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Thanksgiving Proclamation Urges 'Thankful Giving'

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Carter's Thanksgiving day proclamation urges Americans to become more aware of the world hunger crisis and to make donations through religious and other charitable institutions to help alleviate it.

The president called on public officials at the state and local levels to embrace a concept he called "Thankful Giving" by "inviting Americans to share with those abroad who suffer from hunger."

In making his appeal for contributions, he referred to "chronic hunger and malnutrition" and urged the people to support the "Thankful Giving" approach "in order that we may one day assure that no individual anywhere will suffer from hunger."

The president declared that "while providence has provided Americans with fertile land and bountiful harvests, other nations and peoples have not been so favored. Each year growing food supplies give us greater cause for giving thanks, yet one person in six worldwide still suffers from chronic hunger and malnutrition."

Alluding to the nation's economic strength, the president said that it could be used "to display compassion for those around the world who face difficulties that our forefathers, blessed with the American land, were able to overcome."

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Foreign Board Sends \$10,000
To Relieve Typhoon Victims

Baptist Press
11/3/78

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has sent an emergency allocation of \$10,000 for food and temporary shelter to the Philippines in the wake of the typhoon which hit the islands in late October.

The typhoon, which caused considerable wind and flood damage, hit most heavily north of Manila on the island of Luzon.

Government reports indicate the storm and resulting flooding affected more than 575,000 people. Observers describe the typhoon as the worst to hit the Philippines in seven years, reported James B. Slack, Philippine Baptist Mission chairman. No missionaries were reported injured.

The money will be used for food, temporary shelter or house repairs, and church repairs and to provide seed rice for farmers to replace ruined rice crops.

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New Orleans Trustees
Elect Dorr, Minton

Baptist Press
11/3/78

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary have elected Luther Dorr and James L. Minton to faculty positions.

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Dorr, formerly pastor of the Temple Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., was appointed to the faculty of the seminary's School of Christian Training for diploma students to teach pastoral ministries.

In addition to his recent pastorate, he has held similar positions in Mississippi and Maryland and has also served as director of associational missions in Mississippi and Alabama.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College and the bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from the New Orleans Seminary.

Minton, formerly administrative assistant to the executive vice president at the seminary, became assistant professor of youth education.

A candidate for the doctor of education degree in the upcoming December graduation exercises, Minton has been teaching at the seminary since January, 1976, as a supplementary faculty member in the area of church recreation and youth ministries.

He is a graduate of Louisiana College, where he received the bachelor of arts degree. He earned the master of religious education degree from the New Orleans Seminary.

Minton has served in various youth and recreation positions in Texas and Louisiana and has taught as a member of the summer faculties at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist conference centers.

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Baptist Dollars Easy
To Get, Lives Harder

Baptist Press
11/ /78

ATLANTA (BP)--Average Southern Baptists are more interested in investing dollars than lives in missions, C. B. Hogue told a church planning conference in Atlanta.

Hogue, director of the evangelism section for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, added: "In the average Southern Baptist church, whether from lack of pastoral leadership or years of neglect, the people simply do not understand the true mission of the church.

"Most Southern Baptists are interested in missions if they can give money to missions rather than be personally involved in them. The concept of being missionaries themselves seems foreign to them."

In linking evangelism and church starting as the mission of the church, Hogue told 100 church leaders, "If we come back to the New Testament pattern of aggressive missions, we must emphasize that every person is a missionary."

Hogue warned that unless Southern Baptists "get outside the walls and into touch with the world" the denomination could dwindle. "When we get to the situation where we have no more children to baptize, we will dry up and die," he cautioned.

"Southern Baptists have more Monday-morning quarterbacks than any other denomination," Hogue said. "We talk about evangelizing and congregationalizing, and we may be doing more than any other denomination in them, but we talk more about them than we do about them. If we believed in evangelizing and congregationalization, we would stop our prattle and get involved in doing them."

Despite denominational emphases on the aims of Bold Mission Thrust, recent years have seen declines in baptisms and church starts. For instance, last year Southern Baptists recorded only 347,000 baptisms, the lowest in 27 years. Also, new church starts were down to about 750.

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Although statistical data from 1978 church letters has not been compiled, some observers predict baptisms again will reflect declines and new church starts will lag.

"The responsibility for changing the world is placed directly on the church," Hogue told the church leaders. "I don't want to hassle with the para-church groups, but God gave the command to win and disciple the world to the church.

"God wants his church to grow, not only by expanding its walls, but by going out into the world where people have never heard the gospel. We (Southern Baptists) seem to have retreated to our sanctuaries, but we must get out of the sanctuary and into the world."

