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November 11, 1988

88-181

Big 'Living Water' project  
helps Brazil drought victims

By Eric Miller

BOQUEIRAO DOS COCHOS, Brazil (BP)--The mayor cried each time he attended the funeral of a child from his town who had starved to death. But he could do little.

A deadly drought had settled in northeastern Brazil.

Djaci Farias Brasileiro is a doctor as well as the mayor of Boqueirao dos Cochos, a community of farmers. Before the drought, local people farmed during the four months of rain each year. When the drought came, few crops grew and families had little food or money.

A federal tanker truck brought water each week and drew long lines of thirsty people. The few who had money bought staples from a mobile store that also came once a week.

This was the situation when Southern Baptist missionaries found the people suffering through a five-year drought in the early 1980s. The missionaries and Brazilian Baptists came to their rescue with a \$3 million hunger-relief effort known as the Living Water Project.

The project is one of the largest hunger-relief efforts ever undertaken by Southern Baptists. It encompasses 14 counties in Brazil, three Baptist outreach centers, dentists, nurses, a doctor, three factories, urban water systems, irrigation systems, a model farm, school gardens, agricultural technicians and radio broadcasts. Numerous Brazilian Baptist home missionaries and Southern Baptist missionaries have played major roles.

Overall funding of the five-year project is scheduled to end in January. But parts of the work, such as irrigation, may get continued funding from Southern Baptists. Revenue from the project's factories will support the outreach centers. Funds and assistance also have come from Brazilian Baptist churches, their National Mission Board and the Brazilian government.

Breaking the hunger cycle has been the main purpose of this effort, says Southern Baptist missionary Ed Trott, who is about to retire after completing his work as project director. It also is improving the economy of an area populated by 150,000 people and changing many of their lives spiritually.

Brick and furniture factories and a model farm have put people to work. Agricultural technicians have improved farming methods and led Bible studies. Nurses and a doctor are reducing infant mortality. People are taking courses in sewing, cooking, typing and crafts. The gospel is penetrating remote areas, and churches are starting, missionaries report.

"Things are different now," says Trott, who is from Vinita, Okla. Before the project came, some families in the area settled disputes with guns. A murder per day occurred in the project headquarters of Itaporanga, a town of 10,000 people. The last murder was six months ago.

"I think the gospel has its influence on the way people act," Trott says. "A chief of police told me, 'I just can't believe what's happened here.'"

The irrigation systems pump water from an artificial lake, built by the Brazilian government, to dozens of farms near Mayor Brasileiro's town, keeping fields green with crops year-round in the drought-prone part of Brazil. Project workers have improved farming methods and boosted yields. They plan to start a guava-processing factory in Boqueirao dos Cochos.

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"People say that the gifts that came from the Baptists would fall from the heavens to the city," the mayor says. "The gifts were so good that they never expected anything like this from any people here on earth -- that people were not able to do such things, only God."

Only one town in the 14-county region had a permanent water system before the project began. Now all do. More than 60 farms are irrigated. Farmers pool their money to form irrigation associations and maintain equipment.

Others living outside of towns are thankful for the project, too. Joventino Angelo Cavalcante, 48, and his wife, Ana, live in the mountains by a dirt road in a house made of sticks and mud. They have 12 children.

"We had a very difficult time from 1983 to 1986," says Cavalcante, a farmer who never attended school. Before the project, his family lived off of beans, rice and corn.

Cavalcante's neighbor, Terezinha Silva, says welfare funds once were her family's only income: "We almost starved. We would sell a little rice and corn and just barely get by."

Project agricultural technicians showed their rural community how to irrigate and grow 14 vegetables. Thousands of students are eating better and learning nutrition. Project workers enlisted schools to plant gardens to put extra vegetables on school lunch plates.

Missionaries say starting the project in an area with a longstanding Catholic heritage, where people prayed to a dead Catholic priest, was difficult. "The people were very prejudiced against evangelicals," Trott recalls. A group tried to oust a Brazilian Baptist missionary from Itaporanga in the early 1980s.

Some Catholics called the Baptists "goats," adds missionary Bruce Oliver. One priest publicly opposed the project and warned people not to "sell your souls" to "those communists." The priest asked government officials not to cooperate with project workers.

