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Events Indicate New Time
For Baptists In Indonesia

By Marty Croll

WAY HALIM, Indonesia (BP)—Recent occurrences in Indonesia have encouraged Southern Baptist missionaries about the future of their work in the country and offered hope for new beginnings.

In unrelated events this year, the Indonesian government rolled out the red carpet for a new Baptist hospital, and the Indonesian congress of Baptist churches took actions allowing missionaries to reassemble fragmented relationships with Baptist nationals.

Both developments laid the foundation from which missionaries could rebuild sinking morale to share in an increasingly potent Christian witness to the predominantly Muslim nation of 145 million.

The unprecedented government effort to win Immanuel Hospital a foothold in the community—something it never enjoyed at its original site—began when a cabinet member officially opened the facility at its new location in Way Halim, in the Tanjungkarang area at the southern tip of the island of Sumatra.

Health Minister Swardjono Suryaningrat unveiled the hospital's name stone and toured the grounds with an entourage of about 15 officials from Jakarta in late July. Days later the medical officer for Lampung Province accompanied the U.S. ambassador on a visit to the hospital.

The government focus on Immanuel is seen by missionaries as a much-needed stamp of approval for the hospital, which relocated in February because of mounting tensions in the Muslim-dominated central Sumatra city of Bukittinggi. The health minister's visit was one stop on a two-day itinerary in Lampung Province.

"This puts us on a status we haven't had anywhere else before," said Win Applewhite of Georgia, a missionary surgeon who oversaw construction both times Immanuel was built. In 1972 Applewhite left his spot as administrator of the Baptist hospital in Kediri, on the island of Java, to open the Bukittinggi hospital after the death of a missionary physician who began clinic work in the area.

Applewhite left Indonesia in mid-August for a final furlough before retiring early next summer. In departing he transferred leadership of Immanuel to its first Indonesian administrator, Bambang Sutisno. Sutisno, a physician, became a Christian while interning at the hospital about five years ago.

Applewhite believes the government's support of the new Immanuel Hospital results from a spirit growing out of talks between Baptists and Indonesian officials. In those talks the government agreed to pay Baptists more than enough to replace Immanuel at Bukittinggi with a new facility on about seven acres 500 miles away.

"Bukittinggi was a blessing to us. It had quite a profound effect and put this hospital where we are now, on this sort of footing," said Applewhite. "Because the government asked us to move, they felt responsible for getting this hospital established in Tanjungkarang."

More than 40 of the staff of 70 who worked at Bukittinggi moved to the 50-bed, \$2 million hospital. Facilities include an outpatient clinic, a surgery suite with three operating rooms, wards, administrative offices, housing and storage buildings, a nurses' dorm and morgue.

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Greeting the health minister at Immanuel were Indonesian Baptist leaders, including the hospital's board of directors; members of the foundation holding Baptist property in Indonesia, and the hospital staff. After the unveiling Suryaningrat toured the grounds.

Once during his tour Suryaningrat stopped, called a high official to his side and told him to send a team to Immanuel to study it, Applewhite said. "This should be a standard for all of our hospitals. I want you to...use it for a model to let other people live up to," Applewhite quoted Suryaningrat as saying.

Applewhite left Indonesia with a special work permit to ease access back in if he is needed. Co-workers have begun the process of securing someone to fill his role as a surgeon and hope to have the new doctor working within months if entry into the country goes smoothly.

Missionaries believe the potential for mission participation in the hospital looks bright, despite earlier fears that missionary medical people might be asked to leave the country. "It's not wide open, but we're rather optimistic about the possibilities," Applewhite said. Southern Baptist medical missionaries assigned to Immanuel include physicians Gene Ruble of Honaker, Va., (on furlough) and Oliver Gilliland of New Orleans, and lab technician Mariam Misner of Savannah, Mo.

Since spring, missionaries in Indonesia have sensed a new optimism about possibilities not only at the hospital, but in ministry throughout the nation. At a meeting in early March, Baptist national leaders at the Fourth Congress of the Union of the Indonesian Baptist Churches made decisions that have set in motion a reversal of binding tensions between missionaries and Indonesian Baptists.

"The outlook for all missionary personnel in Indonesia is much better than it was," Applewhite said. "Workings with the national body have changed completely."

