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World Evangelism Congress  
Impressed Baptist Delegates

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BERLIN (BP)--About 70 Southern Baptists who attended the World Congress on Evangelism here apparently went away impressed with both the meeting and the challenge of evangelizing the world in this generation.

This was the reaction gathered from a called meeting of Southern Baptists attending the ten-day Congress, sponsored by the Protestant magazine Christianity Today.

About 40 of the 70 Southern Baptists attending the Congress were present at the special Southern Baptist meeting held shortly before the Congress closed.

The session was devoted almost entirely to a discussion by Southern Baptists present on their reactions to the Congress and their impressions resulting from it.

C. E. Autrey, director of the evangelism division for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga., presided over the session.

Following the meeting, a committee of four Southern Baptist delegates to the Congress drew up a statement summarizing the consensus of opinion expressed by the Baptist delegates and observers.

The informal group suggested that Southern Baptists should implement the ideas expressed during the Congress by continuing "to think and plan in terms of evangelizing the world in this generation."

As other suggestions for implementation, the group proposed: preaching the gospel with simplicity and reliance on the Holy Spirit; using modern literacy methods in evangelism, using mass communications media to relate the gospel to our time; beginning by rededication of each participant; and reconfirming the present Southern Baptist evangelistic program "with our conviction that these plans can work only when those who use the plans are filled with the Holy Spirit."

The four-member committee also reported seven distinctive impressions of the sessions as indicated by the discussion of the Baptists attending the Congress.

Said one of the items: "Great value and encouragement were derived from fellowship with Christians of other countries and denominations."

About 1,200 delegates and observers from more than 100 countries attended the Congress. Estimates of the number of denominations represented ranged from about 70 to 100, according to Congress officials.

Another often-repeated impression was that the Congress had a strong emphasis on the Bible, the power of the Holy Spirit, and concern for a lost world.

Other impressions included: the congress focused its attention on basic evangelical doctrines and avoided theological extremes; the congress sought to create a sense of urgency concerning personal evangelism, participants were made aware of the estrangement of young people from the church and the need for devising ways of reaching these groups, and that the papers and addresses were stimulating, perceptive and well prepared.

The only negative impression expressed by the committee's report was that "positive emphasis was not given to developing the doctrine of the eternal destiny of the lost and to the centrality of preaching in evangelism."

During the meeting itself, Baptist Evangelist John Haggai of Atlanta commented that "Southern Baptists are happy to co-operate with anyone and everyone who wants to bring people to Jesus Christ.

"Although we are not formally or organically involved in the ecumenical movement, we do cooperate," observed Haggai.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Professor Roy Fish expressed concern about Southern Baptists' "going on in the program of world evangelism."

"When are we going to begin to evangelize the world?" Fish asked. "If I understand this congress interpretation, we must take the gospel to every person in every country of the world."

The committee's summary of impressions concluded by expressing thanks to Billy Graham and Christianity Today Editor Carl F. H. Henry "for providing for us and to other evangelistic leaders the privilege of meeting other Christians vitally interested in evangelism and the privilege of fellowship" with them.

"We believe that the effects of this Congress will be definitely felt in the life of Southern Baptists in the years that are ahead," the report concluded.

The report was prepared by V. L. Stanfield, professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Roland Jarrard, Birmingham pastor and former Alabama Baptist evangelism secretary; Eugene Grubbs, California Southern Baptists' evangelism secretary; and Fish.

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PHOTO TO BE MAILED TO STATE BAPTIST PAPERS

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Illinois Baptists Vote  
To Study Moving Offices

11/9/66

ALTON, Ill. (BP)--The Illinois Baptist State Association meeting here defeated a motion to move its state headquarters from Carbondale to Champaign, Ill., and approved instead a three-year study of the proposal to move the state Baptist offices.

The convention authorized a committee to make the study, and instructed the committee to bring annual progress reports on the study until 1969 when definite recommendations are to be made.

A motion to move the headquarters from the Baptist Building in Carbondale to the Baptist Student Center in Champaign, Ill., lost in a vote of the messengers. The Student Center is located adjacent to the campus of the University of Illinois.

Another motion instructing the Executive Committee of the Illinois Association to go outside of the state to find an executive secretary for the state convention was also defeated.

A substitute motion was approved, assuring the Executive Committee of the association's prayers and confidence as the committee seeks an executive secretary.

The state convention has been without a top executive for 13 months. The Executive Committee reported that it had interviewed eight persons for the position, and that action had been taken on three. They did not, however, indicate what the action was, and no recommendation was made to the full convention on a person to fill the top office.

A record \$854,145 budget was approved by the convention, which allocated 36 per cent of the budget to support Southern Baptist Convention missions causes.

Attempts to delete portions of the budget providing for a business manager and a new staff worker in the Woman's Missionary Union department were defeated.

Re-elected as president of the convention was Carvin C. Bryant, pastor of the Maplewood Park Baptist Church in East St. Louis.