But soon people saw the project's benefits and told the missionaries, "Please forgive our priest." He later left town. Recently another priest praised the project and invited a colleague to see it.

Before the project started, only one Baptist church and two small mission congregations existed in the area. Now churches and missions exist in nine cities and smaller "preaching points" are in nine rural areas.

A key church planter in the project is Brazilian Baptist home missionary Cireno Refosco. Visiting congregations and preaching, he drives 3,000 miles some months, mostly on dirt roads.

Refosco hands out tracts and preaches the gospel to everyone he meets. He has led 300 people to faith in Christ and baptized 165 during the three years since he joined the project. A seminary graduate, he trains lay preachers. He even does construction, painting and wiring of new churches, sometimes working from dawn until midnight.

His wife, pediatrician Regina Refosco, treats between 30 and 40 patients one day per week at the Baptist Outreach Center in Itaporanga. She also gives tracts to patients and says, "God has a plan for your life."

The Baptist centers provide not only healing for the sick but training for Christian workers. Maria Miguel, 20, is taking seminary extension courses taught by missionary Margaret Oliver of Bay City, Texas. "The harvest is so great," Miguel says, "and the laborers are few. I need to prepare to do God's work."

Other services of the Baptist centers include food distribution, home repairs, dental work for the poor, classes, Bible studies and social work. One slum resident sews clothes for her eight children using machines at the center.

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Suyene Carvalho, director of the Baptist center in Conceicao, works with people who live in slum houses where pigs roam freely inside. Their families eat on the floor, and unclothed children get parasitic worms while their physical and mental development suffers from poor nutrition. The families have been exploited as laborers and receive little pay, she says.

"This town needs to come to believe that love still exists," Carvalho said. "We Baptists give with one hand, but we don't come to take back something with the other. We support with the other hand."

Many of the people in 14 forgotten counties of northeastern Brazil know that now.

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

Colorado Baptists cut  
5 staff positions, CP

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press  
11/11/88

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (BP)--Colorado Southern Baptists trimmed their budget by cutting five staff positions during their annual meeting Nov. 1-3 in Grand Junction.

They also voted to shrink their financial burden by reducing both the money they give to worldwide Southern Baptist causes and the amount they put into employees' retirement accounts.

In an unprecedented move, they allowed the state Woman's Missionary Union -- whose director was one of the eliminated staff members -- to move from department- to auxiliary-status. As a department of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, WMU is supported in the convention budget; as an auxiliary, it will raise its own funds.

Messengers to the meeting approved a 1989 convention budget of \$2,335,081. It will be \$71,956 -- or 2.99 percent -- smaller than the 1988 budget.

They cut the amount they expect to contribute to their own budget even further. Receipts from Colorado churches are expected to be \$1,105,149. That is a drop of \$98,514 -- or 8.18 percent -- from the current budget. Most of the balance of the budget is to be provided by the Southern Baptist Home Mission and Sunday School boards.

Both the total budget and the amount expected from churches dropped to a six-year low. However, Colorado Baptists had no choice but to cut their budget, said convention Executive Director Charles Sharp.

The convention's business plan dictates that a budget's expected receipts from churches cannot be more than the amount the churches gave during the final six months of the previous year and the first six months of the current year, Sharp said. The ceiling for the new budget is about \$1.2 million, he added.

Colorado's bleak financial landscape has caused most of the convention's financial woes, he reported: "We've got a declining economy in Colorado. Over 1,200 jobs have been eliminated in Denver in the last six months."

Other factors have been Colorado Baptist churches' participation in a newly expanded annuity plan for ministers, which calls for matching funds from the convention; administrative "legal expenses"; and the expense of clearing up some regulatory matters involved with water wells at the convention's conference center, Sharp added.

But financial woes are not new to Colorado Baptists. A 1986 audit revealed the Colorado Baptist Foundation lost \$1.2 million between 1981 and 1985, due to poor "over-the-counter" investments. In 1987, designated funds intended to repay debts mistakenly were placed into an account that paid regular convention expenses.

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During 1985 and 1986, the convention borrowed \$900,000 from the Home Mission Board to help repay investors for their losses in the foundation ordeal. In 1985, the convention laid off five campus ministers and the editor of the state newspaper and for six months reduced giving to Southern Baptist causes outside the state to 10 percent of receipts.