One outcome emerging from the congress was a plan designed to help missionaries secure visas. Another internal change that will affect missionaries was a structural agreement that enhances cooperation among Baptists and missionaries in planning. In one significant action the congress elected a leader who supports cooperating with missionaries.

"The attitude, the working relationships, the actual facts of what's happening--our national brethren and missionaries are working together now," Applewhite said. "There are smiles where there was gloom."

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Texas Baptists Help
Australian Crusade

By Carole Shelton

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DALLAS (BP)--About 925 decisions for Christ were reported in a partnership crusade involving more than 400 Texas Baptist volunteers in Australia in August.

Also serving in the evangelistic partnership in 65 churches of Sydney, New South Wales, were Baptists from several other state conventions and Southern Baptist foreign missionaries from the Philippines.

"My heart is moved to hear of the literally hundreds of people coming to know Christ," said G. Norman Chambers, superintendent of home ministries and chief executive officer of the Baptist Union of New South Wales.

"New visions have come into focus, and pastors and churches have been encouraged," he added.

There are about 55,000 Baptists in some 700 churches in Australia, which equals the United States in land area and has about 15 million people, slightly less than Texas. A 1980 survey indicated less than 19 percent of Australians attend church weekly.

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In Sydney, Texans shared their faith at ladies meetings and men's breakfasts, in service club meetings, children's groups, public schools, home Bible studies and worship services, according to Bill Gray, coordinator of Partnership Missions for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Fred and Evelyn Johnson, members of a team from First Baptist Church, George West, Texas, said, "This has been one of the greatest times in our Christian experience--finding out how great it is to serve Christ in this way. The highlight of our week was sharing in the school with children. They were very attentive to what we had to share with them."

"The Texas-Australia partnership has been a time of welding together the bonds of friendship, comradeship and Christian love," said Gray.

Stewart McLatchie, pastor of Paramatta Church, Sydney, said, the church "ran out of chairs for the first time in three years...." Paramatta is constructing a new building.

Gilbert Kendrick, pastor of Live Oak Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, and team leader for the Texas team at Paramatta, recently went through a building program at his own church. He said the experience helped him to be a more effective minister at Paramatta church.

"Many ideas and blessings were shared, with many more to come," said Alan Grieve, pastor of Lawson Church, Sydney. Loved ones were prayed for and many who had never attended church or attended very rarely were in church during the crusade, said Alf Skognes of Highland Baptist Church, Denton, the Texas leader at Lawson.

A member of Minto Church, Sydney, said, "The Texas team taught us new words. We learned the meaning of revival. It was a week of crying and a time for wounds to be healed. We praise God for what he did in our church," she said.

Gray said, "Through the two partnerships thus far, the Lord has opened doors to still broader avenues of service and means of helping Australia Baptists multiply and strengthen Baptist work.

"We have been able to break down the pre-conceived ideas as to who we are and what we are have been able to join as brothers in Christ to extend the kingdom of God in Australia."

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(Shelton has been a summer intern with the Dallas bureau of Baptist Press. She is a student at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.)

Historic Village
Donated To Baylor

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9/9/85

WACO, Texas (BP)--A historic village which is on the site of the oldest permanent Anglo settlement in Texas has been donated to Baylor University by the Bill Daniel family of Liberty, Texas.

The village is on Daniels' ranch about 50 miles northeast of Houston. It will be moved to Baylor's Waco campus where it will become a public museum.

About 15 buildings from the village will become part of Baylor's Strecker Museum. The village will be named for the Daniels.

All the buildings are restored and contain as estimated 6,000 artifacts. Buildings include a town hall which also is used as a church, a two-story hotel, a one-room schoolhouse, a commissary (old general store and U.S. post office), a blacksmith shop and harness house, a saddlery which was a former slave quarters, a saloon, a barbershop, a livery stable and dance hall, a hide house, a cotton gin and log cotton house, a massive handhewn log barn and a frame planter's house.

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Relocation of the buildings will represent "the largest move of a single village in the history of the United States," according to Larry Reger, director of the American Association of Museums.

Baylor officials are planning for the village to become a "living museum" similar, although on a smaller scale, to Colonial Williamsburg, near Richmond, Va.

