

June 9, 1960

**Danger Christ Could
Bypass Baptist Work**

ROCHESTER, N. Y.--(BP)--In the hour of their "tremendous success," Baptists face the grave danger that Christ could bypass them in establishing his kingdom.

W. O. Vaught, Jr., Little Rock, first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, issued this warning here in a fraternal greeting to the 1960 session of American Baptist Convention.

To avoid "the most dangerous day Baptists have ever faced," ministers should, in Vaught's opinion:

--"Spend some time every morning face-to-face with God in earnest prayer.

--"Stay close to the word of God.

--"Rethink their schedules in order to give some hours every week to personal soul-winning."

"This is the day of our fabulous success. We have built our vast buildings, we count our budgets in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, we boast of our additions and our techniques and know-how. In fact we are about the most successful preachers on earth," he declared.

"But is it the day when we have our greatest spiritual power?" Vaught questioned. "Are we men of prayer? Are we soul-winners?" Could "our difference and our lack of dedication" cause Christ to "pass through our midst and go on his way to establish his kingdom"?

"I dare to say today that I think this is the most dangerous day Baptists have ever faced," according to Vaught.

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**Former Missionary
Dies At Convention**

(6-9-60)

ROCHESTER, N. Y.--(BP)--Mrs. Daniel (Helen) doCarmo, 52, Washington, D. C., died at a Rochester Hospital June 1. She had suffered a heart attack while attending a missionary commissioning service at the Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

Mrs. doCarmo was the newly-elected president of the Women's Baptist Missionary Association of Washington, D. C. In this capacity she was attending sessions of the boards of managers of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies in Rochester, prior to the opening of the annual meeting of the American Baptist Convention.

Her husband, a government employec, was notified of her death by the hospital. The couple has three teen-age sons.

Mrs. doCarmo was formerly a missionary to Brazil (where she met her husband) under appointment by the Southern Baptist Convention. Mrs. doCarmo had attended the annual sessions of the Southern Convention at Miami Beach, Fla., and had planned to stay through the American Convention meeting after the foreign mission board sessions.

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Local Church Theme
For 1961 Emphasis

ROCHESTER, N. Y.--(BP)--The American Baptist Convention will emphasize the mission in the local church during the next 12 months.

This is part of its participation with six other Baptist bodies in North America in the Baptist Jubilee Advance.

During the year of local church emphasis, the denomination's 6500 churches and more than one and a half million members will be urged to increased visitation, special Bible study, and renewed consecration.

In its 1960 session here, Convention President Herbert J. Gezork of Newton Centre, Mass., set the stage for the new Baptist Jubilee Advance annual emphasis in his address. He said:

"All evangelism today, as it has always been in the past, must begin with the renewal of the church. . . . Let this then be the prayer in our hearts as we begin this convention: 'Come, Holy Spirit, revive, renew thy church, beginning with us.'"

Kenneth L. Cober, Philadelphia, executive director of the division of Christian education for the American Baptist Board of Education and Publication, outlined the seven objectives for the year of church renewal as:

1. "An honest coming to grips with the Bible by pastor and people in home and church, using the resources of contemporary biblical scholarship.
2. "A soul-searching study of the nature of the church.
3. "A deepening of the positive disciplines of the Christian life in both personal and group experience.
4. "A vital experience of face-to-face Christian fellowship characterized by personal freedom, acceptance of others, and concern for the group and each of its members.
5. "A meaningful awareness of the significance of being an American Baptist today.
6. "An intensive program of education for church membership and responsible leadership.
7. "A forthright sharing of Christian faith and experience with those who are out of fellowship with Christ and his church."

The American Convention has just closed its year of "mission to the academic community." The purpose of this year was to give college students a sense of their duty to Christ during their college days and in future service to him in their life vocations.

The Southern Baptist Convention also takes part in the Baptist Jubilee Advance, but on a slightly different calendar year basis than the American Convention.

Southern Baptists have since Jan. 1 been stressing Bible teaching and training. The Southern Convention has used study courses and a goal for every Southern Baptist to read the Bible through in 1960 as a means to attain the 1960 Jubilee year goal.

Southern Convention emphases follow the calendar years, while the American Convention emphases follow from Convention to Convention--or from June of one year to June of the following year.

American Baptists Affirm
New Headquarters Site

ROCHESTER, N. Y.--(BP)--The American Baptist Convention overwhelmingly gave its reapproval to consolidating convention agencies in a \$8½ million circular building at Valley Forge, Pa.

At its 1960 session here, the Convention faced the problem of the project's costing at least \$300,000 a year more over a 24-year period than some previous estimates.

Some of Convention's missions leaders believed this would curtail its missions efforts for 40 years.

When the test came, however, the 10,000 delegates were clearly and strongly in favor continuing the Valley Forge Program.

After the vote, a convention observer predicted construction on the building 25 miles from Philadelphia will begin in the near future. A contract is expected to be signed June 20.

The new building will draw together offices now located in Philadelphia and New York City, about 100 miles away.

Most Americans remember Valley Forge because George Washington slept there. He and his 11,000 troops spent a hard winter there in 1777-1778 when British forces defeated the Continentals. Washington selected Valley Forge for its strategic advantages, exercised stern discipline despite low troop morale, and went on to win the Revolutionary war.

There are parallels between Washington and the American Convention project. Valley Forge meant hard times for Washington; it will mean them for American Baptists. Convention leaders openly say that austerity in finances will be the watchword for years ahead.

Just as Valley Forge was a strategic site for Washington, so it will be for American Baptists. The new building may be seen from the thousands of cars which pass daily on the Pennsylvania Turnpike west of Philadelphia. About 1½ million sightseers come to Valley Forge each year.

