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12 Resolutions
Adopted by SBC

HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

06-07-68

By Roddy Stinson

HOUSTON (BP)--Violence, war, pornography, beverage alcohol, and Monday holidays were attacked by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention here.

The action came as the messengers adopted 12 resolutions presented to the convention by the denomination's resolutions committee.

In a resolution concerning violence and disregard for law, they expressed shock at the tragic death of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and commended President Lyndon Johnson's urgent plea to Congress to "pass laws to bring the insane traffic in guns to a halt."

Acting on an amendment from the floor, the messengers also urged the President at the same time to "maintain the constitutional rights of the legitimate possession of arms."

A peace resolution pleaded with responsible leaders on all sides of the Vietnam conflict "to seek an immediate cease-fire and a termination of all hostile activities and any further buildup of military power or advantage...."

The messengers reaffirmed their opposition to obscene, pornographic, and offensive publications and entertainment.

Noting that the federal government has spent vast sums of money for the study of the effects of smoking on health, they requested that the Surgeon General of the United States "undertake a similar effort on the effect of alcoholic beverages on physical and mental health."

A resolution on "the Lord's Day" stressed that a bill now before the United States Congress to fix certain national holidays on Monday would "encourage further disregard of Sunday as the Lord's Day." Messengers appealed for a proper and faithful observance of Sunday.

A resolution on traffic safety called attention to the 52,200 persons killed and four million persons injured on the nation's highways in 1967 and urged stronger legislation at all levels of government.

A resolution on church-state relations urged Baptist agencies and institutions "to assign leadership responsibilities concerning church-state relationships designed to safeguard both the people's rights under government and their freedom under God."

The resolution stressed that tax funds come from all citizens and should not be used for sectarian purposes.

In other action, the messengers reaffirmed their support for the church, pledged to support evangelistic endeavors, particularly the Crusade of the Americas, and commended convention officers, the host convention city (Houston), and the American Bible Society.

The resolution on peace noted that as disciples of the Prince of Peace, Christians have a mandate to be peacemakers, to seek the preservation of human life, to love and to pray for all people, even enemies. The messengers resolved to "pray for the peace negotiators, the delegates of the United Nations, and the men of good will in all of the world who seek after peace and justice."

The law and order resolution called upon all citizens to support their local police and all who are in authority. It also commended "responsible leaders of all groups who have shown and are showing remarkable determination in seeking to hold violence in check while working for social justice."

The messengers approved a recommendation by the resolutions committee to ask its Christian Life Commission to communicate the convention's complaint about profanity and vulgar language on television.

A resolution by S. L. Whatley of Mobile, Ala., was not returned by the resolutions committee because it was "not germane to the business of this convention." The resolution

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dealt with a request to President Johnson to appoint "one additional clergyman" to his recently appointed committee to study the increase of crime and violence in the nation.

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Graham Life Threatened?
Says He's Ready To Die

By Jim Newton

HOUSTON (BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham, under heavy security guard, said here Friday that he was ready to die at any time, and that if being shot or killed would glorify God, he would accept death unflinchingly.

In a press conference, the famed evangelist refused to answer a question asking if his life had been threatened while in Houston to speak at the Southern Baptist Convention, saying, "You'll have to ask the police about that."

Graham, flanked by at least three bodyguards, told the reporters covering the Baptist convention, "Like all figures in the public, we do get all kinds of threats. Some of them now are being taken seriously."

Graham added that he believed he has a "spiritual shield" around him, and that God would protect his life until "God wants me to go."

"If being shot or killed would glorify God, I'll be glad to go," he said. Graham added that he almost hoped he would have an opportunity to suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

"I've faced death thousands of times. I don't know when I'm going to die, but I'm ready."

Calling the assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy a tragic and senseless act, he said it was terrible that a candidate for public office might not be able to campaign publicly except on television and radio.

He said he felt that President Lyndon B. Johnson did a right, yet an illegal thing, when he ordered the Secret Service to protect presidential candidates. He observed that there is no legal authority granting the president this right.

Graham said that there is a possibility the country might be moving toward a dictatorship, but added that it certainly would not be called that, but probably just "a strong president."

In the area of politics, the Baptist evangelist said he did not intend to endorse any political candidate this year, and reaffirmed his previous refusal to accept any political office himself, including the vice-presidency.

