

October 30, 1964

Baptist Cooperation
Seen In BJA Program

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Southern Baptist editor and an American Baptist executive have given personal evaluations of the effectiveness of the Baptist Jubilee Advance within their respective conventions.

Gainer E. Bryan Jr., Baltimore, editor of the Maryland Baptist, and W. Hubert Porter, associate general secretary of the American Baptist Convention, Valley Forge, Pa., gave the evaluations at the third Conference on Baptist Unity, meeting at the First Baptist Church here. The conference theme was "Baptists, the Bible, and Unity."

Others invited to address the group were: Dale Moody, professor of biblical theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; Winthrop S. Hudson, professor of church history, Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, N.Y.; Paul Allen, editor of Crusader, Valley Forge, American Baptist Newsmagazine; and John Steely, associate professor of historical theology, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Bryan, from a limited survey of Southern Baptist editors, said most of the editors felt Southern Baptists cooperated with other Baptists in the jubilee advance. However, he said the editors seemed to believe this cooperation was primarily among the leadership and that the program did not reach the "grass roots."

The Baptist Jubilee Advance was a six-year cooperative program of advance between seven Baptist bodies, climaxing with a joint celebration at Atlantic City in May 1964 commemorating 150 years of nationally organized Baptist work in America.

After pointing out several specific aspects of the Baptist Jubilee Advance, both positive and negative, Bryan said he felt it had helped Southern Baptist "toward more cooperative endeavor with other Baptists." He cited the proposed North American Baptist Fellowship as "the realistic and the ideologically sound approach."

"I do not believe that the idea of organic union will get to first base, and I fear that continued advocacy of it might be a stumbling block to approval of the more limited continental fellowship," he stated.

Hubert Porter described American Baptist reactions as ranging from alarm, hostility and misunderstanding, to appreciation and support. However, he considered it one of the most "significant programs" the American Baptist Convention has undertaken.

While citing some shortcomings, Porter presented the jubilee advance as being a successful program on the whole. He said he believed "enduring results will accrue from the fact that the Baptist Jubilee Advance emphases have invested evangelism with firmer substance and deeper meaning."

Speaking on the subject "The Church is One," Dale Moody said it is necessary to understand the principles undergirding the nature of the church: (1) theological principle, the church as the people of God; (2) Christological principle, the church as the body of Christ; and (3) spiritual principle, the church as the community of the Holy Spirit.

Moody called for a stronger emphasis in the next few years on Christology. Today there is a high view of the church and a low view of Christ, he said, and "we are failing in our ecclesiology because we have a faulty Christology."

Hudson, speaking on "The Church Must Act As One," pointed to two understandings of the Christian faith:

1. The churchly understanding, rooted in the conviction that God's purpose in Christ was to create a people, the body of Christ, and that Christians are dependent upon and need one another.

2. The nonchurchly understanding, rooted in the conviction that God's primary interest is the individual Christian.

"If Baptists are to act as one, they must rediscover the full implications of their calling in Christ, fashion a more faithful and intelligible theology of church order, and then so reorder their denominational life that it may more adequately express the fact that they are one people, God's people, part of the body of Christ, and not merely a collection of autonomous individuals who need not say by-your-leave to anyone," Hudson said.

In discussing the role of the press, Paul Allen told the group it is necessary to recognize and tolerate divergencies among Baptists. At the same time, he said, it is necessary to emphasize what Baptists have in common. He stated that the press could interpret the unwholesome activities of a group constructively; print information that would place the other Convention in a favorable light rather than always looking for the unfavorable, and use editorial columns intelligently.

John Steely, speaking on the role of the seminary, said the seminaries (1) have unique opportunity to dispel misunderstanding of other Baptist groups, (2) should and can affirm the unity that already exists, and (3) can give a true picture of the Christian unity.

The Baptist Unity Conference is sponsored by individuals from the American and Southern Baptist Conventions who are interested in bringing the two together. It has no official connection with either Convention.

