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EDITORS: Here is the wrapup story on the Home Mission Board's annual meeting. Separate stories on major developments mailed 12/1/66, and in this mailing on Crusade of Americas.
 --Baptist Press

SBC Board Hopes American Baptists Will Join Crusade

By Dallas M. Lee

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board officially expressed hope here that the American Baptist Convention will reconsider its decision not to participate in a hemisphere-wide evangelistic endeavor.

Baptists from North and South America will conduct a year-long evangelism emphasis in 1969 called the Crusade of the Americas.

The Southern Baptist agency, acting at the conclusion of its annual session here, expressed regret that the General Council of the American Baptist Convention decided early in November to veto participation in the crusade.

The board asked Executive Secretary Arthur B. Rutledge and Evangelism Director C. E. Autrey to work with Southern Baptist crusade committees to encourage American Baptists to reconsider this action.

In other action, the board approved a record \$12.1 million budget and officially designated big cities as the No. 1 mission target.

The 1967 budget includes \$175,000 in salary increases for the board's 2,200 missionaries.

Board members also adopted 14 long-range guidelines, one pinpointing cities to receive the major missions thrust, another citing evangelism as the heart of that thrust.

Another guideline stated that the interest of the Home Mission Board "shall be in each person because of his intrinsic worth apart from incidental identification as to race, language, economics, nationality, or religion."

The new budget also provides for four new staff positions: associate secretaries in the departments of metropolitan missions, pioneer missions and missionary personnel, and a secretary of records processing services.

About \$7 million of the budget is earmarked for the division of missions, which includes nine of the board's 12 programs:

Establishing new churches and church-type missions, pioneer missions, rural-urban missions metropolitan missions, language missions, Christian social ministries, work related to non-evangelicals, associational administration service and work with National Baptists (Negro Baptists).

The board's other three programs are evangelism development, chaplaincy ministries and church loans.

Board members also voted to allow the church loans division to charge the same interest rate to churches that it pays for its borrowed money.

This will mean an immediate hike of ½ and possibly 1 per cent over the current 6 per cent rate charged the churches, church loans director Robert H. Kilgore said.

Failure to adjust to rising commercial interest rates, he said, would force the board to use Cooperative Program revenues to cover church loans operating expenses. Currently, interest payments cover both the interest the Home Mission Board pays on borrowed money and expenses of processing the loans.

About 1,000 churches currently are on the church loans rolls, Kilgore said, representing a \$20 million investment.

Two new staff members were named at this meeting.

Paul Russell Adkins, previously director of the Buckner Baptist department of aging, a unit of Buckner Baptist Benevolences in Dallas, was elected to direct the program of Christian social ministries.

This program administers Baptist center work, juvenile rehabilitation, literacy missions and migrant missions, and the possibility is being studied of adding additional responsibilities such as ex-prisoner rehabilitation and work with alcoholics and drug addicts.

In other action involving Christian social ministries, the board boosted the disaster relief allocation from \$50,000 to \$125,000. This permanent fund was established in March 1966 to assist churches and church workers in hurricane-ravished south Louisiana.

Pat McDaniel of Detroit, currently assistant to the executive secretary of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, was elected as the first of three new field representatives in the church loans division.

He will work with local and state leadership initiating loan applications and servicing loans in a geographic area to be assigned.

In regular appointment procedures, Mr. and Mrs. Roberto Garcia were appointed to regular missionary status. Garcia is a professor at the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio, Tex.

Also, Robert W. Lawson of Sumter, S.C. was transferred to the South Bend, Ind., area as a pastoral missionary.

The board reset the election of officers for a spring meeting and voted to maintain the current slate:

Edgar M. Arendall of Birmingham, president; David C. Hall of Phoenix, vice president; W. Arnold Smith of Atlanta, vice president; Mrs. Clint E. Rogers of Atlanta, recording secretary; and Mrs. Marie Cooper, of Atlanta, assistant recording secretary.

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Methodist Bishop To Speak
At Midwestern Seminary

12/2/66

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Methodist Bishop Gerald Kennedy, noted author, lecturer and Bishop of the Los Angeles Area of the Methodist Church, will deliver the Hester Lectures at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, Feb. 14-17, 1967.

