



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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East Asia Evangelism Thriving;
Hope Seen For China Christians

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Evangelistic efforts continue to thrive in a number of East Asian countries, and at least one observer predicts that Communist China soon will recognize the presence of Christians in that country.

George H. Hays, in a report prepared for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's December meeting, painted an optimistic picture of progress made in the recently concluded Hong Kong for Christ Crusade, in which more than 3,800 decisions now are reported, and said that new churches are being formed in Korea at the rate of almost one a week.

Hays, the board's secretary for East Asia, said Paul Kaufman, head of Asian Outreach, told him in Hong Kong that pressures from within and without will make it mandatory for mainland China officials to recognize that there are Christians within their borders.

In some places in China, Christians meet openly, Kaufman told Hays, and some who had been caught up in Communism are coming back.

"This type of thing, however, depends upon the area," Hays' report said. "In some areas it is still as closed as it has ever been. They do have some response from radio programs beamed toward mainland China. Peasants crossing the border say they listen regularly to Christian broadcasts."

Hays said that increasing numbers of Chinese students are allowed to study both in the United States and Europe and that these students have more freedom to mix with the people. He believes this will open up more opportunities for Christian students to "reach out to these Chinese students in a friendly and caring way."

While in Hong Kong, Hays said, he met a woman in her mid-40's who had just been allowed to leave China after applying for a permit for 12 years.

"She told me the only way she could maintain her faith through all of these years was by praying with her mother every morning," Hays said. "They had to do it quietly, secretively, and in whispers, but she has maintained her faith. God is still at work in mainland China."

In addition to more than 2,700 decisions in the stadium services, the Hong Kong crusade reported about 1,100 others made decisions for Christ at services held in churches, schools and other institutions.

Ervin E. Hastey, associate consultant for evangelism and church development who spent three months in Hong Kong assisting with the crusade planning and follow-up, said the campaign had resulted in a renewed emphasis on personal witnessing.

He said it also had produced a sense of unity and enthusiasm among pastors, missionaries and other convention leaders and "a deep feeling that evangelism must occupy a more meaningful place in Baptist work than previously."

Hays' report also said response to the gospel in Korea continues, with the number of churches and preaching points now exceeding 600. With the aid of the Florida Baptist Convention, major city evangelization began this year and will continue through 1980 in five major cities--Seoul, Taejon, Taegu, Pusan and Kwanju.

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The Japan Baptist Convention, he noted, has set a goal of 1,000 new churches and 100,000 members in 30 years. As the first stage toward this goal, it hopes to have 250 churches and an equal number of missions by 1987. The convention now reports 178 churches and about 70 mission points with a total membership of about 25,000.

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Hunger Fund Guidelines Set;
More Giving Urged for Relief

By Ruth Fowler

Baptist Press
12/13/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Taking a long-range look at ways to help solve world hunger and other relief problems, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has adopted a new set of guidelines for use of hunger relief funds. At the same time the board has sounded a warning that its general relief funds are almost depleted.

The new guidelines, adopted at the December meeting, call for extensive developmental efforts in the area of hunger relief, in addition to regular food distribution and other kinds of emergency aid. They spell out ways in which the board hopes to enable the world's destitute people to feed themselves through improved agriculture and increased job productivity.

"The adoption of the guidelines will expedite utilization of hunger relief funds in projects designed to deal with causes of hunger, malnutrition and poverty," said W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's coordinator of hunger relief and disaster response.

Southern Baptist gifts for hunger relief have increased dramatically in the four months since the Aug. 4 World Hunger Day. Through November, giving for world hunger and relief totaled \$1,563,208--almost double the \$799,697 given in the same 11-month period of 1977.

The increased giving was primarily designated for hunger relief. Almost all of the general relief funds, needed to respond to natural disaster, have been allocated.

Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division, noted that "we are at a time when Southern Baptists need to be informed of our needs in this area. Natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes and earthquakes continue to take their toll, and the board needs general relief contributions if it is to continue trying to help the victims of such catastrophes," Crawley said.

The newly adopted guidelines specify that hunger relief funds will not be used in responding to natural disasters or crises except in supplying food, restoring facilities needed for food supplies or assisting with access to food supplies. General relief money is used to provide for disaster victims' medical, shelter and rebuilding needs.

But the new guidelines recognize that hunger relief contributions can do far more than provide for people's immediate needs for food. They stress the importance of improved techniques of food production, food preservation, education and training to improve wage-earning ability.

Projects should be developed for hunger prevention by identifying and treating causes, the statement points out. As an example, it suggests developing a village or area model by working with the local people to improve supply and quality of food, pure water supply, methods of sanitation and hygiene.

In urban areas, the board will seek to help break poverty cycles by providing help in obtaining work permits for which fees must be paid and giving handicraft and vocational training in addition to feeding families and assisting children with clothing and education.

These kinds of projects have been done by the board on a small scale for the past several years, using general relief funds. New guidelines will allow for stepping up of development projects.

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Although the scope of work done with hunger and relief funds broadened with the guidelines, some basic policies remained the same. Hunger and general relief funds will continue to be kept separate and used as designated. Funds designated for a particular country or project will go where the donor asks.

Missionaries will administer the funds on the field and requests for hunger relief aid will come from the field to the area secretary.