In response to a question concerning an article speculating that Graham might be a possible vice-presidential nominee, Graham replied: "In the first place, no candidate has ever hinted that he wanted me; and if one did, I would tell him no. If nominated, I would not campaign, and if elected, I would not serve."

He said he recently decided against building a college in his name because, while he was ill, he "reconfirmed my calling as an evangelist." He said he might get sick again if he toyed with entering politics.

Graham said he felt that churches should return to preaching the Gospel that changes men's hearts, so that changed men can change society.

"The church is going too far in the other direction" in its emphasis on social action, he added.

"I believe in social action and the social aspects of the Gospel, but it ought not to be the neglect of the very foundation of why Christ came," the evangelist said.

When asked if the Southern Baptist Convention was moving more in the direction of emphasizing social action, Graham said that the uniqueness of the SBC has been its emphasis on evangelism and missions. If it has been lacking in any area, he said, it has been on social issues, especially the race issue.

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"Southern Baptists are now getting it in proper perspective, intensifying evangelism and missions, but also emphasizing response to social issues," Graham observed.

He commended the statement on race relations and the crisis in the nation adopted earlier by the messengers, calling it wonderful, and adding: "it couldn't be strong enough for me."

Thousands of people in the South have been swept into the church who have never had a meaningful experience with Christ, and this is the reason for the failure of churches to deal with race, Graham said.

"I've seen men who have held up the Bible and said they believed it from cover to cover, and yet they have not put it into practice in their lives."

Churches in the South must move more quickly in dealing with race. They cannot wait five or ten years, he said.

"No church in the South should shut its doors to any person because of his color," Graham said. "The time for keeping churches closed to Negroes is ended."

"We've got to get back to preaching the Gospel of regeneration, and open wide the doors of the church to all who will come," he said.

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Dramatic Presentation
Spotlights Foreign Missions

By Catherine Allen

HOUSTON (BP)--"Tell the good news," shouted a 275-voice choir backed by blaring brass.

"Hush!" eerie voices echoed.

The unusual dramatic effects of the Foreign Mission Board's report to the Southern Baptist Convention here etched the air with challenges to 15,000 messengers to strengthen witnessing efforts.

The Foreign Mission Board stated its case under spotlights in front of a huge blue and gold replica of its emblem, using missionaries and a narrator. Music by members of the Houston Symphony provided musical background.

James D. Woodward of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, narrated the presentation with such statements as "We must tell the good news in a way that people will become hooked on the gospel...."

"We see our jobs as Christians telling, showing, doing.... We want to give hands and feet to our praying.... If compassion is bearing one another's burdens in the world, are we really with it?"

The presentation told the story of foreign missions through six programs carried out in 69 countries by 2,366 missionaries.

Santiago Canclini, chaplain at International Baptist Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires, said of missions progress in Argentina, "Let me say emotionally, thank you, Southern Baptists, my brothers. But think about more than 20 million persons in Argentina that still await the good news."

Joseph A. Adegbite, principal of the Baptist Academy at Lagos, Nigeria, and a leading Nigerian churchman, told how 18,000 Nigerian Baptists are cooperating with the Baptist agency to support 500 schools with 97,064 pupils.

The government is a friend of Christian education, he noted. "Today the door for us to train Christian leadership on foreign fields is wide open in Nigeria. Tomorrow the door may close."

Julian C. Bridges, missionary to Mexico, reminded messengers that the colored peoples reached by missionaries identify with the struggles of minority groups in the United States.

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"They are proud that Martin Luther King was a Baptist," he said. "We must search our souls and do God's will in race relations."

Other speakers included Ronald C. Hill, missionary to Thailand, John A. Roper, missionary to Jordan, and Baker J. Cauthen, Foreign Mission Board executive secretary.

On stage were furloughing, retired, and newly-appointed foreign missionaries. Of the appointees, missionary personnel secretary Jesse Fletcher said, "These people represent the hope that ~~some~~ day Southern Baptists will make a realistic response to the needs of the world."

The missionaries marched from the stage through two arches of international flags, held by Royal Ambassadors, stretching the length of the Sam Houston Coliseum.

In the Baptist World Alliance report, Robert Denny, associate secretary, introduced Southern Baptists who serve as Alliance vice presidents, Mrs. R. L. Mathis of Birmingham, Ala., and Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City. He also presented Southern Baptist members of the BWA executive committee.

Money for missions was the theme of the Stewardship Commission report. Merrill D. Moore, executive director, urged messengers to use the Cooperative Program and the two special missions offerings to reach beyond themselves. He quoted figures showing that Baptists paid \$9 million more in interest on debts than they gave to all convention-wide causes last year.

Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary to WMU, auxiliary to the convention, called attention to WMU's new organization plan which, she said, reinforces the concept that WMU is one part of a total church program. Referring to the adopted statement on the racial crisis, Miss Hunt said: "I want to thank the convention for actions that pull us up."

"It is time that we round the corner and move into the arena of contemporary world problems, having said something and having something to say."

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J. C. Bradley Elected Prof At Golden Gate Seminary

HOUSTON (BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees elected a new assistant professor of religious education and heard news of two major gifts during their meeting at the Rice Hotel here.

The new teacher is James Curtis Bradley of Louisville, Ky., who is completing his dissertation for the doctor of education degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bradley, a native of Beebe, Ark., is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and received a master's degree in religious education from Southern Seminary.

He has served as minister of education at Sherwood Baptist Church, Albany, Ga., and First Baptist Church, Macon, Ga. He is presently on the staff of the Bethany Baptist Church in Louisville.

President Harold E. Graves announced the completion of a life income contract donated by Mrs. Howard V. Platt of Ventura, Calif. The gift involves the proceeds of the sale of business property valued at more than \$250,000 in Van Nuys, Calif., and will benefit the seminary over a 30-year period beginning Oct. 1.

Graves also announced the first endowed lectureship donated to Golden Gate. It will be named the H. I. Hester Lectureship on Preaching and is named for the donor, H. I. Hester, long-time professor at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and former vice-president of Midwestern Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Construction of a new housing development including four town houses and six apartments for faculty and staff was reported. The president also reported plans for administrative changes in procedures and gave a progress report on actions taken to study the music curriculum.

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All Baptists Urged To Work For Unity

By Beth Hayworth

HOUSTON (BP)--All Baptists on the North American continent should work for unity "not because they have to but because they want to," Southern Baptist messengers were told here.

V. Carney Hargroves of Philadelphia, Pa., chairman of the North American Baptist Fellowship encompassing eight Baptist bodies, including the Southern Baptist Convention, said Baptists must not be "driven to unity by desperation but by inspiration."

Hargroves, an American Baptist pastor, listed several possibilities for cooperation and involvement between different Baptist bodies in North America.

Among the suggestions, he encouraged the ministers present to take the lead in their own communities to form an interracial and inter-convention committee to plan various cooperative efforts. He also urged the development of projects that would bring together large groups for rallies or small groups for informal discussions.

The American Baptist leader deplored the lack of information within individual denominational ranks about other Baptist groups.

"State convention papers might well carry a regular column of this nature," Hargroves said.

In addition, he urged program committees of state and national conventions and assemblies to make use of speakers and leaders from as many Baptist bodies as practical.

Exchanges between pastors, seminary students and professors which would take them into different environments would also be meaningful in helping us to understand each other and to know how to work together, Hargroves said.

"There are 16 million Baptists related to each other in the North American Baptist Fellowship. Let's get together and literally turn North America, and even the world, upside down in the name of Jesus Christ."

Another American Baptist, Culbert G. Rutenber of Newton Centre, Mass., newly-elected president of the American Baptist Convention, praised the Southern Baptist Convention for striking a "blow for social justice" in the affirmative vote on the race relations.

"When Southern Baptists speak, the rest of us listen and take courage," Rutenber said. Rutenber is professor of philosophy of religion at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, Newton Centre, Mass.

In other action during the Friday morning session, a check for \$15,800 was presented to the Cooperative Program from George W. Cummins of the Chaplains Commission. The money is from offerings taken in Air Force chapels around the world and is designated by the airmen and Air Force Chaplains, for seminary education.

C. Emanuel Carlson, chairman of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, presented a report to the convention on the different aspects of the committee's work this past year. The report treated such issues as low-cost housing, Social Security for ministers, planned urban development, judicial review proposals, welfare, and revision of state constitutions.

Carlson urged the committee on order of business to consider giving more time earlier in next year's convention program for a full consideration of the full range of public affairs now confronting Baptists.

Messengers voted to continue for another year the Committee on Canadian Baptist Cooperation after hearing its report.

ABC President Says
SBC Merger Doubtful

By Roddy Stinson

HOUSTON (BP)--The president of the American Baptist Convention (ABC) predicted here it would be a long time before his convention and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) merged.

