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South Americans Discuss
Regional Crusade Plans

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LIMA, Peru (BP)--A Baptist pastor from Bogota, Colombia, said here the proposed Crusade of the Americas is "the greatest evangelistic effort undertaken in Christendom in the 2,000+ year history of the church."

Regis Ortiz, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Bogota, made the comment in the opening address to a regional planning conference for the 1969 evangelistic campaign at the Baptist encampment near Lima.

Ortiz said that he first thought the proposed crusade would be "just another evangelistic campaign," but that his views had changed.

He, and others during the three-day meeting here, expressed optimism that "God is in this campaign!" Said one participant, "In a revolutionary epoch of history, in a revolutionary part of the world, we plan to start a revolution--a revolution for Christ, because Christ is our only hope."

Representatives attended the regional meeting from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. Each presented progress reports on efforts in their countries, shared ideas, and planned for future phases of the crusade in their region.

The Crusade of the Americas is an evangelistic campaign jointly sponsored by Baptist bodies in numerous countries in South, Central and North America. Theme for the campaign, slated in 1969, is "Christ-the Only Hope."

"The general tone of the meeting here was one of optimism," reported Southern Baptist Missionary William E. Matheny of Arequipa, Peru. "There was no hesitation however in pointing out possible snares, and a healthy mixture of realism and enthusiasm prevailed."

Matheny said all were encouraged by reports on recent evangelistic efforts in Brazil and Venezuela, where the crusade got headline coverage in major newspapers of the nation and nation-wide television exposure.

The reports indicated numerous decisions for Christ among the professional classes, with an impact on the upper levels of society in these two countries as well as among the masses. The crusades will be designed to reach every socio-economic strata, Matheny reported.

The president of the Baptist Convention of Peru, Carlos Garcia, told the regional representatives he felt that a deepening of the spiritual lives of church members should be a major goal of the campaign. He also expressed interest in planning to reach the large indigenous populations of Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia including those who speak mainly Quechua, Aymaria and other tribal languages.

Donald Orr, professor of music at Baptist International Seminary in Cali, Colombia, presented a two-part conference on the importance of music in evangelism, telling creative ways music can be used.

Migual Angel Veloz of Ecuador said that in his country, the campaign would be financed by pledges from local churches to underwrite one-half of the cost, with the other half coming from the Baptist mission in Ecuador.

Archie Jones, Southern Baptist missionary to Guayaquil, Ecuador, presented a plan of personal, layman-led visitation evangelism. Roy L. Lyon, SBC missionary to Venezuela, was elected to head an international South American committee to involve laymen more deeply in the campaign.

NOTE TO EDITORS: BP Photos of SBC Missionary Herbert Caudill and the eye surgeon who returned from Cuba last week are being mailed from the Atlanta BP office.

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Reconsideration Urged
On South Africa Crusade

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WASHINGTON (BP)--An editorial in the Capital Baptist here expressed hope that plans for Southern Baptist involvement in an evangelistic crusade in South Africa would be reconsidered because the evangelists would not be allowed to preach on race relations.

Editor Jimmy Duncan of the Capital Baptist said the proposed crusade poses many problems, and could embarrass the entire denomination.

Duncan referred to news reports that the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's division of evangelism is enlisting about 100 Southern Baptist pastors to preach in the South African crusade, and that each participant must agree not to discuss the race question in his sermons.

The editorial, and the news reports, quoted Eual Lawson of the board's evangelism division as saying, "We do not feel that we should cut ourselves off from fellowship and contact with Baptists because of restrictions imposed by some government. We are going over there," Lawson said, "for one purpose--to preach the good news so people can be saved."

Duncan countered that he wondered if this activity by the division of evangelism "isn't going to hurt the total work of the board," at a time when so many divisions of work in the Home Mission Board are making progress.

"It seems to us that it matters very little how we feel about racial matters if we compromise on this in going to South Africa," he wrote.

"We would hope that much more consideration would be given to the proposed crusade before the whole denomination is embarrassed by a few."

The editorial also listed what Duncan considered to be disturbing questions posed by the crusade.

"To you men who plan to go--what kind of a Gospel will you preach?" he asked. "It sure doesn't sound like New Testament Christianity when we are willing to accept such demands on what we will preach before we go.

"How can one possibly go preach the whole gospel when he agrees before he goes that he will not talk about the greatest evil in the land in which he is to preach?

"Don't the words of Peter have something to say to us at this point? The apostles had something of the same problem and Peter's answer was, 'We must obey God rather than men.'

"...How will this agreement affect the work of our missionaries in other parts of the world, and especially in Africa?

"How does it look when we agree to go proclaim a gospel that insists that all men are equal, in a land where the social order is so structured that men are not equal, and we agree not to say anything about it?

"What does this do with our relations with our Negro bretheren in this country? Will it destroy the areas of cooperation where we now work?

"What does this proposed crusade do in our relations with other denominations who refuse to go to South Africa under such restrictions?

Duncan said that the board's division of evangelism had helped with similar crusades in New Zealand, Australia, and Japan upon the request of local Baptists, but there was never a restriction placed on the preachers as placed upon these.

