

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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Jubilee Advance Reaches Baptists Around World

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- The spirit of the Baptist Jubilee Advance has spilled over into Baptist work around the world according to Theodore F. Adams, president of the Baptist World Alliance, in a report to the semi-annual meeting of the BJA committee here.

The Baptist Jubilee Advance is a joint movement of the major Baptist fellowships of North America. Extending from 1959 to 1964, the BJA celebrates the 150th anniversary of organized Baptist mission work in North America.

Each cooperating fellowship appoints its own members of the BJA committee and twice a year they meet to plan the emphases for each year. Mrs. Howard L. Roach of Plainfield, Iowa, and prominent leader among American Baptist Convention women, is serving as chairman, having succeeded C. C. Warren of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In his report to the committee Adams said that, although Baptists of other nations do not have the same occasion to celebrate, they are adapting the idea to their own history and traditions, and that an awareness of the unity of the Baptist movement around the world is growing. He said that part of the program of the Baptist World Congress in Rio de Janeiro next summer will be given over to the Baptist Jubilee Advance.

Stewardship and enlistment is the emphasis to be developed in 1961. "I Will Be Faithful" is the theme, with I Corinthians 4:2 as the scripture.

The Committee set forth the purpose of the 1961 emphasis to be "to seek to lead every Baptist to a new and deeper understanding of and commitment to Christian stewardship."

Although each cooperating fellowship implements the BJA program in its own way, the joint committee sets forth the general objectives. Those for 1961 are:

1. To win the lost to Christ.
2. To lead each Christian to seek God's will for his vocation and to witness for Christ in his daily work.
3. To lead many youth and young adults to respond to God's call to church-related vocations.
4. To lead all church members to find a place of service in the church.
5. To secure transfer of church membership of each nonresident church member to a Baptist church in his community.
6. To magnify the place of the home in stewardship education.
7. To emphasize increased giving with the tithe as a minimum.
8. To lead churches to recognize and accept their stewardship responsibility for the spread of the gospel throughout the world.
9. To develop attitudes of Christian stewardship in making wills.

Baptists Gain From New
Allegiance To Word Of God

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- "One of the most encouraging signs of today is the new allegiance to the Bible," declared Frank H. Woyke, executive secretary of the North American Baptist General Conference, in the keynote address to the Baptist Jubilee Advance committee in its semi-annual meeting here.

Stating that he was a theological student in Germany during the rise of Hitler's Nazism, Woyke said that the foundations of German national stability had been undermined by the prevailing liberalism that rejected the Bible as a revelation of God and made man the measure of all things.

This attitude is now rapidly changing, Woyke said, and the new trend is to turn from science, reason and experience as the approach to theology and to look to the Bible as the revealed Word of God.

Baptists have more to gain in this new attitude than others, Woyke said. Catholics, although there is a rising appreciation for the Bible among them, look to the church, the Pope, the hierarchy as their authority. Many Protestant groups have their authoritarian creeds, but for Baptists the Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice.

As evidence of the widespread interest in the Bible Woyke cited the controversy and publicity on the occasion of the publication of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Although not approving the adverse criticism of the RSV, Woyke said he was glad the discussion took place because it indicated the popular interest in the Bible.

Other evidences of the new allegiance to the Bible pointed out by Woyke are the publicity given to the claim of the Knights of Columbus that the Bible is a Catholic book, and the movements in various parts of the world for Bible reading crusades.

Certain practical effects of this new attitude toward the Bible are evident, Woyke continued. Old themes are being resurrected and new meaning is being given to such expressions as the Word of God, revelation, Faith, sin and love.

Renewed emphasis is being given to the ideas that there is such a thing as faith above reason, that man is an exceedingly sinful creature in the sight of God, and that the atonement of Jesus Christ is essential for the redemption of sinful men.

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Congressmen Report
Catholic Conference

3-7-60

WASHINGTON --(BP)--- The complete transcript of the Civil Rights Conference at Notre Dame Law School, Feb. 14, 1960, was inserted in the Congressional Record, Feb. 29, 1960, in 19 sections by as many Congressmen.

The conference was attended by 53 prominent political figures, outstanding law professors, and clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church.

The subject matter of the conference was summed up in two questions by Rep. John Brademas (D., Ill.). First, what new action in the field of civil rights is within the constitutional power of Congress? Second, what is the most appropriate way for Congress to exercise its constitutional power? The discussions focused largely on the right to vote.

It took 28 pages of six point type in the Congressional Record for the 73,000 word insert.

It was announced at the time of the conference that the transcript would be included in the Congressional Record "in order to bring the work of the conferees to the attention of a wider audience."