The convention also has refinanced its Denver office building, suspended and then reinstated publication of its newspaper, and appealed to convention leaders, clergy and WMU members to increase their gifts to the convention by \$5 per month. Last year, it borrowed \$71,000 from the foundation to meet operating expenses.

The new budget is tight in part because it includes money to repay the \$71,000 loan from the foundation, Sharp said.

Part of that repayment will be made with funds that otherwise would have left the state to support worldwide Baptist causes. Messengers approved a one-year reduction in Colorado's contribution to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget, dropping from 29.5 percent of contributions to 25 percent. If the budget is met, Colorado Baptists will provide \$276,287 to the national convention's budget.

Money also will be saved by reducing contributions to convention employees' retirement funds from 10 percent to 8 percent of their salaries.

And savings from reduced personnel come from "two director-level staff positions and three support staff positions," which will be eliminated Jan. 1, Sharp reported. Sydney Portis, the WMU director for 18 years, and Bob Worley, director of church training, church music and campus ministry since mid-1986, were honored with plaques at the convention. The support positions are a secretary, printer/custodian and word processor.

"We will save close to \$70,000 of our money" with the personnel changes, Sharp said. "We get matching support (from the Home Mission and Sunday School boards) for the two director-level positions, but the three support personnel were all paid at our expense."

Plans for conducting the work of the five employees remains vague, he added: "We discussed contingencies in our (post-convention) executive board meeting. We will be doing studies as we go along. We will be picking up various positions, but no promises were made."

Colorado WMU leaders took the initiative in maintaining missions education, action and support programs for women, girls and preschool children by presenting the proposal to move to auxiliary status. Theirs is the first state WMU organization to move from department- to auxiliary-status.

"We're talking about a miracle," Portis told Baptist Press. "The Lord has led in this in a miraculous way. ... We received more affirmation -- from men and women alike -- than WMU in Colorado has ever received."

Colorado WMU President Linda Clark of Denver will be interim director beginning Jan. 1, Portis said. State WMU leaders will begin formulating an implementation plan in early December and hope to make a final recommendation to a called state WMU meeting in late March, she added.

The WMU has pledged that it "will not make direct appeals to the churches for funding, as the major function of the state WMU is to assist churches and associations in their missions endeavor, continuing as they have in the past."

And the state WMU most likely will continue to receive its supplement from the Home Mission Board, said HMB President Larry Lewis: "I haven't had the opportunity to talk with our people yet, ... but my opinion is that being on auxiliary status would not affect the funds we already have allocated to Colorado WMU. The question is whether we could make up the difference that has been provided by the Colorado convention."

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The Home Mission Board has provided \$22,000 per year for Colorado WMU for the two-year period to end in early 1989. Colorado Baptists have provided the balance, slightly more than \$12,000, plus the director's retirement, Social Security and travel. The Colorado convention has offered the WMU auxiliary office space, plus \$4,000 per year for supplies, telephone, etc.

The future is uncertain, both for Colorado WMU and Portis, "but we feel like we're part of something new and creative," she said. "It's something the Lord can use to bless our convention."

Worley could not be reached for comment, but he reportedly has interviewed with at least one Southern Baptist agency.

In other business, Colorado Baptists passed 12 resolutions, all with no discussion. Resolutions opposed homosexuality as a lifestyle; the movie, "The Last Temptation of Christ"; use and sale of beverage alcohol; legalization of illicit drugs; abortion, except "when the mother's health would be in jeopardy"; school-based medical clinics that deal with birth control; and pornography. Another resolution on AIDS noted the disease is almost epidemic, urged love for its victims and research for its cure, and condemned its spread through homosexual contact. Still another resolution urged Colorado Baptists to joint a coalition to oppose a group that is attempting to remove tax exemption for churches in the state.

Messengers elected Roy Spannagle, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Pueblo, to a second term as convention president. Other officers are Louis Atkinson, pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, first vice president; Joe Willis, pastor of Pikes Peak Park Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, second vice president; Theadus Duke, a secretary in the state convention offices, recording secretary; and June Pharr, a homemaker from Colorado Springs, assistant recording secretary.

At the outset of the meeting, messengers from three churches were challenged "due to their lack of support in giving to the Cooperative Program," Sharp reported. But messengers voted in favor of seating members from South Wadsworth Baptist Church in Denver, First Southern Baptist Church in Rifle and Calvary Baptist Church in Brighton.

