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Vandalism in Jerusalem  
Attributed to Fanatics

By Elizabeth F. Smith

JERUSALEM (BP)--The elderly man stepped over broken glass as he entered the bookshop at Baptist House in west Jerusalem. He approached the pretty blonde clerk sitting behind the desk, handed her a bouquet of pink carnations and said, "These flowers are for a very brave young lady."

The man identified himself as a long-time resident of the apartment house across the street and as a "neighbor." He wanted Janice Young to know he was "ashamed" that vandals had broken the large plate glass windows and door in the shop for a fourth time since Dec. 29.

Mrs. Young explained that Baptists believed the incident was the work of a small group of extremists among the Orthodox Jews in the city. She told the visitor that Baptists were certain no long-time residents of the area were involved.

With a smile, the man said, "Thank you. You have lightened my heart."

Several others who live near Baptist House have come into the shop to express their sorrow over the incidents. One neighbor, at great personal sacrifice, brought a donation of about \$40 to help with repairs.

Other Christian churches, bookstores and institutions in west Jerusalem have also been damaged and clerks and clergymen have been cursed and spat upon.

Tom Nabors, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board representative and manager of the Baptist Book Store in east Jerusalem, reports there have been no similar incidents in his area of the city, which is predominantly Arab populated. Police have assured him they are keeping the bookstore under surveillance.

Workers at Baptist House now place plywood sections in front of the plate glass doors and windows of the facility and leave outside lights burning all night in an attempt to discourage vandalism.

Baptist House is used as a Sunday School and activities building for the congregation of the West Jerusalem Baptist Church and has served as the official headquarters of the Israel Baptist mission for many years. Once a week a group of Jewish believers holds Bible study and worship services there.

From time to time, since it was built by Baptists more than 60 years ago, Baptist House has been attacked by various extremist groups. The latest incident was in early February when one or more persons broke into a storeroom adjacent to the church building next door to Baptist House. The vandals opened files and cartons of hymnbooks and created disorder.

Police are investigating the case, and the mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, has promised to pay for needed repairs as he has in all past incidents. It is city policy to pay for the repair of any damage done during "inter-ethnic" violence.

"Probably this is the work of one, two or three fanatics," states Robert Lindsey, Foreign Mission Board representative and pastor of the church. He expressed gratitude that local police have appointed a special investigator for this wave of attacks against Catholic and Protestant properties in Israel's capital city. Several arrests have been made.

In a letter to the Jerusalem Post, an English-language newspaper with a wide local and foreign circulation, Lindsey wrote that Baptists considered the rash of violent anti-Christian incidents "the work of absurd, teen-age hooligans of foreign import who in no way represent the rank and file of normal, hard-working Israelis, many of whom have been firm friends of the Baptist community for some decades."

The United Christian Council in Israel, of which Baptists are members, has issued an official protest over the anti-Christian violence and has called for guarantees of religious freedom and interfaith understanding in Jerusalem and throughout the country.

On Feb. 4, Prime Minister Menachem Begin issued a statement to representatives of the Christian community, assuring them that vandalism against churches "will not be tolerated" and that authorities will "do their utmost" to prevent such incidents.

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Mrs. Smith is press representative for the Israel Baptist mission.

(BP) photo to be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Roy McClung To Retire  
From Wayland Presidency

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PLAINVIEW, Texas (BP)--Roy C. McClung, president of Wayland Baptist College in Plainview since 1963, announced he will retire as soon as the college trustees can find and install a new president--as early as July 1 and no later than Jan. 1.

McClung, 62, was pastor of First Baptist Church, Plainview, a post he had held since 1958, when he became president of the school in 1963.

He was named president of the Wayland Foundation, the development arm of the college, and will continue to work for the college in that area.

A native of Manitou, Okla., he is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned his doctor of theology degree. He served churches in Kentucky and was pastor of First Baptist Church, Ada, Okla., when he moved to Plainview in 1958.

