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November 1, 1967

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North American Baptists
Make Crusade Plans 616

CHICAGO (BP)--Fifty representatives of eight nation-wide Baptist bodies meeting here, urged their local churches to stage joint rallies in every North American city as a part of the Crusade of the Americas.

The leaders met to coordinate the plan for the Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada participating in the hemispheric evangelism effort.

The 1969 crusade will involve about 25 million Baptists belonging to 38 national bodies in 28 countries of North, Central and South America.

The proposed local level joint rallies in North American cities would be only one part of the hemispheric plan for the Crusade.

Much of the two-day meeting here was devoted to a sharing of the specific plans projected by the participating Baptist bodies in North America.

Plans were also discussed for a Continental Congress on Evangelism to involve about 2,500 Baptists from throughout North America in 1968.

The Continental Congress is scheduled Oct. 10-13 at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.

In a major action, an eight-member steering committee was created to coordinate plans for the North American Continental Congress, and to serve as a clearing house for sharing information with North American Baptists involved in the Crusade.

W. Wayne Dehoney, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., and earlier elected North American regional coordinator of the Crusade of the Americas, is chairman of the steering committee.

Elected vice chairman of the steering committee was Gordon H. Anderson, executive secretary of Home Missions for the Baptist General Conference (Swedish Baptists), Chicago. Other steering committee officers are: secretary, Kenneth R. Kennedy, executive secretary of the General Association of General Baptists, Poplar Bluff, Mo.; and treasurer, Daniel Fuchs, associate general secretary of missions for the North American Baptist General Conference, Forest Park, Ill.

The steering committee was requested to create whatever sub-committees it feels are necessary to care for the details of planning, promoting, and staging the Continental Congress in Washington, D. C.

During the session, the fifty leaders considered possible ideas for the Continental Congress, listing more than three dozen possible speakers, about two dozen issues and topics for discussion, and numerous promotion ideas.

Actual implementation of the ideas and invitations to the speakers was left to the steering committee.

The steering committee was also requested to arrange with the American Bible Society for publication of a yet-to-be-determined number of Gospels of John in "Today's English Version", and a colorful folder of scripture portions from the Gospel of John for distribution.

The regional coordinator was asked to prepare a source book outlining the detailed plans of participating national Baptist bodies, the resources and materials they are preparing for use in the evangelistic effort.

Baptists from three conventions in Canada outlined their plans for participating but indicated that because of the Centennial observance in Canada, this year (1967), rather than 1969 has been scheduled as the major year of evangelistic emphasis in the Crusade. They planned 1969 as a year of expansion as part of the Crusade.

Nearly two hours was devoted to discussion of the extensive plans being projected in the Crusade by the Southern Baptist Convention. About 20 Southern Baptists attended.

Other Baptist groups which outlined their Crusade plans were: the Baptist General Conference (Swedish), the North American General Conference, the General Association of General Baptists, the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, and representatives of American Baptist Convention--affiliated state conventions in Ohio, California, and Iowa. In addition to the four offices of the steering committee other members are: Gordon Walker of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, Canada; A. G. Heudley of the Atlantic United Baptist Convention, in Canada; Leon Lawton of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, and John D. Walden of the Ohio Baptist Convention (American Baptist).

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Arkansas Court Upholds 1009
Medical Center Transfer

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--The Arkansas Supreme Court ruled here October 30th that the Arkansas Baptist Medical Center could operate independently of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Without dissent the Supreme Court upheld the decision of Pulaski County Chancellor Kay L. Mathews, who ruled last Feb. 20 that a resolution of the state convention transferring control of the Medical Center to a non-profit organization was valid.

The decision means that the Medical Center can continue uninterrupted with its plans for a 500-bed new unit and a professional medical building to be located at University Avenue and Evergreen Road, in Western Little Rock.

The hospital facility alone would cost an estimated \$13 million and it is the hope of the Medical Center that several million dollars of this can be secured from the federal government in grants.

The law suit contesting the separation of the Medical Center from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention was filed by three Baptist ministers who sought to block the transfer on charges that the convention last fall had violated its constitution in taking the action.

Filing the suit were J. T. Summers, former pastor of Denison Street Baptist Church, Little Rock; Ralph Caldwell, pastor of Cole Ridge Baptist Church, Blytheville; and R. F. Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Conway.

They contended that the resolution was void because it was adopted by only a simple majority. The chancellor, they said, violated an article of the state convention's constitution and that it could only become effective by amending the constitution. They said the resolution was in effect a constitutional amendment but that it did not get the two-thirds vote needed for amending the constitution.

Associate Justice J. Fred Jones, who expressed the Supreme Court opinion, agreed with the attorneys for the proponents of the transfer.

"As we see it, the validity of the vote by which the resolution was adopted turns on the question of whether or not the Arkansas Baptist Medical Center was the convention's hospital or an institution possessed by the convention," he said.

The attorneys had contended that the section of the constitution referred to by the three ministers applied to only institutions in and "owned" by the convention. They said the Medical Center was no longer owned by the body and that the transfer last year required only a simple majority as would any other business transaction.

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Meredith College Linked 1010
To New Computer Center

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RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--Meredith College has become the fourteenth of some 80 eligible schools in North Carolina to "tap" the large IBM 360, Model 75 computer at the Triangle Universities Computation Center at the Research Triangle Park near Durham.

The North Carolina State Board of Higher Education, through N.C. Computer Orientation Project, has made "taps" to the computation center available to 86 institutions of higher education in North Carolina. Meredith, a Baptist school, is the fourteenth North Carolina institution to participate.

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The project provides participating colleges a data transmission unit, a small amount of computer and transmission time and free rental for a year. Colleges finance their "taps" beyond the first year.

The primary reason for Meredith's tap, Charles Davis said, is "to test its practicality here." Davis is chairman of the Meredith department of mathematics.

The unit will be used to instruct students in the use of computers and to teach the language involved in computer programming.

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House Committee Kills
Bill On Monday Holidays

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Chairman Emanuel Celler (D., N.Y.) of the House Judiciary Committee says that a bill providing for uniform Monday observance of five national holidays is dead for this session of Congress.

Celler's remark came after the committee voted changes in the bill, yet took no final action to report the bill to the House floor.

The committee voted to keep the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving Day where they are now, and also tentatively decided that Veteran's Day should remain on November 11.

This action left only Labor Day which already falls on Monday, Memorial Day and Washington's Birthday as potential candidates for changes that would create annual three-day weekends.

The bill is still pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee. A spokesman for this committee did not predict what action would be taken there.

During subcommittee hearings in the House and Senate, little opposition was heard to the proposals. In recent weeks, however, patriotic societies have complained against what they regard as "tampering with the nation's traditions."

Senate Minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen (R., Ill.) earlier vowed to work his parliamentary magic on behalf of the long weekends, "No matter what the Daughters of the American Revolution think."

The possibility remains that the bill can be revived in the House during the second session of Congress, depending on action in the Senate and popular opinion.

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Photo Cutlines

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TO ARCHIVES--Dean Allen W. Graves (left) of the school of religious education, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, shows Librarian Leo T. Crismon the bound volume of Minutes from the American Association of Schools of Religious Education. The complete official record of the association's business during its entire lifetime has been deposited permanently in the James P. Boyce Memorial Library at the Baptist seminary. Dean Graves was the president of the organization when it merged with the American Association of Theological School in 1965. Looking on are order librarian Paul Debusman (left) and religious education doctoral student Bill Clemmons, missionary to Italy on furlough. (BP) Photo

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