The 1989 Colorado Baptist annual meeting will be held Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at Riverside Baptist Church in Denver.

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Alumni turn aside  
'Better Baylor' call

By Toby Druin

Baptist Press  
11/11/88

WACO, Texas (BP)--More than 600 Baylor University alumni turned aside any challenge to the leadership of their alumni association and the editorial policy of its publication, The Baylor Line, in their annual meeting in Waco, Texas, Nov. 4.

The largest crowd to attend an alumni association meeting in memory almost unanimously elected a slate of officers recommended by a nominating committee.

The nominating committee's slate was approved despite advanced notification of opposition. For the last several months, a group identified as "United for a Better Baylor" has advertised for people opposed to the current editorial policy of the Line to attend the meeting of the alumni association, pay their dues and replace the association officers.

Elected were President-elect Randy Fields of San Antonio, Texas; Vice President Ray Burchette of Austin, Texas; and Secretary Frances Porter of Waco. Jack Dillard of Houston is the incoming president, succeeding Charles Thompson.

Fields had helped organize and presided over a meeting prior to the Texas Baptist convention in Austin Oct. 24, to answer critics of the university and President Herb Reynolds.

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The officers' election without opposition followed an address by Baylor trustee Chairman Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas. He compared the last 10 years in the Southern Baptist Convention to the Frank Norris era of the 1920s and urged defenders of Baylor to speak out for the university and defend it against its "Fundamentalist critics."

If any of those critics were present for the alumni association meeting, they kept a low profile. Reynolds, who had been criticized by United for a Better Baylor, was given a standing ovation when he was introduced at the outset of the meeting. Moore's address was interrupted by several ovations, as was a resolution passed by 17 former alumni association presidents endorsing the current policies.

The only note of opposition was raised by Hal Boone, a Baylor trustee from Houston, who spoke at the close of the meeting to challenge Moore's comparison of the last decade in the SBC to the Norris era and to say he does not know what a "Fundamentalist" is in today's terminology.

The alumni association meeting followed a meeting of trustees, who learned that Carl and Thelma Casey of Dallas will give \$5 million to the university for renovation of Baylor Stadium. An additional \$3 million necessary to complete the project will be sought by the university in 1989. The stadium will be renamed Floyd Casey Stadium in honor of Casey's father.

Trustees re-elected Moore to another term as chairman. Other officers are Paul Powell of Tyler, Texas, vice chairman; and John Sanders of Houston, secretary.

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Baptists say Bush  
must heal economy

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press  
11/11/88

NASHVILLE (BP)--Healing the ailing national economy must be the top priority for President-elect George Bush, Baptist leaders said after Bush's election Nov. 8.

The leaders said Bush, who will become the 41st president of the United States Jan. 20, 1989, also must give attention to national defense and to improved relationships with the Soviet Union. Some noted Bush also must wrestle with the problems of the homeless, the poor, the elderly, the disenfranchised.

"Without a doubt, I think the major issue is the economy. He is going to have to deal with the economy," said James T. Draper Jr., former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas.

Draper and other Baptist leaders were interviewed after Republican Bush defeated Democrat Michael Dukakis for president, but voters gave Democrats control of Congress.

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said it seems the "majority of the American people prefer to have the executive branch in one party and the legislative in another. The reason is that most Americans don't have much use for government and don't trust it. It is a way of neutralizing government."

Some observers say Bush has a nearly impossible task of working with Congress, where Democrats have a 262-173 House majority and a 55-45 edge in the Senate.

Draper, who campaigned for fellow Baptist Pat Robertson for the Republican nomination, said Bush will be "to the left of Reagan" and "was elected with no mandate. There was no clear issue he ran on. He got a bigger majority than Reagan did in 1980, but he has no real mandate."

The 1988 political season featured the most confrontational campaigning in several years, leaving one Baptist to note, "The most immediate thing Mr. Bush needs to do is to heal the wounds that have been created because of this campaign."

Marvin Griffin, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church of Austin, Texas, aligned with both the SBC and the National Baptist Convention of America, said: "This has probably been the dirtiest campaign I have seen in my lifetime. I hope the kind of viciousness he (Bush) exemplified in his campaign will not be forthcoming in his administration. He must seek to be compassionate and to show this compassion in dealing with the poor and those on the margin of American society."

