

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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April 2, 1965

Joint Committee Starts
New Research Program

WASHINGTON (BP)-- The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs will begin its new program of research in the fall of this year. This action was taken at the semi-annual meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee here.

Under this program a director of research will be employed, expanded floor space will be rented, and research and study facilities will be set up for visiting scholars who will participate in the program.

This new person will be the fourth on the executive level for the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee. C. Emanuel Carlson is the executive director. W. Barry Garrett is an associate director in charge of information services. James M. Sapp is an associate director in charge of correlation services.

The new program will call for a relocation of the entire operation of the Baptist Joint Committee. For the past several years the committee has occupied the fourth floor of the Baptist Building here, but its expanding program has outgrown all available space. Final arrangements for a new location have not yet been made but it is expected that an announcement will be made in the near future.

The Baptist Joint Committee is composed of public affairs committees from eight Baptist denominations in the United States and Canada. They are the American Baptist Convention, Southern Baptist Convention, Baptist General Conference, North American Baptist General Conference, Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, Baptist Federation of Canada, National Baptist Convention, and National Baptist Convention, Inc.

At the meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee the executive director reviewed in detail the provisions and the legislative history through March of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The bill has passed the House of Representatives and is now pending in the Senate.

No protest was registered by the Baptist Joint Committee about the principles of church-state relations incorporated in the education bill. No position for or against the policy of federal aid to education has been taken by the committee.

In another action the Baptist Joint Committee instructed its staff and a special committee to work out a theme for its annual Religious Liberty Conference for 1967. The general area for consideration in 1967 will be the place of religion in public education.

The 1965 Religious Liberty Conference theme will be "Church, State and Public Funds." The 1966 theme will be "The Christian's Role Through Church and State."

James M. Sapp reviewed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (war on poverty) for the Baptist Joint Committee. He pointed out that "this is one of the poorest pieces of legislation in recent years from a church-state standpoint."

The government is having difficulty in the administration of the bill, according to Sapp. Both the government and other organizations are working on improvements in the administrative regulations. If these do not work out the problems in the act, eventually corrective legislation may be called for, Sapp reported.

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Baptist Press

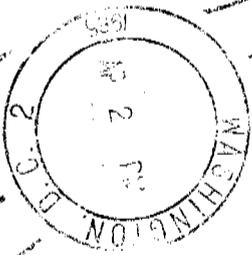
W. Barry Garrett reported to the Baptist Joint Committee about the reforms in progress in the Roman Catholic Church as seen in Vatican Council II. For the past two sessions of the Council Garrett has served as Baptist Press news reporter for publications in North America and Europe.

The fourth and final session of Vatican Council II will begin September 14. The Baptist Joint Committee will again send Garrett to Rome for news reports. One of the first items on the agenda of the Council when it meets will be the proposed declaration on religious liberty.

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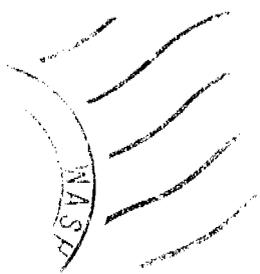


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WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE



WASHINGTON, D.C. (BWA)--Representatives from 69 countries have already registered for the 11th Baptist World Congress meeting at Miami Beach next June 25-30.

Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Alliance which sponsors the international congresses every five years, made the report to the alliance's administrative committee in its semi-annual meeting here.

Committee members heard reports also from Theodore F. Adams, past president of the alliance and chairman of the program committee, and from representatives of the general entertainment committees in Miami Beach.

Dr. Adams said that Baptist leaders from 42 countries already have accepted places on the program, and he is awaiting replies from individuals in several other countries.

The program will present a varied fare of speeches, panels, sectional meetings, musical features and pageants. Plans for the pageant, being arranged by a special committee headed by Mrs. R. L. Mathis of Birmingham, includes action on a world map covering the entire football field of Miami's Orange Bowl stadium.

Day meetings will be held in the Miami Beach Convention Hall and four night sessions will meet in the Orange Bowl.

