replacement of "a historic and strategic" Baptist church in one of communist Europe's capital cities.

Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, said that the original church building has been confiscated by the city's government in an urban renewal project and its land converted into a playground for children.

The city has offered the congregation "a good alternate site," Denny said, but construction must begin no later than Sept. 1 or the property will be forfeited.

Denny said that Baptists within the country and other groups in the European Baptist Federation and the Baptist World Alliance have previously designated funds toward the building costs. This was believed to be sufficient, he said, until inflation and rigid construction requirements at the new site raised the overall cost to an estimated \$850,000. The sanctuary will seat up to 700 worshippers at a single service.

The Baptist World Alliance did not reveal the location of the church or city in question. It did say however that the incident is not rare in communist Europe, and that the Alliance has previously come to the aid of other congregations in similar situations.

Contributions toward the construction costs may be sent to the Relief and Development, Baptist World Alliance, 1628 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

(BP)**-- BAPTIST PRESS**

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June 5, 1978

78-89

King, Cauthen Cancel SBC
 Speeches, Coretta King Added

ATLANTA (BP)--Coretta King has re-arranged her schedule to speak to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, Thursday afternoon, June 15, to replace her father-in-law, Martin Luther King Sr., who cancelled his address.

The elder King, pastor emeritus of Ebenezer Baptist Church, cancelled at the last moment because of changed dates for a visit to Hungary, where he will participate in ceremonies honoring his late son.

Baker James Cauthen, executive director of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, has also cancelled his Wednesday night, June 14, address to the SBC because he is suffering from shingles. He will be replaced on the program by two Foreign Mission Board executives, Winston Crawley, director of the overseas division, and Keith Parks, director of the mission support division.

Cauthen also cancelled his Monday afternoon, June 12, address to the SBC Pastors' Conference and will be replaced by Joseph Underwood, the board's consultant in evangelism and church development. But Cauthen hopes to attend the convention and give the board's report to the convention Wednesday morning.

Mrs. King, wife of slain civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr., will assume her father-in-law's topic, "America's Need for Spiritual Awakening." It will precede a "Prayer Service for Spiritual Awakening," designed to set the spiritual tone for Southern Baptists' worldwide efforts for evangelism and social concern.

The 78-year-old senior King will visit Hungary, June 13-22, at the invitation of Tibor Bartha, presiding bishop of the Reformed Church of Hungary, and Gandor Palotay, president of the Council of Free Churches of Hungary. On June 22, he will address the opening session of the Christian Peace Conference in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

While in Hungary, King will unveil a statue of Martin Luther King Jr., and preach at one of five newly-constructed Hungarian churches named in memory of the slain civil rights leader. He will also receive an honorary degree from 440-year-old reformed Theological Academy of Debrecen in Eastern Hungary.

Dr. Alexander S. Haraszti, an Atlanta surgeon and ordained Baptist minister, who assisted in the arrangements for the Billy Graham Crusade in Hungary last September, will coordinate King's trip. Dr. Haraszti currently serves as general secretary of the Hungarian Baptist Union of America and will travel with King as an interpreter and official representative.

King is honorary president of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change.

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Willis to Supervise
 Adult Church Training

Baptist Press
 6/5/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Avery T. Willis Jr., will become supervisor of the adult section in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department, effective August 1, church training director Roy Edgemon said.

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A missionary to Indonesia since 1964, Willis, 44, has been president of the Indonesian Baptist Theological Seminary since 1973.

Calling the decision to leave Indonesia "very traumatic," Willis said it was more difficult for him to return to the United States than to go to the mission field 14 years ago. But he said he is convinced that adult training must be drastically improved if the goals of Bold Mission Thrust (evangelizing the world by the year 2000) are to be achieved.

"Church training is the place where the needed training can be accomplished because it can be a part of every church," Willis said.

He expects to give immediate attention to the introduction of Equipping Centers, a short-term training approach for adults, for which the first materials will be available in July, 1979.

He said he expects to lead in developing an increased emphasis on personal growth and discipleship training through adult periodicals and other resources.

Since returning to the United States on furlough in August 1977, Willis said he had become concerned about what is not happening in many Southern Baptist churches. "All God's people are to be ministers, and yet the average Southern Baptist lacks the information or skills to do the job," he said.

In recent months, Willis has served at Edgemon's invitation as a special consultant with the church training department. He also has served as a consultant with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's evangelism division to design Tell Witness, an effort to train three million Southern Baptists to witness. And he has worked with Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., in training persons to lead local Bible fellowships as a major outreach program of the church.

At the Indonesian seminary, Willis expanded the school from a single campus to several smaller extension centers providing training for professional and lay ministers. Enrollment has increased from 125 to 450 students.

He has written a manual for writers to use in curriculum development, authored numerous books and articles in the Indonesian language and in English, and produced films for use both in Indonesia and the United States. He will write the church training department's 1980 doctrinal emphasis book for adults.

A native of Arkansas, Willis is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, where he earned his doctor of theology degree in 1974. He served for 10 years as pastor of churches in Texas and Oklahoma.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers by the Sunday School Board Baptist Press bureau.