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If Bush is to live up to his promise to have a "kinder and gentler nation," Griffin added, "he will have to be kinder and gentler himself and not engage in a partisan fight with Congress."

Land disagreed that Bush conducted negative campaigning. "I think there are a lot of blind spots in that criticism," he said, adding, however, that he is concerned with the "level of debate in our country. I think we need to consciously try to return civility to public favor. We can disagree without being vicious and ugly," he said.

Jerry Vines, current SBC president and pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., said Bush "must be able to develop a bipartisan consensus in Congress in order to bring to fruition legislation which will address vital concerns of this country."

The top priorities are "the economy and control of the (national) budget, and maintaining a strong defense while not squandering dollars in military matters," Vines said.

Robert Tiller, director of governmental affairs for American Baptist Churches in the USA, thinks the major priority for Bush will be "coming to grips with the huge budget deficit and figuring out how he is going to meet all of the claims and demands for federal money while adhering to his pledge of no new taxes."

Tiller, of Washington, urged Bush to "give priority attention to the inequities between the rich and the poor, the despoliation of God's world, the continuing threats to peace caused by the arms race. I hope these are high priorities on his agenda."

Land believes the top priority "is the national defense. Without adequate defense, everything else becomes irrelevant in the exceedingly dangerous world in which we live."

A strong national defense will afford Bush "some extraordinary opportunities to make real progress with the Russians, he added.

Land said the president "should continue to put the power and prestige of his office behind the crusade to end the slaughter of unborn children," and use the "'bully pulpit' to alert and inform the American people about the unprecedented crisis ... concerning AIDS."

Draper commented: "I think he is going to have to deal with social concerns; no thinking Christian can ignore the needs of the poor, the elderly and the disenfranchised. He must strike a balance between those who want a welfare state and those who want responsible government."

Paul Pressler of Houston, a Texas appeals court judge who recently switched from the Democratic to the Republican party, said strength should be Bush's priority. "We should be strong militarily to resist those forces that are without that would seek to do harm to freedom throughout the world. We must be strong internally -- both economically and morally -- so that we can resist those economic and moral forces which would destroy us from within."

Pressler, who said he and his wife, Nancy, have been "friends for 30 years" with George and Barbara Bush, added he "knows the type of person he is. I am fully confident he will continue the program that has been so excellently set forth by President Reagan."

Robert Dugan, director of the office of public affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals, urged Bush "not to forget any of the three rails his campaign moved ahead on. Peace and prosperity are two of the rails, but the third rail -- the rail with power in it -- is that of traditional values.

"President Reagan, in his first term, put the economic issues on the front burner and had no time to give attention to the values issues. I do not want to see Mr. Bush make the same mistake; he must move ahead on all three."

Dugan is a former Conservative Baptist pastor and leader who now is a member of a congregation affiliated with the SBC.

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James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a coalition of nine Baptist groups in the United States and Canada, said the "top priority of the president involves the assurance of a sound and secure America. That involves three basic things: a sound economy, a secure defense and liberty and justice for all, without which the first two would be impossible and meaningless."

Dunn said "liberty and justice for all means economic justice as well as legislative and judicial justice ... religious liberty as well as freedom from external threats."

He said he welcomes Bush's assertion he wants a "kinder and gentler nation. We welcome it, but we must interpret it and we must help him remember his commitment."

C.J. Malloy Jr., general secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, said: "I believe Mr. Bush has a lot of favorable qualities. I am going to keep him in my prayers."

Vines said: "I believe Christians have a responsibility to pray for and to support their president and to be a Christian witness to his administration."

"When we feel that what he does is in keeping with the principles of the word of God, we have to praise him for it; but when his policies or programs are contrary to the word of God, we need to call it to his attention as well, but in a loving way."

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Baptist workers, supplies  
going soon to Jamaica

By Eric Miller

Baptist Press  
11/11/88

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Hurricane-stricken Jamaica soon will get help from Southern Baptist construction workers and 140 tons of building material to help restore wind-wrecked churches.

