



BAPTIST PRESS

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June 4, 1979

79-91

First Family Underwrites Mission Corps Volunteer

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--One year's sponsorship of a Mission Service Corps volunteer has been underwritten by President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter.

Mission Service Corps is a plan to place volunteers beside career missionaries at home and abroad for one or two year's service. Support comes from volunteers.

The first family's \$3,500 check to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will go for the expenses of one of 25 volunteers now in orientation for a year in Brazil. The team, mostly young adults from Texas, will work in campus evangelism in the Latin American country. Their expenses will be considerably less than the average \$7,500 a year for Mission Service Corps overseas volunteers because they will have food and lodging furnished by Brazilian Baptist families.

The MSC Brazil Team is now in San Antonio being trained to speak Portuguese. Team members were "set apart" for the year in Brazil at a June 3 service in First Baptist Church, San Antonio, where Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen is pastor.

Texas Baptists are working with Brazilian Baptists to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to every Brazilian by 1982. During a visit Allen made last summer, Brazilian Baptists asked for special assistance with campus work and Texas's MSC Brazil Team was formed.

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Koreans Responsible For Asia,
Says Convention President

Baptist Press
6/4/79

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Young-Soon Nam, president of the Korea Baptist Convention, says Korean Christians have the major responsibility in spreading the gospel among the other people of Asia.

"I believe the strongest Christians in Asia are in Korea and we have the responsibility to spread the gospel to other Asian countries," Nam said through an interpreter during a visit at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's home office in Richmond, Va.

The threat of Communism from North Korea, with possible support from mainland China or Russia, has caused an air of urgency among Christians and helped spur growth in South Korean Baptist churches, he said.

Baptists have established 500 churches since the Korean War. Now there are more than 700 Baptist churches, most of them self-supporting.

The churches also have been aided by Korea's economic development but it is a two-edged sword. "Members have more money to give to the church, but some people's hearts are turning toward material things instead of God," he said.

Nam believes the future holds a challenge for Korean Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries. "Korean churches need discipleship," he said. "This is where missionaries will be needed." With such missionary support on the home front, the convention also hopes to begin its foreign mission ministry to the people of other Asian countries.

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Carter, Cronkite Honored
For Mid-East Peace Roles

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Jimmy Carter and newscaster Walter Cronkite were selected by the Meeting of Peacemakers of the First Baptist Church, Washington, and the National Peace Academy Campaign to receive special awards for their efforts on behalf of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

The awards were announced at a two-day peace convocation sponsored by the First Baptist Church and the Church of the Saviour. Neither Carter nor Cronkite was present to receive the award.

Charles A. Trentham and Paul D. Oyer, co-directors of the Meeting of Peacemakers, explained that Cronkite's role in initiating the first meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has not been recognized. Carter's more visible role in the negotiations was noted in his award as a "miracle...made possible by prayer and by your God-given and highly developed skills...in peace and conflict resolution."

William Sloane Coffin, pastor of Riverside Church, New York City, said at an earlier worship service, which included Carter, that the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT) is a concern for the religious community because "guns for butter spells inflation and that hurts the poor most. The poor of this nation are rapidly becoming modern day lepers," Coffin charged.

"It only takes missiles minutes to go door to door," he said. "In less than half an hour a missile can reach the U. S. from Russia. When a one megaton bomb explodes in New York the temperature will reach 150 million degrees Fahrenheit in 60 seconds...the living will envy the dead...the world is too dangerous for anything except truth, too small for anything except love."

William H. Elder, director of citizenship development for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, stressed the need for religious leaders to "accurately assess the opposition in the fight for the ratification of SALT."

"There is a serious naivete, a failure to evaluate the audience by religious leaders who think that facts are sufficient to win public opinion," Elder asserted. He said the arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union is "war without bloodshed; just what the doctor ordered for our ego losses on the social needs front."

