

NAE makes evacuation plans for hospital in Vietnam

MINNEAPOLIS—A Richfield pastor was a member of a three-man delegation that went to South Vietnam to work on plans to evacuate personnel at a church-sponsored hospital in the event of a North Vietnamese takeover.

The 100-bed children's hospital at Danang was given to the World Relief Commission of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) five years ago by the U.S. Marines, according to Peter Unruh, pastor of Wooddale Baptist Church

and a member of the delegation.

There are about 15 Americans working on the hospital staff who will be evacuated if Danang falls to the North Vietnamese, Mr. Unruh said.

He said the hospital is "outstanding." It serves North Vietnamese and Viet Cong as well as South Vietnamese.

Danang, which is about 400 miles north of Saigon, is almost completely isolated now.

Mr. Unruh said there seems to be a spiritual movement in South Vietnam.

23 added in 1974

BIBLE NOW PUBLISHED IN 1,549 LANGUAGES

NEW YORK—Books of the Bible have been published in 1,549 languages, according to the American Bible Society's latest Scripture language count. Twenty-three new languages were added in 1974.

The new figure represents the total number of languages and dialects in which at least one book of the Bible has been published since the invention of printing.

The Bible Society's publication of a complete New Testament in Yapese brings that South Pacific language to the list for the first time. The 22 other new entries represent publication of individual Biblical books in languages ranging from Abua, spoken in Nigeria, to the Tsumkwe dialect of the !xu (kung) language of southwest Africa.

The complete Bible is published in 257 languages, the New Testament in 368 more,

and one or more individual books in an additional 924.

The report also lists many new publications in languages previously counted.

Illegitimate birth rate in U.S. down but...

WASHINGTON, D.C.—For the third year in a row, the rate of illegitimate births is down, with a greater decline registered among blacks than among whites, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

However, that is only part of the story. Although the rate (measured by the number of births per 1,000 unmarried women) declined, the actual number of illegitimate births increased about 1 percent in 1973, the most recent year for which there are records. The total was 473,300.

Religious book sales boom

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.—A survey by the Christian Booksellers Association of 150 stores indicated that the industry was up in average gross sales 14.2 percent over 1973.

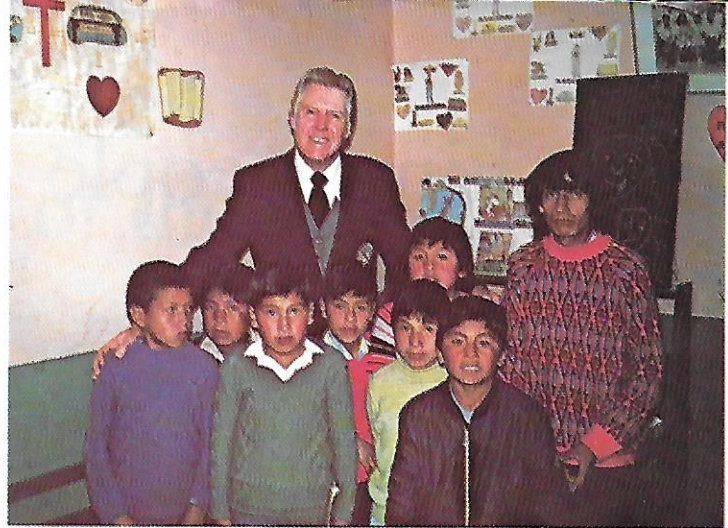
The increased sales, according to the CBA executive vice-president, John T. Bass, indicate that when uncertain conditions exist in the world, people turn to spiritual matters.

He also attributed the growth to new writers in the field.

Psychological association hits discrimination against homosexuals

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Following the earlier lead of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association's board of directors has voted to oppose discrimination against homosexuals.

It also voted to support the recent action by the American Psychiatric Association which removed homosexuality from that organization's official list of mental disorders.



National commander visits Bolivian Royal Rangers

LA PAZ—Johnnie Barnes, national commander of the Royal Rangers, visited Royal Rangers groups in this Bolivian city last fall. "Several groups have been organized in Bolivia," he states, "with five groups now organized in La Paz alone." Brother Barnes is seen with one of the Royal Rangers groups. While in South America, he also visited groups in Quito, Ecuador, and presented the Royal Rangers program in several churches.

FEBC station nears completion in Philippines

LUZON—The Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) plans to complete its 250,000-watt AM radio station here this month.

According to Robert H. Bowman, president of FEBC, the powerful transmitter will beam the Bible message to millions of people in mainland China and Southeast Asia.

The project has been named "Open Door to China Phase II." Phase I of the operation was completed in June 1974 and has been broadcasting the gospel in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, and English from station HLDA on Cheju Island, South Korea.

The new station (DWRF) will have a direct overwater

path across the South China Sea to south China and Southeast Asia.

"Station HLDA with DWRF will further open the door for a gospel ministry to all of east China, where the vast majority of China's teeming population is located," stated Bowman. "Closed to foreign missionary endeavor and local church evangelism, Chinese will have the opportunity to hear radio programs offering peace in Christ."

The 250,000-watt transmitter is five times larger than the largest AM station in the U.S.

U.S. smoking, drinking hit by Episcopalians

PERRYSBURG, OHIO—Americans smoke and drink too much and should cut back as a way to increase the world food supply, the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio declared here.

Delegates to the diocese's annual convention said the grain used to make alcohol could feed people and the fertilizer spread on tobacco could be diverted into food production.

The resolution on smoking and drinking in light of the hunger crisis was one of a number of social, political, and economic issues adopted by the convention.