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Theologians Sign Statement
Observing Jewish Holocaust

PHILADELPHIA (BP)--An International Theological Symposium on the Holocaust issued a statement on the anniversary of the Jewish Holocaust calling on society to rid itself of all remaining vestiges of anti-Semitism.

The symposium convened in Philadelphia to observe the 40th anniversary of the beginning of Adolph Hitler's systematic extermination of more than six million Jews in World War II, according to a participant, James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington.

The statement was endorsed by 85 Christian theologians at the symposium, which preceded the first International Conference on Teaching the Lessons of the Holocaust, sponsored by Jewish, Catholic and Protestant groups, and attended by 500 persons from around the world.

It referred specifically to the night of Nov. 9-10, 1938, when Hitler ordered a nationwide attack throughout Germany on Jewish homes and synagogues.

"On this solemn anniversary, we remember with shame the days when we abandoned the Jews in the face of the enemy," the statement declared. It called upon Christians to repent "for our acts of betrayal of the Jews," to oppose anti-Semitism "wherever it may arise," to "build a new and positive relationship with Jewish people," and to commemorate the Holocaust through prayers, vigils, and ecumenical services.

The statement also raised four questions for Christians:

--"Why did Christians stand by during this beastly attack upon God's people and their houses of worship?"

--"What elements of anti-Jewish teaching and preaching are still practiced in our schools, universities, churches and public institutions?"

--"What motives lie behind the Christian teaching of contempt toward the Jewish people, and what are we doing to change them?"

--"Why is the Holocaust still not widely taught in schools and churches?"

Franklin Littell, noted church historian, presided at the three-day International Conference on Teaching the Lessons of the Holocaust. It grew out of the Philadelphia Conference on Teaching the Lessons of the Holocaust, which began in 1975 and will resume next year.

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Golden Gate Trustees
Approve Expansion Plans

Baptist Press
10/26/78

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--The executive committee of the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees voted approval of the seminary's capital funds/endowment programs, encouraged the administration to expand its branches to key cities in the West, and took steps to ease the housing crunch caused by enrollment increases.

President William M. Pinson Jr. reported on the progress of new projects at the seminary, including family life enrichment programs, the World Mission Center, the Baker James Cauthen Chair of World Missions, and the library.

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LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

The first phase of the capital funds/endowment program will amount to \$6,500,000. It includes cost of the Cauthen chair of missions, the library, student housing, a recreation center, and the Chapel/ World Mission Center.

The housing crunch received high priority. Steps were authorized to make possible at least 40 new multi-purpose housing units because of a recent capital grant from the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Pinson also reported on progress of courses offered to non-degree, ethnic and bi-vocational students. Classes in the Los Angeles area and the Bay Area have been functioning with plans for enlargement under way.

Eugene V. England reported that the master plan for the enlarged campus has shown steady progress and that all new buildings proposed are well within the scope of the plan.

The trustees endorsed a stronger program of internships in cooperation with constituent churches in which students may receive credit for practical work done in ministry positions.

They also participated in Founder's Day activities, featuring an address by Harold K. Graves, president emeritus, the dedication of the E. Hermond Westmoreland Chair of Evangelism, and the presentation of the Harold K. Graves Award to Guy W. Rutland, a Decatur, Ga., businessman and Golden Gate trustee. The faculty presents the award annually for outstanding service to the seminary.

The Westmoreland chair was named in honor of the late pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, who died in 1976 after 33 years as pastor of the church. He was a longtime Golden Gate trustee and chairman of the building committee during the seminary's transitional years from small beginnings on its Berkeley campus to its present location at Strawberry Point in Marin County, Calif.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, has named a chair of preaching after Westmoreland.

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BWA Seeks \$150,000
For USSR Bible Shipment

By C. E. Bryant

Baptist Press
10/26/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptists in the USSR have been granted permission to import 25,000 Bibles and 5,000 concordances in the Russian language.

News of the highly unusual decision by Soviet authorities came to Baptist World Alliance headquarters, 1628 16th St., NW, Washington 20009, in a cable from the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the Soviet Union.

C. Ronald Goulding, director of the BWA's division of relief and development, said the Russian language Bibles and concordances are available through the Bible Society in Brussels, Belgium.

The cost of approximately \$150,000 must be met through the BWA's emergency relief program, said Goulding, who added, "We have assured our brethren in the USSR that they must go ahead and plan to receive these gifts from the Lord."

The BWA's relief and development committee is making a special appeal to its 111 member bodies around the world to help meet the expense.

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Esteli, Nicaragua:
The Aftermath

By Stanley D. Stamps

Baptist Press
10/26/78

ESTELI, Nicaragua (BP)--A large gaping hole in the ceiling and roof, broken windows and bullet-riddled pews in the Esteli Baptist Church bear grim testimony of the armed struggle that raged in this Nicaraguan city for 13 days in September.

The church building still stands, but around it only the charred remnants of neighbors' houses remain.

Gunfire from urban guerrillas, who took control of Esteli on Sept. 9 in a coordinated assault aimed at overthrowing the government of Nicaragua, has died down. So has that of the National Guard sent in to repel and dislodge the Communist assailants.

