



**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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July 13, 1978

78-114

Soviet Dissident Trials  
Provoke Anger On Hill

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--Three trials of Soviet dissidents being held simultaneously have called forth a storm of protest in the nation's capital. The protests ranged from denunciation of the Soviet government's violations of its own citizens' rights to call for U. S. retaliation.

U. S. Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D.-Wash., urged President Carter to reject immediately requests for export licenses by companies wishing to sell sophisticated technology to the Soviet Union. Jackson pointed out that Dresser Industries' plan to build a plant in Russia, which would produce tungsten carbide oil drilling bits, would benefit the Soviet military forces as well as industry.

Jackson made his remarks at a press conference featuring Mrs. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, wife of the exiled Nobel Peace Prize-winning Soviet author.

Mrs. Solzhenitsyn described the "special camp," where her longtime friend, Alexander Ginzburg, currently on trial in Russia for "anti-Soviet agitation," will probably be sent. Through an interpreter, she described it as a place of torture through starvation, cold, impossible physical work and lack of air. A typical punishment, she said, was handcuffs for three days on the arms of prisoners rather than their wrists.

"Communism destroys bodies and souls," Mrs. Solzhenitsyn said. "It will always wage war on its own citizens."

Ginzburg, Anatoly Shcharansky and Viktoras Petkus are all on trial on charges of "anti-Soviet agitation." Shcharansky is also charged with treason. All are members of groups formed to monitor the compliance of the Soviet government with the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Agreement of 35 nations regarding trade, scientific exchange and human rights.

U. S. Sen. Robert J. Dole, R.-Kan., recommended that the U. S. postpone the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT) in progress as a protest of soviet violations of human rights. He also suggested suspending scientific and cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union until they comply with the Helsinki Agreement, or even exploring the possibility of rejecting the Helsinki Agreement as a failure.

U. S. Sen. Bob Packwood, R.-Ore., called for an immediate declaration that the Helsinki Agreement is "null and void."

Mrs. Solzhenitsyn pointed out that Soviet citizens no longer believe official propaganda but will not speak out for fear of government reprisal. Many, however, contribute anonymously to the fund she and her husband have established to help the families of political prisoners. "Mercy is deeply rooted in the Russian people," she said. "Sixty years of Communist rule has not killed that quality."

When asked to advise the U. S. government on the proper response to Soviet violations of its citizens' rights, Mrs. Solzhenitsyn refused on the grounds that she is not a politician and that she is a foreigner.

U. S. Rep. John H. Buchanan, R.-Ala., told her, "You are mistaken about one thing. Neither you nor your husband nor the people you are associated with could ever be foreigners in any country that loves freedom."

## Church That Ignores Sexuality

Contributes To Obscenity: Parrish

By Charlie Warren

MEMPHIS (BP)--"Churches are largely responsible for the present proliferation of obscenity because churches have refused to deal with sexuality," says Larry Parrish, the Memphis attorney who drafted a tough anti-obscenity bill that is now law in Tennessee.

But while pointing an accusing finger, Parrish, a former Southern Baptist who is now an active member of First Evangelical Church in Memphis, challenges churches to "start preaching and teaching Christian sexuality" and to work through the legislative process to strengthen ineffective anti-obscenity laws.

"Churches just haven't become adapted to the phrase 'Christian sexuality,'" Parrish says. "It's sort of like sexuality must be kept in one room and Christian in the other room. The result is that churches turn their young people to the street to find out about sex and the obscenity peddlers are there."

According to Parrish, whose law is now being contested in court, Americans are relatively immature and overly restrictive sexually--a fact the obscenity peddlers capitalize on.

He believes when most church members hear the word "pornography," they think of nudity and literary works dealing with sex and sexuality. "But that's not the problem," he says. "The problem involves the most perverted kinds of human sexuality you can imagine being shown in the most graphic way and being shown in a way to entice people to engage in that conduct and being marketed in such a way as to introduce it to young people just as soon as they possibly can."

"The introduction starts by making it 'for adults only,'" Parrish explains. "The first marketing effort they have for reaching kids is to create the impression that it is the forbidden fruit, triple X, the hottest thing going. 'It will titillate you to no end. You've never had an experience like it before, you've never seen it before, you may not come until you're 18.'