"The Worlds of the Ministry" will be the theme of Kennedy's lectures, which will include such topics as the preacher, the administrator, the pastor, and the theologian.

In addition, he will be the featured speaker at a seminary fellowship dinner on Feb. 16.

In connection with the lectureship, three Midwestern Seminary professors will lead afternoon classes in the second annual Continuing Theological Education Seminar.

They are Morris Ashcraft, professor of theology, John C. Howell, professor of Christian ethics, and Hugh Wamble, professor of church history.

With five earned degrees and 12 honorary degrees, Bishop Kennedy has deep educational preparation for the ministry. From 1932-1948, he served Methodist and Congregational churches at Collinsville, Conn.; Lincoln, Neb.; and San Jose and Palo Alto, Calif.

Elected a bishop in 1948, he served at Portland, Oregon until 1952 when he assumed his present position.

The lectures will be open to former students, alumni and friends. Reservations must be made with the seminary's alumni office.

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Mission Board Hopes ABC
Will Join 1969 Crusade

ATLANTA (BP)--A Southern Baptist mission agency expressed hope that American Baptists will reconsider their recent decision not to participate in the hemisphere-wide Baptist Crusade of the Americas in 1969.

Baptist groups in North and South America that year will conduct a year-long evangelistic effort, and already have met for joint planning sessions.

The Home Mission Board of the SBC in annual session here formally expressed hope American Baptists would reconsider the action taken by their General Council in November.

The board expressed regret that the American Baptists were not participating in the crusade.

Also the Southern Baptist agency asked its executive secretary and director of evangelism to assist other Southern Baptists involved in committees at work on the crusade to encourage American Baptists to reconsider.

C. E. Autrey, the Southern Baptist director of evangelism, told his mission agency, "There is no reason why our two groups cannot cooperate in an evangelistic effort. I would encourage further communication with the leaders of the American Convention, since there can be cooperation without sacrifice of conviction."

The original motion presented to the mission agency came from Lewis Rhodes of Knoxville, Tenn. He expressed concern that the action by American Baptists might cause a further break in fellowship between the two groups.

Rhodes asked for action to be taken for the sake of future relationships, even if American Baptists could not be enlisted in the Crusade of the Americas.

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Baptist Stewardship Mail
Travels Lengthy Circuit

12/2/66

DALLAS (BP)--An envelope labeled "New stewardship materials" that for 17 years has traveled a lengthy circuit in search for a Baptist pastor, has finally returned home.

The Post Office returned to the Stewardship Division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas an undelivered manila envelope marked "New Stewardship Materials" apparently mailed 17 years ago.

It was addressed to a pastor in Marshall, Tex., about 150 miles from Dallas. At Marshall it was stamped "addressee unknown," then forwarded to Hobbs, N.M., reason unknown.

Convention employees have fixed the date of mailing, roughly, as 1949, by the change in pastorates of the addressee and by the use of stewardship label for addressing, long since discontinued.

Stewardship leaders here are not too perturbed about the failure in delivery 17 years ago, though. The envelope also was stamped "Received Without Contents."

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Former Missionary To
Cuba Dies In Florida

12/2/66

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)--Mrs. M. N. McCall, former missionary to Cuba and wife of the late Moses Nathaniel McCall, a missionary to Cuba for 42 years, died here on Nov. 28.

Mrs. McCall was the former Mabel Lipscomb of Greenville, S. C.

Dr. McCall spent 42 years in Cuba (1904-1946), about 40 of those as superintendent of Baptist work in Western Cuba. He died on March 8, 1947 in Jacksonville, Fla.

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Polhill To Retire As Virginia Executive

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Lucius M. Polhill, for 12 years executive secretary of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, told the convention's General Board here that he planned to retire in one year.

He announced his date of retirement as Dec. 31, 1967. At that time, he will be 68, the mandatory age of retirement under the policy of the convention.

"This early announcement is made to give the General Board ample time for making future plans," said Polhill in a statement read to the board.

"It is by no means an indication of a slackening of dedication or of effort," he added. "The coming year promises to be one of the fullest and busiest as we work and pray. This could well be the most fruitful year of our ministry together."

The full board took no action on the resignation, but the board president said that appropriate action and recognition for Polhill's years of service would be made later.

Under the established procedure, the full convention must elect a new chief executive. A committee is expected to bring a recommendation to the convention when it meets next November.

