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**Initial Plans Mapped
For Crusade of Americas**

CALI, Columbia (BP)--Baptists from 25 countries mapped initial plans here for the Crusade of Americas, a vast cooperative Baptist evangelistic campaign to encompass North, Central, and South America in 1969.

More than 100 Baptists from the 25 countries attended the session, described by one participant as a "significant meeting when Baptists from throughout the hemisphere gathered to discover how they can join hands and resources in the cause of evangelism."

Most of the three-day meeting was devoted to setting up an organizational structure through which the cooperating Baptist organizations would coordinate their evangelistic efforts.

The group, called the Central Committee of the Crusade of Americas, adopted as the crusade theme, "Christ the Only Hope," a theme used in 1965 by Brazilian Baptists in a national evangelistic crusade from which the idea of the Crusade of Americas grew.

The committee also proposed plans for a hemisphere-wide Congress on Evangelism, to be followed by six regional, and numerous national, meetings on evangelism as preparation for the 1969 crusade.

Date for the Congress on Evangelism, when Baptist leaders from throughout the hemisphere gather to discuss evangelism techniques and philosophy, was not set, but it probably will be held some time in 1968.

The committee voted to establish six districts or regions, each with a coordinator to promote the campaign and serve as liaison officer with the various Baptist bodies participating.

The six regions include the southern portion of South America, Brazil, the northern portion of South America, Central America, the Caribbean and Atlantic Islands, and North America.

Wayne Dehoney, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention and chairman of the SBC's committee on the Crusade of Americas, was elected regional coordinator for the North American region. Dehoney is pastor of the First Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn.

Dehoney told the Baptist Press that each Baptist convention participating in the crusade will be free to adapt its own plans for the crusade and to "participate as they desire according to their own patterns, procedures, and organizations."

Many, he said, would follow "many of the ideas that were successful in the Brazilian crusade, including mass rallies, parades, great open air meetings, along with church revivals, house to house religious census, and mass communications through radio, television, and the press."

The central committee elected Rubens Lopez, of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who proposed and initiated the Crusade of Americas, as president. Five other officers were also elected, including two vice presidents---Owen Cooper, Southern Baptist businessman from Yazoo City, Miss., and Adrian Gonzales of Costa Rica.

The central committee also elected a 12-member directory council (or executive committee) composed of the six officers, plus six other central committee members. Connally J. Evans, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ocala, Fla., and Cooper are SBC representatives on the directory council.

Much of the time at the meeting was spent in discussion of representation on the committees of the crusade and the organization structure. The plan finally adopted called for one representative from each cooperating Baptist body with less than 300,000 members, three representatives for each Baptist body with more than 300,000 members, and six representatives for the Southern Baptist Convention, which has more members than all the other Baptist groups combined.

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Tentative plans were discussed, although no decision was made, on the possibility of conducting a year-long emphasis on using the Sunday School in evangelism, similar to the recent Asian Sunday School Crusade led by Baptists in the Orient.

About 20 Southern Baptists attended the meeting. Official representation was the six-member SBC Crusade of Americas steering committee, composed of Dehoney as chairman, Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City; Ray Roberts of Columbus, Ohio; M. B. Carroll of Dallas; Cooper, and Evans.

Other SBC leaders present were Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the SBC Foreign Mission Board; Frank Means, the board's secretary for South America; Joe Underwood, evangelism consultant for the Foreign Mission Board; and C. E. Autrey, evangelism secretary for the SBC Home Mission Board.

Representatives from the SBC Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Woman's Missionary Union, told the committee about plans to coordinate the curriculum programs of Sunday School, Training Union, Brotherhood, WMU, and music organizations in SBC churches during 1969, all of which will emphasize evangelism and the Crusade of Americas in 1969.

Attending to explain the new Life and Work Curriculum were W. L. Howse, A. V. Washburn, Phil Harris, and Hines Sims, all of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville; George Euting of the SBC Brotherhood Commission, Memphis; and Miss Alma Hunt of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.

Several Southern Baptist missionaries in South and Central America also attended the sessions, some as representatives or observers for the countries they serve.

Representatives and observers from five Baptist bodies in North America attended the session.

Countries represented at the meeting were: Argentina, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guadeloupe Islands, Guatemala, Guiana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, El Salvador, Trinidad, Uruguay, Venezuela, the United States, and Puerto Rico.

