



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

--FEATURES

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Tanzanian Baptist Boldness
Reaps 56 New Congregations

By Mary Jane Welch

MWANZA, Tanzania (BP)--Tanzanian Baptists embodied Bold Mission Thrust when they sent out seven evangelistic teams which started 56 new congregations in eight weeks this summer.

The two-man teams baptized 2,575 members of the Sukuma tribe living in villages formerly unreached by Baptist witness, said James L. Houser, Southern Baptist missionary who transferred from Kenya to lead the project.

Months in planning, the Sukuma project was adopted by the Baptist mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) and the Baptist Convention of Tanzania as a means of reaching Tanzania's largest tribal group. The government's settling of 4.5 million Sukuma people into easily accessible villages of 1,000 to 10,000 in order to provide education and services for them, made it easier for Baptists to reach them.

Original plans were even bolder--15 teams starting 180 new congregations--but transportation problems caused in part by the Tanzania-Uganda conflict took their toll before the project started.

Plans called for a team to spend a week in each village, visiting huts and inviting people to a daily teaching period in which they could learn about God, sin, Jesus and the church.

On their seventh day in a village, the team was to baptize new believers and help the congregation choose five leaders--an outreach leader, a worship leader and preacher, a youth worker, a women's worker and a music director. Music is a vital part of the Sukuma people's lives.

After the evangelistic team moved to another village, the new congregation could expect at least three visits from more mature Christians working under Tom W. McMillan, head of the Baptist Seminary of East Africa in Arusha. First, a team would come for three days to help new leaders in areas in which they had no experience, such as using the Bible and leading worship. Second, a visitor would arrive with a tape recorder and cassettes to encourage the new believers and teach them about the Christian life.

A third team will come to equip leaders with tools and Bible knowledge they need for their jobs, shifting the project emphasis more from evangelism to training. Beginning in September, project personnel will train volunteers from existing churches for one month in three geographical areas in witnessing and planting churches. Houser expects these churches to begin ten to fifteen new churches every two months. The following June, the cycle will begin again with new evangelism teams.

Project personnel saw results before the program got underway. Southern Baptist missionary Roger W. Brubeck visited one settlement to ask the chairman's permission to enter the village. The chairman was unavailable so Brubeck told the story of Jesus to three men standing nearby. Two of them became Christians.

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In another instance, Southern Baptist missionary Donald R. Dolifka was training church members to use tape recorders for follow-up. One member, Philipo, witnessed to a man who accepted Christ as Lord saying, "What you have told me is too good to keep. Come with me. I want you to tell some others."

He took Philipo to a meeting of the village leaders, who also listened to Philipo's story. After being told of Christ, the people began to clap and express their happiness to Philipo for his coming and sharing. Another village opened before the project officially began.

Other teams saw similar events during the project. In one village, team members Thomas and Ratoni met Stefano, a fisherman. Stefano had just squandered all his money from a fishing trip in a bar. He had gone home to find his family hungry and his creditors demanding payment on loans. When he went to the lake to catch more fish, his boat, net and partners had disappeared.

Thomas and Ratoni stopped at his hut and told him about Jesus and his love. Stefano decided that was what he needed and trusted Christ as his Savior. The two men continued witnessing in the village until more than 25 others accepted Christ.

When the congregation chose leaders at the end of the week, Stefano was one of them. In his testimony before the group, he said he had been fishing for fish all his life, but now was going fishing for men.

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Language Pastor Honored
By Home Mission Board

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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Albert Joaquin, of Chicago Heights, Ill., has been named language pastor of the year by the division of language missions at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Joaquin, pastor of First Spanish Baptist Church in Chicago Heights, was presented the award during Home Missions Week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"The award is not a popularity contest," said Oscar Romo, who heads the language missions division. "The recipient is chosen because of his relationship in the community, individual work and growth of the church."

Joaquin, pastor of the Illinois church more than four years, was chosen by a committee of state language missions directors.

During his first 30 months at the Illinois church, Joaquin recorded 120 professions of faith and 95 baptisms. The church membership has grown from 34 persons to 153 during his pastorate.

Romo described Joaquin as "a pastor who cares and keeps in touch with people. The people in his community know who and what he is."

Joaquin has been a Southern Baptist missionary for 35 years and served also in Texas, Oklahoma and Florida. He says his future plans include "continuing to work in Chicago as long as the Lord wants me to. Winning people to God is my only desire in life."

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(BP) photo mailed by Atlanta Bureau of Baptist Press.

**Annie Armstrong Having Best
Year, But Not Over Top, Yet**

ATLANTA (BP)--The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions is having its best year ever, but hasn't exceeded its \$15 million goal, said William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"In fact," he added, "we do not expect to reach the goal."

A Baptist Press article reported in early August the Annie Armstrong offering had exceeded its goal with contributions totaling \$15,452,000 as of July 31.

"That report was incorrect," Tanner said. "On Aug. 17, 1979, contributions to the Annie Armstrong offering amounted to \$13,487,462, or nearly \$2 million below what was reported."

