



**BAPTIST PRESS**

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February 1, 1966

**40 Preachers Launch  
Crusade In Panama**

ATLANTA (BP)--An evangelism task force of about 40 Southern Baptist preachers fanned out across the Republic of Panama and the Canal Zone recently to launch a simultaneous crusade aimed at reaching thousands of Panamanians.

The revival team, headed by Harold E. Lindsey, associate in the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's division of evangelism, is composed of a medical doctor and 34 ministers from 12 states in the U.S., and several missionaries from the Spanish (Baptist) language school in Costa Rica. Nearly 20 of the men will be preaching in Spanish.

A simultaneous crusade is a technique developed for conducting concurrent revivals in a given geographic area. The churches--there are 39 in Panama plus about 80 missions--collaborate in publicity and planning to reach the greatest number of people.

The 34 U.S. pastors met in Miami Feb. 3 for an orientation session with former Panamanian Missionary L. D. Wood. They were scheduled for another orientation on Feb. 4 in Balboa, the Canal Zone. The crusade runs from Feb. 6 through Feb. 20.

During the two-week period, Lindsey will be working with Wendell C. Parker, area missionary for Panama City and the Province of Panama, and Joe Carl Johnson, Wood's replacement in Panama as superintendent of missions.

The SBC Home Mission Board sponsors a simultaneous revival crusade every two years in Panama and the Canal Zone. In 1964 the crusade, headed by evangelism associate Jack Stanton, was cancelled when rioting flared into armed conflict and instigated disorder throughout the small country.

The crusade in 1960, with a supporting team from the U.S. of only nine Baptist leaders, resulted in 947 decisions, 40 additions by letter, and 218 rededications. Lindsey said that the harvest should be even greater in 1966, with a task force of 40 evangelists.

Wood, who returned here from Panama last fall to take the newly created position of assistant secretary of language missions for the Mission Board, reports that Baptist work in Panama is progressing well. He said the seventh association currently is being organized and that the number of baptized church members has grown to 5,500.

"The Baptist community itself, however, which includes families of many of these people, is near 15,000," Wood said.

In the Miami orientation session, Wood warned the U.S. delegates of what it takes to conduct a successful revival among peoples of a different language and cultural background:

"There are two primary requirements for success," he said--securing a skilled interpreter, and planning with the interpreter (the preacher should point out idioms and stories that he's planning to tell).

The men will be preaching, generally, sentence by sentence as the message is interpreted. Even Latin American evangelists may find themselves forced to work with the interpreters since there is a variety of Indian dialects in separate regions of the country.

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The meetings will be similar to revivals in the U.S., with meetings scheduled every night, but there will be "few morning sessions. Few of the people have cars," Wood said, "and by the time they spend money for the bus to one meeting, they won't return for another on the same day."

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(EDITORS: Please watch the tense of this story, depending on your deadline. The Baptist pastors meet in Miami on Feb. 3; in Balboa, Canal Zone, on Feb. 4; and in the first revival session on Feb. 6.)

For your information and local use, editors, here is the list of evangelists, the name of their church if a pastor (First Baptist Church is abbreviated simply FBC), and the city and state:

W. Horace Benjamin, FBC, Abbeville, S. C.  
 James W. Franklin, FBC, Cornelia, Ga.  
 Chas. W. Gibson, 1149 Centreville Road, Manassas, Va.  
 Robert Gabriel, Belmont Baptist Church, Columbia, S. C.  
 A. T. Green Jr., missions secretary, S. C. Baptist Convention, Columbia, S.C.  
 Paul Hayes, Calumet Baptist Church, Liberty, S. C.  
 Robert C. Johnson Sr., Park Circle Baptist Church, North Charleston, S.C.  
 B. Conrad Johnston, FBC, Edgefield, S. C.  
 R. Von King, FBC, Lyman, S.C.  
 Chas. Locado, Hunt Memorial Baptist Church, Newberry, S.C.  
 Lonnie H. Shull Jr., FBC, Liberty, S.C.  
 W. L. Crumpler Jr., San Ysidro, Calif.  
 Reeves C. Dean, FBC, Punta Gorda, Fla.  
 Pedro A. Hernandez, SBC Home Missionary, Tolleson, Ariz.  
 Joseph W. Oliver, Monroe County Baptist Missions, Amory, Miss.  
 J. Ray Batson, Green Street Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S. C.  
 Jas. Lewis, Charlotte, N. C.  
 Horace Burns, Editor, Baptist New Mexican, Albuquerque, N. M.  
 Daniel Aleman, SBC Home Missionary, San Angelo, Tex.  
 Jas. L. Novarro, 606 Bizerte St., Houston, Tex.  
 J. Truett Fogle, SBC Home missionary, Toledo, Ohio  
 J. A. Cave, Mountain Creek Baptist Church, Greenville, S. C.  
 Esteban L. Flores, 2716 Bering, Houston, Tex.  
 M. C. Mojica, state Baptist missions worker, Albuquerque, N.M.  
 J. Ned Taylor, FBC, Ware Shoals, S. C.  
 Daniel Sanchez, Box 22723, Ft. Worth, Tex.  
 Silvester Ayala, Baptist Friendship Center, Albuquerque, N.M.  
 Dr. Arthur S. Gower, 822 Sudley Rd., Manassas, Va. (medical doctor)  
 Ernesto Peraza, Iglesia Bautista Jerusalem, Miami, Fla.  
 Chas. W. Goe, Ash St. Baptist Church, Forest Park, Ga.  
 Fred C. Banda, 3106 Browning, Amarillo, Tex.  
 Carlos Ramirez, 2220 E. 22nd, Amarillo, Tex.  
 Chas. H. Rankin, SBC Home Missionary, Topeka, Kans.  
 Tom Neely, North Greenville Junior College, Tigerville, S. C.  
 Chas. H. Rabon, FBC, Kershaw, S. C.