Lumber and metal roofing are scheduled to be shipped from Miami Nov. 25 and arrive in Jamaica three days later. A 10-man crew is to fly to Jamaica Nov. 26 to distribute materials among Baptist churches and start re-roofing work, said Boyd O'Neal of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Additional Southern Baptist volunteer teams will head to the Caribbean island during December and January to start restoring 180 of the 270 Baptist churches and 21 of the 60 parsonages damaged by Hurricane Gilbert, O'Neal said.

Two obstacles had to be overcome before materials could go to Jamaica, said John Cheyne, director of the Foreign Mission Board's human needs department.

First, Jamaican Baptist leaders had to obtain a Jamaican government waiver of a 44-percent duty tax normally applied on building materials entering Jamaica. Then the lumber had to be special-ordered from a U.S. company because 16-foot lengths are needed rather than 8-foot. An uncommon gauge of zinc roofing also had to be found.

"The little bit of delay we've had will be more than made up for by the cost and efficiency factor," Cheyne said, noting that 8-foot boards would have to be spliced together to fit Jamaican church roofs.

John Baxley, Florida Baptists' disaster relief coordinator, and Bob Bishop of Florida Baptist Men, a builder, are coordinating relief efforts in Jamaica. So far, Bishop has calculated restoration needs for 48 buildings, O'Neal said, adding, "We'll be working on over 100 buildings before it's over."

Jamaicans already have received half of the 50 tons of beans and 23 tons of rice and dried milk being donated by Southern Baptists. Another shipment was to leave Miami Nov. 11.

Rather than sending food, Cheyne suggests Southern Baptists send money to the Foreign Mission Board's World Relief Fund, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va., 23230.

"Canned goods right now would be most impractical because we're shipping bulk commodities of rice and beans," Cheyne explained. "These are going to be much easier to handle and distribute."

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Southern Baptists also hope to aid areas of eastern Nicaragua battered by Hurricane Joan. Nicaraguan Baptists are expected to request \$50,000 in hunger relief funds to aid churches and communities in the devastated coastal city of Bluefields and on nearby Corn Island. Some areas were reported to have been under as much as 20 feet of water.

The Florida Baptist Men organization also is ready to travel to Nicaragua to assist relief efforts, officials said.

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Korean Baptist Convention  
prepares for '90 BWA Congress

By Jim Burton

Baptist Press  
11/11/88

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--When Kwan Suk Oh, pastor of the 7,000-member Central Baptist Church in Seoul, South Korea, learned that his country would host the recent Summer Olympics, he got an idea.

"If Korea can host the physical Olympics, why can't it host a spiritual Olympics?" Oh questioned.

Oh, pastor of Korea's largest Baptist church and president of the Korean Baptist Convention's foreign mission board, organized an invitation committee that landed Seoul the 16th Baptist World Congress, Aug. 14-19, 1990. Sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance, the theme is "Together in Christ."

It is a task of olympic proportions, as the Korean Baptist Convention prepares for the visit of Baptists from every continent. Many of the Olympic facilities will be used, Oh said.

Plans call for 10,000 converts to be baptized in the Olympic swimming pool where U.S. swimmer Matt Biondi earned seven medals. And the 100,000-seat Olympic stadium has been reserved. Evangelist Billy Graham is scheduled to deliver the final message of the congress there.

An estimated 5,000-10,000 interpreters will be needed during the congress to communicate in most of the world's languages.

Many Korean churches have agreed to learn one major language -- Chinese, Spanish, Russian, English or French -- so that members from that church can serve as a pool of interpreters available for communication and transportation.

Oh, preaching at Korean Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., said Korea's Baptists want to establish themselves among world Baptists as leaders in evangelism. And they want to learn from other Baptists.

"We want Korean Baptists to meet and host Baptists from Third World countries to learn of their needs," said Oh.

Non-Baptist Korean organizations have sent 3,000 missionaries to other countries, he said, noting Korean Baptist have sent only seven.

The congress will be a platform for the Korean Baptist Convention to become a sending convention rather than a receiving convention, he added, predicting, "There will be an explosion of Korean Baptist missionaries going throughout the world."

Oh hopes thousands of Southern Baptists will attend the congress.

"Because the Korean Baptist Convention was started initially by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, we would like for Southern Baptists to see their material, physical and spiritual investment," he said. "Though the secular news media says Korea is anti-American, we want to show Southern Baptists how much we appreciate them."

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(BP) photo available from Brotherhood Commission.