"You just drip that day after day on young people and by the time they are 18, their curiosity is so great, they've just got to go. And they're at the most vulnerable age from a psycho-sexual development standpoint.

"If they (obscenity peddlers) can hold six out of 10 of them in their market for five years, and then hold three of those on, actually getting them psychologically addicted to it, then they're changing the whole attitudinal position of the American public about its sexual ethic."

"Left unreined, in 10 years it will be a lost cause," Parrish says. "They will have substituted heathenism for the Judeo-Christian sexual ethic and there goes your fidelity concepts that are vital to marriage and family. We're dealing with something that's very basic to our being as a nation."

Parrish discourages church members picketing porno theaters and bookstores. He figures what little effect that might have will be only temporary and the image it projects to the world can only be negative.

He suggests rather that Christians should be a good influence on the world as citizens, willing to "mingle with and integrate." The key factor, he says, is working through legislators in the passage of effective law.

Such involvement, he warns, will cost money. Some churches are hesitant to contribute because they fear they'll lose their tax exempt status, a fear that Parrish calls the "IRS ghost."

"It's not settled that they would lose their exemption," he says. "If it's ever resolved, I think it will be determined that this is an exception--that churches may contribute to an effort to enact this kind of legislation because it has a moral purpose."

The effect on society is well worth the investment, Parrish concludes. "It's dealing with an issue that's of central importance to all Christendom--the preservation of God's standard of sexuality. If that falls, a bit of the church has fallen."

105 Sunday Schools  
Started in June

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--During the month of June, at least 105 new Sunday Schools were started across the Southern Baptist Convention, bringing the total for the first nine months of the year to 843.

The goal for the year ending in September is 1,150, compared to last year when 567 new Sunday Schools were started.

"Summer is the time when the largest number of Sunday Schools are started," said Jim Fitch, supervisor of the growth section in the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department.

Fitch said members of the growth section have trained many student summer missionaries and seminary students who spend their summer starting new work, most under the sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and state Baptist conventions.

In addition, more than 20 persons currently serve under contract with the growth section to start new work.

One example of a major growth effort, Miracle 25, is under way in Portland, Ore., where Baptists hope to start 25 new missions and Sunday Schools in one week late in July.

Longer range, 1,410 Sunday Schools have been started since October 1976 toward a three-year goal of 3,000 by September 1979.

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Mississippi Women  
On 'Sewing Mission'

Baptist Press  
7/13/78

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Sixteen Baptist women from Mississippi, responding to a "Help Wanted" ad in the state Baptist newspaper, "The Baptist Record," will undertake Operation Sewing Machine at Barbados in the Windward Islands.

Missionary Bill Womack of Barbados asked for 16 women with sewing skills to work in a project at the government-related St. Phillips Hospital for Retarded Children. The women will sew basic children's clothing (with closures to meet special needs of retarded children) and will teach national women from the Emmanuel Baptist Church to sew.

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Home Mission Board  
Will Service Church Loans

Baptist Press  
7/13/78

ATLANTA (BP)--The church loans division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board was authorized to begin servicing church bond programs by the board's directors during their summer meeting in Atlanta.

The new service, performed by the "HMB Service Corporation," will include counseling, information sharing, instruction and other services for churches financing property conventionally or with debt securities (bond sales).

The church loans division was asked by some state Baptist convention leaders to consider implementing a church bond servicing plan when the Broadway Church Bond Plan, Inc., tentatively announced last year its plans to phase out its service.

At a Southern Baptist Convention luncheon in June, which served as the annual meeting of the Association of Baptist State Convention Church Bond Plans, Searcy Bracewell, a Houston attorney and spokesman for the Bracewell family which owns the Broadway Corporation, announced the Broadway Plan would continue in operation.

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Despite that, Robert Kilgore, director of church loans, said the Home Mission Board will go ahead with plans to begin servicing church bond programs, expecting to be operational in the late fall of 1978.

The HMB Service Corporation, a non-profit corporation composed of nine to eleven directors of the Home Mission Board, is a subsidiary corporation of the board.