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Kentuckian Accepts Post
With Indiana Baptists

10-30-64

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--Robert L. Wayne, associate in the Training Union department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown, has been elected to a new post in Indiana. He becomes secretary of the Training Union department of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana here, also handling church music and student work.

Wayne has been with the Kentucky Baptist Convention for 3-1/2 years. Prior to this, he was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Hardinsburg, Ky. He is a native of Louisville, a graduate of Georgetown College (Baptist) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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J. C. Durham Heads
Missionary Council

10-30-64

NASHVILLE (BP)-- J. C. (Jay) Durham Jr. of Atlanta has been elected president of the Missionary Education Council. The council, though not officially an agency, helps coordinate home and foreign missionary educational materials in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Durham succeeds Miss Ethalee Hamric of Birmingham.

The new council president is secretary of the department of promotion for the SBC Home Mission Board. Miss Hamric is editor of Royal Service, adult monthly magazine of Woman's Missionary Union, Convention auxiliary.

The council, a voluntary association, draws together denominational workers in the area of missions from the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, Sunday School Board and six SBC theological seminaries.

The council, following custom, voted for the subjects for the home and foreign mission studies to be conducted in Southern Baptist churches five years from now. Alaska and Hawaii were selected as the theme for home missions study in 1969. Europe and the Middle East were selected as the area for foreign missions study the same year.

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The council heard reports on the new missionary associate and missionary journeyman program undertaken by the Foreign Mission Board. It also heard that the board is considering entering several more countries which do not now have Southern Baptist missionaries.

The Home Mission Board reported plans to strengthen inner city mission work, including greater efforts to reach people in expensive high rise apartments and low income public housing units.

Other new officers of the council, which meets yearly, are Miss Johnni Johnson, Richmond, Foreign Mission Board, vice-chairman, and Miss Josephine Pile, Nashville, Sunday School Board, secretary. The 1965 council session will meet in Memphis Oct. 27-29.

The council honored Miss Mary Christian, Nashville, missions book editor, Baptist Sunday School Board, who retires before the next annual council meeting. Miss Christian is a charter member of the council.

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Retired Home
Missionary Dies

10-30-64

ATLANTA (BP)--Miss Mildred Matthews, 74, Southern Baptist missionary to Cuba, died Oct. 25 in her native state of Arkansas.

Miss Matthews was appointed missionary of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to serve in Cuba in August, 1920, going immediately to her field. For two years she was general evangelist in Matangas, then for several years kindergarten and primary teacher in the Cuban-American College, Havana, which no longer exists.

The greater part of her life as a missionary was given to the Calvario Baptist Church in Havana. She used her talents in the many activities of the church, where she served as teacher of the Fidelis Class in Sunday school, sang in the choir, and was active in the Woman's Missionary Union.

In the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba she served as president of Woman's Missionary Union. She prepared the monthly programs for the women's organizations.

She organized and directed the training school in connection with the Baptist Theological Seminary in Havana, where she also taught.

For 35 years Miss Matthews was a great influence in her church, in the seminary, and in the general work of the convention in Cuba, according to board officials here.

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Colorado Helps Plans
For Regional Convention

10-30-64

DENVER(BP)-- The six-state Colorado Baptist General Convention made its first plans here to help provide separate convention status for four of these states.

In its 1964 session, the Colorado convention here voted to make arrangements for churches in Wyoming, Montana and the two Dakotas to form a separate "state" convention to begin operating Jan. 1, 1970.

This would probably make the proposed new state convention the 33rd to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention. New conventions in Utah-Idaho, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York-New Jersey are in prospect during the next five years. The Utah-Idaho convention is expected to begin operating next year.

The Colorado Baptist General Convention has affiliated churches in western Nebraska as well as in the main state of Colorado. The convention's offices are located in Denver.

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Colorado messengers adopted a budget for 1965 of \$437,448, up \$38,000 from the current one. Their Cooperative Program goal of this amount is \$237,205 of which 16 per cent will be forwarded to the SBC for nationwide and worldwide Baptist work.