In a press conference, Culbert Rutenber, professor of philosophy of religion at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, Newton Centre, Mass., said, "I consider the question of organic union highly academic. Right now neither convention would accept the other."

The two conventions disagree strongly on such issues as their relationship to the National Council of Churches, he said.

American Baptists belong to the council, while Southern Baptists strongly oppose such membership, he said.

Rutenber also said the two conventions are held apart because of the stereotypes with which each group tags the other. He said Southern Baptists, for instance, feel that all American Baptists are "shot through with theological modernism."

Rutenber, who was elected last week to head the ABC, said that the two conventions could contribute much to each other.

"If we could combine the strengths of the American Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, we could have the greatest group of Christians since the Apostles!"

He said he thought American Baptists were ahead of Southern Baptists in their concern about social issues but Southern Baptists were ahead of American Baptists in evangelism.

Rutenber was asked if he thought more dialogue would emerge between the two conventions now that they are working in some of the same geographical areas, such as the Northeast. He said this would depend on the Southern Baptist ministers who are sent into these areas.

"In the early years, the only ministers who came were refugees who couldn't get a job in the South--that is, your worst ministers. In recent years, however, the quality has improved, and this will help."

In a statement concerning his position on the war in Vietnam, Rutenber said he has been a pacifist for many years and that he favors stopping the bombing of North Vietnam and reducing the war in South Vietnam.

Rutenber was in Houston to bring greetings from his convention to Southern Baptist messengers meeting here.

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Liberia Missionary Named
Seminary Alumnus of Year

6/7/68

HOUSTON (BP)--Alumni of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., named a furloughing Baptist missionary to Liberia as their outstanding alumnus.

During the annual alumni luncheon sponsored by the Golden Gate Baptist Seminary Alumni Association, Miss Margaret Fairburn, who was presented a Gold Medalion by Liberian Vice-President W. R. Tolbert for her outstanding work in Liberia, was honored as Alumnus of the Year.

In other action, the association approved a revised constitution, heard a report from Seminary President Harold K. Graves on physical changes on the campus, and heard an address on "The Pursuit of Excellence."

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FINAL ROUNDUP

SBC Blends Strong Race
Stand With Conservatism

By Roy Jennings

HOUSTON (BP)--Southern Baptists climbed to new plateaus in race relations, support of law enforcement, and peace at their 111th annual meeting here without surrendering a point of their conservative theology.

Messengers of the 11-million member convention made a bold effort at solving the racial crisis in the nation by agreeing in a 1,100-word statement to secure for every person equality of human and legal rights.

In reaffirming their bent for theological conservatism, the messengers chose W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A leading conservative and pastor of the denomination's largest church, Criswell defeated Owen Cooper, a Yazoo City, Miss., industrialist and layman, who was later chosen first vice president. Lee Porter, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bellaire, Tex., won the nod for second vice president.

The messengers also approved without question a record \$27.6 million operating budget for 1968-69 and a \$5 million capital needs budget for a five-year period beginning in 1969.

Supporters for changing the denomination's name got a cool reception as messengers in a straw vote approved the existing name by a whopping majority.

The vote was Southern Baptist Convention, 4,996; Baptist General Convention, 702; United Baptist Convention, 611, and a category for those preferring another name, 956.

Registration reached about 15,000, well below the 16,053 who registered in 1965 at Dallas.

Messengers, staggered by the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles, prayed and sent expressions of condolence to the family of the presidential aspirant.

Statements on peace in Vietnam and law enforcement got the most attention among the 12 resolutions the messengers approved.

Others spoke to such areas as pornographic materials, highway safety, health implications of beverage alcohol, observance of the Lord's Day, church-state relations, and evangelism.

In the peace resolution the messengers called for an immediate cease-fire in Vietnam and an end to all hostile activities and further military buildup. They also asked for prayer for peace negotiators, delegates of the United Nations, men of goodwill throughout the world seeking peace and justice and Christians suffering for their faith.

The statement on support of law enforcement decried the exploitation of violence in television, movies, and newspapers as a way of life and the permissive atmosphere in society where people are conditioned for disrespect for the law.

The resolution commended President Johnson for his condemnation of hatred and violence and supported him in his plea to Congress to pass strong gun control legislation.

Included in the resolution was a plea for all citizens to support their local police to the point of paying taxes for higher police salaries and better police training.

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Baptists were asked to purge any hostility and misunderstanding from their hearts and to reaffirm themselves to reverence and respect for the lives and rights of others.

