

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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July 20, 1979

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**Five-Year Limit Threatens
Missionaries in Indonesia**

By Anita Bowden

JAKARTA, Indonesia (BP)--At least one Southern Baptist missionary family is included in the approximately 100 missionaries in Indonesia whose residence visas are being renewed for only six months.

Government letters are being sent to missionaries of various organizations who have been in Indonesia at least five years, reported Edward O. Sanders, Southern Baptist mission chairman.

If this "five-year rule" continues, it will force almost 90 percent of the Southern Baptist missionaries in Indonesia to leave the country within the next two years as their annual visas need to be renewed.

"This is the gravest crisis we have faced in our Southeast Asia ministry since Vietnam and Laos fell," said William R. Wakefield, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board secretary for Southeast Asia. "I'm calling on Southern Baptists to pray that an effective door for ministry and witness will remain open in Indonesia, especially since it is the fifth most populous nation in the world and is very open to the gospel."

Sanders said the mission recently learned that the immigration office had the list of 100 missionaries scheduled to receive the six-month notice. It includes two Southern Baptist missionaries, the Carl G. Lees.

"All possible steps are being taken within the country to bring about some kind of change in what appears to be a policy to do away with missionary ministries here," Sanders said. Those steps include a planned appeal for the Carl Lees and a meeting with other religious organization representatives and the minister of religion.

Some missions suggest the use of a quota on the number of missionaries in the country rather than a five-year cut-off, Sanders said.

New visas have been granted to missionaries in other organizations in recent weeks, Wakefield said. "We will test out this possibility through new missionaries under appointment and now awaiting visas for Indonesia."

If this rule continues, it will affect new areas of work the most, followed by mission institutions, Wakefield said. "Indonesian Baptists stand to lose the impetus in new work if our missionaries leave," he said. "Although Indonesian Baptists have been involved in starting new churches, the major emphasis of mission work has been in . . . (the) area (of new work)."

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"For institutions, we will have to scale down our work in hospitals and seminaries until it reaches a level where the Indonesians have the manpower to take over," Wakefield said.

Departure of missionaries will least affect established churches, where the missionary's role is secondary. Since 1971, when the Indonesian Mission moved to indigenous policy in church development, the churches have become fully independent, both in finances and programming, Wakefield said.

This new development appears to be another step in the Indonesian government's plan to place Indonesians in jobs now held by foreigners. Just a year ago, the minister of religion announced an edict which would require missionaries to train Indonesians to replace them within two years.

Another edict prohibited witnessing to anyone who already has another religion, but its enforcement has not prevented effective missions work.

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Ginzburg Asks Help
For Son's Release

By Carol Franklin

Baptist Press
7/20/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--Pleading for his adopted son's release from the Soviet Union, Aleksandr Ginzburg joined Peter Vins and Valentyn Moroz in testifying before the Helsinki Commission here.

Ginzburg and Moroz were among the Soviet dissidents exchanged for two convicted Soviet spies in April. Both of the Vins have served prison terms for religious activities.

Ginzburg's family had expected to join him in the United States, as George Vins' family did last month, but Soviet authorities have refused to allow Sergei Shibayev, his adopted son, to leave the country. They assert that Sergei was never formally adopted and therefore is not a part of the Ginzburg family.

Ginzburg presented legal documentation to the commission showing that Soviet law recognizes children accepted into a family unit on a permanent basis for upbringing and financial support without formal adoption as de facto wards.

Sergei, now 19 years old and serving in the Soviet Army despite medical disabilities, has lived with the Ginzburgs for five years. His mother and stepfather are chronic alcoholics. Mrs. Ginzburg has been given a deadline to leave the Soviet Union by July 25 without her adopted son or forfeit the right to leave under the agreement negotiated at the time of her husband's expulsion.

