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Claas Has Big  
Dreams For BWA

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--"Oh, no, I am not going to emigrate from Germany!"

Gerhard Claas, 51-year-old nominee for general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, laughingly denied any interest in spending the rest of his life or career in the United States.

"I am really a pastor, and I am a real European," he said in his soft, lightly-accented voice during a visit to the BWA's Washington headquarters, where he will work if elected at the Baptist World Congress, July 8-10, in Toronto.

Claas, who now lives in Hamburg, betrays to the casual viewer none of the crisp, Prussian characteristics many attribute to the stereotypical German. He is warm, engaging and attractive. A BWA staffer concedes that even his statistical reports are "fascinating."

A graduate of the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, Claas has served as a pastor and as both youth secretary and general secretary of the German Baptist Union. Most recently he has been associate secretary of the BWA for Europe.

But, despite his steady rise through Baptist ranks, Claas maintains that his heart is in the pastorate.

"I will stay in this position for eight, ten years at the most," Claas declared. "After that, I hope for my own pulpit again where I can not only proclaim the gospel but have dialogue with my people and answer their questions. I will preach in my new position, of course, but you can never know the hearts of people when you are with them for only one hour--and you are doing all the talking!"

Claas has big dreams for the BWA, and that means changes. "The Baptist World Alliance has the great advantage of being a truly worldwide fellowship," he pointed out. "It is not an American fellowship for the rest of the world, though some seem to think so. We must become real partners."

A major goal for Claas is the strengthening of regional fellowships in Asia, Africa and Latin America. "We don't understand sharing in the developed world," he charged. "No one is so poor he cannot share and no one is so rich he needs nothing." He envisions a world network where the Third World and Eastern Europe are full partners in spreading the gospel and helping in relief efforts.

Claas also is looking for leadership outside Europe and North America. "I will leave my post with the BWA sooner (than eight to ten years) if I see my successor emerging in a Third World nation."

He spoke eloquently of the need for relief efforts on a scale that will make a real difference to people. He also referred to the involvement of the BWA in the release of prisoners of conscience in Third World countries.

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"We must increase our political activities," he said. "Outside of the United States and Britain, Baptists are not political. The two kingdoms idea (of spiritual and secular realms) must be broken down before we can meet our responsibilities as Christians for peace on earth."

"We are too isolated from the world, especially those of us who spend all our time with other Christians," he declared. "Direct contact with non-Christians is necessary if we are to remember what we are doing and why."

Claas acknowledged that his vision for the BWA will cost. "But we can do more even with the small budget we have," he claimed. "And if all 33 million Baptists in the world gave one dollar a year, we could live on the interest and achieve our dreams."

He noted that western European Baptists have begun giving 10 cents per member a year to be divided between the BWA and the European Baptist Federation. "Five cents per member a year is the highest level of giving to the BWA in the world. In the United States it is less than one cent per member per year. We should make this known and make people ashamed."

Claas is intensely serious about his mission with the BWA. He accepted the call to leave Hamburg reluctantly and said his children's reaction was "If it is God's will we can't hinder it, but we aren't excited." He believes it is God's will that he come to this new position though it means leaving children and homeland. His hope is to return to them in the not-too-distant future having built a stronger, more truly worldwide fellowship of Baptists.

"Then my wife and I can go back to the Bavarian Black Forest for our long vacations."

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Carol Franklin, former assistant to the director of information for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, is minister of education at First Baptist Church, Washington.

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Baptist World Alliance.

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Allen Outlines  
Approach to Crisis

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BOLIVAR, Mo. (BP)--Jimmy R. Allen outlined an approach Christians may use to respond creatively to crisis during an address at Southwest Baptist College here.

"To receptively and creatively confront crisis in your life or in today's world, you have to sense God's calling and be alert to God's directions," said the president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in a speech after receiving an honorary doctorate.

"You must be ready to move with whatever shape the crisis is, to play your part in facing, confronting and solving problems, or at least rearranging the crises that we face in our kind of world," he declared.

Many people are not involved in solving world crises, "because we are waiting for the crucial opportunity for us to put our time in," Allen said. "But God has his own kind of schedule and we have to live with a sense of alertness, of readiness, to move in where God opens doors. We should not expect him to follow our desires."

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"The real energy problem is in the soul of America, in the spirit of America, in the malaise that has characterized an American that will allow a minority of people to elect the nation's highest leaders," he said.

Another problem in confronting crises is that "some of us have been so disillusioned by what we have seen happen that we haven't understood that one of us can make a difference," Allen said.

"If we feel the whole world is too big for us to tackle, we should break it up into little pieces and work on one fragment at a time," he said. "If each of us works on one segment we can tackle the whole world."