The statement asking the SBC Home Mission Board to take the lead in solving the problems relating to the national racial crisis was endorsed by an overwhelming 72 per cent of the messengers after only minor revision and 60 minutes of discussion.

The crisis was dramatically portrayed in the opening statement with the declaration the nation is enveloped in a social and cultural revolution. It was described further this way:

"We are shocked by the potential for anarchy in a land dedicated to democracy and freedom. There are ominous sounds of hate and violence among men of unbelief and rebellion toward God. These compel Christians to face the social situation and to examine themselves under the judgment of God."

The statement went on to say that "we are a nation that declares the equality and rights of persons irrespective of race. Yet, as a nation, we have allowed cultural patterns to persist that have deprived millions of black Americans and other racial groups as well, of equality of recognition and opportunity in the areas of education, employment, citizenship, housing and worship....We have seen a climate of racism and reactionism developed resulting in hostility, injustice, suspicion, faction, strife, and alarming potential for bitterness, division, destruction, and death."

As part of a confession the statement said Southern Baptists have come far short of Christian brotherhood with Negro Baptists in the nation.

To implement their concern, the messengers committed themselves to:

--Respect every individual as a person possessing inherent dignity and worth growing out of his creation in the image of God;

--Undertake to secure opportunities in matters of citizenship, public services, education, employment, and personal habitation that every man achieve his highest potential as a person;

--Personally accept every Christian as a brother beloved in the Lord and welcome to the fellowship of faith and worship every person irrespective of race and class;

--Strive to become well informed about public issues, social ills, and diverse movements that are damaging human relationships;

--Recognize their involvement with other Christians and with all others of goodwill in the obligation to work for righteousness in public life and justice for all persons.

While the denomination confessed its shortcomings and its responsibilities in the emerging national crisis, it called upon the nation to respect law and order, urging minority groups to accept responsibility as well as to express their desires.

Evangelist Billy Graham who headlined a battery of speakers during the four-day convention commended the statement on race relations, stating "it couldn't be strong enough for me."

Thousands of people in the South have been swept into the church who have never had a meaningful experience with Christ, and this is the reason for the failure of churches to deal with race, he said.

Churches in the South must move more quickly in dealing with race, Graham said.

"No church in the South should shut its doors to any person because of his color. The time for keeping churches closed to Negroes is ended. We've got to get back to preaching the gospel of regeneration, and open wide the doors of the church to all who will come."

Outgoing president Franklin Paschall of Nashville, Tenn., echoed Graham's sentiments on the racial problem in his presidential address.

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The Christian message is the answer to such problems as racial enmity, nuclear power, sex and intellectualism, he said.

Supporting his claims for the sufficiency of the gospel, Paschall said it gives dignity and worth to the individual and can save him from loneliness, fear, frustration, and hate.

"Christians may differ on many subjects but they must agree that the enmity has been abolished in Christ. Christianity and racism are incompatible," he declared.

Foy Valentine, a leading Southern Baptist exponent of Christian morality, told the messengers they must fight racism with open minds, hearts, and housing. Valentine, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, saw no cure for racism but Christian brothering.

The continuing argument over the relative values of evangelism and social ministries was treated in several addresses.

Valentine urged the messengers to stop spending their time trying to decide which comes first, word or deed, and to get about their duty of hammering out the moral conflicts of daily life.

C. E. Autrey of Atlanta, director of evangelism for the Home Mission Board, called for Southern Baptists to minister to the total person as they took part in the Crusade of the Americas.

In defining the scope of the approaching crusade, Autrey said it must be a multi-racial effort, not overlooking any race or spotlighting any particular group.

Identified as a segregationist in many circles, Criswell, the new president, surprised some messengers when he declared his endorsement to the race relations manifesto and added that his church has three Negro members.

Criswell said his church was open to anyone and it wasn't his church's disposition to turn down anyone who came sincerely.

The new president said one of his first desires is to lead the denomination in a high evangelistic and missionary effort. The messengers took him at his word by promptly pledging their support in any such undertaking.

The messengers who choose meeting places five years in advance selected Portland, Ore., for 1973. They will meet in 1969 in New Orleans on June 10-13.

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Two Sailors Converted In Psychedelic Nightspot

HOUSTON (BP)--Two international seamen converted in a psychedelic nightclub were added to the membership of an Oklahoma Baptist church via a telephone call from here.

Members of Walker Avenue Baptist Church in Oklahoma City met in a special called session to receive the phone call from their pastor, John W. Murphy, who is attending the Southern Baptist Convention here.

