



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593

DALLAS R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996

WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

February 6, 1967

American Baptists Push
Own Evangelism Program

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VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (BP)--"The American Baptist Convention will not be listed as officially participating in the Crusade of the Americas," according to an explanation vote by the General Council of the Convention at its February meeting here.

The Crusade of the Americas is an evangelistic effort by several Baptist bodies in both North and South America slated for 1969.

The General Council in effect re-affirmed its decision last November not to participate in the crusade during a stormy session here characterized by extensive debate and parliamentary maneuvering.

A controversy has been brewing for several months both within the American Baptist Convention and between American Baptists and Southern Baptists over the question of ABC participation in the crusade.

At its November meeting the General Council approved an alternate denominational program called the Christian Faith and Work Plan.

The new action of the General Council was taken because "several questions have been raised" about the meaning of the November decision concerning the Crusade of the Americas, the statement explained.

"The entire American Baptist family will be vitally concerned with evangelism during the years 1969-71, as it always seeks to be," the General Council said. However, "the evangelistic emphasis will be integrated into the major thrust of the Christian Faith and Work Plan, which will be the denominational thrust of attention during this period of time," it continued.

The new action of the General Council was taken after Edwin H. Tuller, general secretary of the American Baptist Convention, reported that numerous requests had been received for a re-opening of the question of participation in the Crusade of the Americas.

Tuller's report was accompanied by three documents which he had written explaining the November action of the General Council and outlining the developments of the Crusade of the Americas.

Since the decision of the General Council to follow an alternate plan of evangelism, several American Baptist Convention state conventions, associations, churches and other groups have expressed intention to cooperate with the Crusade of the Americas.

Such cooperation is not precluded by the General Council's action. But it does mean that there will be no financial or staff help from the American Baptist Convention agencies to those in the United States who participate.

In the Latin American countries, however, the situation is different. The explanation given by the General Council for these areas stated: "The American Baptist Home Mission Society will seek to assist Latin American Conventions with leadership and resources in strengthening their own programs of evangelism."

The texts of the actions of the General Council in both the November and the February meetings are as follows:

On November 3, 1966, acting on the recommendation of the Division of Program Planning, the General Council of the American Baptist Convention:

"VOTED: to adopt the following action in response to the invitation from the North American Baptist Fellowship to participate in a Crusade of the Americas for 1969: By corporate charter, as well as commitment, our American Baptist Convention shares with other Baptist groups the concern for the evangelization of the Americas. The Division of Program Planning and the Division of Evangelism recommend that we further fulfill our evangelistic purpose by: (1) the vigorous prosecution of the Christian Faith and Work Plan 1969-71; (2) responding through the Division of Evangelism and the

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Division of Latin America to the invitation from the Latin American Conventions for leadership and resources in their witness; (3) strengthening our State Conventions and City Societies in their continuing and special evangelistic emphases."

On February 2, 1967, the General Council of the American Baptist Convention:

VOTED: that, since several questions have been raised subsequent to the last meeting of the General Council about the meaning of the action taken by the Council concerning the Crusade of the Americas, we record the following as our understanding of that action:

- (1) The entire American Baptist family will be vitally concerned with evangelism during the years 1969-71, as it always seeks to be;
- (2) The evangelistic emphasis will be integrated into the major thrust of The Christian Faith and Work Plan, which will be the denomination-wide focus of attention during this period of time;
- (3) The regular evangelistic work of our state conventions and city societies will be strengthened and encouraged;
- (4) The American Baptist Home Missions Society will seek to assist Latin American Conventions with leadership and resources in strengthening their own programs of evangelism;
- (5) The American Baptist Convention will not be listed as officially participating in the Crusade of the Americas, since no financial resources are being set aside to meet obligations of the overall planning of the Crusade or to pay for the production of special materials, or programs and necessary field activities required if American Baptists were to become full participants in the Crusade of the Americas.
- (6) Participation in the Crusade of the Americas as an additional evangelistic emphasis initiated by local churches, associations, state conventions or city societies, should be so planned as to advance the overall objectives of the denomination-wide emphasis and to avoid competition at any point. The office of the General Secretary will seek to keep informed on developing details of the Crusade of the Americas and to be of service to any interested parties.