Describing particular crises of our time, Allen said the moral issue of the 1980s is human survival as characterized by the problem of world hunger.

"As God's trustees for this world, we should try to understand the resources God gave us so we can deal with the needs of humanity and at the same time not so deplete our resources as to cause us to lose the opportunity of survival," he said.

Allen also commented on the crisis of integrity in American society: "Permissiveness has bred an erosion of discipline and priorities. There have always been elements of corruption and greed. But the thing that bothers me is whether or not there has crept into the attitude of the total society the feeling that kind of thing is going to be tolerated and we shouldn't get too excited about it."

The Christian way to fight this attitude is to lead the kind of lifestyle that will "let God speak through you," Allen said.

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One Volunteer Improves;  
Another Hospitalized

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Milford Doss Jr., a Baptist layman who contracted cerebral malaria while involved in evangelistic efforts in Nigeria, has been released from the Veterans Administration Hospital, Lexington, Ky., and continues to improve daily, his wife says.

Doss was originally treated for malaria at the University of Kentucky Hospital, Lexington, but was transferred to the veterans hospital to continue treatment for pneumonia.

Another member of the team, Wiley B. Faw Jr., was hospitalized with the same type of malaria for nearly a week in early February and then released.

Faw said March 10 he will enter the hospital for treatment of schistosomiasis, a parasitic disease which affects many internal organs. He said that his doctors believe he most likely contracted this illness during a 1978 visit to Nigeria because of the number of parasites that have developed.

Faw said despite his illnesses he would like to return to Nigeria next year. "It is a tremendous thing for a missionary kid to get to go back to his own country as a minister of God, ministering to a people he has grown up with," he said. The senior Faw is a Southern Baptist missionary stationed in Gombe, Nigeria.

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Professorship Funded  
At Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--A \$60,000 bequest in the will of Mrs. Lillian B. Godsey of St. Petersburg, Fla., will provide the permanent endowment for a visiting professorship at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Trustees of the seminary, following the wishes of Mrs. Godsey and her late husband, have invested the \$60,000 to generate annual income for a teaching position in New Testament, which will be known as the C.J. and Lillian B. Godsey Visiting Professorship in New Testament Interpretation.

Wesley M. (Pat) Pattillo, the seminary's vice president for development, noted that the Godseys had been generous benefactors of the school for more than 50 years.

"Now," he said, "their interest in the training of young ministers will be perpetuated forever through the New Testament professorship endowed by their estate. We are grateful for their confidence in the seminary as an instrument in God's plan to change the world."

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Allotted SBC  
Hotels Filled

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--All the rooms specially allotted for use by messengers to the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting in June in St. Louis are gone, according to Tim Hedquist, convention manager.

But, Hedquist said, the SBC housing bureau is trying to secure extra rooms for persons who still need them and aren't in contact with outlying hotels, where other rooms may be available.

Hedquist suggested persons needing rooms contact him at the Executive Committee of the SBC in Nashville for information about available rooms. No calls will be accepted by the housing bureau in St. Louis.

He said the rooms filled up quickly because of cooperation by state Baptist conventions in distributing registration forms early.

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### Everyone Does Their 'Litter Bit'

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--If awards were given for the most unique way of paying for an education, Jan Humphreys, a third-year theology and religious education student from Herrin, Ill., would definitely be a candidate.

Jan, along with her cocker spaniel, Brandy, raises puppies to help finance her education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Brandy was a gift in 1976. Soon Miss Humphreys thought, "Why not let Brandy help pay for some of her expenses?" Brandy, quite willing to oblige, has produced three litters of puppies—a litter of four in 1977, six in 1978, and five on Jan. 4, 1980.

Miss Humphreys grew up on a farm, has worked for a veterinarian and is able to deliver and care for the puppies herself. She also administers needed shots, which cuts down expenses.

She sells the puppies for \$150 each when they are six to eight weeks old. "Everyone who comes to look at Brandy's litter wants to take one home," she says. Cockers are small, but not tiny, friendly and good looking.

Brandy's litter in December 1978 allowed Miss Humphreys to go to the Florida Recreation Lab during the January school term. A litter from breeding Brandy this summer will allow her to study in Israel with the seminary group in December.

Miss Humphreys, who plans to graduate in May 1981, is especially interested in foreign missions and worked last summer in a resort ministry in Hawaii. At home in the areas of education, agriculture and veterinary medicine, she says: "Missionaries are needed very badly. I'm not sure where I will be sent or what I will do, but I know doors will open."

Chances are good that when doors for ministry do open for Miss Humphreys, a pretty blond cocker spaniel named Brandy will be by her side. They're both dogmatic about one thing: a canine is not just a man's best friend.