The convention voted to hold its meeting next year at Zion, Ill., on Nov. 15-17, 1967.

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Texas Howard Butt, Jr.,  
Named Churchman of Year

11/9/66

LOUISVILLE, Ky. CBP-- Howard E. Butt Jr., vice-president of H. E. Butt Grocery Company in Corpus Christi, Tex., has been named 1966 Churchman of the Year by the Lay Associates of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

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The award has gone in previous years to astronaut John Glenn, shoe manufacturer Maxey Jarman and concert pianist Van Cliburn.

Butt is a founder and president of Christian Men, Inc., a foundation which sponsors layman's retreats and conferences at Laity Lodge, a Christian retreat center for adults in Kerrville, Texas.

In accepting the award, Butt said that "the Church is the only institution which has within it the seeds of its own reformation."

"We admit the Church's weaknesses, for we are weak people," he said, "but it isn't our Church--it's Christ's Church--and every time men have thought He has been defeated they've been wrong."

The nationally-known Baptist layman said he expects many changes in the churches in the future, "as God demonstrates freshly that He is the Lord of the Church."

Butt is not only advertising and merchandising director of the largest independent grocery firm in Texas, but also serves numerous religious organizations as trustee or director, including Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

He helped organize Parkdale Baptist Church in Corpus Christi and now serves it as a deacon and trustee.

He is also active in public speaking tours in connection with religious, civic and business organizations, and accepts no payment for appearances.

The Churchman of the Year award banquet was a highlight of the 1966 Christian Layman's Forum at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a conference attended by some 200 denomination lay leaders from sixteen states.

During the conference, Governor Carl Sanders spoke and Porter Routh--who is executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee--reported on the denomination's progress in education, evangelism and expansion.

Gov. Sanders of Georgia warned the seminary audience to be on guard against "the willingness of some men to stifle the liberty of others in the false belief that they are protecting or enlarging their own."

"As inheritors of the Baptist tradition," the governor said, "we join together in supporting not mere tolerance, but absolute liberty."

"As Christian laymen who believe not only in the desirability of personal liberty, but also in the absolute necessity of this liberty, we are obligated at every moment to renew our faith and rededicate our souls to God," he added.

In his address, Routh suggested ways of developing a more creative approach to church evangelism, including the format of dialogue--talk-back from the pew to the pulpit.

He suggested that pastors should offer their congregations the opportunity to question sermon material and program methods in frequent "feed-back" sessions."

If it takes radical innovation within the church to equip laymen to reach the lost in the community, Southern Baptists must be willing to examine ways of doing just that, said Routh.

"We must broaden our concept of the layman and his role in our churches," Routh said, "and realize that ushering is not all he can do to be of service."

Ex China Missionary Named  
N.C. Baptist Mom of Year

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--A former missionary to China who has discovered a Chinese mission field in North Carolina has been named the first North Carolina Baptist mother of the year.

Mrs. Gordon K. Middleton Sr., of Raleigh was (to be) honored at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in Winston-Salem on Nov. 15.

Nominated by the Forest Hills Baptist Church of Raleigh where she is a member, Mrs. Middleton was selected over nominees submitted by other churches throughout the state.

The award is sponsored by the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, and by Charity and Children, the homes' weekly Baptist newspaper. It will be given annually to honor outstanding mothers and to emphasize Christian family life, said Charity and Children Editor Orville Scott.

Every Friday night, the Middleton home near North Carolina State University looks almost like a mission field in the Orient.

Ten to 15 Chinese students, some of them couples with children, come to the Middleton home to study the Bible and sing hymns.

The Chinese, most of whom are graduate students at North Carolina State, "plan it all themselves and we just provide a gathering place," says Mrs. Middleton.

"It is a tragedy that most of the churches haven't awakened to the fact that the foreign mission field is right here," she says. "It is estimated that there may be 200,000 international students in our country who will return to their own lands to become leaders."

Mrs. Middleton and her husband, who works as an agronomist, were Bible teachers in the Orient from 1920 to 1926.

She was born in Shangtung Province of China to early Southern Baptist missionaries to China, David Wells Herring and Alice Herring.

Her brother, Ralph Herring, is director of the Séminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Convention seminaries with offices in Nashville. Another brother, James Alex Herring, is a missionary to Formosa, and a third brother, Gordon, died in China on short-term missionary appointment. One sister is a Bible teacher; the other is a statistical analyst at North Carolina State.

All of her children are Christians, and her sons are Baptist deacons. But Mrs. Middleton takes no credit for this, saying "this is what God has done, and I want Him to have the glory."

The children are David, an engineer in Australia; Beverette, wife of E. W. Price Jr. who is pastor of Green Street Baptist Church in High Point, N.C. and president of the General Board of the North Carolina Baptist convention; Mary Sue, wife of O. C. Willis who is pastor of Gravel Hill Baptist Church in Hardy, Va.; Gordon Jr., a pediatrician in Raleigh; and Celia Claire, who is married to D. R. Nissen, a lawyer with the justice department of Los Angeles.