Murphy presented for membership Franki Solognier of the Netherlands, and C. R. Carrasco of Honduras, whom he led to make "decisions for Christ" in a local psychedelic nightspot called "The Cellar."

The two men were accepted by a unanimous vote and were baptized one hour later at Houston's First Baptist Church.

The unusual venture began Wednesday night when Murphy and several other Southern Baptist ministers, led by evangelist Arthur Blessitt of California, presented the Christian gospel to patrons of "The Cellar."

Following a brief sermon by Blessett, Murphey approached Solognier, whose merchant ship was docked in Houston. The Dutch sailor told Murphey he had "heard some about Jesus in school, but this is the first time anyone ever said he would help me pray."

Paul James Tells SBC,
Give Priority To Cities

HOUSTON (BP)--The metropolitan centers of the north and northeastern parts of the United States must be labeled "top priority" for immediate Baptist mission attention, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention were told here.

"Half the people of the United States live in this area," the director of Southern Baptist mission work for New York City, Paul S. James, told the convention.

He pictured the multi-racial, multi-language makeup of New York City and challenged Southern Baptists to create specific ministries to the different "cities within the city."

As an example of mission opportunities, he told of a community of 5,000 Polish-speaking persons without a Baptist witness.

The foreign mission field has come to our own land, he declared, telling about a church recently organized for one thousand French-speaking Haitians living in New York.

He pictured Harlem where 1,000,000 are crowded into a deplorable ghetto area where "many children are bitten regularly by rats."

"We must see the city before we can love it," James challenged the Baptist messengers. "We're not called to like it, but we are called to love it. And we must love it before we can serve it. New York City is what America is becoming."

James, the former pastor of the Manhattan Baptist Church in New York City, deplored the fact that Southern Baptists had been working in that area for only a few years.

"We are late," he said, "but we are not too late to do something about the "tens of thousands of young children in the streets."

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Graham Urges Evangelism
And Social Action Balance

6/7/68

By Roddy Stinson

HOUSTON (BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham challenged Southern Baptists to give "a proper balance" to evangelism and social concern in an address to the final session of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

Graham told the Southern Baptist messengers, "We have a guilt feeling about a lack of social emphasis in the past, and in certain areas, we should.

"But don't let the pendulum go so far that we give up our doctrines of salvation and redemption."

He commended the messengers for endorsing both evangelism and social concern. "If you continue to show a proper balance you can turn the world upside down for Christ."

Graham spoke to a capacity crowd of 11,000 at the Sam Houston Coliseum, site of the four-day convention. More than 1,000 persons were turned away.

Speaking on the second coming of Jesus Christ, Graham said, "Peace will not come to this world until Christ comes back and sets up his kingdom.

"What is going to happen when Jesus Christ returns?"

"Peace will be established on earth, social institutions will be reconstructed, nature will be restored to its original state, and Christ will produce the will of God on earth."

He said there were many signs of the imminent coming of Christ--the mental and moral states of the world, the falling away of the church, worldwide violence, wars, many peace conferences, worldwide evangelism, and "22 other signs."

Graham, who called himself, "a sawdust trail preacher," said the knowledge of Christ's second coming should cause Southern Baptists to "evangelize with zeal, intensify worldwide mission efforts, intensify social concern, guard against theological error, live holy lives, and give hope and comfort to other people.

Concerning evangelizing, he admonished Baptists to "renew their faith in the gospel and its power to change men's lives."

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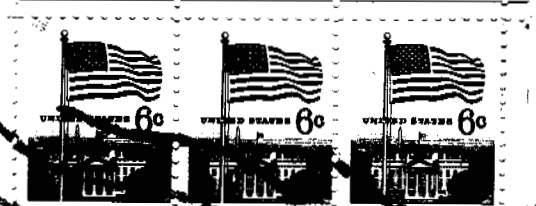
In the area of social concern Graham said Baptists "cannot ignore our brothers. We're living in a new day, and we need to rise to the challenge and say to the world that we believe in social justice and equality of all men, regardless of the color of their skin."

Graham's message was preceded by a music program featuring Cliff Barrows, Tedd Smith, and George Beverly Shea of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team.

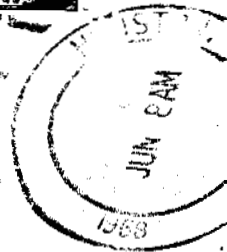


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