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Loan Funds Reserved For
Kentucky Baptist School

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Georgetown College, a Baptist school in Georgetown, Ky., has been approved for \$1,250,000 reservation in college housing loan funds, according to announcement by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The federal fund reservation, established on the basis of a preliminary application for assistance under the college housing program, sets aside this amount for use by the college if the project is approved by HUD, following review of a complete application.

The loan funds will be used for construction of three new dormitories. The HUD loan, if approved, will be supplemented by \$208,600 of the college's own funds.

This loan reservation for the Kentucky Baptist school is the first to be announced since the meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention at Bowling Green last November. Prior to that time the convention's colleges were not allowed to accept either government grants or loans.

The Bowling Green convention adopted a motion, made by Georgetown College President Robert Mills, re-affirming a 1949 decision to place decisions on policy matters in the hands of the denomination's college trustees. It was interpreted by many as rescinding the action of a special convention last June which denied federal loans to their colleges.

Georgetown is one of five church-related institutions approved for reservation funds totaling \$5,875,000. Of the other four, two are Lutheran, one is Methodist and one is African Methodist Episcopal.

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Tiller Urges Better
Baptist Relationships

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VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (BP)--The president of the American Baptist Convention urged other American Baptist leaders to work toward improved relations with Southern Baptists, saying that the events of the past few months "have weakened our relationships with Southern Baptists."

At the same time among American Baptists, there is a declining confidence in the ABC General Council and other parts of the convention superstructure, the convention president said. In an evaluation of ABC administration, he said: "We can manage our affairs better."

Carl W. Tiller, convention president and a layman, is director of budget methods for the Bureau of the Budget of the U. S. government. He is a member of the Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., which is aligned with both the American Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Speaking to the February meeting of the ABC General Council here, Tiller gave three reasons for the widening gulf between American Baptists and Southern Baptists:

(1) The ABC General Council's decision not to participate in the Crusade of Americas; (2) opinions expressed at the council last November when the decision was made; and (3) subsequent developments in the press.

He did not elaborate on the "opinions expressed" or the developments in the press. It was believed by many, however, that he referred to statements critical of Southern Baptists by Jitsuo Morikawa, ABC secretary of evangelism.

His reference to "the press" was obviously to a Baptist Press news story reporting the council's action, and to the editorial response in many Southern Baptist state papers.

The ABC president reported that he has sought personally to stop further deterioration of American-Southern Baptist relations by agreeing to serve on the layman's committee of the Crusade of Americas, a hemisphere-wide evangelistic campaign planned for 1969.

Tiller proposed that American Baptists take the initiative toward Southern Baptists, "for example, in certain areas of social concern where our outlook is similar."

He suggested that the North American Baptist Fellowship could propose "some other steps many Baptists could take together."

Without identifying the person, Tiller reported that "a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention has written, specifically suggesting to me that we consider an ABC-SBC leadership conference to try to re-establish understanding."

"The next move in this matter should be ours," the American Baptist president said.

Turning to internal American Baptist problems, Tiller said, "There continues to be some restlessness among our people." He blamed this on the convention's program of evangelism, the unsatisfactory relations with Southern Baptists, and the convention's relations with other Christians.

"The drop of one-third in baptisms compared with 1956 and the immediate preceding years disturbs many," he said.

Many American Baptists feel that the convention's program of evangelism "does not meet the needs," he continued.

"We are in danger of an eruption on this matter if we do not find practical ways to assist those states which want to take part in the hemispheric crusade, and help them evangelize in their own mode and on their own theological basis," the president warned.

American Baptist dissatisfaction with relations with other Christians partly revolves around provision for dialogue with Roman Catholics but not with Protestants, he said.

