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--FEATURES

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Church Finds New Home
In Old Nazi Warehouse

By Bob Stanley

AUGSBURG, West Germany (BP)--It's not quite turning swords into plowshares, but it comes close.

English-speaking Calvary Baptist Church, overflowing space rented from a German-speaking Baptist church, has found a new home in an old Messerschmitt factory warehouse, part of the manufacturing empire which powered the Nazi war machine in World War II.

The facility, dedicated Oct. 30, resembles a conventional church only in its sign. A taxi driver, bringing a member to a worship service, admonished: "That's no church. You can't go in there. That's no church."

But missionary pastor James Leeper and the 120 who attend services disagree. With \$10,000 from the European Baptist Convention and lots of labor from members, the congregation has transformed the second floor of one wing of the old warehouse into a sanctuary and educational-fellowship space.

During the dedication, Leeper disputed the common idea a church is some kind of beautiful edifice designed by an architect. "There never has been a church made out of stone," he said. The church, he explained, is made up of "living stones--bricks Jesus Christ pour d--you and I. We make up the church."

Calvary Baptist Church, started 24 years ago, mainly serves personnel stationed at four American military installations in the Augsburg area. Networks of old tunnels, too dangerous to explore because of abandoned ammunition dating back to World War II, still exist as a reminder of the key role this Bavarian area played in the Nazi war effort.

For the past 12 years the English-speaking church had rented space from the Augsburg Baptist Church, a German-speaking congregation affiliated with the German Baptist Union. But Leeper and the members decided it was time to look for more room when five Sunday school classes were having to meet in the church auditorium.

After almost a two-year search, Leeper answered a newspaper ad for "warehouse space." He was told the owner probably wouldn't want to lease less than 2,000 to 3,000 square meters--far more than the church needed.

But when the pastor finally made contact, the owner readily agreed to lease 520 square meters. Later the church leased another 400, giving it some 9,000 square feet of space.

Working in the evenings or during their off-duty hours, the members have gradually transformed two big empty rooms into an auditorium and fellowship area and have built 16 classrooms and a kitchen.

Leeper, who with his wife, Jean, helped develop an English-speaking congregation in Turkey, took on the Augsburg assignment after being forced to leave Turkey in 1978 because of false charges he was passing out clandestine literature.

The couple still feels a strong desire to reach out to thousands of southern Europeans living in Germany as "guest workers." Their church is looking toward adding an associate pastor to do the English-language work, freeing the Leepers to concentrate on some 20,000 Turkish people living in the Augsburg area.

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Calvary is one of 41 churches and two mission points which make up the English-speaking European Baptist Convention. More than half these churches are in West Germany, the remainder divided among nine other countries.

In Germany, these churches work alongside German-speaking churches, sometimes sharing a building, but feel they have a particular ministry to the needs of Americans and other English-speaking internationals whose assignments have brought them to Europe.

In the meantime, the work of the German-speaking churches continues to grow. Hans Guderian, pastor of the Augsburg church and a participant in the dedication of Calvary's new home, said his own church of about 250 members has bought land for a new building which it hopes to complete in 1985.

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

Reagans Attend Christmas
Special At Baptist Church

By Stan Hastey

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WASHINGTON (BP)--President and Mrs. Reagan visited a prominent black Baptist church in Washington, Dec. 1 for the taping of a Christmas television special to be aired later this month.

Shiloh Baptist Church, a predominantly middle-class congregation in the heart of one of Washington's poorest neighborhoods, was the site for the Public Broadcasting Service's taping of the special program, one in PBS's series "In Performance at the White House."

Shiloh Baptist has ties to the Progressive National Baptist Convention and in 1963 joined the D. C. Baptist Convention, a body which cooperates with both the American Baptist Churches, USA and the Southern Baptist Convention. Last year, the church's Easter Sunday morning service was televised live by CBS.

Featured performer for the Christmas special, to be fed by PBS to its local affiliates the evening of Dec. 14, was opera star Leontyne Price. Also appearing on the program were the Howard University Choir and the Shiloh Gospel Choir. The program will be aired at different times at the discretion of local affiliates.

The Reagans, accompanied by Vice President and Mrs. George Bush, invited 300 guests, most of them well-placed blacks, to attend the taping. Large crowds of people witnessed the arrival and departure of the presidential limousine at a rear door to the church. Many did not seem enthused about the visit.