Maroney Named Dean  
 At Baptist College

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2-1-66

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (BP)--Kenneth A. Maroney has been named academic dean at the University of Corpus Christi here by the school's board of trustees.

Maroney, professor of education and dean of students at the Baptist school since 1957, had served as interim dean since the resignation of Eugene M. Keebler last summer.

The trustees also asked J. Eldon Johnson, director of admissions, to assume some of the public relations and development duties previously handled by J. C. Clapp who was promoted from vice president for development to the presidency recently.

Mrs. Mary Hamilton has been made director of public information and editor of the college newsletter. For the past 18 months, she has worked in the news bureau and development office.

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California Negro Baptists  
Follow SBC Budget Pattern

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--The Constitutional Baptist State Convention of California and Nevada, a Negro Baptist group affiliated with the Progressive Baptist Convention nationally, has adopted a budget plan similar to the Southern Baptist Convention's "Cooperative Program" budget.

The Negro Baptist group, composed of about 100 churches and 45,000 members in California and Nevada, adopted a \$100,000 unified budget here and called their budget plan "The Progressive Baptist Program."

Churches affiliated with the convention will send a percentage of their local church budget (ranging from about eight to 15 per cent) to the state body, and the state convention will in turn send a percentage to the national convention for world missions support.

In the past, the Progressive Baptist Convention has gone straight to the churches for its budget support.

The pattern follows almost exactly the Cooperative Program plan used by the Southern Baptist Convention, said Jack O'Neal, director of work with National (Negro) Baptists for the California Southern Baptist Convention here.

O'Neal worked with the Progressive Baptist state-wide leaders on a consultant basis in drawing up the budget plan.

O'Neal said that the California Negro Baptist group plans to employ an executive secretary to head their state-wide missions work.

The Negro Baptist group is also planning to establish churches and missions throughout California with the aid of the \$100,000 budget.

Convention leaders said they will not limit the establishment of churches and missions to predominately colored areas, but will seek to reach unchurched areas with a Baptist witness regardless of racial limitations, O'Neal reported.

"They're turning this thing around," O'Neal said. "It's not a white convention reaching Negroes, but instead a Negro convention seeking to reach white people."

O'Neal told the Constitutional Baptist State Convention's annual board meeting here that he was proud of what they were doing and of their belief that "California's multitude is our obligation."

The convention has no goal to establish a specific number of missions, but rather will seek to reach all unchurched people, regardless of race, and to try to do their best "to reach all people in California," O'Neal said.

New president of the convention is H. B. Charles, pastor of the 6,000-member Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Los Angeles.

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Snowballs Make Splash  
At Baptist College

2-1-66

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C. (BP)--It's not often you get hit on the head with a snowball while swimming, but it happened to several students at a Baptist junior college here.

The students, taking relief from below freezing weather and several inches of snow, were enjoying the college's recently opened indoor swimming pool.

Every now and then a snowball was bootlegged in for a pot shot at the students swimming in the 80 degree water.

If asked how it felt to get pelted with a snowball while swimming, the students would probably have replied--"Wet."