Other dissatisfaction is focused in the American Baptist Convention decision last year not to continue in the Consultation on Church Union (COCU), a movement to unite nine Protestant denominations in America. Many American Baptists want the matter reopened at the convention in Pittsburg in May.

Tiller opposed reopening the church union question, but he urged "steps toward more cooperation with other Christians."

Following his criticism of the convention's administration the president suggested a dozen "ways in which we could manage better." These ranged all the way from better relations with the churches in the convention to more care in carrying out the convention's instructions and better procedures in arriving at decisions.

Tiller explained his approach to his responsibilities as convention president. "I am strongly of the view that we should not only be where the action is, but that we ought to be creating action for the Lord."

As a result he has made perhaps some 30 or 40 suggestions for church and convention action. Of these Tiller lifted up two for special attention of the General Council. They are:

1. A proposal for interdenominational agreement on a form of the Lord's Prayer for use in public worship, and
2. Simultaneous efforts by American Baptists toward greater cooperation with other Baptists and with other Christians.

No action was taken on the American Baptist's presidential report. It was received as information for the General Council.

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January Missions Gifts ~~88~~ (91) 2/6/67 235
 Start Year With Increase

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptists started the year with an increase in contributions to missions, the Southern Baptist Executive Committee reported here.

Total world missions contributions, through the denomination's Cooperative Program budget plan and through designated giving to specific causes, hit the \$5.9 million mark during January of 1967, nearly \$75,000 more than was given in January of 1966.

The \$5.9 million figure includes \$2,249,420 contributed through the Cooperative Program, an an additional \$3,734,658 given to designated causes.

It was a 5.84 per cent increase in Cooperative Program giving, compared to January contributions of 1966; but was a 1.32 per cent decrease in designated contributions compared to January, 1966.

The \$2½ million given through the Cooperative Program was \$124,028 more than was contributed last year; while the \$3.6 million in designated contributions was \$49,251 less than was given to designated causes last January.

All but a few thousand dollars of the \$3.6 million in designated gifts went to the SBC Foreign Mission Board, mostly as part of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The designated foreign missions gifts, plus more than \$1 million in Cooperative Program allocations, brought the total amount received for foreign missions to \$4.7 million for the month, slightly more than foreign missions received in January of 1966.

Twenty-one agencies and organizations of the convention receive funds through the Cooperative Program budget allocations. The total amounts reported by the Executive Committee here reflect only sums given to support SBC-wide missions program, and do not include local and state-wide missions programs.

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Annuity Board Trustees ~~91~~ (92) 2/6/67 117
 Choose Officers At Meet

DALLAS (BP)--Six general officers, headed by E. H. Westmoreland, pastor of South Main Baptist Church of Houston, were re-elected for one year terms by trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. Westmoreland, re-elected president, will serve his second term.

Also re-elected were: Wallace Bassett, retired pastor of Dallas, as president emeritus; Gus L. Berry, Thomas J. Hayman and Ben H. Wooten, Dallas laymen, and Carlton S. Prickett, pastor of First Baptist Church, Burlington, N. C., as vice-presidents.

Re-elected as executive officers were: R. Alton Reed, executive secretary; Floyd B. Chaffin and L. Taylor Daniel, associate secretaries and directors of development; Fred W. Noe, associate secretary and director of investments; Owen Henley, associate director of investments; B. J. Chenault, comptroller and treasurer; and Mable H. McCartney, registrar.

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LBJ Cites Uncertainty
In Crucial Decisions



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WASHINGTON (BP)--President Lyndon B. Johnson told the annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast here that uncertainty is the inevitable companion of men who must make crucial decisions.

"We know that at the hour of decision in public and private life, faced with the tormenting choices that are part of man's destiny, we can never be certain that we are right," the president said.

Vice President Humphrey, representatives of foreign countries and more than 1,000 other leaders of government, business and labor heard the president at the 14th annual prayer breakfast sponsored by International Christian Leadership.

Sen. Frank Carlson (R., Kan.), a Baptist layman, presided. Carlson urged the gathering of national leaders not to be casual about our spiritual heritage. "We must give leadership by our lives as well as by our words," he said.