According to The Washington Post, Herbert Emerson, 52, a laid-off maintenance worker, complained from behind police lines, "People can't see him, and can't nobody talk to him either." Emerson called Reagan "the cheese president," a reference to the giveaways of surplus cheese and other dairy products by the Department of Agriculture. He added: "He could be doing more...maybe he's doing the best he can."

Another observer quoted by the Post, the head chef at a nearby soul-food restaurant, had another assessment of Reagan. "I don't hate the man. A lot of people here hate the man. But I feel he is doing all he can."

Inside, as the musical program came to a rousing finale with the Reagans and Bushes on the church platform, Mrs. Reagan performed some impromptu dancing whirls to the beat of gospel music as the president applauded. Although they have attended church services infrequently since coming to the nation's capital nearly three years ago, the Reagans appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly at Shiloh Baptist.

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Tanner Opposes Nuclear
War Because Of Evangelism

By Jim Newton

BOSTON (BP)--Speaking out against the use of nuclear weapons, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner told a national conference of Baptist evangelism directors if such weapons are ever used, "there won't be any evangelism."

Addressing Baptist state and national evangelism directors the week after showing of "The Day After" on network television, Tanner said he opposes use of nuclear weapons because it would prevent Christians from fulfilling their calling to evangelize the world.

A nuclear attack would utterly destroy the infrastructure of the nation, including the organized church, Tanner said.

"I'm not saying it would destroy the church or destroy our faith," he added. "Indeed the faith of those who survive would probably be strengthened in such a time of tragedy. But our organized ability to witness effectively to those who do not know Christ would be evaporated with the cities," he declared.

"If we have a nuclear holocaust and if murder is committed on a mass scale, it would make World War II and the Nazi holocaust, when one-half the Jewish population was wiped off the face of the earth, look like a Sunday school picnic," Tanner said.

The Baptist mission leader recalled he was 10 years old in 1940 when the Nazi holocaust occurred, but he could not remember any Baptist pastor then speaking out against it. "That was a tragedy." Tanner said he is not a political activist, "but too often those of us concerned about evangelism leave the (nuclear) issue to political activists by our silence."

"The greatest issue of the 21st century," Tanner said, "may be the survival of life on the planet earth as we know it."

Although he said he favors a strong national defense, Tanner added he agrees with Evangelist Billy Graham who has called for a "Salt Ten" treaty because Salt One and Two did not go far enough.

Describing reaction to showing of the ABC-TV special, Tanner said regardless of the viewers' political views, Americans are scared and worried about nuclear war now more than ever. "But it would be 100 times worse than what we saw on television," he added.

"It's time for us (Christians) to get deadly serious about winning America to Christ," Tanner declared. "We don't have nearly as much time left to win the world as we think we do."

In addition to the use of nuclear weapons, Tanner discussed with the evangelism directors several other deep concerns which he said have an effect on Baptist evangelism efforts.

Speaking just two days before a Southern Baptist Convention committee met to discuss a proposal to seat convention messengers from Canada, Tanner said Southern Baptists have an obligation and opportunity to help reach Canada for Christ.

Canada, said Tanner, is more unchurched than eight of the nine nations behind the Iron Curtain. "We ought to be smart enough to devise a way to help our brothers and sisters in Canada," he said.

Tanner told the group there are 60 Baptist churches in Canada affiliated with the Northwest Baptist Convention, and four churches in Quebec, Canada, affiliated with the New England Baptist Convention.

The four churches in Montreal, which most Baptists don't even know exist, are French Haitian congregations, Tanner said. One recently bought a building which had been used as a bar and night club and converted it into a church. The church members are proud to be Southern Baptists and are full-fledged members of the Green Mountain Baptist Association and New England Baptist Convention, but cannot be seated at the Southern Baptist Convention next June in Kansas City, Tanner said.

Pointing out the largest Southern Baptist church in Boston where the meeting was held is a French Haitian congregation, Tanner said Southern Baptists must strengthen their work with ethnic and language groups if they are serious about winning America to Christ.

There are 3,800 language churches with 300,000 members worshipping in 78 languages in the SBC, but this is not enough, Tanner said. "We must do more."

Tanner emphasized also the need to reach the cities and to use more volunteers in home missions. Although 470,000 Baptists served as home mission volunteers in the last 15 years, Tanner said four million were needed to really get the job done.

To win America to Christ, Southern Baptists must have a caring heart, he declared. Too many Baptists "just don't care enough." He challenged the evangelism directors to renewed commitment to winning America to Christ before it is too late.

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Long-Delayed Work Begun
On New Indonesia Hospital

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TANJUNG KARANG, Indonesia (BP)--An Indonesian contractor has begun construction of a 50-bed Baptist hospital, after almost two years of delay to replace one sold to the Indonesian government in 1981.