According to proposed restrictions, the corporation will neither purchase nor sell bond issues. Neither will it be involved directly or indirectly in any bond distribution. The HMB Service Corporation also will not guarantee any church bond nor assume liability for the payment of bonds.

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Volunteers Flood  
Minnesota Work

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press  
7/13/78

ROCHESTER, Minn. (BP)--Not even the floods stop them.

Volunteers poured into Winona, a resort community of 30,000 in southeast Minnesota, to help build the area's first Southern Baptist church building.

They came from Texas, Mississippi, New Mexico, Missouri and South Carolina to erect an attractive church building against an exquisite landscape of stately green hills. The Valley Baptist Church will seat about 200, and because of the volunteer labor, will cost a third less than normal contract jobs.

Organized in 1970, the church has a membership of 29--nine baptized last year. It has been meeting in a private residence and called its first full-time pastor, Harold Jones, about a year and a half ago.

Jones was out front in the construction, taking on the toughest assignments. He was at the top of the wall with Sanford Jones, mission church builder for the Texas Baptist Church Extension section, leading the raising of the second floor walls by sections.

Since Texas Baptists and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board joined hands to sponsor pioneer missions in Minnesota-Wisconsin in 1956, the number of Southern Baptist churches and missions has grown to 64 with 8,500 members.

A growing wave of volunteers from Southern Baptist churches in other states is making an impact in an area where most people had never heard of Southern Baptists. Eight new Sunday Schools were begun June 9 by volunteers from four Texas churches and by seminary students under direction of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Fellowship, the Home Mission Board and the SBC Seminary Extension Department.

Twenty-four Home Mission Board and Baptist Student Union summer missionaries, along with youth staffers sponsored by Texas Baptist Men, conduct surveys to begin new churches, help lead Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs and serve as summer youth and children's directors.

Although steady rains interfered with the construction work, Pastor Jones said he is grateful that the church has suffered none of the flood damages as have many communities in the area. Valley Baptists plan to begin worshipping in the new church this fall.

Bill Curry, coordinator for one group at Winona, said a group from First Baptist Church, Iowa Park, Texas, have taken their vacations to help build nine churches in Colorado, New Mexico, Arkansas and Minnesota. "It's a way I can tell people what Jesus has done for me," said Curry. "He's done so much for me. I go where the need is."

Curry said although some people were concerned that travel expenses would cause the church's missions gifts to drop, it actually increased significantly.

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"You come back from the experience with greater appreciation for what you have and a great zeal to do more locally," he said.

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(BP) Photo to be mailed to Baptist state papers by the Dallas Bureau of Baptist Press.

Protesting Youths Damage  
Buses at Church Concert

By Stanley D. Stamps

Baptist Press  
7/13/78

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP)--Rock-throwing youths attacked three buses which had transported members of a Texas church choir to a Nicaraguan Baptist church concert, causing more than \$3,000 worth of damage to the vehicles.

There were no injuries during the July 10 incident at First Baptist Church, Esteli, about 100 miles north of Managua, where members of North Richland Hills Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, were presenting a concert. The group was in Nicaragua on a special evangelism project.

Eyewitnesses said the incident occurred before the concert began when a group of youths were on their way to Esteli's main plaza for a demonstration protesting the deaths of four students the day before in another city.

Several protestors followed the buses and heckled choir members with political and anti-American chants. After choir members left the buses and were inside the church, protestors pounded on the church walls and threw rocks at the building. There was no damage.

At one point, protestors threatened to burn the buses--none of which belonged to the choir. Sympathetic Nicaraguans intervened to reason with the group, while bus drivers moved the vehicles in an effort to divert protestors from the church. Several youths became angry and followed, breaking all the windows in one bus, about half of the windows in a second bus, and the windshield in the third bus.

Meanwhile, inside the church, one solo performance was disrupted when a student leader identifying himself as a member of the Christian Revolutionary Party approached Fort Worth Pastor W. Hal Brooks and requested the microphone. He addressed the congregation refuting the claims of the person and ministry of Jesus Christ. Members hissed. At another point a young girl interrupted with communistic, revolutionary arguments.