Estimated value is more than \$3 million, according to Charles Attal, president of the South Texas chapter of the American Society of Appraisers. In addition, the Daniels are giving Baylor a \$300,000 endowment to help maintain and operate the village and to employ a full-time curator.

Daniel, who was governor of the U.S. Territory of Guam in the early 1960s, is an attorney, rancher and oilman.

The settlement has been restored and maintained at a cost of more than \$2 million since Daniels and his wife acquired Plantation Ranch in the late 1940s.

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Singapore Mandarin Crusade
Nets 37 Christian Believers

Baptist Press
9/9/85

SINGAPORE (BP)—Thirty-seven Singaporeans decided to become Christians when, for the first time, Chinese-speaking Baptist churches in the city-state teamed up to hold evangelistic services in the Chinese dialect, Mandarin.

Young people who regularly attend English-speaking Baptist churches invited parents and friends to the Mandarin services. Many had never heard the story of Jesus Christ preached in their own language.

The crusade, at Grace Baptist Church, drew between 400 and 500 people each evening during the four-day effort in early August. They heard preaching by the principal of Singapore Bible College, Maak Hay Chun. Besides the 37 new Christians, 64 people said they wanted to learn more by studying the Bible on how to live the Christian faith.

Singapore Baptists have sponsored several crusades in recent years, but they have been conducted mainly in English with Chinese interpretation. More than three-fourths of the people who live on the southeast Asian island are Chinese, but increasing numbers are learning English in school and speak it at work. For this reason churches provide English ministries, but not all provide Chinese services.

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Ex-College President
Dies In Fort Worth

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9/9/85

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Guy H. Moore, 76, former president of William Jewell College, died Sept. 8 in a Fort Worth hospital.

Moore was president of the Missouri Baptist Convention-affiliated school in Liberty, Mo., from 1962 to 1968. Prior to heading the school, he had been pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth from 1947-62. Following his presidency, he was pastor of a church in Alexandria, Va., until retirement in 1976.

Following his retirement, he had been a part-time staff member at the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in community relations. He was a former chairman of the trustees of the RTVC.

He is survived by his wife, Myron O'Dell, three sons, a daughter, a sister and eight grandchildren.

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Honeycutt Cites Hope In Uncertain Future

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The uncertainty of the future offers reason for hope for Southern Baptists, Roy L. Honeycutt told about 1,600 persons attending the fall convocation ceremony at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Honeycutt, president of SBTS, told the overflow crowd the very uncertainty of the future "creates a catalyst for change for the good. The fact that the future is still uncertain gives hope."

Honeycutt said one cause of uncertainty within the denomination is a political movement "that for five years has broken the fellowship of this great convention."

He stressed his support for the SBC's Peace Committee as the best means of reconciliation now available, but reminded students and faculty that even the peace process involves uncertainty. "However much we may support it and pray for it, we do not know its agenda, its process or its outcome. Uncertainty inevitably characterizes its work, and we leave its results to the grace of God," he said.

Honeycutt also expressed concern about those within the denomination who would "abandon our Baptist heritage" and redirect the convention "according to a Falwellian model." He referred to Jerry Falwell, a leading fundamentalist pastor and founder of Moral Majority.

Honeycutt added: "Only divine omniscience can disclose whether and at what precise time Southern Baptists finally will reject the heresy of radical fundamentalism."

In the address, Honeycutt pledged to maintain diversity at Southern seminary and declared the SBC-affiliated institution will remain a place open to "everyone redeemed by Jesus Christ and called of God."

He called for the seminary community to pledge to abandon superficial stereotypes and labels such as "moderate, liberal or fundamentalist" and "simply call one another 'Christian.'"

Honeycutt described Southern seminary as an institution founded "to generate and maintain diversity" and contended: "Diversity is neither a weakness to be overcome nor a sin to be confessed."

He said Basil Manly Jr., one of the founding fathers of SBTS, argued for a central seminary on the basis it would encompass and enhance the diversity of the convention. Throughout the seminary's history, the institution "has not only survived but thrived during every period of ambiguity and uncertainty," Honeycutt said.

Ultimately, Honeycutt said, "We have excitement about an uncertain future because we still believe in the unshaken providence of God."

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