Stakes have been driven into the ground to mark the location of the buildings, three shallow wells have been dug by hand to provide water for construction, and a service gate has been opened in an eight-foot-high wall which has cordoned off the site on the island of Sumatra since January 1982.

Southern Baptist missionaries Bobby and Jo Jones moved to the area in October from Jakarta. Jones will supervise construction until the hospital is complete, which is expected next fall. Though a field evangelist, Jones has used his understanding of construction in many Indonesian projects.

Upon arrival in Tanjung Karang, the Joneses unpacked crates of personal belongings that had been stored for nearly two years, while awaiting the move. Construction has been delayed while Indonesian Baptists waited for the government to tell them how long missionary doctors and nurses could stay in the country.

The health department ruled in 1979, all foreign medical personnel must be out of the country within five years. It was unclear, however, whether the five years dated from the time of the ruling or the time the personnel first arrived in Indonesia.

Despite the ruling, Baptists had hoped they would be given enough time for missionaries to teach nationals to effectively run the hospital. National Baptists have been negotiating with the government for a reasonable transition time and an interpretation of the ruling.

In mid-summer this year, Indonesian Baptists began to consider building the hospital despite the lack of government assurance and hired a contractor in October.

The new hospital will replace Immanuel Hospital at Bukittinggi, which opened in 1975 but was sold to the Indonesian government six years later. Southern Baptists still have two missionary doctors there. Baptists run the day-to-day operation of health care but there is a government administrator.

Missionary ties to Immanuel Hospital were to end March 31 of this year, but government officials have not pressed the issue since Baptists were waiting for so long to begin construction at the new site.

The government paid Baptists enough to replace Immanuel. Some Moslem leaders had opposed the Christian influence brought to the Bukittinggi area by Immanuel Hospital. The new hospital complex will sit on 10 acres outside Tanjung Karang, and plans include housing for doctors and employees as well as men's and women's dormitories.

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Missionary doctor, Oliver Gilliland, formerly at the other Indonesian Baptist hospital at Kediri, is in the United States awaiting a visa to Indonesia. Gilliland is to lead the new hospital ministry.

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Church Administration
Celebrates 25th Year

By Jim Lowry

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptists' program of church administration celebrated its 25th year here recently with a look at the past and the introduction of a Shared Ministry plan to challenge all Christians to reach toward the goals of Bold Mission Thrust.

In the three-day meeting, state convention church administration consultants heard board leaders talk about the condition and status of needs in the lives of Southern Baptists and some suggestions about striving to minister to those needs.

Throughout the sessions the need for ministering to ministers surfaced as a primary concern for the denomination.

Lloyd Elder, who will assume the presidency of the Baptist Sunday School Board on Feb. 1, 1984, shared some insights he has gained from listening to many Southern Baptists from around the country during his orientation period.

He said Southern Baptists still want ministers with a sense of calling, not ministers who view their ministry as a profession or simple vocation.

"I would hope that all together we could raise up a new generation of ministers with roots--ministers who know that Baptists stand for something right at the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ," Elder said.

"One goal we have is to link hands and heart with church training and Sunday school to teach the younger generation of ministers there is a reason for being a Baptist," he said.

Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen, in a call for church members to become ministers, said we need a distribution of the servants of Christ into society so you see ministers who are bookkeepers, storekeepers, secretaries, doctors and lawyers.

"We will never be able to staff all the churches we need with people who are paid \$15,000-\$40,000 plus benefits," Cothen said. "But, they can be staffed by people who will teach school and preach," or earn money in one profession and serve the church on a bivocational basis.

"Bivocational pastors don't have much value with many people," Cothen explained. "However, we need to start measuring the worth of people by the standards of Jesus Christ."

Joe Stacker, the third person to head the church administration department, explained the concept of Shared Ministry to the state representatives. He said every church member has equal responsibility for voting and participating in church activities, just as every member also has responsibility for the work of the church.

Stacker said Shared Ministry will be a church administration program emphasis for 1985-90 to inform, encourage and support the sharing of the ministry tasks of proclamation, care and leadership among pastor, staff and church members.

James L. Sullivan, president of the Sunday School Board for 22 years, spoke to the group in a closing session about his interpretation of polity in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Elder expressed the hope Southern Baptists can recapture the dream of the mission and purpose stood for by Jesus Christ, where growing Christians in a compassionate, redemptive kind of care, feel the wounds of fellow Christians.

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