Some Mississippi Pastors
Launch Bootlegging Fight

Baptist Pr ss
6/5/78

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Baptist pastors in Franklin County, Miss., have called for an investigation of bootlegging in their "dry" county.

A statement released by the Franklin County Baptist Pastors' Conference, said the investigation should include "alleged payoffs to any public officials from the bootleggers and drug pushers" and "the possibility that influential individuals in the county are backing this illegal operation financially."

The call for investigation came after a petition earlier this year failed to garner enough certified signatures to force a vote to legalize beer sales in Franklin County.

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Harold Anderson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bude, estimated there are 32-35 places in the county where illegal alcohol can be purchased. Franklin County Sheriff James Posey disputed that, saying he only knew of about two he would classify as bootleggers.

Posey told the "Baptist Record," Mississippi Baptist newspaper, that he had illegal liquor in his own home.

So, said Ricky Johnston, Concord pastor, "We decided it was a big joke to say it was a dry county. We decided that if the ministers couldn't take a stand, who could?"

Of a total county population of 8,300, there are about 4,100 Baptist church members according to the "Baptist Record."

Anderson and Johnston, along with Matt Buckles, pastor of Hamburg Baptist Church in Roxie, Miss., who are leading the fight, say there have been a few threats but they've received general support.

"When you take a stand, you're going to know which side of the fence everybody's on," said Johnston.

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Federal Workers Protected
By New Sabbath Legislation

By Carol Franklin

Baptist Press
6/5/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--Federal employees whose religious obligations require them occasionally to miss work would be allowed to work overtime under a provision of the Federal Employees Flexible and Compressed Work Schedule Act of 1978, which has passed the House of Representatives.

Present policy does not allow such compensatory time because the time-and-a-half pay rate for overtime is too expensive. Under the new law the overtime pay for work to make up time lost for religious obligations would be at the normal pay rate.

Rep. Stephen J. Solarz (D.-N.Y.), who introduced the amendment, noted that "members of minority faiths must either choose between reduced incomes or diminished annual leaves if they are to abstain from work during certain periods of time, as they are required to do by their religion."

The Solarz amendment would allow employers to provide overtime work at a normal pay rate on days when an employee has no religious obligations--but would not require that such overtime be provided.

Rep. Robert F. Drinan (D.-Mass.), a Roman Catholic priest, introduced a bill last year which would have provided much more sweeping protection of minority groups' religious rights. That measure would have required an employer to respect religious beliefs, practices, and observances of employees unless such accommodation would cause "severe pecuniary or other material loss" to the employer.

Drinan's bill has not been acted on by the House. In the meantime, Solarz' more limited measure will go next to the Senate.

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Cooperative Program
Strength Continues

Baptist Press
6/5/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--May receipts to the national Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program increased 10.9 percent over May 1977, bringing total receipts for the first eight months of the 1977-78 fiscal year to \$37,843,310.

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Undesignated contributions are 9.66 percent ahead of last year's total for the same period. Contributions are about one percent ahead of the rate needed to meet the 1977-78 operating and capital needs budgets of \$55.08 million.

When an \$8.32 million Bold Advance challenge goal for unmet missions needs is considered, the total budget is 63.4 million. The giving rate is 89.5 percent of what's necessary to meet that goal.

Designated contributions, heavily favoring the Annie Armstrong offering for the work of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, were up 19.71 percent over May 1977, to \$6,229,075. April's designated gifts had increased 35.5 percent over April a year ago. Over 62 percent of the \$13 million Annie Armstrong goal has been accumulated.

When May's \$4,735,048 in undesignated contributions for world mission needs of SBC agencies is added to the designated gifts, the total is 12.3 percent ahead of the total for the same period last year.

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Final Lottie Moon Total
Just Under \$32 Million

Baptist Press
6/5/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists gave a record \$32,938,553 in the 1977 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, final tabulation indicated.

The total represents an 11 percent increase over the previous year's offering of \$28,763,809, or a jump of more than \$3.17 million. The total was 93.9 percent of the \$34 million goal set for the 1977 offering.

"As far as we know, this is the largest single offering any Christian group has ever given to a mission cause," said R. Keith Parks, director of the Mission Support Division of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"The significance of this increase is seen in the fact that most of it comes from grass-roots Southern Baptists," he added. "This type giving underscores the commitment which we as a people have to Bold Mission Thrust as expressed in world missions."

Books on the offering closed May 31. Any money received after that date will apply to the 1978 goal of \$40 million.

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Exxon President
Challenges Grads

Baptist Press
6/5/78

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--"Don't leave government only to the politicians or business just to business people," the president of one of the world's largest corporations told graduating seniors at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Howard Kauffmann, president of Exxon Corporation, whose son and daughter-in-law were among the 272 graduates, encouraged the graduates to "not hesitate in reaching informed judgements on the subjects with which lawyers, doctors, scientists and others are dealing," and to voice their opinions.

"After all," he reminded the graduates, referring to their decision to enter full-time Christian work, "you have already faced the most important decision of your life...and you got that one right!"

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