Ginzburg revealed that the Soviet secret police (KGB) have continued to persecute his family. "Ten days ago, for example, the steering mechanism of a car in which our small children usually ride was tampered with. A catastrophe was imminent. The mechanics who repaired the car asked: 'Who wanted your death that much?'"

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Peter Vins, accompanied by his grandmother Lydia, who has served a three-year prison sentence for her religious activism, told the commissioners numerous Ukrainians have suffered unjustly at the hands of Soviet authorities.

Two Baptist women, Nadezhda Lebedeva and Evgeniya Fedorchak, appealed to the Ukraine Helsinki monitoring group for help in emigrating. "They both want to emigrate because of religious persecution and because they cannot give their children a religious education," Vins said.

"Fedorchak's husband died last year under mysterious circumstances after the family made its intention to emigrate public. . . . Not long ago, the families finally managed to get invitations from the United States, but the authorities have not given them any response."

Vins told of the Zalevsky family, also Baptists, who had their passports confiscated after receiving permission to emigrate. "The Zalevsky family was told that their departure could result in a mass movement among believers to appeal to the authorities for permission to emigrate," Vins told the Commissioners. "Therefore, permission to emigrate was rescinded."

Lydia Vins said, "Our exit was a signal of hope for the future to believers and non-believers." She told the commissioners that she has always lived her life in "complete serenity" because "God never forsook us."

"We thought the family would be destroyed," she said. "Suddenly there was a way out where earlier there had been an impenetrable wall. God had prepared a way, however."

Other Baptists mentioned by Peter Vins who have been unsuccessful in efforts to emigrate are the Voloshuk family and Maria Suprunovich, whose children were taken from her because she gave them a religious upbringing. He named many others who have tried to emigrate or help the dissidents and suffered harassment and imprisonment.

Moroz noted that "human rights is the most useful weapon in the hands of the West. The issue of human rights is the first successful initiative by the West in the psychological struggle with communism," he said. "This is the first instance in the post-World War II era when the West has seized the initiative, . . . and therefore is in an undefeatable position."

The Helsinki Commission, a joint legislative-executive panel of six senators, six representatives and three executive branch officials, was created by Congress in 1976 to monitor and encourage compliance with the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe signed in August 1975 at Helsinki.

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Seminary Presidents Feel
Convention Affirmed Schools

By Norman Jameson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist seminary presidents feel the SBC meeting in Houston strongly affirmed their institutions in the face of charges the schools were losing their doctrinal integrity.

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Three of them met with their faculties following the convention to discuss possible consequences of the election of Adrian Rogers as president. Rogers had, prior to the convention, voiced concern over the "liberalism" he said is afoot in certain Baptist colleges, universities, and seminaries.

Rogers was the candidate of a group which held pre-convention meetings in at least 15 states with the stated purpose of electing a man as SBC president who is committed to biblical inerrancy as an issue. Its charges of liberalism in the seminaries, and counterclaims by the seminary presidents at a news conference preceding the convention, prompted concern by seminary supporters that animosity would erupt at the convention.

But the seminary reports received a warm response and hearty applause when presented and messengers passed a resolution expressing gratitude for the schools. In interviews six weeks after the annual meeting, the presidents see the good response and resolution, continued high enrollments and the fact messengers allocated seminaries 21.7 percent of the 1980 Cooperative Program basic operating budget as indications they still hold the respect of Baptists.

"The rules by which we live our lives and do our work have not been changed," W. Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, told a packed chapel audience after the convention.

Landrum Leavell, who will meet with his New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary faculty in August, feels Rogers would have been elected "anywhere he let his name be put up" and that no group can claim credit for his election. Rogers disassociated himself from any faction after the election and said he would be the president of all Southern Baptists.

"What alarms me," said Leavell, "is when they make a blanket accusation without support, indicting innocent people by innuendo." He said he wouldn't have "too much concern until someone stands and names someone who's teaching heresy. If they've got some of ours, they need to name them."