The \$13.4 million in contributions represents an increase of 16.01 percent over 1978 contributions by mid-August. It also represents 89.92 percent of the goal.

"Our projections indicate that we will receive about \$14 million in contributions by Dec. 31," Tanner said. "That will represent about 93 percent of the goal."

"While we will not receive the entire goal of \$15 million, the offering will be the best the Home Mission Board has ever received," Tanner added. "We are very grateful to Southern Baptists for their contributions; we are dependent on the Annie Armstrong offering for nearly half the annual budget."

"We did not want people to slack off in their giving, thinking the offering had reached its goal, when, in fact, it has not," Tanner said.

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Sadie Tiller Crawley
Dies in Louisiana

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8/21/79

LULING, La. (BP)--Sadie Tiller (Mrs. A. L.) Crawley, a writer, early-day leader in Baptist Training Union work and former dean of women at two Baptist colleges, died Aug. 20 in Luling, La., after a lengthy illness. She was 87.

Graveside services for Mrs. Crawley, mother of Foreign Mission Board executive Winston Crawley, were held in Newport, Tenn., where her husband is buried. He was pastor of First Baptist Church there.

Mrs. Crawley was dean of women at Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary and Bible School, Baguio, during two periods of service, covering a total of about three years. In the states she had been dean of women and vice president at Blue Mountain (Miss.) College and dean of women at Baylor University, Waco, Texas. She also was interim dean of women at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

She served on the staff at West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn., and on the Georgia State Convention staff in the early days of BYPU (Baptist Young People's Union). She spoke frequently about Training Union work throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

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She wrote several books, including "The Meaning of Church Membership," written for the Church Training department of the Sunday School Board and translated into several languages. More recently she wrote "World Awareness" for the Woman's Missionary Union.

Born in Oglethorpe County, Ga., she moved with her family to Atlanta, Ga., when she was young. She attended Bessie Tift (now Tift) College, Forsyth, Ga., and Columbia University and was a graduate of Blue Mountain College.

She is survived by two sons, seven grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

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Alaska Baptists Cut Budget,
Delay Search For Executive

Baptist Press
8/21/79

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (BP)--Alaska Baptists cut their budget 12.5 percent and decreased their percentage of budget contributions to the national Cooperative Program from 29 percent to 25 percent during the annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention.

The budget cut, from \$878,644 in 1979 to \$768,492 for 1980, is an effort to overcome a deficit incurred when contributions from Alaska churches fell below expectations. The deficit, which reached as high as \$75,000, is now \$53,000.

Messengers also elected William B. Lyons, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Anchorage, to a second term as president of the convention, Louise Yarbrough, religious education director at Grand View Baptist Church in Anchorage, first vice president, and Judson Owen, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ketchikan, second vice president.

They also passed resolutions supporting newly-elected Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers, the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust Goal to present the gospel of Jesus to every person in the world by the year 2000, and the denominational efforts in general.

They set a goal to baptize 1,000 new Christians and start 10 new missions in 1980. Alaska Baptists' baptisms have increased the last two years while that growth indicator in the Southern Baptist Convention as a whole has dropped.

Besides cutting the budget to save money, the convention's executive committee decided not to begin the search for a new state executive secretary to replace Troy Prince until the budget deficit is erased and until the convention's giving through the Cooperative Program is back to at least 29 percent.

The delay in hiring a replacement for Prince, who resigned as of July 15, is anticipated to save \$47,400 in salary, travel and part-time secretarial help for the office.

Anticipated contributions from Alaska Baptist churches in 1980 total \$288,420, of which \$72,105 is designated for distribution through the national Cooperative Program. The difference between the budget and projected income is made up through assistance from several SBC missions agencies.

The 1980 meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention will be Aug. 12-14 at the Faith Baptist Church in Anchorage.

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Ohio Man Heads Group For Deaf

LEESBURG, Fla. (BP)--William Roaden, a layman from Centerville, Ohio, has been elected president of the Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf.

Roaden's election came at the organization's annual workshop and business session at the Lake Yale Baptist Assembly near Leesburg, Fla. The Workshop of Southern Baptist Interpreters and missionaries and pastors who work with non-hearing persons also met with the group.

"Registration at the conference was the largest in its 30-year history," said Rodney Webb, associate director of the division of language missions at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. "Some 525 persons officially registered, but attendance was estimated at about 800."

Besides Roaden, other officers elected were Charles Butler of Portland, Ore., first vice president; Dan Long of Tallahassee, Fla., second vice president; Leslie Hall of Kansas City, Mo., treasurer, and Phala Bernhardt of Orlando, Fla., secretary. All are laypersons and all, with the exception of Bernhardt, are deaf.

Three students from Dallas, Texas, were elected officers of the Junior Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf, for high school and college age young persons. Named president was Billy Strickland. Robert Trevino is vice president and Marsha Smith is secretary.

Vesta Bice of Dallas, a staffer at Silent Friends Chapel of Dallas' First Baptist Church, was elected to work with the junior group in planning its program for 1980.

The Workshop of Southern Baptist Interpreters named Irene Stark of Renton, Wash., to chair the 1980 workshop at Glorieta.