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Danish Baptists Plan
Lottery For Missions

7/12/66

ODENSE, Denmark (BP)--The Danish Baptist Union meeting here approved plans for conducting a nationwide lottery to help reduce a deficit in foreign mission operations, but the union's top leader quickly explained this was not considered gambling.

"We would be against gambling," General Secretary Knud Wumpelmann told the European Baptist Press Service.

The lottery, to be staged in 1968, is expected to bring in money to help reduce a deficit of about 140,000 Kroner (\$20,000) in foreign missions caused by inflation and the unexpected costs of moving missionaries in Africa due to unsettled conditions there.

The plan calls for printing 50,000 tickets to sell at 2 Kroner each, with the winning ticket holder receiving a trip to Africa.

Wumpelmann declared that, to Danish Baptists, this lottery is not considered gambling. The lottery method is widely used in Denmark by charitable groups and churches to raise funds, he added.

"Gambling makes you buy more than you want to, out of greed," he said. People who buy these tickets think of their money as a gift, he said.

Tickets will be sold to the public by Boy and Girl Scouts and other organizations in the churches. Missionary information will be printed on the tickets.

In major business action, the Danish Baptist Union voted to postpone for another year a decision on the future location and type of building for its seminary.

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The retiring principal of the seminary, Johannes Norgaard, made an impassioned plea for buying a villa in the central section of Copenhagen, the capital city of 1.5 million population, almost a third of that of the entire country. The seminary is now located in the rural community of Tollose. The union has considered the idea of moving the seminary to Copenhagen for about 20 years.

The meeting was the 102nd successive annual session of the union. There are about 7,200 Baptists in Denmark's 42 Baptist churches. Except for a small spurt of growth immediately after World War II, Baptists in Denmark have made no significant increase (or decrease) in membership for the last 20 years.

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Pastor Uses Ocean
To Baptize Converts

7/12/66

By C. C. Risenhoover
Baptist Press Staff Writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (BP)--Hundreds of curious Puerto Ricans stopped sunbathing on the beach and swimming in the surf here to watch Southern Baptist converts being baptized in the Atlantic Ocean.

Set against a backdrop of blue water, motorboats, bikinis, and the skyline of San Juan, Clyde Rocket, pastor of this city's Calvary Baptist Church, immersed four converts while his congregation stood on the beach singing hymns.

Many of the on-lookers said when questioned that it was the first time they had seen anyone baptized.

About 50 Southern Baptist preachers and laymen from Texas were on the island for the "Puerto Rican New Life Crusade," an evangelistic campaign sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Though outdoor meetings were hindered by rain for three days during the first week, crowds increased at all 14 meeting places across the island.

The crusade has already spread to the British West Indies, with more than 100 "decisions for Christ" reported following the first week of services on the English-speaking St. Kitts Island in the British West Indies.

Two crusade team members preached on St. Kitts Island, Anthony Longbal of Lubbock, Tex., and Riley Fugit of El Paso, Tex.

Longbal said the people were "shocked to hear about Baptists all over the world." Some thought that the Baptists in the West Indies were the only ones in the world, Longbal said.

Baptist work was organized there only a year ago.

Baptist churches there are made up predominately of young people. They have no literature and use only the Bible in their teaching.

W. M. Connor, pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church in Basseterre on St. Kitts Island, told of discrimination against Baptists there, saying that Baptist pastors are not allowed to bury the dead or to perform marriage ceremonies until the church owns property, and are then allowed to perform these functions only if they register with the government. In the cemeteries, there is a "heretics row" where all non-Anglicans and non-Methodists are buried, Connor said. Only the Anglican and Methodist churches are recognized as legitimate representatives of religion by the government.

In Puerto Rico where the main crusade was in progress, spontaneous evangelistic services broke out in many of the town plazas.

Large numbers of young people have attended the meetings, and were "especially receptive and inquiring about the Gospel of Christ," said Rudy Sanchez, a Dallas, Tex., Baptist pastor. Many times, about 25 per cent of the crowds is made up of teenage boys.

There are only about 1,000 active Southern Baptists in churches in Puerto Rico, but the two-week crusade is expected to increase that number by 30 to 50 per cent, crusade leaders said.

Team members said they were impressed by the help government officials have given in providing facilities and permitting personal witnessing, and by the response of the Puerto Ricans. The crusade was scheduled to end on July 16.

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