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Graham Says Baptists
Waking Up on Race Issue

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By Jim Newton
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BERLIN (BP)—Evangelist Billy Graham said here in a press conference that Southern Baptists are waking up on the issue of race relations.

Graham, himself a Southern Baptist, was asked by a reporter to explain how he reconciled the evangelistic zeal of churches in the South with their "sordid record" on race relations.

"I can't explain it," Graham said. "I cannot conceive of a Christian holding this type of attitude."

"I cannot defend segregation, especially in the church," he declared. "There has been a lot of hypocrisy on this subject."

The famed evangelist, who is honorary chairman of the World Congress on Evangelism meeting here, said that the race issue was one of the first problems he had to face as a Southerner when he became a Christian.

He mentioned Southern Baptists specifically, saying that they "have in some areas been slow to wake up, but they are waking up fast."

"During the racial incidents in Clinton, Tenn., several years ago, it was a Southern Baptist clergyman who led the Negro children to school while the people were jeering," Graham said.

During the same press conference, Graham disclosed his plans to visit Viet Nam "on a mission of peace to preach the gospel," but did not say when the trip would be made.

His plans for the trip were revealed in reply to a reporter's question if there was anything to the rumors that Graham was planning a trip to Viet Nam in December or at Christmas. Graham said it was true, but he would not give the dates for the trip.

Graham said that the World Congress on Evangelism is not designed to bring about any mergers of evangelical religious groups or to start an evangelical organization of churches as a counterpart to the World Council of Churches.

About 1,250 representatives from more than 100 nations are gathered here for the 10-day world evangelism workshop, which features discussion groups, films, major addresses and world reports.

Several reporters asked how many Americans were delegates to the Congress, and if the conference was as American-oriented as it appeared.

Carl F.H. Henry, editor of Christianity Today, the magazine that sponsored the Congress, replied that 5/8 of the delegates were from outside North America, although 80 percent of the delegates had said they were at home with the English language.

Henry, chairman of the Congress, added that the great bulk of the missionary task force in the world today is from America.

Henry delivered the opening address of the Congress, saying that the occasion "may be the last time in human history that disciples of Jesus Christ are free to meet face-to-face on a global basis for such a goal."

"Even now," he said, "some of you occupy seats that were first assigned to delegates unable to secure visas."

Delegates from Yugoslavia, East Germany, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia had pre-registered to attend the Congress, but delegates invited from other Communist countries were unable to obtain visas.

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The two most famous Congress participants delivered addresses on the second day of the 10-day meeting--Billy Graham and Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia.

The 74-year-old monarch traced the history of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, which he also heads, and described "the great struggle to preserve Ethiopia as an island of Christianity."

His Imperial Majesty told the delegates "this age above all ages is a period in history when it should be our crowning duty to preach the gospel to all our fellowmen."

In his major address to the Congress, Graham said that the meeting was being held at a crucial time in world history, and that "we stand at the heart of a world revolution."

"We may be on the verge of a worldwide racial war, too horrible to contemplate," Graham said. He predicted that such a racial uprising might occur "unless the supernatural love of God controls the hearts of men."

"The next 25 years," he said, "will be the most decisive years since Christ walked the roads of Galilee.

"The world desperately needs moral reform; and if we want moral reform, the quickest and surest way is by evangelism," Graham declared. "The transforming gospel of Jesus Christ is the only possible way to reverse the moral trends of the present hour."

"It is my conviction," concluded Graham, "that here in Berlin could begin a movement of God that could touch the world in our generation."

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"Depersonalization" Root
of Problems, Expert Says

10-31-66

ARLINGTON, Tex. (BP)--"Depersonalization" is the common denominator of today's problems in racial strife, nationalism, materialism, war and communism, according to the newest member of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"The computer has not created this attitude of not caring about persons; it has simply automated it," former student worker James M. Dunn said in an address here.

"It's nice to hold a guy off at IBM's length, particularly when you didn't intend to have anything to do with him anyway."

Speaking to a faculty-student gathering at Arlington State College, which has pioneered experiments in arranging dates for students by computer, Dunn assessed his audience and their collegiate counterparts across the U.S. as "uncaring."

Through today's militarism, communism, sensualism and phony religiosity, the dehumanizing process has crept upon Christian collegians, he said.

Dunn for the past five years has been director of Baptist Student Union work and instructor of Bible at West Texas State University in Canyon. Recently he was elected associate secretary of the state Christian Life Commission. Jimmy R. Allen of Dallas is secretary of the Commission.

The 34-year-old Dunn is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., where he earned his doctor of theology degree. He served as pastor or associate pastor of churches in Weatherford and Celina, Tex.

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Change Overtakes SBC
Mission Education Group

10-31-66

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Missionary Education Council, as a formal, inter-agency organization, held its final sessions here recently; but out of its 20 years of experience emerged a new method of securing curriculum materials for Baptist mission study.

The new method, at first, will differ only slightly from the annual three days of intensive committee and council meetings.

These sessions have searched for themes, promotional plans and specifications, suggested authors, and reviewed outlines and manuscripts of mission study books produced by the Foreign and Home Mission Boards.

