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August 1, 1967

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DWA Executive Committee
To Deal With World Issues

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance (DWA) debated here whether it would spend its time discussing "the critical issues of our day" or whether it would devote itself to routine business matters of the Alliance.

After lengthy debate, the committee voted to ask its administrative committee to structure next year's Executive Committee meeting in Monrovia, Liberia, to provide time for such discussions, and to ask four study commissions of the DWA to deal with the question this year.

The discussions followed the annual report of DWA General Secretary Josef Nordenhaug, who said some people "would welcome a more vigorous initiative on the part of the Alliance in several areas of world concern, such as Christian unity, world peace, racial justice, and religious liberty."

Nordenhaug called for dealing with the issues with deeper understanding and more effectiveness. He declared in the report:

"Let us continue to say that race prejudice is wrong in the sight of God. But let us also find practical ways to uproot it and end the discrimination it breeds.

"Let us continue to say that war is an unchristian way to settle international problems and disputes. But let us also seek practical ways in which we can fulfill our ministry of reconciliation.

"Let us continue to say that it is not the will of God that one human being should perish. But let us also use the avenues we have to send bread to the hungry.

"Let us continue to cry out against the moral decay which is eroding the foundations of our civilization. But let judgment begin with our own household.

"Let us continue to lend support to crusades of evangelism. But let us also incorporate in them God's concern for the whole man.

"Let us continue to recognize that Christ has earnest followers in other church bodies. But let us also hear their testimony and share with them our own."

In the discussions that followed, Edwin Tuller, general secretary of the American Baptist Convention, agreed wholeheartedly with Nordenhaug's statements, but expressed disappointment in the prepared agenda for the four-day meeting because it did not offer an opportunity to "come to grips with the critical issues of our day."

Tuller, two Baptists from Great Britain, and another American Baptist, Robert G. Torbet, agreed that the Executive Committee needs to deal with the issues of the world "on a more adequate scale" than simply hearing reports and adopting resolutions.

Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, commended those critical of the prepared agenda for raising the questions, but said that the staff had done what they should have done in preparing the agenda, for they followed the traditional format of the Executive Committee meetings.

"They could not change the agenda without an expression of the body," McCall said. "It is up to the members of the committee to change the style of the meetings."

McCall said that in past meetings, some members had been almost afraid to express disagreement over differences. "But there is a denial of brotherhood if we act as if we would be offended if we disagree," McCall said. "We have grown toward Christian maturity if we can disagree," McCall said. "We have grown toward Christian maturity if we can disagree in brotherly love."

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Several Executive Committee members, however, said they felt that the four study commissions of the Baptist World Alliance should deal with the issues, not the full Executive Committee.

A proposal by Laker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, that the topics be referred to the four study commissions drew support from three committee members, all from the United States.

Tuller made the motion that the agenda be prepared for next year's meeting to include four world issues--Christian unity, world peace, racial justice, and religious liberty--and that these subjects be discussed by the four study commissions and resolutions committee in the Nashville meeting.

Wayne Dehoney, Southern Baptist pastor from Louisville and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, asked that the issue of world evangelism be added to the list.

Both proposals won approval of the full committee. One committee member, in hall-way discussion later, said the action was extremely significant, changing the role of the Executive Committee from an institutional organization dealing with routine business items, to a world-wide Baptist forum to deal with the issues of the world.

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Tennessee Baptists
Name WMU Secretary

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Miss Mary Jane Nethery, dean of students at Mary Hardin-Baylor College (Baptist) in Belton, Tex., has been elected executive secretary-treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Miss Nethery, a native of Mississippi, was Young Woman's Auxiliary director for the Texas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for seven years before going to the Mary Hardin-Baylor position.

She is a graduate of Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. She also attended Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

Miss Nethery assumes the position on Aug. 1.

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Dayton Area Churches
Report 2,212 Decisions

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DAYTON, Ohio (BP)--In the wake of the Central Dayton Area Encounter Crusade, reports of revivals by 79 local Southern Baptist churches show an additional 2,212 decisions for Christ.

The second phase of the massive central evangelistic effort, the week of revivals in the Dayton area, saw 626 baptisms. Participating churches received into their membership 152 persons by letter; 1,357 rededications; and 21 for special service.

Another 56 professions not uniting with the churches were also reported for the more than 2,000 decisions, according to C. Wade Freeman, director of the evangelism division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The crusade, which had more than 1,100 decisions made in its central meeting, was jointly sponsored by Texas Baptists, the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and Ohio Baptists.

An editorial evaluating the crusade appeared in the Ohio Baptist Messenger, saying that "only eternity can reveal the long-enduring blessings of this crusade."

The editorial quoted several Baptist ministers who attended the crusade and commented on its effect.

"The Lord is in this," said one. "Baptists will never be the same again in this area."

The editorial written by Editor L. H. Moore, said that a comment by Ohio Baptist Evangelism Director Leonard Stigler probably sums it up as succinctly as could be done. "Man, there's power in this meeting," said Stigler.

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The editorial pointed to several significant and specific results already evident.

The crusade, said the editorial, has enhanced the Southern Baptist name in Dayton through the publicity which won the respect of the community.

Another apparent result is the acceptance of Southern Baptists by television and radio and newspapers in Dayton, the editorial added.

Still another result is the forging of strong ties between Baptists in Texas and in Ohio, Moore wrote.

"Ohio Baptists will rejoice too, that the gospel has been well preached and that Southern Baptist posture, at least as it is in Ohio, has been well presented by W. A. Criswell," Moore added.

Criswell preached nightly during the central crusade at Dayton's Welcome Stadium. "Baptists in some areas may not be so conservative as this preacher," the editorial said, "but here where Baptists are a minority it is well to remember that we are a minority and that any effective cutting edge is a narrow one.

"Baptists lost the north once through their attempted breadth and their reluctance to accept a minority role," Moore continued. "Southern Baptists cannot afford to make that mistake in the Great Lakes."

"Of course another obvious blessing of the crusade is the large number who have heard the gospel," the editorial said. "But the richest of all the blessings is the (number) who have made decisions, (many) of them by profession of faith."

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CUTLINES

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Baptist Press Photo

CRUSADE OF THE AMERICAS coordinators discussing hemisphere evangelism plans for 1969 are, left, Dottson Mills, Caribbean; Ervin Hastey, Mexico and Central America; Wayne Dehoney, USA and Canada; Rubens Lopes of Rio de Janeiro, chairman of the central coordinating committee; Henry Earl Peacock, Rio de Janeiro, general coordinator; Samuel O. Libert, Southern South America; Manuel A. Calderon, Northern South America; and Amelio Gianetta, Brazil. (BP) Photo by Joe Underwood

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