In major business action, the Virginia General Board elected John C. Ivins of Chesapeake Va., as assistant to the executive secretary, effective Jan. 1.

Ivins, former pastor of two Virginia Baptist churches, is now associate pastor of the Churchland Baptist Church, Chesapeake. He is a graduate of University of Richmond (Baptist), Richmond, Va., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

In his announcement to the board concerning his planned retirement, Polhill expressed hope that "perhaps at some appropriate time I shall have the privilege of sharing with you something of my deep appreciation of these years which have afforded Mrs. Polhill and me one of the happiest and most rewarding experiences of our ministry."

A native of Georgia, Polhill was pastor of the Deer Park Church in Louisville, Ky., before becoming the Virginia Baptist executive secretary. Previously, he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Americus, Ga.

Polhill is a graduate of Mercer University, (Baptist), Macon, Ga., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he earned the doctor of philosophy degree.

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Seminary Choirs To Sing On Network Radio Show

12/2/66

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--On Christmas day, the choir and male choral of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here will perform for 30 minutes on a nation-wide broadcast of Christmas music on the American Broadcasting Company.

ABC officials have announced that the program will be carried nation-wide at 5:30 p.m. E.S.T. on Sunday, Dec. 25.

Dean Forrest H. Heeren of the seminary's School of Church Music said that the invitation for the two choral groups to appear on the network's annual Christmas series came as somewhat of a surprise.

The program, in addition to nation-wide network broadcasting by ABC, will also be broadcast to servicemen around the world by the Armed Forces Radio Network, and by the Voice of America broadcasts sponsored by the U. S. Information Agency.

The seminary choir is directed by Jay W. Wilkey and the male choral by John N. Sims. Both choral groups feature students from all three of the seminaries schools--music, religious education, and theology.

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Priest Is Speaker
In Baptist Church

DALLAS (BP)--The first Roman Catholic priest to fill the pulpit in a Dallas area Baptist church was guest speaker for a joint Thanksgiving service at the Northlake Baptist Church.

Fred J. Mosman, pastor of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in the northeast section of Dallas, was principal speaker at the service involving Baptist, Methodist, Disciples of Christ, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Catholic congregations.

"When was the last time you thanked God?" the priest asked in his address. "We say thank you to our friends and even write them thank you notes, but seldom do we say 'Thank you' to God.

"When trouble strikes we storm the heavens with our prayers. We acknowledge that only with God's help can our problem be solved," Mosman said. "When it is all over, do we think to say 'Thank you God'?"

Church leaders in Dallas said this was the first time on record a Catholic priest was known to deliver a sermon from a Baptist pulpit in Dallas.

Reaction from Baptists and Catholics was favorable to the history-making event.

One member of the Northlake Baptist Church said, "My Catholic neighbor visited in my home for the first time in the two years I have lived here. She had always thought that Baptists didn't like Catholics, and I guess I had always thought that Catholics didn't particularly care for Baptists," she concluded.

The joint service, sponsored by the Northlake Area Ministerial Alliance, is an annual event which is held in a different church each year. The Baptist congregation has been participating in the service for the past three years.

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First California Baptist
Executive, Lackey, Dies

12/2/66

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--The first executive secretary of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Robert W. Lackey, died in his sleep here Nov. 30 at the age of 81.

Lackey, who led in the organization of the convention and wrote its first constitution, had been in ill health for the past ten years and had been in and out of hospitals during that period.

He had served as the convention's first executive secretary and first editor, elected to the positions in 1940, serving for four years.

In this capacity, he also served as head of all the convention's departments until 1942.

Before becoming executive secretary of the convention, Lackey was a part-time missionary for the San Joaquin Valley Baptist Association and pastor in Bakersfield, Calif.

A native of Oklahoma, Lackey came to California in 1939. In addition to writing the constitution and by-laws for the full convention, Lackey also wrote a constitution for the first association organized in California, and that constitution became a pattern for the constitutions of 27 other Baptist associations later organized in California.

Following his resignation in 1944, Lackey did evangelistic work for several years and became a missionary to central California in 1947. He retired in 1949, but later served as pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Kermit, Calif.

Funeral services were held Dec. 2 in Fresno, with Garland Walker, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Fresno, officiating.

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