At the close of the concert, a military patrol was enlisted to escort the buses to Pan American Highway and to avert a roadblock of burning tires the revolutionaries had built along the exit route. The choir presented its final concert July 11 at a Managua sports arena. There were no incidents.

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Stamps is a Southern Baptist missionary in Managua, Nicaragua.

Bold Mission Thrust  
Reaches Critical Point

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press  
7/13/78

ATLANTA (BP)--Bold Mission Thrust is at a critical time, Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen told directors and staff of the Home Mission Board.

Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church of San Antonio, Texas, discussed Bold Mission Thrust, the denomination's plan to reach the world for Christ, during a luncheon at the Summer meeting of board's directors.

Bold Mission Thrust received heavy emphasis during the meeting as directors reaffirmed their commitment to it and its child, Mission Service Corps, and established a new staff division to deal with planning for the future.

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Board Executive Director-Treasurer William G. Tanner told directors strategy has been developed to "win America to Christ, and now we will begin to align and measure our organization according to the plan. I think God is going to hold us accountable for the stewardship of our vision...not just the stewardship of our time and money. If our vision fails, the rest of it is down the tube."

Allen paralleled the current status of Bold Mission Thrust with two Biblical examples. He said the Children of Israel and their subsequent future were at a critical time when Moses stood at the burning bush. Their future depended on how he reacted, Allen said.

The second example was "right after Jesus ascended into Heaven. Would the disciples give up their dream and go back to the fishing nets, or would they return to the sullen, hostile city and wait for power?" Allen said.

"Bold Mission Thrust is at that critical moment," he emphasized. "Last year was the tooling up time...and there was lots of foot dragging and muttering in the halls. The process was difficult but we got through.

"We're now at the critical moment of whether we will take Bold Mission Thrust and go-- the decision making time," he continued. "The tooling up time is over. If we go back to the fields to tend the flock or back to the fishing nets, Bold Mission Thrust will go the way so many other programs of the SBC have gone," Allen said.

He commented wryly that denominational leaders often have the ability to select the "proper terms to make failure sound like success."

Directors approved a recommendation which reaffirmed the board's commitment to Mission Service Corps, the SBC plan to recruit and assign 5,000 volunteers to serve alongside the career missionaries at home and abroad.

"While reaffirming the commitment to carry out the instructions of the SBC by allocating adequate funds for administrative costs, the Home Mission Board is aware that the success of the plan is dependent on the response of individuals who volunteer their own service or respond by providing support so that others may go," the reaffirmation said.

Noting a "pressing need for volunteers and those who will support the volunteers," directors urged Southern Baptists to respond to MSC's unique challenge. David Bunch, MSC coordinator for the board, told directors some 1,200 service opportunities have been identified in the nation, but that only 112 persons have volunteered for home missions service through MSC.

"Of those, 43 have been assigned, and 11 are being processed. The rest are waiting for funding," he said, adding that only nine churches or individuals have agreed to support volunteers.

Directors also approved creation of a research division in the planning section to "increase the quality and quantity of research conducted by and for the board." Staffing for the new division will be proposed to directors at the October meeting of the board.

Leonard Irwin, director of the planning section, said researchers already working at the board would be drawn together as a single unit under the reorganization. "The primary purpose for doing research is to generate reliable information for decision making," he said.

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Missionary Boe Stanley OK;  
Bislig Crusade Postponed

By Anita Bowden

Baptist Press  
7/13/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist Missionary James I. (Boe) Stanley was reported to be safe and enroute to Manila, Philippines, July 13, despite an erroneous wire service release which said he had been killed in a guerrilla attack.

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But earlier incidents in the Bislig area of Mindanao, Philippines, have caused the postponement of an evangelistic crusade scheduled for Aug. 6-20 there.

The decision came following a week of shooting incidents in and around Bislig, located in northeastern Mindanao. One incident involved Stanley, who was wounded June 27 by shots fired by a member of the New People's Army, a Communist-inspired guerrilla movement in the Philippines.

A United Press International report from Manila erroneously reported that Stanley and six other people had been killed in an attack on a mission school. However, James B. Slack, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines, reported by telephone to the Foreign Mission Board's home office in Richmond, Va., late July 13, that no missionaries or mission buildings had been attacked since the June 27 incident involving Stanley.