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Where Will 1970 Baptist Congress Meet?
Tokyo, Sydney, Hong Kong, Beirut?

(4-2-65)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BWA)--A fourth invitation to the 1970 Baptist World Congress was reported to the Baptist World Alliance administrative committee at a meeting here April 1.

The newest invitation came from Beirut, Lebanon, the middle eastern city which entertained the 6th Baptist Youth World Conference in 1963. Its advantages as a convention site center is its location at the crossroads between Asia, Africa and Europe and its proximity to Bible lands.

Invitations have been received previously from Tokyo, Hong Kong and Sydney, all in the Orient.

Robert S. Denny, associate secretary of the Alliance reported to the administrative committee that he has visited all four sites this spring and surveyed hotel and auditorium facilities.

It is hoped that a decision for location of the 1970 meeting can be made by the BWA Executive Committee when it meets in connection with the 11th Baptist World Congress at Miami Beach next June 25-30.

Previous Congresses have met in London (twice), Philadelphia, Stockholm, Toronto, Berlin, Atlanta, Copenhagen, Cleveland and Rio de Janeiro.

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Congress Delegate From Rwanda?

(4-2-65)

"He Might Even As Well Try To Go Up
And Bring Down The Moon."

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BWA)--The 1,491 Baptists of Rwanda in Central Africa may be able to send a delegate to the Baptist World Congress at Miami Beach after all.

Mrs. Nina Larsen, a Danish Baptist missionary stationed at Runyombyi, Rwanda, wrote Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, in January saying that she had read his letters about the Congress to the Rwanda Baptist leaders and "they were intensely interested."

But then, she said, the Rwanda Baptists looked at the price list for travel costs to the Congress and mentally compared them with the Rwanda salary scale of about US\$12 per month (for pastors).

"They listened very carefully," she wrote. "Then they looked at each other and laughed heartily. This was really a good joke. It was clear to them... that no Munyarwanda (a man of Rwanda) could ever dream of going to this Congress. He might even as well try to go up and bring down the moon."

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The Baptist World publication printed Mrs. Larsen's letter in its February issue. Gifts marked "for expenses for a Congress delegate from Rwanda" have trickled into the Alliance offices almost daily since then. The smallest was 50 cents. The largest giver is an anonymous donor who has twice sent \$50 in bills and signed his note each time with the Greek word "Agape," meaning "love."

Dr. Nordenhaug has written Mrs. Larsen about the gifts and estimated that she can expect \$400 from the Alliance to go on a Rwanda delegate's trip expense. It is up to the Baptists of Rwanda to raise the rest of the money necessary for the "moon trip" to Miami.

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"All Hail The Power" Named As
Theme Song Of Baptist Congress

(4-2-65)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BWA)--"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," a hymn written in 1779, will be the theme song of the 11th Baptist World Congress at Miami Beach next June 25-30.

The hymn selection was made by the Baptist World Alliance administrative committee when it met here to approve a program outline for the world meeting.

W. Hines Sims, secretary of the church music department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and director of music for the Congress, asked the committee to designate a hymn which can be used to open all Congress sessions.

Suggestion for "All Hail the Power" was made by Theodore F. Adams, past president of the Alliance, and was unanimously approved by the group.

The hymn has, in fact, been the unofficial favorite of the Alliance since its first Congress in London in 1905. Records show that it has been sung at the opening meeting of all ten prior congresses.

Beyond that, Dr. Sims pointed out, the hymn belongs particularly to the worldwide Baptist fellowship because of its connection with John Rippon, a London minister and editor, who published it in his hymnbook in 1787. Dr. Rippon is credited as being the "father" of the idea of the Baptist World Alliance because he proposed a world meeting of Baptists as early as 1790.

"All Hail the Power" is known and sung by Baptists around the world, though churches on various continents sing it to different tunes. Dr. Sims said that "Coronation" likely will be the tune used predominantly at Miami Beach, but that "Miles Lane" and "Diadem" also may be used on special occasion.

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