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Baptist Committee Would
Question All Candidates

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- All candidates for public office, both state and national, will be asked to state their views on separation of church and state, if a suggestion of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is followed.

The BJCPA in semi-annual session here expressed its loyalty to the historic Baptist position that no religious tests shall be made for public office, but it indicated that every candidate should understand the meaning and implications of the principle of separation of church and state and that the electorate has a right to know what the candidates think about these matters.

C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the BJCPA, was instructed "to encourage" social action agencies of Baptist conventions, organizations of men, women and youth, as well as state convention executive boards to inquire of all candidates for public office what their positions are in relation to church-state matters. It is hoped that this information will then be passed on to the public for their help in evaluating candidates.

Another action of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs was to recommend to the several Baptist conventions, their agencies and institutions that they "explore afresh all the implications involved in the acceptance of loans from the government."

The prevailing Baptist practice in recent years has been that Baptist institutions could accept government loans provided an adequate rate of interest is paid. Recent developments in the states and in Congress, however, have raised the issue again as to whether Federal loans are a form of government "aid" to the extent of violation of separation of church and state.

A special concern of the BJCPA for the preservation of freedom in the United States is the extent to which citizens fail to participate in the democratic process by voting. It was pointed out to the Committee that in the 1958 national elections only 43.8 per cent of the population 21 years old and over participated by voting. In several of the strong Baptist states less than ten per cent of those 21 years of age and older voted.

Commenting on this lack of civic participation on the part of the people, Carlson said, "The survival of democracy during the next couple of decades may well hinge on the degree of civic involvement on the part of the American people, not the least of Protestants. The favorite political devices of oppression include a one party system, political involvement by a minority only, and the use of fear, suspicion, and mob psychology by the use of half-truths and unanalyzed cliches."

The Committee then voted to encourage larger activity on the part of organizations whose concern it is to secure larger citizen participation in elections.

Other steps taken by the BJCPA were to seek wider channels of communications for a more adequate awareness of religious problems around the world, to commend the United Nations for its interest in religious liberty and to encourage further discussion and investigation in the UN on these problems.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is a denominational agency composed of officially elected or appointed representatives from seven of the major Baptist groups in the United States and Canada. Its mandate is "to act in the field of public affairs" and its major concern to date has been religious liberty and problems involved in church-state relations.

The next meeting of the Committee will be October 3-4, 1960. A fourth annual religious liberty conference will be held in Washington, D. C., September 7-9 this fall. The subject will be "The Churches and American Tax Policy."

Proposes Plan To Eat
Way Out Of Surplus

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- A solution to the food surplus problem in the United States has been offered by Rep. James M. Quigley (D., Pa.). His answer to surplus foods -- "Eat our way out!"

The answer came in response to a pancake breakfast served to members of Congress by a group of wheat-growers from Kansas. However, Quigley said that the task was too big for Congress alone and that help was needed to eat up the food surplus.

Consequently he introduced a bill to "authorize the Commodity Credit Corporation to make available to the schools of this country presently covered by the school lunch program, surplus foods for use and consumption in home economics classes."

Quigley said that his proposal "would make a modest but useful disposition of some of our surplus food and a modest but welcome savings in thousands of local school budgets."

The present school lunch program is available to both public and private church schools. This new proposal would further extend public aid to religious institutions and would further complicate the church-state problems that have been created by overlapping functions of church and government agencies.

In offering surplus foods to home economics classes Quigley facetiously remarked, "And who knows, if the future home-makers of America really become adept in preparing meals replete with surplus foods we may just eat our way out of them."

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Money, Pleasure Given
As Reasons For Lottery

3-7-60

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Rep. Paul A. Fino (R., N. Y.) is continuing to bombard Congress in his campaign to establish a national lottery.

Fino's recent tactics have been brief speeches in the House of Representatives in order to keep the issue before his colleagues. He has previously introduced a bill to create a lottery.

"Some members of Congress, as well as some Government officials, express fear that a national lottery in the United States might raise economic, social and moral issues," Fino acknowledged. However, he said, other countries are smarter than the United States, because they raise money by capitalizing "on the natural gambling urge of their people."

Fino claims that the gambling method of harvesting "fat and painless revenues" from the people of other nations "has had no adverse effect on the economic, social or moral standards." He even asserted that it had improved conditions.

"The governments in these countries," Fino declared, "know the fiscal facts of life and tie the gambling spirit of their inhabitants together with the need for revenue. This combination brings in revenue to the treasury and pleasure to their people."

Using figures "from 17 countries where the wheels of fortune spin," Fino continues his campaign for a national lottery by estimating that this country can raise \$10 billion annually by this method.

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