Slack said that the scheduled crusade, involving use of a number of speakers from the United States, was being postponed as a "precautionary" measure. "We don't feel there's any real danger in the area," he said.

One consideration in the postponement decision, Slack explained, was that the extra safety precautions might limit the pre-crusade and follow-up activities.

Soon after the incident involving Stanley, fighting erupted near a school in the Bislig area between rebels and the Philippine military. A number of people, mostly children, were injured. Several teenage boys died, according to written reports from the field.

Slack said that there had been no other attacks in the area prior to or following that week. But the missionaries have "deliberately slowed down their work to be sure that others are not in danger," he added.

Nine pastors and one musician from Southern Baptist churches in the United States were scheduled to spend two weeks in the Bislig area, preaching and leading in evangelistic work, mostly in rural churches.

Slack said several of the churches in the area are going ahead with plans for their own campaigns, inviting Filipino evangelists to speak instead of the Americans who will not be there. The decision to postpone involvement by the Americans was made by pastors of the churches in the area where the crusade was planned.

Stanley was injured while driving to a tribal village in the area. A lone gunman walking down the road turned as Stanley was driving past him and fired eight rounds of ammunition into the driver's side of the car.

A bullet grazed Stanley's chin and a fragment from another lodged in his shoulder. Neither wound was serious and both are healing well, according to Slack. Stanley and his family were due in Manila July 14 to enroll their daughter in school there and to rest.

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Corder and Palmer: Still  
A Team in Home Missions

Baptist Press  
7/13/78

ATLANTA (BP)--In 1960, Loyd Corder called Gerald Palmer to become his associate at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

On Sept. 1, 1978, Corder, 62, who has requested a change in status partly due to health problems, will become Palmer's special assistant in the board's missions section. Corder has been serving as director of the board's associational missions division.

A veteran of 38 years service with board, Corder was named to the special assistant role with key responsibility for working to develop a "support system" for retired home missionaries and to work with church and associational missions committees.

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"Over the past two years, Loyd has, at various times, requested a change in the nature of his role at the Home Mission Board," Palmer said. "We feel this position suits his abilities admirably."

Palmer, who heads the missions section, one of four sections which coordinate the board's work will become acting director of the associational missions division, after Sept. 1, in addition to his regular responsibilities. He will lead a "full review of the work of the division and the department, looking for ways in which the work with associations and churches may be strengthened."

Corder was commissioned as a home missionary, Sept. 15, 1940, while he was pastor of First Mexican Baptist Church in Uvalde, Texas. He is bi-lingual, having studied Spanish in high school and at Howard Payne University, from which he graduated in 1939. He was pastor of several Spanish-language churches prior to his commissioning.

His experience includes service as director of city missions in Houston, 1941-1943, and director of Spanish-language work in the southwest, 1944-1950. In 1950, he became director of language missions for the board, serving in that post 15 years. He was also associate director of the division of missions, 1966-1970.

Corder recruited Palmer to become director of Spanish and Indian work in New Mexico in 1957, and, Palmer said, "In 1960, he asked me to come to Atlanta as his associate," in the department of language missions. Palmer later became head of language missions and served as regional coordinator and director of the program implementation section before becoming missions section director in 1975.

Palmer added: "Loyd Corder was recommended for this post because of his unique understanding of the missionary and the missionary's relationship to the board. He has a broad knowledge of the programs and the work of the board. We have no other person who has these qualifications."

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His Busy Hands  
Are Ethel's Ears

Baptist Press  
7/13/78

CENTRALIA, Ill. (BP)--A flurry of activity in the pew below Virgil Downen as he delivered his first sermon at a new church so distracted him he almost reprimanded the teenaged culprit from the pulpit.

Just in time he realized Danny Irving was not fooling around, but was acting as the ears for Ethel, a small, gray-haired deaf lady sitting beside him.

A declining deaf ministry at Temple Baptist Church has left only Ethel and Danny still active, a dilemma for Danny who recently accepted Christ.

When he agreed to be baptized, he asked, "Who will sign for Ethel while I'm in the water?"

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