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BWA Elects Woyke New Associate Secretary

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) administrative sub-committee elected a new BWA associate secretary, and heard reports on the need for an emphasis on mass-communications, and on imprisonment of Baptists in Russia and Cuba.

Elected associate secretary of the Alliance was Frank H. Woyke of Forest Park, Ill., who for the past 21 years has been executive secretary of the North American Baptist General Conference, a Baptist group of German heritage in the United States.

Woyke will assume the position July 1, 1968, with responsibilities in the fields of world relief, study commissions, and North American Baptist Fellowship. He succeeds Adolfs Klaupiks in relief and refugee work, who is retiring June 30 after 20 years with the Alliance.

Woyke was described by BWA Executive Secretary Josef Nordenhaug as "a truly international personage." He was born to German parents in Southern Russia in 1905, and emigrated to the United States three years later, settling in Windom, Minn.

During its regular meeting here, the BWA administrative committee reviewed the situation of Baptists in both Cuba and Russia.

It was reported that many of the 43 Baptist ministers arrested in Cuba in 1965 have now been released from jail.

Concern was expressed in regard to recent news reports telling of arrests of more than 200 Baptists in Russia, and the Alliance secretary was asked to seek further information.

In a report to the committee, BWA Publications Director C. E. Bryant expressed the need for the Alliance to launch an extensive program of mass communications on a world-wide scale.

"We believe," Bryant said, "that in this age of fast and world-circling communication, the Baptist World Alliance should become a focal outlet for telling the Baptist story and our Christian message to the world.

"The expression of our message through mass media--the press, radio and television--can best be done through such a central and cooperative office as we have in the Alliance," Bryant said.

He added however, that vast sums of money are needed for such a program, and that the Alliance is and has been "severely crippled by financial and personnel limitations in doing the job that we need to do."

"The times require," he said, however, "that we devise and finance a program of mass communications that would adequately meet the tremendous challenge that lies before us."

The administrative committee also surveyed plans for two international meetings--the Baptist World Youth Conference at Berne, Switzerland, July 22-28, 1968; and the Baptist World Congress at Tokyo, Japan, July 12-18, 1970.

A larger-than-capacity crowd is expected for the 1968 youth conference in Berne, forcing Alliance leaders to place an age restriction for registrants. The meeting will be restricted to persons ages 17 to 30, except in the cases of group leaders.

"Many times our youth meetings have been overcrowded by older people," said BWA Associate Secretary Robert Denny. "We are urging all persons above 30 to plan to attend the Baptist World Congress in Tokyo in 1970, and to leave the 1968 youth meeting to young people."

BWA General Secretary Nordenhaug also gave reports from two BWA observers who attended the Lay Apostolate of the Roman Catholic Church in Rome recently, and a report from a BWA official who attended the Lutheran Reformation observance in Wittenburg, Germany.

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Nordenhaug said that C. Ronald Goulding, head of the Alliance's office in London, who attended both meetings reported that both visits gave opportunity for expression of Baptist views on religious liberty and human rights.

The administrative committee authorized the change of the name of one of its study commissions from Commission on Bible Study and Membership Training, to the Commission on Christian Teaching and Training.

A suggestion from the Commission on Baptist Doctrine that a new commission be established to deal with "Relations With Other Christians" was discussed with the request that Secretary Nordenhaug bring a further report at the committee's February meeting.

The alliance has four study commissions which bring Baptist scholars together annually for discussion and joint planning. In addition to the ones on doctrine and teaching, there are commissions on Missions and Evangelism and on Religious Liberty and Human Rights.

Klaupiks, relief coordinator, on Baptist relief projects now underway in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and resettlement of Asian refugees in Australia and Cuban refugees in North America. He outlined \$30,500 in "emergency needs" for famine relief in India, the supplying of blankets to Arab refugees, and other items for which funds are urgently needed.

"The critical shortage of food in India will continue for at least another year, when there is hope for a good harvest in late 1968," he said.

George W. Schroeder of Memphis, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, presented his first report as chairman of the BWA men's department, stating his department hopes to enlist Baptist men throughout the world in a sustaining financial support of the Alliance program.

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Pitts Inaugurated  
College President

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DALLAS (BP)--Charles P. Pitts was inaugurated here as president of Dallas Baptist College with a promise to help the college's young people "become what God intends them to be."

The program included a processional of representatives from more than 50 Southern Baptist institutions as well as envoys from colleges and universities throughout the nation.

During the inaugural address, Carey Croneis, chancellor of Rice University in Houston, said that the college president "has always been a jack of all trades. But in these modern times he simply would not dare to be master of none."

Speaker at the inaugural luncheon was Guy Newman, president of Howard Payne College (Baptist), Brownwood, Tex.

E. N. Jones, secretary of the Christian Education Commission for the Baptist General Convention of Texas who retires Dec. 31, conducted the investiture of the new president.

Pitts, pastor of the 2,500 member Highland Baptist Church in Dallas for 13 years, assumed the presidency of Dallas Baptist College on Feb. 1, 1967. He is a native of Cleburne, Tex., and a graduate of Howard Payne and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Kelley Named To Baylor's  
Texas Collection Staff

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WACO, Tex. (BP)--Dayton Kelley, former director of public relations and chairman of the journalism department at Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Tex., has been named assistant director of Baylor University's historical and research materials, the Texas Collection.

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Dallas Church Eyes  
\$3 Million Expansion

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DALLAS (BP)--The First Baptist Church of Dallas, largest congregation in the Southern Baptist Convention, is considering building two new structures at a \$3-million cost to house its ministry to the deaf, a dining hall, classrooms and multi-floored parking.

Roy Ramsour, business administrator, said the recommendations likely will be presented to the deacons in December or January. -30-

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Stricker Named Kentucky  
Stewardship, PR Director

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MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP)--Jesse C. Stricker, associate in the Sunday School department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention since 1965, has been named secretary of the convention's stewardship promotion department, effective Dec. 1.

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Stricker has been pastor of several churches in Missouri and Kentucky, and was pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ky., when named to the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff two years ago.

He is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Mo., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

As secretary of the stewardship department, Stricker will promote stewardship methods and principles in Baptist churches and associations in the state and handle general publicity and public relations work for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

In his new position, he succeeds Michael L. Speer, who resigned this summer to become director of stewardship development with the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission at Nashville.