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American Baptists Reject  
Crusade of the Americas

11/9/66

By James O. Duncan

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (BP)--The General Council of the American Baptist Convention rejected participation in the Crusade of the Americas at its November meeting here.

In other actions the General Council approved continuing conversation with Roman Catholics, voted a resolution on "Black Power" and justice, and heard a penetrating analysis of conditions in the American Baptist Convention by President Carl W. Tiller of Washington, D.C.

Instead of the Crusade of the Americas, the General Council approved an American Baptist Convention program of its own for 1969-71.

It includes a new church curriculum called "Christian Faith and Work Plan," work with Latin American Baptist convntions affiliated with the American Baptist Convention, and evangelistic work in states and cities in the United States.

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Opposition to American Baptist Convention participation in the Crusade of the Americas ( a North and South American evangelistic crusade for 1969) was spearheaded by Jitsuo Morikawa, secretary of the ABC division of evangelism.

Three major reasons for non-participation by the American Baptist Convention were advanced by Morikawa in the discussion of the Crusade of the Americas.

1. It is basically a Latin American effort in which American Baptist leadership did not participate in the planning.
2. It is overshadowed by the Southern Baptist Convention.
3. It represents a type of evangelism that is prevalent among Pentecostal groups and in the South with which American Baptists should not be associated.

Morikawa also charged that American Baptist Convention participants in the Crusade of the Americas would also mean association with a Baptist group that, he said, has refused to face up to its responsibilities in the racial revolution in America.

It was charged at the General Council that the Crusade of the Americas was developed without consultation with American Baptist leaders and that they knew little or nothing about it until three weeks before a Crusade meeting in Cali, Colombia in July of 1966.

The action and advice of the General Council was contrary to earlier recommendations by the North American Baptist Fellowship Committee of the Baptist World Alliance, of the Committee on Cooperative Christianity of the American Baptist Convention, and of President Tiller.

Although the General Council's resolution on Black Power rejected violence and approved the non-violent technique in establishing justice, it commended the use of "power" by Negroes to protect their rights and to achieve their purposes.

The resolution said, "biblically speaking 'all power belongs to God' and must be exercised responsibly under God. However, to fail to use power is a misuse of power."

It continued, "Reconciliation cannot be achieved at the expense of justice, and justice cannot be achieved without the use of power." It then called on American Baptists "to help our constituency and fellow Americans to understand and share in an equitable and responsible use of power by all of our nation's citizens."

Convention President Tiller told the press following the General Council meeting that he was keenly disappointed by the refusal to participate in the Crusade of the Americas. He also pointed out that he wished to disassociate himself with the resolution on "black power." He had earlier opposed the resolution in the Executive Committee of the General Council.

In his report to the General Council, President Tiller said that although the American Baptist denomination is in good health, there are divisive forces at work in the fellowship.

"The most divisive force in our fellowship today, curiously enough," he said, "is the subject of Christian unity."

He pointed out the division among American Baptists over participation in the Consultation on Church Union which involves nine denominations. American Baptists maintain a consultative relationship rather than the status of full participants in the Church Union movement.

Tiller deplored the refusal of American Baptists to cooperate with other Baptist fellowships in many areas of activity.

"If we stopped acting so isolationist with regard to our Baptist brethren we might even lead them into new insights," he said.

Tiller also struck at the divisive spirit now evident in American Baptist Convention ranks. He said, "The difference of opinion is marked by a growing intolerance for one another's views - an intolerance strongly reminiscent, for the old timers, to that which prevailed in the discussions of the 'inclusive policy' of the Foreign Mission Board 25 years ago."

That division resulted in a split in the American Baptist Convention and the development of the Conservative Baptist movement.

CUTLINES; with story mailed 11/9/66

Baptist Press Photo

GROCERYMAN NAMED CHURCHMAN OF YEAR: Howard E. Butt Jr., (right) displays the 1966 Churchman of the Year award he received from Gordon Ford (left) of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation, whose lay members annually honor an outstanding Christian layman. Butt is vice president of the H. E. Butt Grocery Company, the largest independent food chain in Texas. Ford is senior partner in Kentucky's largest accounting firm and is chairman of the seminary foundation board. (BP PHOTO)

CUTLINES; with story mailed 11/9/66

Baptist Press Photo

BAPTISTS AT WORLD EVANGELISM CONGRESS: About 40 Southern Baptists attended a special called session of Southern Baptist delegates and observers to the World Congress on Evangelism in Berlin to discuss their feelings on the congress and map plans to implement the ideas of the meeting. Roy Fish, (right) professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, makes a point in the discussion period. Presiding over the meeting was C. E. Autrey (center standing), secretary of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta. (BP PHOTO)