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Congressional Report: Moon
Seeks Worldwide Takeover

By Carol Franklin

Baptist Press
11/3/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--Sun Myung Moon, the controversial South Korean who heads the Unification Church, is trying to achieve a world government directly under God, according to a report released here by the Subcommittee on International Organizations of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Unification Church is most visible in its fund-raising efforts. Members of the church sell such items as tea, flowers, candles, peanuts, and candy in public places. The church has also acquired extensive property and businesses around the United States and has been accused of brainwashing its youthful converts.

The report, released by Chairman Donald M. Fraser, D.-Minn., states that Moon's overriding religious goal is "to establish a worldwide 'theocracy,' that is, a world order which would abolish separation of church and state and be governed by the immediate direction of God."

The report quotes Moon as having said in 1973, "In the medieval ages, they had to separate from the cities--statesmanship from the religious field--because people were corrupted at that time. But when it comes to our age, we must have an automatic theocracy to rule the world. So, we cannot separate the political field from the religious...separation between religion and politics is what Satan likes most."

According to the report, Moon supports a worldwide theocracy as an anti-Communist vehicle. Moon is again quoted: "American-style democracy is a good nursery for the growth of Communism."

This worldwide state would be centered in Korea, according to the report, and the Korean language would be universal. "Moon visualized the establishment of a 'unified civilization' of the whole world, to be centered in Korea and 'corresponding to that of the Roman Empire,'" the report continued.

"In case North Korea provokes a war against the South Korean people, they (Unification Church members) believe it is God's will to protect their religious fatherland (Korea) to the last, to organize the Unification Crusade Army, and to take part in the war as a supporting force to defend both Korea and the free world," the report states Moon said in 1975.

The report also spells out Moon's strategy for achieving control of the world. "We must approach from every angle of life; otherwise, we cannot absorb the whole population of the world," Moon is quoted as saying. He is alleged to have planned control over economic, political, cultural, academic, media, and religious institutions.

In a 1972 speech, Moon laid out plans for religious control of a centralized economic system. "This system should eventually prevail so overwhelmingly, that even in Japan and Germany, the people will not buy products from their own country, but will buy according to centralized instructions. What kind of system of thought or economy can function to give these centralized instructions? Religion is the only system that can do that. So in the future, this system of thought or system of economy will have a close relationship with religious organizations," Moon said.

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In the political realm, Moon said in a 1973 speech, "My dream is to organize a Christian political party including the Protestant denominations and Catholics and all the religious sects."

According to the report, Moon bases his movement around a church because it provides the greatest opportunity for reaching his goals. A former Unification Church member who testified before the subcommittee said, "It was made clear to me that so long as the church-related aspects of the group were emphasized, Moon's followers would be in a protected position as far as First Amendment religious freedom was concerned, and be able to take advantage of tax laws as well."

The report states that in 1974 Moon said, "If we can manipulate seven nations at least, then we can get hold of the whole world: the United States, England, France, Germany, Soviet Russia, and maybe Korea and Japan. On God's side, Korea, Japan, America, England, France, Germany, and Italy, are the nations I count on in order to gain the whole world."

The report also charges that Moon used the names and pictures of prominent Americans, Japanese, Koreans, and others to create an image of power and respectability for himself and his movement. "The multifaceted Moon organization thereby obtained the help and cooperation of numerous Americans who had no idea they were contributing to Moon's plan for world theocracy," the report says.

Moon has also warned that opposition to his movement will result in punishment of the dissidents, according to the report. "Many people will die--those who go against our movement," Moon said in a 1974 speech.

The report also noted the testimony of Chris Elkins, a former member of the Unification Church now with the Interfaith Witness Department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Elkins said he engaged in political activities for the Freedom Leadership Foundation, a political arm of the Moon organization founded in 1969. Those activities included working on a congressional election campaign, lobbying for South Korean military aid bills, and staging demonstrations.

The Unification Church became highly visible in the United States by the end of 1973. This coincided with the Watergate scandal and Richard Nixon's struggle to retain the presidency. Moon and his followers strongly supported Nixon and gained national prominence as a result of publicity from pro-Nixon activities.

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Walls Tumble Down
To Baptists' Delight

Baptist Press
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PIURA CITY, Peru (BP)--The walls came "tumbling down" at First Baptist Church, Piura City, Peru, to the delight of Baptists.

Most churches launch into building programs to accommodate more people, but this Baptist church simply removed the walls on one side of the church to make room for overflow crowds.

The wall removal became necessary during a recent eight-day campaign, in which 210 persons made professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Fifty-four Peruvian Baptist laymen spent their vacations participating in the campaign, said J. Beryl Boswell, Southern Baptist missionary.

The campaign was held in the market, local schools and main plazas, as well as First Baptist Church, where Carlos Garcia, a Baptist pastor from Lima, Peru, preached.

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