It is strategic, too, in that it may provide increasing unity to the Convention's administration. Architect Vincent G. Kling of Philadelphia told the delegates that, after visiting offices in New York and his home city, he detected disunity.

A circular structure which Kling designed will bring unity, he believed; indeed, he said, no one office will be more than 340 feet away from any other.

Just as George Washington, after the discipline and testing of Valley Forge, went on to win the war, the supporters of Valley Forge believe it will ultimately bring greater achievements in Christian work for American Baptists.

Just two years ago--it was 1958--this same convention was at odds over the site of its new offices. Rival factions, both strong, were for Chicago or for taking space in the new Interchurch Center (National Council of Churches) in New York City.

Valley Forge then was a compromise site, barely getting enough votes to be chosen. The Rochester vote was far more decisive.

An observer indicated the 1960 vote probably meant that solidarity and denominational status--which were crucially at stake--outweighed the financial problems that Valley Forge will bring. This was coupled with the delegates' realization that opponents of Valley Forge had no "reasonable alternative" to offer in its place.

Lewis E. Rhodes Called
By Broadway, Knoxville

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Broadway Baptist Church here has called Lewis E. Rhodes of Jackson, Miss., to be pastor.

Rhodes ends a seven year pastorate of the Daniel Memorial Baptist Church in Jackson. He will assume his new duties on July 3.

Ramsey Pollard, recently re-elected to a second term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was the previous pastor of the Knoxville Church. In April he became pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis.

Rhodes is a 1945 graduate of Mississippi College. He received the Doctor of Theology Degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1953.

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Baptists Of North Retain
National Council Ties

(6-9-60)

ROCHESTER, N. Y.--(BP)--The American Baptist Convention, taking the cue from its General Council, reaffirmed here its affiliation with the National Council of Churches.

The 5000 delegates overrode a substitute resolution from Argentine Baptist Church of Kansas City, Kans. The substitute would have instructed editors of convention publications to quit promoting ecumenicism (church union) in their literature.

The vote was one-sided. After it, a deacon from First Baptist Church, Wichita, Knas., said the Convention's action places his church's connection with the Convention "in jeopardy."

But Preston Huston, who heads a Wichita advertising and public relations firm refused to predict the future course of the Wichita congregation.

The church voted 1170 to 235 last February to ask severance of all American Convention ties with The National Council of Churches. This vote set off the Convention's restudy of its ecumenical position.

The National Council issue had been expected to be bitter. Actually the die was cast after the Convention had been in session only a short time. Sentiment continued to mount in favor of continuing Council ties.

Only a small segment of the delegates here opposed the General Council resolution to continue the affiliation. (The General Council of American Baptists compares with the Executive Committee of Southern Baptists.)

Granting a point to ecumenical foes, the General Council resolution held this statement which carried unchanged: "In keeping with our basic Baptist principle of the autonomy of the individual church, we also reaffirm the right of any local church to express dissent and to withhold its financial support from the National Council of Churches. Provision shall be made whereby individual churches, if they so desire, may indicate that they are not affiliated with the National Council of Churches through the American Baptist Convention and that such churches shall be so listed in the Annual Year Book of the American Baptist Convention."

Huston, in a conference with reporters after the vote, expressed hope the Wichita Church one of the largest in the American Convention with 4300 members, would retain affiliation with some Baptist body.

There was no evidence it would seek affiliation with the Southern Convention although Huston said teachers in the Adult Department--of which he is superintendent--use Southern Baptist Sunday School Quarterlies.

He complained to the Convention meeting in Rochester that its ties with the National Council of Churches make for "watered-down evangelism". Huston said the Convention "should preach the true gospel rather than try to find ways to co-operate with infidels"

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In a meeting prior to the American Convention itself, the women of the Convention said American Baptists "should continue to play a leading role within the National Council of Churches."

On opening night, Convention President Herbert J. Gezork of of Newton Centre, Mass., defended the Convention's fellowship with other Christian bodies.

The Conventions's resolutions committee presented a separate resolution urging continued co-operation with the National Council.

Supporters of the ecumencial connection said any ban on ecumencial promotion through Convention literature would amount to "censorship."--Theo Sommerkamp

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Warns Of Special Appeals
For VBS Offerings

(6-9-60)

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--"Undesignated Vacation Bible School offerings are best," says Charles F. Treadway, editor of Vacation Bible school materials for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Since its beginning, Vacation Bible School has emphasized the teaching opportunity of the mission offering rather than the amount. Within the next few weeks, three million children and workers will bring their offerings, thus learning to share Christ with the whole world through the Cooperative Program.

Word has recently come, Treadway says, that appeals are being made to churches throughout the Convention to designate these offerings to special causes. He pointed out that such a practice would nullify the teaching opportunity provided by Vacation Bible School in helping those who attend to share Christ with the whole world.

"Don't sidetrack the children's gifts," pleads Treadway. "Let's preserve this great teaching opportunity."

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June 9, 1960

Cutlines A

Signing the document as a charter member of the new Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission is

At left is Merrill D. Moore, Nashville, elected executive secretary of the new agency, while at right is Harold G. Sanders, Tallahassee, Fla., elected chairman. The agency becomes operative Jan. 1.--(BP) Photo.

Cutlines B

Jan. 1, 1961--this is the beginning date for a new Southern Baptist Convention agency, its Stewardship Commission. The Commission, whose members were elected at Miami Beach, Fla., in May, held an organization meeting in Nashville. Merrill D. Moore, Nashville, extreme right, was called as its executive secretary. Next to Moore is Harold G. Sanders, Tallahassee, Fla., elected chairman. The other officers from left are Marion L. Hayes, Nashville, recording secretary, and James C. Frank, Kansas City, Mo., vice-charman.--(BP) Photo.