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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 6, 1985

85-57

Thais Lift Ban, Let Baptists
Ship Seed Rice To Cambodia

By Marty Croll

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP)—A ship carrying 1,100 tons of rice seed, paid for by Southern Baptists and intended to combat devastating hunger in war-ravaged Cambodia, docked at Kompong Som, Cambodia May 5.

The effort to helping the starving country has overcome numerous obstacles due to international relations between those governing Cambodia and other countries.

The Thai government broke a five-year export ban April 30 when it authorized the Southern Baptists to buy the seed from Thai farmers and ship it to Cambodia.

The Thai export license was the first one granted for strategic commodities to be sent to Cambodia since the Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin Regime came into power in Cambodia, according to newspapers in Bangkok, Thailand. The act was touted by those newspapers as a significant departure from government policy and a possible overture toward detente.

The license named the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the Thai Farmers Coop and the Thai Ministry of Agriculture and was signed by the Thai ministers of foreign affairs, customs, commerce and agriculture.

The action should be viewed as no less than a work of God and a testimony to the power of prayer, said Marvin Raley, the missionary doctor leading Southern Baptist efforts to relieve immediate hunger needs in Cambodia.

"Two long-standing relief groups in this area (southeast Asia) have recently been denied license," Raley said. "It puts this whole chain of events into the realm of the miraculous." Raley will be the first Southern Baptist foreign missionary to work in Cambodia.

The ship Sun Bright left the Bangkok harbor May 2, after a trade agent, a Christian hired by Southern Baptists, secured special permission from the government to work during the May 1 national holiday. Workers loaded 20,100 bags of the select variety of seed onto the ship from 30 trucks. After unloading in Kompong Som, Cambodia, the rice will be transferred to trucks and ox carts and sent into the countryside.

The seed should produce a harvest in September if Cambodians can get it planted before spring rains set in. The harvest could save the lives of up to a fourth of the young children in Prey Veng Province and pull several regions of Cambodia out of near starvation, said Raley. Cambodia's "rice bowl" has been wracked by famine resulting from years of war that destroyed farmland, work animals and much of a generation of male workers.

The seed was bought by Southern Baptists, with help from the relief agencies Oxfam America and World Concern. Raley, who began searching this winter for a way to secure it and arrange for its distribution, will await its arrival in Kompong Som.

The shipment also had to receive special approval from the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Treasury Department because of an American trade embargo against Cambodia.

Diplomatic tension between Cambodia and world powers has left the nation of more than six million with very little outside aid. Though United Nations officials have identified undercultivation in Cambodia as an emergency, Raley said, they have been unable to act against it because the Vietnamese-backed regime ruling the country is not recognized by the world body.

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Raley sought a way to help after he took a week-long survey trip into Cambodia in January. On that trip he was one of three members of a task force sponsored by the politically nonaligned, U.S.-based Indochina Project of the Center for International Policy. In Phnom Penh and the surrounding countryside he met with central and local government figures.

Raley inquired this winter among several Indochinese trading companies to find one that would deliver the seed, but he was unable to settle with any. Then, in response to a desperate letter from a Cambodian government minister, Oxfam asked Raley if he wanted to join forces.

In that effort Raley and Oxfam fruitlessly sought the seed in Bangladesh, Thailand and the Philippines and had all but given up by March. Then the Thaipore Trading Co., Singapore, offered to take on the project--locating the seed, negotiating with the governments involved and shipping it.

Rice supply within Cambodia determines the nation's economic health. Cambodians have harvested rice for several thousand years and have earned the reputation of being some of the most clever rice farmers in the world, Raley said. Cambodians eat rice at every meal, sometimes with a piece of fish about the size of the little finger. Many eat nothing but rice.

Though fighting in the last decade demolished the farming culture, Cambodians were making a remarkable comeback from 1979-81, Raley said. Then Indochina experienced unpredictable rains. Last year the rain came early and stopped early. August sun scorched the young rice seedlings before the crest of Mekong River floodwaters came. When the needed flooding did come it came with a fury that washed away what remained--including seed--and left thousands of people homeless.

In Prey Veng Province, situated along the Mekong River, one-fourth of the children under eight years old will die within the year if relief efforts fail to take root, Raley said. Nearly all of the children there are undernourished, he added.