Elder said the Carter Administration pro-SALT forces and the conservative right-wing anti-SALT forces agree that national security is the issue in the SALT debate and that superiority in strategic arms is the key to national security. "The religious community, on the other hand, redefines security and the appropriate means of achieving it," he said. "We must build ideological value structures for a deeper understanding of peace for the long run. In the short term, we must push realistically for the ratification of SALT II."

Richard Barnet, co-director of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, pointed out that U. S. national defense policy has "given up defending people. Instead, we are defending missiles. The winner in this mad war is the one with the larger number of missiles left at the end."

Barnet called for a moratorium on the building of all missiles. He said that CBS News had reported a Soviet offer to stop building land-based missiles which we had refused. "We should seriously reconsider the awards to our leaders if we have really turned down the Russians' offer," Barnet said.

Mary Cosby, co-minister of the Church of the Saviour, noted a "split between our personal security in Christ and our feelings about national security. We must be number one. We come, not with a cross, but with a bomb in our hands."

Ugandan Baptist Leaders
Turn From Past To Future

By Mary Jane Welch

KITALE, Kenya (BP)--Freed from the dangers that threatened them during former president Idi Amin's rule, Ugandan Baptist leaders are planning a series of revivals to help restore spiritual health to their battered nation.

Meeting in Jinja in early June, 20 Baptist leaders from seven Ugandan cities were to set up a schedule for revivals to be led by preaching teams from the Baptist Convention of Kenya.

These revivals will mark the latest chapter in a story of Christian faith that has enabled Ugandan Baptists to endure--and survive--the rigors of Amin's harsh government and the turmoil of his final months in power.

Southern Baptist missionary Harry B. Garvin, who worked in Uganda before his transfer to Kenya in 1978, recently returned to visit Baptist leaders in several cities. As he encouraged them and delivered tracts and Bibles, he also learned how these Baptists had survived and managed to continue their worship.

In Kampala, one of the cities to participate in the revivals, Garvin found that John Ekudu, pastor of the Kampala Baptist Church, and his wife Grace, had moved after an artillery shell hit within a few feet of their house, damaging it.

Shortly before the shell hit, Mrs. Ekudu had moved her small charcoal stove from its customary spot outside the house to the opposite side of the home. When the shell hit near the stove's normal location, she was spared. Ekudu and son Paul were unscratched, although the living room where they were drinking tea collapsed around them.

In a visit with Samuel Wamanga, pastor of the Mbale Baptist Church, Garvin heard another story of deliverance. A few weeks earlier, Amin's men had come to loot Wamanga's home and kill him.

As two men loaded their guns to kill Wamanga and a friend, a higher ranking soldier told them to wait because he wanted to beat the captives himself. After beating them, the soldier told Wamanga and his friend, "run quickly to your house." Their lives were spared.

Before entering Uganda, Garvin helped deliver food and money from Kitale (Kenya) Baptist Church to members of a Ugandan church living in exile in Kenya. He delivered the aid with the help of the Amanang (Uganda) Baptist Church's pastor, Wallace Kariuki. After Amin banned Baptists and 26 other religious groups in 1977, the Amanang church members had walked four or five miles to cross the border each Sunday for worship in Kaptega, Kenya.

They were trapped there in late April when Amin's soldiers led a raid on houses and farms while they were gone. Though they lost their possessions, all church members escaped death by being in Kenya while hundreds of their neighbors were killed. The people of Kaptega gave them a place to stay until they could return to Uganda.

Although about 200 people had become Christians at the Amanang church between the early 1970s and 1977, Garvin says church membership had dwindled to about 30 before the raid. As the church members crossed the border each week, soldiers there told them they did not want to see them carrying their Bibles and hymnbooks across the border into Kenya for worship.

Members responded by traveling in groups of no more than two or three and leaving some Bibles and hymnals at the school where they met in Kaptega. Because of the constant pressure, however, many of them moved back to Kenya, the country from which most had originally migrated.

After visiting Baptist friends in these cities and Jinja, distributing all the Bibles and food he had carried, Garvin returned to Kenya impressed with the strength of his Ugandan Christian brothers. "The churches will go forward now, I'm sure," he said.