None of the seminaries are suffering an enrollment drop from adverse publicity created by the blanket charges of liberalism. All are at or very near the schedule of enrollment that set records last fall and requests for application for this fall are up all over, including a 40 percent increase at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

The presidents made continual reference to the fact that their professors are thoroughly screened before hiring by the trustees and that the trustees are elected by messengers at the annual SBC meetings. Since a stated aim of the inerrancy faction is the election of trustees who hold similar views, Lolley indicated that "if Baptists outside the mainstream of Southern Baptist thought gain control, it could create a gap between the seminaries and the vast moderate middle ground of Baptist opinion."

The trustee boards of Southeastern and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminaries have reaffirmed their willingness to accept the responsibility of their elected positions. Southeastern's trustees adopted a resolution expressing "utmost confidence in those who teach, learn and live the gospel at Southeastern . . . and invite any well-intentioned Southern Baptist who has a special concern in this regard (doctrinal integrity) to address that concern to them."

Southwestern's trustees supported that faculty members respond to questions about their beliefs by reminding the inquirers they are committed to the Baptist Faith and Message

statement which they sign prior to employment. Further inquiries are to be directed to the trustees.

The seminary leaders indicated they felt the real issue was not the authority of the Bible, but rather the opportunity to "enhance" several theological institutions outside the convention which have drawn support from those who believe the SBC seminaries have some liberal professors.

"I have as high and as strong a view of the Bible as anyone can have," said Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern. He said his faculty has the same view and they "have no trouble teaching the Bible is the infallible Word of God."

Duke McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said students requested a report from Houston and asked him if academic freedom would be abridged by anything that happened there. "Academic freedom is rooted in the structures of the Southern Baptist Convention and not in what any one person says," he told them.

Lolley said the students at Southeastern are not overly distraught at the charges levied at the seminaries because "they know for a fact their teachers are not heretical or liberal."

Generally, student reaction was reserved but supportive of the institutions and administrations. A spokesman at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary said students there expressed some concern over how a possible "witch hunt" might affect them. The presidents said letters, calls and comments were overwhelmingly supportive.

Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern, voiced the attitude of the presidents when he said his faculty and administration want to be responsive to the interests and concerns of Southern Baptists.

"The purpose of Midwestern is to equip God-called men and women for ministry in the churches and we want to do the best job we can of equipping," Ferguson said. He felt the convention affirmed the seminaries and said to them "you're doing a good job."

"Southern Baptists, through their committee structure, will continue to elect as trustees men and women who have the best interests of Southern Baptists at heart," Ferguson said. "We welcome and affirm all trustees elected through the stated processes."

Bill Pinson, president of Golden Gate, said students on his campus were "indignant" at the charges leveled at seminary professors. Pinson said he has a "strong and even emotional commitment to mission strategy in the west and the role Golden Gate ought to play in it, and it bothers me that something should come along and undermine that."

"California needs 1,000 new churches right now," said Pinson, who added he hoped nothing would distract from the effort to establish them.

And that was the consensus of the seminary presidents. In McCall's words: "In the end we deal with the Bible available to us today and we think that is quite sufficient. We don't think God lost control or made a mistake. What we're concerned with is something on another side, that we get on with the preaching of the Word to a lost world."

Radio-TV Leaders Comment
On Search, Employee Change

By Toby Druin

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Radio and Television Commission trustees said that 46 men--36 ministers and 10 laymen--have been recommended for the presidency of the agency.

But Fred W. Isaacs Jr. of Cosby, Tenn., said the trustees are in "no particular rush" to find a successor to Paul M. Stevens. They will concentrate first on setting programming goals for the agency, he said, and then find a man to carry them out rather than hire a president first and then establish programming priorities.

He said they hoped to have a president before next year's Southern Baptist Convention meeting in St. Louis.

Stevens, who had directed the commission since 1953, stepped down from administrative control last February after trustees questioned programming and management practices and retirement policies. Harold D. Martin, executive vice president, was named chief administrative officer.