Ensuing days left numerous homes and businesses destroyed. Many residents have fled to safe refuges; others have stayed, seeking to reestablish life in what before the attack was a prosperous departmental (state) capital.

In Esteli, the trauma still prevails and the days filled with fear and anxiety live on in the memory of the survivors. Visits in the homes of several Baptist families revealed repeated stories of life under the fire of battle, bolstered by faith in God. No victims were counted among members of the Esteli Church, although many lost their homes.

Scarcely three months earlier a 90-voice choir of North Richland Hills Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, performed a musical on the platform under the very place where a rocket exploded on the roof. The group encountered anti-government and pro-Communist disturbances during its visit.

As early as eight months before fighting broke out in Esteli, a team of workers from the U. S. encountered opposition when it began construction on the church. Threats were made to destroy the building.

Today, however, the church building with its walls of lumber still stands amid the rubble.

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Stanley D. Stamps is Southern Baptist press representative for Nicaragua.

Mississippi College Gets
\$100,000 Kresge Grant

Baptist Press
10/26/78

CLINTON, Miss. (BP)--Mississippi College has received a \$100,000 challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation of Troy, Mich., toward the improvement of computer operations and renovation of certain facilities.

The grant to the Baptist college was one of 203 made during 1978 after The Kresge Foundation considered 1,229 qualified applicants, according to Mississippi College president, Lewis Nobles.

Proposed upgrading of the current computer operations of the college includes a plan to make computing available to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In addition to improved computer facilities, renovation is also planned for several of the major buildings on campus, including Mary Nelson and Gunter Halls, Alumni Hall, Lowery Hall, Self Hall, and Nelson Hall.

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Rag Chewer
Hams It Up

By Mike Livingston

BOLIVAR, Mo. (BP)--Jess Wade is what some people call a rag chewer.

A rag chewer--to an amateur radio operator--is someone who likes to get on his ham radio and talk, maybe halfway around the world, for 15 or 20 minutes to someone he may have never met.

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Wade has such an interest in ham radio, missions, and the relationship between the two, that he helped coordinate a seminar on ham radios for Royal Ambassadors, Southern Baptist boys' mission education program, and their leaders last summer at Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo.

He hopes that's the first step in a world-wide amateur radio network for home and foreign missionaries.

The idea behind the network, as Wade sees it, is simple: "Think how much more exciting it is to deal directly with missionaries and to fulfill a witness by passing messages for them. It's the best of two worlds. In addition to the fraternal feeling ham operators have for each other, RAs who become part of the network will have the excitement of serving the Lord in a unique ministry."

"If you're not already involved with ham radio, I don't think you can imagine the excitement of your first contact with a foreign country," says Wade. "You're sitting in your home and actually talking with a missionary in say Argentina who wants to talk to somebody in Nashville or wherever and you say, 'Okay, just a minute.' And you make the call on your phone and you turn on your phone patch and they talk to their loved ones back home direct. There's an excitement you can't imagine."

Wade said the Royal Ambassador Missionary Network would be heard not only by ham operators but by people "who are just what we call short wave listeners."

"RAs will be heard all over the world, and it's a tremendous witness," he says. "And in addition to helping missionaries, RAs will be able to talk all over the country to each other."

Wade says the initial investment is about \$150.

The first seminar, which served as a pilot project for the network, was such a success that planning is well underway for the second one to be held June 18-23, again on the campus of Southwest Baptist College.

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Adapted from the January 1979 issue of "Probe" magazine.

97-Year-Old Great-Grandmother

Among Refugees in Thailand

By Maxine Stewart

CHACHEUNGSAO, Thailand (BP)--They had been at sea three days. Supplies ran as low as their hopes for rescue. Then they spotted an American ship.

Coming alongside the 33-foot fishing boat in rough seas, crewmen on the USS Hammond pulled each of the 37 Vietnamese refugees to freedom. Eighteen of them were from one family, including 97-year-old great grandmother Phan Thi Ly.

Mrs. Phan's escape with her family--their third attempt at freedom--began when one of her grandsons told officials in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) that he was taking his grandmother to the countryside to visit friends. Instead they boarded a small boat waiting in a tributary of the Saigon River.

Before being rescued by the American ship, the refugees had signaled two other ships but got no response from them.

"By that time I felt that I was going to die at sea," said Mrs. Phan, the only one not suffering from seasickness. "Then suddenly someone told me that an American ship had been spotted. I knew then that my children would be safe from then on. I was so happy. I had prayed to God during the escape."

Once the refugees reached a refugee camp in Thailand, Southern Baptist missionary Polly (Mrs. J. Glenn) Morris took them under her wing, shopping for them with funds furnished by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and helping make contacts for relocation. Mrs. Morris secured a wheelchair for Mrs. Phan.

Mrs. Phan hopes to be reunited soon with her daughter in Colorado and her son in California. But she considers herself extremely fortunate just to be in Thailand. Reports indicate that seven of every 10 who start such a journey do not make it across the waters.

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Maxine (Mrs. Robert R.) Stewart is the Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Thailand.

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