The annual prayer breakfast is a joint meeting of the breakfast prayer groups that meet each week in the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Inaugurated in 1942, the weekly meetings are private and nonsectarian, transcending political issues that normally divide.

Secretary of the Treasury Henry Fowler, the principal speaker, described these weekly prayer groups as a demonstration of the validity of building friendships and ties in the spirit of Christ.

Fowler confessed the need for more small groups of responsible persons to find ways to pray and share together.

Another Baptist layman, Congressman G. Elliott Hagan (D., Ga.) brought greetings to the assembly from the House breakfast group.

In addition to the meeting in the nation's capital, governors and mayors throughout the country held simultaneous prayer breakfasts.

Also, parliamentary bodies of more than 40 countries have inaugurated similar meetings for prayer.

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Kentucky Names Ihley Head
Of Inter-Racial Department



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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The secretary of the North Carolina Baptist Sunday School department, Herman Ihley, has been named secretary of a new department of inter-racial cooperation of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Ihley was elected by mail ballot of the 143-member Executive Board of the Kentucky convention following a meeting of the board's administrative committee and the Baptist Joint Advisory Committee including representatives of Negro Baptists in Kentucky.

The administrative committee also voted to ask the board's program committee to study the need for a ministry to the aging by the convention, and to study the present program and future changes in the convention's child care ministry.

For the past 10 years, Ihley has been associated with the North Carolina Baptist Convention with offices in Raleigh, N. C. He begins his work with Kentucky Baptists effective March 1.

A native of Furman, S. C., Ihley is a graduate of Mercer University (Baptist), Macon, Ga., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he received the doctor of theology degree.

He was a Navy chaplain during World War II, and has served as president of the Southern Baptist Chaplains' Association. He served for 24 years in the National Guard, and in 1954 received a distinguished service medal from the governor of Georgia.

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Baptist Press

South Carolina Governor
Urges Church Involvement

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COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--The governor of South Carolina, Robert E. McNair, urged about 200 church leaders here from throughout the state, including about 40 Baptists, to participate in the affairs of state government.

"We not only want, but encourage, your participation in the affairs of our state," Gov. McNair, an active Baptist layman, told the fourth annual Churchmen's Legislative Seminar here.

He called the 200 church leaders, representing 18 denominational groups, "influence-makers who have a very important role to play in determining the direction of our state."

The seminar, sponsored by the inter-church Christian-Action Council of South Carolina, was designed to help church leaders learn about procedures and issues before the General Assembly, and to offer an opportunity for them to share their views with legislators and state leaders.

The meeting opened with prayer led by R. Archie Ellis, the governor's pastor and minister to the First Baptist Church of Columbia, where nine state government leaders are members.

Also leading prayers for state government leaders were William Croghan, vicar-general of the Diocese of Charleston and pastor of the St. Peter's Catholic Church in Columbia; and Rabbi Aaron Levi of Sumpter, S. C.

In the major address of the seminar, Gov. McNair chided some church leaders for "the too common practice of judging a man by his position on one issue, rather than on the basis of his whole record."

"We will not always agree," he emphasized, "but honest disagreement in itself should not cause us to have lack of confidence in our elected representatives."

"Problems do not always mean progress," Gov. McNair said, "but progress does always bring problems."

To meet such "problems of progress," the governor recommended more technical and vocational education, passage of a compulsory school attendance law, highway safety measures, and the coordination of all state agencies for effectiveness and efficiency of operation.

Two other key South Carolina legislators, both Baptists, were on the program. Speaker Pro-Tem Rex Carter of Greenville, S. C., spoke on "Being Effective in Working With the General Assembly," and Rep. Harrell Breazeale of Pickens, S. C., chairman of the House education and public works committee, discussed educational needs of the state.

Several other Baptist denominational leaders and pastors participated on the program, led by Howard G. McClain, a Baptist minister and executive director of the South Carolina inter-church Christian Action Council.