Isaacs said that Martin was highly regarded by the trustees and would be given consideration as a new president is sought. But he said consideration also will be given to the other 45 persons who have been recommended by 84 "sponsors" from 32 states.

Isaacs said "three or four" of the trustees would meet soon with some of the commission's administrative staff to consider programming goals and to prepare budget requests for the meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in September.

The commission administrative staff, headed by Martin, has drafted a list of about 50 questions for the trustees to consider in charting the commission's future and they will be studied during the meeting.

Since assuming control of the commission in February, Martin has been leading in a reorganization effort and several long-time commission employees have left, and the responsibilities of others have been changed.

James Holcomb, vice president for support services, left in April after 22 years with the commission. Martin said Holcomb's job, which had dealt largely with community relations, was no longer needed.

A few other lower echelon employees have also left because of changes made, positions eliminated or responsibilities shifted.

Truett Myers, a senior vice president of the commission, was the latest to announce he has taken early retirement. Myers, 58, who has been with the commission 22 years, said, "I asked for early retirement and got it." And he would not comment on whether he was pressured to leave. Any further statements, he said, would have to come from Martin or Bob Taylor, a senior vice president and Martin's chief assistant.

Martin said he had not asked Myers to leave, "but he saw the pressures, the changes we are instituting and the speed in which we do things--the whole direction is changing and he was conscious of that."

Myers said that he hopes to remain involved in the denomination even after his retirement.

Claud O'Shields, 64, the commission's field representative for the southeast in Wilmington, N.C., also went on early retirement, effective June 30, with salary paid until his 65th birthday in March 1980. The commission, which announced it would probably reopen a field office in Atlanta, gave ill health as the reason for O'Shields' retirement.

O'Shields, however, has disputed the report that his ill health--high blood pressure requiring a daily check--was enough for him to retire early. He said a commission statement that his health "presented a dangerous situation," was "conjecture on their part and in fact is not so." He said he had "no reason to retire or intention of retiring."

Commission officials said they stood by their report on O'Shields' retirement and preferred not to comment on it further.

Martin said there has been no purge of employees considered close to Stevens. "Some changes always occur when new management comes in," he said. He said, however, that some negative feeling no doubt was present--especially among those who had left.

"On the other side, we have about 19 department heads who are as happy as they can be," he said. "Morale is good. Ask them."

Spot checks with several of them confirmed it. One said the atmosphere is "real positive," that knowledge of the commission operation has moved to "strictly business." Another echoed the same opinion but added that there are probably some "who still have negative feelings."

The first question anyone asks, Martin said, is: "Are any more (personnel) changes going to be made?"

"And the answer is that none of those were planned that have already been made," he said. "All have come as something has come up. I would be a fool to say there aren't going to be any more changes, but as of right now none are planned."

Martin, 55, said he did not know if he would accept the commission presidency if it were offered to him. The former Pulitzer Prize winner who came to the commission last fall after a distinguished newspaper career in Alabama, said it would depend on goals established by the trustees.

Those goals, he said, will determine if he remains with the commission in any capacity. It has potential for being dynamic and a vital force, he said. And the presidency would be attractive to him if the goals led in the right direction.

He said he would like to see the commission "more attuned to individual churches, and Southern Baptist agencies work more in cooperation with them rather than going on our own as much as we have been doing."

Isaacs gave Martin high marks for his management of the commission thus far, saying he has handled it with "business-like acumen."

On the subject of a successor for Stevens, Isaacs said he is keeping a detailed breakdown of who is recommended by whom. He said no phone recommendations are being accepted--they must be in writing. (His address is Box 666, Cosby, Tenn.) He said anything that "smacks of a campaign" for any particular individual is rejected immediately.

To date, he said, the 46 recommendations for a successor include 24 pastors, four senior management persons in the radio and television industry, four from the Foreign Mission Board's staff or missionary force, three seminary administrators, two from the Home Mission Board staff, three from the Sunday School Board staff, two in business/management, two Baptist university presidents, one state paper editor, one Radio and Television Commission executive and one now in newspaper management.