In 1964, the SBC share has been 15 per cent.

Harvey Nelson, pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church, Denver, was reelected convention president. The 1965 session will meet Oct. 26-28 in Englewood, Colo.

SBC President Wayne Dehoney of Jackson, Tenn., told the Coloradoans although they and other people in the denomination living in northern and western states would like to see it changed, there is no likelihood of any change soon in the name "Southern Baptist Convention" because most Southern Baptists still live in the South.

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Missouri Convention
Backs College Bonds

10-30-64

JOPLIN, Mo. (BP)--The Missouri Baptist Convention has voted to help guarantee a bond issue of \$1-1/4 million for the first buildings on the campus of the new Missouri Baptist College in St. Louis.

It joins with the St. Louis Baptist Association of churches in the bond guarantee. The convention's guarantee becomes effective when St. Louis area churches have pledged \$1-1/4 million. The fund campaign is underway now in the city.

The new four-year school will occupy an 80-acre tract on U. S. Highway 40 on a new outer belt expressway around St. Louis.

The convention also approved plans, announced earlier by Southwest Baptist College at Bolivar, for it to graduate from two-year, junior college status to four-year, senior college operation.

The third or junior year of college work will be added next year, the final or senior year in 1966. The college has been in an expansion program for two years. It has completed a new field house, dormitory for nearly 200 men, a home for the president and faculty housing.

With the new facilities and added years of course work, enrolment is expected to grow from about 700 to 1000 students, according to college officials.

Messengers to the 1964 Missouri session here also okayed the construction of a new Missouri Baptist Convention office building at Jefferson City.

The \$1-1/2 million building will be on the south side of Jefferson City on a four-lane highway to be built soon. The convention already owns 17-1/2 acres there.

The convention adopted a recommended Cooperative Program 1965 budget goal of \$3-1/4 million. This is \$350,000 above current year's receipts. Thirty-five per cent of the collections will be forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention for world wide denominational missions and educational activities.

Voted also was a study of providing wider representation on the executive board, the convention's body for transacting business between annual sessions. The convention commended the Franklin County Baptist Association of churches--covering an area immediately west of metropolitan St. Louis--for receiving a Negro Baptist church into fellowship.

Australian Baptists were extended an invitation to send as many of their pastors as possible to Missouri for an evangelistic crusade in the spring of 1966. A group of Missouri ministers conducted an evangelistic crusade in the down-under continent during the past spring.

W. T. Holland, pastor, First Baptist Church, Cape Girardeau, was reelected convention president. The 1965 convention will meet Oct. 26-28 in Independence, Mo.

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Nordenhaug Reports
Yugoslav Harassment

WASHINGTON (BP)--Intimidation and harassment are reportedly being used to restrict the activity of Protestant Christians in Yugoslavia, according to the Baptist World Alliance office here.

Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the alliance, said reports of social and economic pressures, primarily on the local level, have been received from reliable sources.

He described the situation as "not only regrettable but actually surprising in the light of Yugoslavia's recent bid to become an Adriatic tourist center, the grant of scholarships for a new student exchange program with Western nations, and the hopes raised by current ecumenical discussions."

A new law in the country places a 70 per cent tax on funds sent to the country by mission societies for religious purposes. Many of the pastors previously received a portion of their support from such mission societies.

Pastors seeking to supplement their reduced income by additional work usually have been questioned about their religious beliefs. Work may be offered on the condition they will not testify of their religious faith or distribute copies of the scriptures.

Other reported cases of harassment and intimidation include rumors that "believers" are foreign agents serving as spies for Western nations, threats of loss of work, lowering of school grades of children of believers because of the charge that "belief in God is ignorance," and prohibiting the distribution of the scriptures and other religious literature.

The Baptist World Alliance office says the reports indicate that though the discrimination appears to be a politically motivated campaign against religion, the harassment has been predominately aimed at Protestant Christians.

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