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Tennessee Baptists Secure  
Loan to Close Building Sale

Baptist Press  
3/20/80

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Tennessee Baptist Convention has signed \$675,000 worth of guarantees to facilitate the sale of its troubled Belmont Plaza and renters were to begin occupying the 123-unit retirement center in late March.

The guarantees became necessary to enable Belmont Plaza Inc., a group of Baptist laymen, to secure a \$3.5 million mortgage loan from a Nashville bank when the corporation's bond issue proved unsaleable.

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Earl Wilson, president of the convention's executive board, blamed the "shaky condition of the bond securities market" for the inability of the Equitable Securities Corporation to sell the bonds. The new bond issue was to have defeased the original issue of \$5 million which was issued by the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation to build Belmont Plaza.

The new loan will be invested in U.S. government securities which will mature on the same dates as the bonds issued by the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation. These securities will be held by the trustee bank and will be used only to retire the original bonds. Therefore, the government securities will be liable for the payment of the old bonds, and not the service corporation, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, nor the convention's executive board.

Because of the wording on the original bond indenture, funds derived from sale of the bonds couldn't be used for operating expenses as understood by the service corporation. So when the complex was completed in February 1979, there were no operating funds and no one could move in.

Tennessee Baptists met in April 1979 in special called convention for the first time since 1874 and voted then to sell or transfer ownership of the building. In November, the convention accepted the offer to buy from Belmont Plaza Inc.

The guarantees the Tennessee executive board agreed to include \$500,000 which will be reduced in increments as renters occupy the building. No funds will actually be put up, but rather a document of obligation will be prepared, according to Charles Warfield, convention attorney.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention will put up \$175,000 as a debt-service reserve, which will remain for the 24-year life of the loan. Belmont Plaza Associates, a limited partnership to Belmont Plaza Inc., has agreed that in the event of default, they will reimburse the convention for the \$175,000.

The money will be transferred from funds the convention already has in reserve.

Bill Coles, a vice president at First American National Bank in Nashville, which made the \$3.5 million loan, approached the bank when it appeared that the bond market collapse would hinder the closing of the building sale by the March 15 deadline.

Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, said the bank "made a loan that they ordinarily wouldn't have given a second look."

In terms of the agreement, the state convention is no longer liable for principal and interest payments and other expenses which totaled \$442,159 since Feb. 22, 1979, when the executive board voted to make the payments to keep the facility from going into default. The convention must pay \$135,000 in fees to Equitable Securities Corporation, approximately \$5,000 in bank closing costs, and more than \$3,000 in repairs to bring the building back to its original condition after lying vacant for a year. The convention is also negotiating 1979 property taxes.

Carter Signs Law Tripling  
Yearly Refugee Admissions

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--Stating that the United States has a "long tradition as a haven for people uprooted by persecution and political turmoil," President Carter has signed into law a liberalized refugee act.

Carter said the law establishes "a new admissions policy that will permit fair and equitable treatment of refugees...regardless of their country of origin."

The president noted that while in the past most refugee resettlement has been undertaken by private groups, the large numbers of refugees arriving now dictate that the federal government's role in the effort be expanded.

The new law nearly triples the number of refugees admitted annually to the U.S. from 17,000 to 50,000. Congress will review the new annual limit in three years.

Besides the 50,000 refugees to be admitted, the law allows another 270,000 immigrants to come to the country each year. Immigrants are defined as those who leave their native lands voluntarily, while refugees are persons forced to leave for a variety of reasons, including war and political and religious persecution.

Another provision of the law permits the president to expand the 50,000 annual limit on an emergency basis after consulting with Congress.

One group not included in the law are Cubans, who under provisions of separate legislation, are being phased out of the refugee program.

Another section of the act includes creation of the office of U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs, to be appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. The new position carries with it the rank of ambassador-at-large, a diplomatic designation which will entitle the coordinator to represent the U.S. in negotiations with foreign governments and international agencies on refugee issues.

In addition, the law creates within the new Department of Health and Human Resources (formerly HEW) an office of refugee resettlement.