Raley, of Texas, lived in Cambodia with his family from 1980-83 and worked as a pediatrician with World Vision International. He and his wife, Judy, of Kentucky, were appointed Southern Baptist foreign missionaries last fall.

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Reynolds Raps Film
Society, 'Fundamentalists'

By Toby Druin

Baptist Press
5/6/85

WACO, Texas (BP)--Baylor University President Herbert H. Reynolds has suspended a campus film society for violating university standards and at the same time criticized "a small but diligent group of fundamentalist students" whom he compared with the Russian secret police. The students, he said, "comprise a religious KGB" on the Baylor campus.

The film society, an independent student group with faculty advisers but which receives no university funding, was suspended for a year, until the spring semester of 1986, for an April 10 showing of the movie "If..."

Reynolds has asked the university's Communications Media Committee to study the society's charter and guidelines and recommend guidelines for its future existence.

The offending movie, reportedly seen by about 600 Baylor students in two showings, was produced in England in 1969 and is a study of three boys in an English public school who violently rebel against the school's strict disciplinary system. It originally had an X rating but has been cut for wider acceptance. The revised version was shown at Baylor.

In a prepared statement, Reynolds said the film, "which alternates in technique between fact and fantasy, involves a certain ridicule of the norms embraced by most of our constituency and is not in keeping with the standards of Baylor as a university committed to both revealed and discovered truth."

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Reynolds was unavailable for comment following the suspension but issued a statement regarding the film society "and related campus matters."

He said the film society and student leadership, who reportedly showed the film against the advice of faculty advisers, had not "acted in good faith with me or their sponsors" in the showing of the film.

But he also noted, "On our campus we have a small but diligent group of fundamentalist students who comprise a religious KGB. These students have made it their business to maintain surveillance over campus activities in and out of our classrooms and to faithfully report these to Fundamentalist leaders among Southern and Texas Baptists. I would have learned of the showing of the film...without the reporting of members of this group but their concern with the film fits into the larger fundamentalist strategy for Baylor and our denomination."

While he could not permit the "indiscretion" of the film society, Reynolds wrote in his statement, neither can he "permit the fundamentalist student faction to create apprehension and concern within our faculty and student atmosphere of freedom.

"We need healthy diversity within our student body but we do not need the arrogance and lack of discerning leadership which both these groups and their associates have displayed to the detriment of the entire campus community.

"Baylor must continue to strive to be both a center of Christian commitment and a center for enlightenment of the human mind," Reynolds said and cited Luke 11:39-41 with Jesus' reference to Pharisees who are outwardly clean but inwardly "full of ravening and wickedness."

Reynolds learned of the movie from a complaint by Brad Blake, a Baylor senior who last December was part of a group of students who presented a "Student Manifesto" to Reynolds, charging the university was becoming liberal and secular. One of their complaints was against the showing of movies they considered unsuitable for a Christian campus.

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(Toby Druin is associate editor of the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.)

Baptist Press
5/6/85

CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST EVANGELISTS
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dallas and First Baptist Church, Dallas
June 10-12, 1985

June 10, 1985
Monday Evening

10-11:30—Reception hosted by Home Mission Board Evangelism Department for all Southern Baptist Evangelists and state directors of evangelism, Cascade Rooms A and B, Hyatt Regency Hotel

June 11, 1985
Tuesday Morning

7:00-9:00—C.O.S.B.E. breakfast business session, Cascade Rooms A and B, Hyatt Regency

Tuesday Evening

10-11:30—Festival of Praise, featuring Southern Baptist music evangelists, Reunion Ball Rooms, A-C, Hyatt Regency. Wanda Jackson, Okla.; Steve Ivey, Ga.; Varnard Johnson, Texas; Tom Cox Family, Okla.; Leon Westerhouse, Ala.; R.O. Stone, Ga.; Patsy Bellington, Texas; Betty Mori, Texas; Pat Roper, S.C.; Yoyo Collins, Okla.; Mercer Shaw, Fla.; Connie and Allison Ware, Texas; Darrell and Ivy Jean Sky-Eagle, Texas; Jerry Swimmer, Miss.