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SBC President Speaks  
At Brazilian Meeting

SAO PAULO, Brazil (BP)--The president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Wayne Dehoney, delivered the closing message here at the Brazilian Baptist Convention during which a gigantic hemisphere-wide "Crusade of Americas" was officially launched.

Dehoney, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Jackson, Tenn., spoke to more than 40,000 Brazilians in an evangelistic rally that closed the convention.

Rain showered down on the crowds intermittently during the four-hour Sunday afternoon rally, but only a few left, Dehoney said.

Hundreds responded to the evangelistic message and invitation to accept Christ, said Dehoney. It was impossible to determine the exact number who made decisions, he said, but it must have been several hundred.

Immediately following the message by Dehoney, the host pastor, Rubens Lopes of Sao Paulo, announced that the closing session of the convention marked the official launching of the "Crusade of the Americas."

The "Crusade of Americas," slated for 1969, will be an all-out coordinated evangelistic effort involving Baptists from South, Central, and North America. Each Baptist convention will schedule and conduct its own evangelistic campaigns.

Dehoney, who is chairman of a six-member committee to coordinate plans for Southern Baptist participation in the Crusade of Americas, had earlier met with Lopes and other Brazilian Baptist leaders to discuss possible crusade plans.

Dehoney said that present plans call for a meeting in late June, perhaps in Sao Paulo, of a 35-member steering committee composed of representatives from each of the Baptist conventions of 23 Latin American countries, along with representatives from Baptist conventions in North America planning to participate in the campaign.

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee has already approved participation in the crusade, and plans call for Southern Baptist efforts on behalf of the crusade to be launched at the closing session of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Detroit, May 24-27.

Dehoney spoke twice to the Brazilian Baptist Convention here, assuring the Brazilians of Southern Baptist support and enthusiasm for the Crusade of the Americas.

In one message, Dehoney praised the Brazilian Baptists for their evangelistic zeal and for their doctrinal orientation.

"I've never seen a riper field for evangelism than in Brazil," Dehoney commented. The Brazilians have a friendly, sympathetic government giving full religious freedom. "There is a great spiritual vacuum here and a disenchantment with Catholicism as a religion and as a political force," he said.

Dehoney said that reports given at the convention showing results of a two-year nation-wide evangelistic campaign in Brazil were thrilling beyond words.

More than 100,000 conversions have been reported, and more than 50,000 of these have already been baptized, Dehoney reported. When the campaign began, the convention was composed of about 250,000 Baptists, so the evangelistic campaign represents a tremendous increase percentagewise, Dehoney said.

More than 300 new churches have been organized since the campaign began two years ago. Then, there were about 2,000 churches in the convention. Now there are more than 3,500 churches, missions, and preaching points, Dehoney said.

Dehoney cited other "spectacular" results of the campaign, including such items as 1,400 decisions in the Amazon (River) area crusades; the re-unification of two Baptist conventions which had earlier split; conversion of one of the top ten scientists in Brazil; baptism of 294 converts by a 300-member church in Fortaleza, Brazil; and increased numbers of young people who have dedicated their lives to the ministry and to missionary service.

The Catholic Archbishop in one large Brazilian city invited a Baptist pastor to speak to all the priests and Catholic seminary students in his diocese to tell them about the crusade and its objectives, Dehoney said.

Most of all, he said, the campaign resulted in the changed lives and salvation of individuals.

He told of a maid who had attempted to commit suicide in a Sao Paulo hotel, but who found new life during the service in which Dehoney preached. A Brazilian pastor had brought the woman to the service after trying to prevent her suicide attempt.

Although the Brazilian national evangelism campaign officially ended with the convention here, the crusade is actually continuing throughout Brazil, Dehoney said.

One of the high points of the convention was a Saturday night session in a Sao Paulo gymnasium when 8,000 people saw a pageant on Baptist progress in Brazil and heard a speech by the mayor of the city, Dehoney reported.

The mayor, Faria Lima (a Catholic), said he had great respect for Baptists and for their evangelism campaign. "We have many problems today," the mayor said. "But I have confidence in Jesus Christ and in the Word of God that we will find the answer to our problems through Christ." Significantly, he quoted the theme of the evangelistic crusade, "Christ--the Only Hope," on several occasions, said Dehoney.

Dehoney said that the Southern Baptist Convention needs the same zeal and enthusiasm for evangelism that the Brazilian Baptists demonstrate. "We (Southern Baptists) have become complacent and relaxed in this matter of evangelism and outreach. The Brazilian Baptist people and their methods, their zeal, and their dedication can give to us as Southern Baptists something we desperately need," he said.