The Capital Baptist is the official publication of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

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Jewish Fellowship Week
Scheduled April 9-14

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ATLANTA (BP)--More than 100 Southern Baptist churches are expected to participate in Jewish Fellowship Week April 9-14, the Home Mission Board's Jewish work director reported.

"This is one of the major attempts for Southern Baptists to relate to Jewish people," William B. Mitchell of Atlanta said.

"Churches participating will invite their Jewish freinds to attend Sunday worship services, and Baptists will visit Jewish temples to learn more of the Jewish faith," he said.

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South Carolina Church
Helps Vietnam Children

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BAU OU, Vietnam (BP)--Several dozen children in this war-torn Vietnamese village now have "new" clothes to wear, thanks to a Southern Baptist church in Columbia, S.C., and an Army officer stationed in Vietnam.

When the clothes were sent here by the Bayview Baptist Church in Columbia, the children "laughed with happiness" and "sang and danced to entertain the soldiers."

The South Carolina church came to the aid of the Vietnamese children as a result of correspondence from Capt. Thomas Taylor, serving with the First Battalion, 28th Infantry in Vietnam.

Capt. Taylor, a member of the Columbia church, wrote home telling of the needs of the children here.

In response, the church collected several large boxes of clothing suitable for children through 12 years of age, and shipped them to Vietnam. Capt. Taylor and some of his men did the rest.

An Army private described the event, saying that all of the boxes were unloaded and put on the steps of the schoolhouse in Bau Ou.

"The children gathered around and watched with bashful but eager eyes. As the boxes were opened, one of the little girls was coaxed to pick up a dress; and then one by one the others started exploring the contents of the boxes, held them up, tried them on, and laughed with happiness," the private wrote.

"After the clothes had been distributed, the children sang and danced to entertain the soldiers. That was their way of showing their appreciation," the private concluded.

George E. Turbeville is pastor of the Bayview Baptist Church in Columbia.

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Pastor's Son Resigns
From Georgia Senate

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ATLANTA (BP)--Sen. James P. Wesberry Jr., son of a prominent Atlanta Baptist pastor, has resigned as a state Senator from Atlanta to serve in Peru for two years.

Sen. Wesberry will be a special consultant to the government of Peru, helping perfect major reforms in the financial and accounting systems of the Controller's Office and the Ministry of Finance there.

Sen. Wesberry is the son of James P. Wesberry, now in his 22nd year as pastor of Atlanta's Morningside Baptist Church, and a former president of the Georgia Baptist Convention and of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Sen. Westberry cited personal financial problems as a major factor in his decision to leave public service. He estimated Senate service cost him about \$15,000 per year.

"I point this out because I believe our citizens should be aware of the cost of part-time public service and the sacrifices which a public servant is called upon to make, in addition to the loss of almost all personal time for family life at home. I hope that there will always be honorable men ready and willing to make such sacrifices," he said.

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American Indian Named
U. S. Army Chaplain

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ATLANTA (BP)--Charles E. LeClair of Oklahoma City has become the first American Indian to serve as a Baptist chaplain in the U. S. Army.

LeClair, a missionary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, reported to the Army Chaplains' School at Ft. Hamilton, N. Y.

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George W. Cummins, director of the Southern Baptist Chaplains Commission, said that to his knowledge, LeClair is the first Indian chaplain appointed by Southern Baptists.

At the completion of his training, LeClair will be assigned to the U. S. Army Artillery and Missile Center at Ft. Sill, Okla., and promoted to the rank of Captain.

LeClair, a member of the Ponca Indian tribe, has worked with the Indians in Oklahoma City since 1964, when he was appointed as a language missionary by the SBC Home Mission Board.

The Tonkawa, Okla., native graduated from the Chilocco Indian School in Chilocco, Okla., Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Other pastorates include: South Central Baptist Church in Oklahoma City; the First Baptist Church of Plains, Kan.; Otoe Baptist Church, Red Rock, Okla.; and First Baptist Church of Palmer, Alaska, a church which he helped establish while in the Air Force.

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Southwestern Seminary Adds
Experimental Teaching Area

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FORT WORTH (BP)--A new Experimental Teaching Area including a research center and an archaeological museum is being constructed as part of remodeling of the Memorial Building at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The research center is being established to help the faculty in their research, assist the students in their study, and keep information available to the administration about total seminary activity, said Carl A. Clark, seminary professor and director of the research center.

"It (the research center) will be an effort to find out what is going on in the world today," said Clark.

The archaeological museum will include fragmentary pottery, coins from the Roman and Greek period, Egyptian scarabs, papyri from Egypt, other small artifacts from the Holy Land area, and clay lamps dating back to 2,000 B.C., from the Caananite, Hebrew, Greek, Roman and Byzantine periods.

Most of the displays were collected by E. Leslie Carlson, retired professor of Biblical backgrounds and archaeology, and Robert Coleman, associate professor of archaeology, Biblical backgrounds and Old Testament. Coleman last year participated in an archaeological expedition to Hebron, discovering skeletal material dating back to 3,000 B.C., some of which will be displayed in the museum.

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