Wednesday Aft noon

First Baptist Church, Dallas

1:00—Musical collage of praise: The Jim Bob Griffin Family, Rusk, Texas; Bruce Rice,

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Quincy, Ill.; John McKay, Fort Worth, Texas; Becky Hill, Wilkesboro, N.C.; Ron and Claudia Henderson, Albany, Ga.; Mary Ann Kirtley, Houston; Chuck Kennedy, Florrisant, Mo.; The Thr e of Us (Doris Fuqua, Linda Poetschke, Pam Murry), Baytown, Texas; Sonny Rios, Dallas; Ginger Haller, Jacksonvill , Fla.; Jerry Wayne Bernard, Houston; Rick Loy, Grand Prairie, Texas

- 2:00—Congregational praise, Jackson Cox, C.O.S.B.E. music director, Milledgeville, Ga.
 2:05—Prayer and welcome, Mike Gilchrist, C.O.S.B.E. president, Shreveport, La.
 2:10—Special music, R.L. and Beth Sigrest, Yazoo City, Miss.
 2:15—Proclaiming the Word, Robert Hamblin, vice-president for evangeliam, Home Mission Board, Atlanta
 2:45—Presentation of new officers
 2:50—Special recognition of evangelists Manley Beasley and Freddie Gage, both of Eules, Texas
 2:55—Special music, Russell Newport, Springfield, Mo.
 3:00—Proclaiming the Word, Bill Stafford, evangelists, Chattanooga, Tenn.
 3:30—Congregational praise, offering
 3:45—Greetings from SBC President Charles Stanley, pastor First Baptist Church, Atlanta
 3:50—Special music, Dick Barrett, Breman, Ga.
 4:00—Proclaiming the Word, Jerry Vines, co-pastor First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
 4:30—Benediction, new C.O.S.B.E. president

Wednesday Evening

10-11:30—Festival of Praise, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Reunion Ball Rooms, A-C: Lois Jan , Huddleston, Tenn.; Jim McNeil, Mo.; John McKay, Texas; Sonny Rios, Texas; Buddy Keim, Okla.; Patty Worters, N.M.; The Jim Bob Griffin Family, Texas; Jimmy Hodges, Okla.; Steve Taylor, S.C.; Kay Bond, Ohio; Tommy and Diane Winders, Miss.; Ellen Roweton, Mo.; The Jim Richards Family; Jerry Wayne Bernard, Texas; John Montgomery, Fla.

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Southern Baptist Evangelists
 Set 1985 Meeting, Program

Baptist Pr ss
 5/6/85

DALLAS (EP)—Different aspects of the work of Southern Baptist evangelists will be represented by the three featured speakers at the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, Jun 10-12 in Dallas.

The meeting, held in conjunction with the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, will hold its primary meeting at First Baptist Church in Dallas, June 12. The business session and three fellowship functions will be at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dallas.

Robert Hamblin, vice-president for evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Bill Stafford, an evangelist from Chattanooga, Tenn., and Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., will preach to the gathering.

Also Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, will deliver greetings to the evangelists as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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The Home Mission Board will host a reception for all Southern Baptist evangelists and state directors of evangelism 10-11:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Then Tuesday and Wednesday nights, after the SBC sessions have adjourned, the C.O.S.B.E. will host a Festival of Praise featuring 15 individuals or groups each night who are music evangelists from 10-11:30. The public is invited.

The annual meeting, according to Mike Gilchrist of Shreveport, La., president fulfills several of the purposes of C.O.S.B.E. such as "providing deep spiritual fellowship among Southern Baptist evangelists, providing greater visibility for Biblical evangelism, and providing evangelistic inspiration and information to messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention meeting."

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Major Cable TV Company
Signs Agreement With ACTS

Baptist Press
5/6/85

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--One of the largest cable TV corporations in the world has signed an agreement to carry the ACTS network on some of its local systems in the United States.

Rogers Cablesystems, based in Toronto, owns cable TV systems primarily in Canada and the United States and serves more than two million homes. The agreement with ACTS permits any Rogers system in the United States to carry the Baptist-sponsored network.

Initially, the contract will place ACTS on cable TV systems in Yuma, Ariz., and El Centro, Calif. But Lloyd Hart, national cable affiliate manager for ACTS, said others will likely be added in the near future. "Rogers has a number of systems in key metropolitan centers that are important to us," he said.

ACTS has signed on more than 175 local cable TV systems to carry its family and Christian entertainment programs, which are delivered by satellite 24 hours a day. Operated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, the network can be seen in almost three million homes nationwide.

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