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U. S. Shortages Familiar
To Rome Missionary

By Bonita Sparrow

HOUSTON (BP)--Long gasoline lines and horrendously high fuel prices may be new to most Americans but they're old hat to William C. and Helen Ruchti Jr., Southern Baptist missionaries to Rome, Italy.

"In Italy, gasoline is \$2.50 a gallon and you waited in lines for everything," said Mrs. Ruchti, who addressed the Woman's Missionary Union during the recent Southern Baptist Convention in Houston.

"Life there is more difficult--there is no such thing as convenience foods. Servant help is expensive and pollution is so bad I must do a week's cleaning every morning just to keep my house in order.

"And, after the kidnapping and murder of former Prime Minister Moro, everyone is terrified of the Red Brigade. People scatter at the slightest sound--even if a car backfires."

On the other hand, after the morning worship service Ruchti can take his Sunday School class to such spots as the Roman Coliseum to talk about the great cloud of witnesses to the Christian's life. Or they can visit Mamertime Prison where many of the apostle Paul's great letters to the churches were penned.

Mrs. Ruchti smiled. "We live quite near the new Milvian Bridge which Constantine crossed when he brought Christianity to Rome in 312 AD. So there are advantages, too. I can't imagine a Sunday School teacher in the world who wouldn't jump at a chance to teach a class in those settings."

In addition to her duties as homemaker, Mrs. Ruchti is church secretary of the Rome Baptist Church which her husband established and leads. She teaches Sunday School and is one of four soprano soloists. She also paints, is an officer of the American Woman's Club of Rome, and has been president of the European Baptist Convention.

The latter activity comes somewhat as a surprise to people who know woman's liberation isn't quite the issue abroad that it is in this country.

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"The European Baptist Convention is composed of 44 English-language churches in 13 countries in Europe," Mrs. Ruchti explained. "They use Southern Baptist literature. Church members include military personnel, business people, diplomats, students and tourists--people living temporarily in Europe."

And they are not always Americans. Often, Jesus and the English language are the only common denominators.

"There are people from 15 different countries in our church in Rome," she said. "There are about that many different languages. We speak to God in our heart's language, of course, but we speak to each other in English."

The Ruchtis were appointed to Rome by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1960 where he was to establish an English-language church. The Rome Baptist Church was organized eight months after they arrived. There were 13 charter members. Ruchti is still its pastor.

Just as life in Rome is not what it is in Rome, Ga., where the Ruchtis are on furlough, church life also is different.

"You can never sit down and plan a year's church program because you can't take for granted that you will have the same people there the next year," she said. "And, because people are so temporary, you always have to start over."

"Nor is the well-equipped church with kitchen, tables, and chairs always available. Often churches are in a restaurant, a store, or some other place. Many of the church members lend needed items but when those people are transferred their property goes with them and you must begin again. Again."

And it's difficult to share Christ in a country where most of the people feel they are Christians. "In Italy, every child is baptized at birth and therefore is considered a Christian. And most people go to communion daily," she said.

"But to talk about Jesus Christ as a personal savior is different. Italian Baptists can reach out and witness when they talk about the personal satisfaction of a living faith."

The new Polish Pope receives high marks from Mrs. Ruchti. "I believe he will be very influential and a good leader," she said. "When you see him at a papal audience you feel that here is someone you would like to have as a friend."

It's a feeling many seem to share. "Papal audiences used to be only on Wednesdays in the audience hall at St. Peter's," she said. "That hall soon was too small so the audiences were expanded to twice a day on Wednesdays and they still ran out of room. They moved the site to St. Peter's Basilica which holds 10,000 people. That's too cramped."

"Just before we came home they moved to St. Peter's Square. That holds up to 200,000 people and the newspaper headlines were saying the Square soon would be too small."