

October 5, 1948

ZURICH SITE PURCHASED FOR INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST SEMINARY

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--The Baptist Foreign Mission Board has purchased property in Zurich, Switzerland, overlooking the Lake of Zurich, for an international Baptist seminary to be opened in September, 1949.

Dr. Jesse D. Franks, relief representative in Europe, reported by long distance telephone that the property was purchased for \$240,000. Situated four kilometers from downtown Zurich, it includes a 40-room mansion built by a wealthy resident in 1927, two servant homes suitable for faculty residences, and seven acres of ground to provide space for additional buildings as needed.

"Such a property in the States would cost the Board \$2,000,000," Dr. George W. Sadler, the Board secretary for Africa, Europe, and the Near East, reported. The site had been selected in August by Dr. Sadler and Dr. M. Theron Rankin, executive secretary.

The founding of this seminary is one phase of the Foreign Mission Board's advance program. Bible schools and ministers' training institutions in Italy, Spain, and the Balkans have served the Baptist churches in preparing pastors of limited educational background, but young men and women, college and university graduates, have demanded a theological school of postgraduate standing.

"Southern Baptists can make no more significant contribution to the stabilization of the world and the Christianization of Europe than an educated ministry," Dr. Rankin asserted. "After two world wars, both originating on that continent, we are convinced that Europe is a Christian mission field. The evangelization of those nations will be accomplished by Europeans, not Americans, and our job is to help train Baptist leaders for Baptist churches."

Dr. and Mrs. John Allen Moore of Tupelo, Miss., and Macon, Ga., formerly missionaries to Yugoslavia, and Dr. and Mrs. John D. W. Watts of New Orleans and Atlanta, recent appointees of the Foreign Board, are now in Zurich for language study and occupancy of the new plant. Professors of European background and training also are being considered for election to the faculty.

C. E. Bryant
Baptist Press
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October 5, 1948

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE PLANS
AID TO DISPLACED PERSONS

WASHINGTON, D. C.--(BP)--The Relief Committee of the Baptist World Alliance, meeting here, has approved expenditure of almost \$200,000 this winter for European relief and aid to displaced persons.

Two full time men will be hired to assist in the entrance of displaced persons to the United States, Dr. R. Paul Caudill of Memphis, committee chairman, announced after the meeting. One will be located in Europe to help D.P.'s prepare papers and get necessary papers for entrance to the United States; the other will work in the United States as contact man with the U. S. State Department arranging, locating, and settling D.P.'s as they arrive.

The committee also approved establishment of refugee shelters in Paris to care for Romanian D.P.'s. A minimum goal of \$30,000 was set for the program which will be conducted under auspices of the Baptist Federation of France.

Considering other relief needs, the committee voted to continue operation of 25 feeding stations in Germany during the winter months and the purchase of \$6,000 of reconditioned shoes from a Missouri trade school for shipment to Europe.

Need was expressed for increased relief gifts from the churches if the relief program is to be carried throughout the winter. "Unless contributions substantially increase," said Dr. M. Theron Rankin, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, "we will not be able to respond to these requests for funds."

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EDITORS: A splendid photograph of Dr. C. Oscar Johnson, president of the Baptist World Alliance, welcoming Dr. Arnold T. Ohrn, new general secretary of the Alliance, and Mrs. Ohrn on their arrival in Washington is available for a nominal sum through R. Edward Dowdy, First Baptist Church, 16th and "O" Streets, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Wire or airmail your request to him.