As before, every penny of hunger and relief funds will go overseas.

Missionary salaries and regular overseas operating expenses will continue to be a part of the total support task financed by Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering gifts.

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

23 Join Missionary Ranks;
Appointees Reach Record 350

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A record 350 Southern Baptists became foreign missionaries in 1978--a gain of 25 percent over last year.

The new mark in missionary additions was set Dec. 12 as the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board approved 23 persons for overseas service. Twenty-one of the December additions were new personnel and two were reappointees. Four others were also reappointed, but do not count in the 1978 total since they will begin serving Jan. 1, 1979.

The 1978 total set new records in three categories, including 181 career appointments, 36 missionary associates and 30 reappointments. The career total topped the previous record of 172 appointed in 1963.

Also included in the record total were 95 missionary journeymen, young college graduates commissioned for two years' service overseas, and eight special project workers, who serve one to two years assisting in overseas medical work.

As of mid-December, the Foreign Mission Board has 2,914 missionary personnel assigned to 94 countries or territories around the world.

The 94th mission field, the Caribbean island of St. Martin in the Leeward Islands, was added with the transfer of Mr. and Mrs. James G. Banks from Guadeloupe to begin the new work.

Another country, Burundi in eastern Africa, will be added Jan. 1 when Mr. and Mrs. Dale Gann are transferred from Tanzania. The total number of mission fields will remain at 94, however, since the Seychelles will be dropped at that same time.

In other actions, the board appropriated more than \$63,000 from hunger and relief funds to step up work with the growing numbers of refugees flooding into Thailand from Vietnam and Cambodia and "accepted with regret" the resignation of Harold D. Richardson, senior assistant treasurer, since October 1976. He resigned, effective Jan. 31, to become vice president and treasurer, director of finance and accounting at the Southern Baptist Annuity Board in Dallas, Texas.

Rogers M. Smith, administrative associate to the Executive Director Baker J. Cauthen, was recognized with a commissioned portrait and personally commended by Cauthen for his 25 years of service to the board.

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Two board staff members saw the major increase in missionary appointments as reflective of the impact of Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC's goal to evangelize the world by the year 2000. Louis R. Cobbs, secretary for missionary personnel, said he believes the Bold Mission emphasis is "beginning to be felt across the convention in terms of appointment of people."

And he feels that the momentum will continue in 1979. "The number of inquiries, the interview schedules, the small group meetings, the flow of correspondence, and the kinds of requests we're receiving all indicate the level of interest is rising," Cobbs said.

Mission Support Division Director R. Keith Parks, reporting on a survey of recent missionary appointees, said, "It's my belief that Bold Mission Thrust is a small cloud on a distant horizon 'like a man's hand,'" referring to the Old Testament prophet Elijah's prayers for rain in ancient days (1 Kings 18:44).

"With the fervent praying of some modern-day Elijahs," Parks added, "I trust that its full force will be thrust out to a lost world in our day."

At the close of the December meeting, board president William L. Self, pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., stressed that "the day of volunteerism" is here in Southern Baptist life. He said 66 members of his church responded to an invitation Dec. 10 for mission service "inquirers" to consider short-term overseas commitments, and another 30 called the next day to say they were considering such a commitment.

Stating that he did not intend to negate the central role of the career missionary, Self said he feels that the "wave of the future" is in volunteer overseas service.

In addition to the 350 missionaries appointed this year, the board has sent out 191 long-term volunteers in 1978 to serve a year or more overseas--a 59 percent increase over last year. An additional 2,600 short-term volunteers filled assignments overseas.

Twelve long-term volunteers, including three going as Mission Service Corps personnel, were approved in December. The Mission Service Corps additions bring to 32 the number approved for overseas service, through the SBC missions program that plans to place 5,000 volunteers for one or two years service at home and abroad by 1982.

A capacity crowd of about 1,000 witnessed the December appointment service in Talbot Park Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va. Named as missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Stephens L. Baumgardner of Georgia and Alabama, respectively, assigned to South Brazil; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Bridges, Alabama, to South Brazil; Betty Jo Burch, Alabama, to Nigeria; Mr. and Mrs. L. Nolen Dunaway, California and New Mexico, to Spain; and Mr. and Mrs. David A. Ford, Missouri and Arkansas, to Argentina.

Also Patricia Frost, Arkansas, to Jordan; Mrs. Thomas B. Ladd, Florida, to Bermuda; Mr. and Mrs. R. Jackson Martin, North Carolina and Florida, to Liberia; and Mr. and Mrs. W. Robert May, Alabama and Virginia, to South Brazil.

Others are Martha McAlister, North Carolina, to Tanzania; Ethne Stainer, Ohio and Australia, to Yemen; Mr. and Mrs. Archie P. Stevens, South Carolina and Texas, to North Brazil; and Mr. and Mrs. Tony R. Woods, Texas, to Japan.

All are career missionaries except the Baumgardners, Mrs. Ladd, the Martins, and Miss Stainer, who are associates, and Miss Burch, a special project worker.

Reappointed in December were former missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Stella Jr., for Korea, effective Dec. 15, and two couples whose reappointment does not become effective until Jan. 1--Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Hunt for the Philippines and Mr. and Mrs. W. Donaldson Frazier for Nigeria.



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