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American Baptists Seek
Christian Unity Posture

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VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (BP)--Baptists in America are called to a fresh understanding of Christian unity in a study paper released by the Division of Cooperative Christianity of the American Baptist Convention.

The paper was presented to the General Council of the ABC at its February meeting here by Robert G. Torbett, church historian and head of the division.

Torbett emphasized that the paper is not in its final form but is for study and for presentation in May to the General Council and to the American Baptist Convention at Pittsburg.

Declaring that unity is not an end in itself, the paper says that it is "a means whereby the ultimate mission of God's redemption of the world may be accomplished."

The paper calls on Baptists to give serious thought to the best way their continuing witness can be given in a changed world situation. They need to decide whether this witness shall be continued "only in a free church context" or whether it should be given "from within a wider institutional expression of the church wherein personal and congregational freedoms are safeguarded."

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Three specific areas for the exploration of unity are pointed out in the proposed study: (1) the conciliar movement, (2) joint Bible study, and (3) closer Baptist cooperation.

Deeper involvement in local, state, national and world councils of churches as a means of helping others and learning from others is suggested by the paper.

"We can also explore with others the Bible, seeking with them the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in an effort to discover more fully what is the will of God for his people in this time and to determine the nature of the unity we seek and how we can manifest it," it continues.

The paper encourages cooperative endeavors in such areas as the Baptist World Alliance, the North American Baptist Fellowship, and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

However, it warns, "Any position which we take on unity involving other Baptist groups must not compromise our position concerning the whole church and our determination to be a part of the trend toward Christian unity which is 'the great new fact of this century.'"

Baptists need "to clear away the emotional overtones" of ecumenical phrases, "and to get to the heart of their deeper meanings," it declares. The paper asserts that "spiritual unity may be without meaning unless it is manifested in some visible way."

The Protestant Reformation "was accompanied by a process of division over a period of four centuries which has reached its climax in the fragmentation we see today," the paper says.

"The Holy Spirit calls us to continuing reformation, leading us from this separatist trend to a quest for new expressions of the unity for which Christ prayed."

The paper concludes, "We are called to nothing less than a most earnest response to what we believe is the summons of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, to unity, renewal, and mission to the world."

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Speaker Calls For ABC To Become "A Church"

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VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (BP)--The time has come for the American Baptist Convention to become a Church, the executive secretary of the New Jersey Baptist Convention said here in an address to the Associated Home Mission Agencies of the American Baptist Convention.

The speaker, Joseph H. Heartberg, suggested that the American Baptist Convention change its name by substituting the word "Church" for "Convention."

He also suggested that the denomination drop the word "American" from its title in order to become more worldwide in emphasis. Thus, he suggested that the ABC become the Baptist Church.

Heartberg also recommended for American Baptists: a more representative church structure, entry into an organic world-wide union with sympathetic Baptists, and that local congregations be ready to restructure their relationship to the Church, while remaining its basic unit.

"We suffer seriously from an over-emphasis on the autonomy of the local church and the soul competency of the believer, which has led. . .to the fragmentation of the Church of Jesus Christ among us," he said.

Over-emphasis on individualism has led to stress on values such as efficiency, expediency, promotion, and budgets, Heartberg said.

He also charged that congregations race to make a missionary quoto while neglecting the poor and unfortunate right outside their doors. Churches move to the clean suburbs, leaving "multitudes of cities and urban communities without a Baptist church or Protestant church of any kind."

Throughout their history, Baptists have stumbled into disorder because Baptist organization and belief have often grown up around "certain individuals, with certain ideas, sound or unsound," who happened to gain prominence. The result, he said, is emphasis upon "prima donnas", rather than on the "chorus."

Heartberg added that the loose association of Baptist societies grew through accidents of history, and were unrepresentative with control by the "elite" at headquarters. Though this non-representative nature of the ABC has been modified through the years, there is still far too much autonomy and autocracy, he maintained, with a time-wasting emphasis on the separate organization of each society.

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