The Missionary Education Council (MEC) was composed of representatives from most SBC agencies, all of whom were involved in one way or another in missionary education.

With the SBC's recent study and adoption of program assignments, however, missions education was specifically given to Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood Commission, the two groups that almost exclusively use the curriculum materials.

Thus, WMU and Brotherhood, according to an announcement read at the final MEC meeting here, from now on will "take the initiative in curriculum building," acting in cooperation with the two mission boards.

A Mission Study Coordination Conference, title of which is somewhat tentative and membership uncertain, will meet next year October 27-29 (same time the MEC would have met) to continue the work of the Council.

The announcement, read by Eugene L. Hill of the Foreign Mission Board, indicated the 1967 meeting will be an interim measure while schedules and plans for a cooperative planning process is developed by the WMU, Brotherhood, and the mission boards.

The promotional function of the MEC will be taken over by another conference on mission study promotion coordination. When it will meet was not announced.

Presiding over the final MEC sessions were Chairman Johnni Johnson of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., and Vice Chairman Roy Jennings of the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. Secretary was Josephine Pile of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

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Western States Get New
Convention Target Date

10-31-66

RAPID CITY, S.D. (BP)--The Colorado Baptist General Convention voted in annual session here to set Jan. 1, 1968, as the target date for establishing a convention for Montana, Wyoming, and North and South Dakota.

Previous target for those states, which now are included in the Colorado convention, had been 1970. But the convention expressed confidence that the states could reach the requirement of 70 churches and 10,000 members by 1968.

The convention also approved action that allows Southern Baptist churches in western Nebraska to affiliate with the Kansas convention, making all of Nebraska part of the Kansas organization.

The convention approved a budget of \$549,437, more than \$49,000 above last year's budget. The Cooperative Program share will be \$49,878, an increase of \$7,403 over 1965.

In other action, E.J. Kilpatrick of Milledgeville, Ga., was elected director of Christian Social Services, a joint operation between the Denver association, the Home Mission Board, and the Colorado convention. He will work with juvenile courts in Denver to develop a juvenile rehabilitation program.

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Kilpatrick currently is winding up his clinical pastoral training at Georgia State Hospital in Milledgeville. He is a graduate of Mercer University (Baptist), Macon, Ga., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Leroy Smith, pastor of Windener Baptist Church in Littleton, Colo., was elected superintendent of area missions for the state of Montana. He is a former secretary of evangelism for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

The appointment of both Kilpatrick and Smith is subject to approval of the Home Mission Board.

Lewis K. Adkison, pastor of First Baptist Church in Security, Colo., was re-elected president of the convention. Riverside Baptist Church in Denver was selected as site for the 1967 meeting, scheduled for Oct. 24-26.

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West Virginia Southern Baptists Reorganize

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists in West Virginia, acting in a "fellowship" meeting here, adopted a constitution which created an organization closely resembling a state convention.

The constitution calls the new organization "The Baptist General Association of West Virginia." The document provides for regular messengers to be elected by the more than 40 churches, as well as offices to be filled, an executive board, regular meetings, and a program.

An anticipated budget of some \$28,000, will finance a central office in Charleston by Jan. 1. Undesignated receipts will be divided 80-20 with Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program.

Churches cooperating with the new association are affiliated with other state Baptist conventions (Kentucky, Ohio, and Virginia). They are asked to divide their Cooperative Program gifts on a 50-50 basis between the state and the West Virginia work.

Actually the West Virginia churches had planned to organize as a state convention, but they fell short of the number of churches and membership required by SBC agencies for financial assistance to state conventions.

Officers elected at the association's meeting were President W.L. Jenkins of Princeton, Vice President Euclid Moore of Moundsville, Clerk Tom Jones of Parkersburg, and Treasurer Tom Lang of Fairlea.

Next year's meeting will meet Oct. 6-7 at Grace Baptist Church in Parkersburg.

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Hospital Aid Debate Clarified in Missouri

10-31-66

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--The Missouri Baptist Convention, reaffirming its conviction on separation of church and state, has ended the debate over whether or not the Missouri Baptist Hospital in Saint Louis should become a convention-controlled agency.

Acceptance of federal aid by the independent institution had become an issue in the discussion.

The convention's executive board, in a recommendation requested by the hospital administration, stated that the hospital inevitably will become increasingly involved in federal aid.

Acting to clarify the relationship, convention messengers adopted the recommendation which read in part; "that we recognize the independent status of the Missouri Baptist Hospital and the fraternal relationship which exists between the hospital and the convention."

The hospital, whose board of managers is approved but not selected by the convention, will continue to provide free medical service to the convention's homes for children and the aged, and clinical training for Hannibal-La Grange College (Baptist) nursing students.

In other action, the convention approved plans for construction of a new Baptist building in Jefferson City, approved consolidation of administration of Hannibal-La Grange College in Hannibal and New Missouri Baptist College in Saint Louis, and adopted a record Cooperative Program goal for 1967 of \$3.6 million.

Willard L. Bright, pastor of First Baptist Church at Lee's Summit, was reelected president of the convention. The First Baptist Church of Saint Johns in Saint Louis was selected as the Oct. 1967 convention site.

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