(BP) BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

REGIONAL OFFICES
ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 303 03, Telephone (404) 523-2593
DALLAS Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU
BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631

July 15, 1968

Crusade Committee Reaffirms
Concern For Social Problems

SAO PAULO, Brazil (BP)--The Central Coordinating Committee of the Crusade of the Americas meeting here reaffirmed as a basic crusade purpose "establishing of true moral and spiritual bases for the betterment of mankind's economic, social, and physical welfare."

The action put emphasis on all three purposes of the Crusade of Americas as set forth in "The Cali Declaration" adopted by the committee in 1966 in Cali, Colombia, and augmented it with what it called "The Sao Paulo Declaration."

"We declare ourselves as deploring injustice, prejudice, and greed in the hearts of men, especially in the hearts of believers," said the Sao Paulo Declaration adopted to reaffirm the earlier statement.

"We believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ accepted and lived is the only permanent solution to the problems which confront our generation," said the declaration.

"Therefore, we dedicate ourselves in the Crusade of the Americas to the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ which involves the regeneration of the individual man, and his development in the service of Christ, thus enabling him to make his Christian influence felt in destroying every phase of man's inhumanity to man," said the statement.

On an amendment from the floor, the committee also reaffirmed two other purposes--individual salvation and Christian growth--but the intent of the original motion appeared to be reaffirmation of the social issues purpose.

The statement was adopted in response to a brief speech by Southern Baptist Home Mission Board evangelism associate John Havlik, who expressed concern because "we have said little or nothing about the third objective of the Cali declaration."

Havlik told the 56-member committee, comprised of one representative from each national Baptist body participating in the hemisphere-wide crusade, that he felt the Crusade of the Americas should seek to reach the underprivileged as well as the privileged.

Havlik said he had seen the slums and ghettoes of the United States, the barrios and slum areas of Bogota, Colombia; Lima, Peru; Santiago, Chile; and Buenos Aires, Argentina; and had been deeply moved by the conditions there.

"I have felt personal guilt for the failure of the white man in my own country--his failure to give his black neighbor equal opportunity and rights," he said.

Havlik added that Christians need to tell these people about the love of Christ, they should show real compassion and "declare ourselves with them--to stand in their shoes, to weep their tears."

The Baptist evangelist added that it was "good to seek the good will of presidents, governors, and other authorities, but do we have the good will of the disinherited, dispossessed, discouraged, destitute masses?"

Owen Cooper, vice president of the committee who was presiding while President Reubens Lopes of Sao Paulo was visiting the Sao Paulo mayor, appointed a three-member committee to draft a statement in response to Havlik's suggestion.

The motion was made by Carlos de la Torre of Buenos Aires, Argentina, who said he was pleased with the idea "since it is part of the Cali Declaration that we have failed to deal with adequately."

Appointed to the committee were Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla.; Jose dos Reis Pereira, editor of O Journal Bautista in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and Augusto Cotto of Santa Ana, El Salvador.

-more-

When the committee report was presented, debate centered over the question of whether it would be interpreted as a concern for social and moral conditions, rather than as concern for the "individual salvation of sinners."

Gordon H. Anderson, home missions secretary of the Baptist General Conference in Chicago, said that the statement ought to emphasize that man's greatest need is to be saved, and "our primary responsibility is to take the gospel to save man."

He argued that some people would take the statement and make it say something it is not saying.

An amendment offered by Cooper added to the statement this sentence to clarify the intentions of the committee: "The Cali Declaration expressed the purpose of the Crusade of the Americas as the deepening of the spiritual life of believers and the bringing of lost men to God through belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. To this end we rededicate ourselves."

The amended statement as finally adopted added: "The Cali Declaration also set forth one of the basic purposes of the Crusade of the Americas as 'the establishing of true moral and spiritual bases for the betterment of mankind's economic, social, and physical welfare.'

"'Love thy neighbor as thyself' is the Lord's injunction with respect to the believer's relation to all men."

The statement then deplored injustice, prejudice and greed, offered Christ as the solution to problems of our generation, and asked for dedication to proclamation of the gospel involving both the regeneration of individuals and destroying every phase of man's inhumanity to man.

-30-

Two Cuba Baptist Groups
Plan Crusade Involvement

7/15/68

SAO PAULO, Brazil (BP)--Baptists affiliated with two conventions in Cuba have indicated plans to participate in the Crusade of the Americas evangelistic effort, the crusade's Coordinating Committee was told here.

Communications, however, from the Cuban Baptists giving details for their plans were sketchy, and no representative from Cuba was able to attend the Coordinating Committee annual session. The committee is composed of representatives from each participating Baptist body.

The regional coordinator for the Crusade of Americas in the Caribbean, Southern Baptist Missionary Dottson Mills, said in his report that Cuban Baptists were definitely in the crusade, saying that the Spanish Baptist Publishing House is supplying literature on the crusade for Baptists in Cuba.

Frank Patterson, executive secretary of the publishing house, said they had received literature requests from Baptists in the Eastern half of Cuba affiliated with the American Baptist Convention, and from the Western portion of Cuba affiliated with Southern Baptists.

In addition, the director of evangelism for the Eastern half of Cuba wrote to the general coordinator of the crusade, Henry Earl Peacock of Sao Paulo, saying that the Baptists there were emphasizing personal evangelism as part of the crusade.

"In spite of our limitations, we are having wonderful results," the letter read.

"It is our great desire to feel we are united with you in the Crusade of the Americas and we want to do everything in our power to make this message--Christ the only hope--known in the most remote places of our country," concluded the letter from Eastern Cuba.

Patterson said that another letter came in May from Western Cuba requesting details about the crusade, but it did not mention any details about Cuban plans for the evangelistic effort.

-30-

Seven Appointed
By Home Board

ATLANTA, Ga. (BP)--Seven new career missionaries have been appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during its regular monthly meeting.

They are: John Atkins Wood of McLennan County, Tex., by the Department of Christian Social Ministries to Waco, Tex., as director of Christian social ministries; Mr. and Mrs. Billy Mack Wells of Chattanooga, Tenn. by Christian Social Ministries to Longview, Wash. as director of weekday ministries; William N. Smith of Orlando, Fla. by Department of Pioneer Missions to New Haven, Conn. as pastor-director; Charles Huelett Crawford of Atoka, Okla. by the Pioneer Missions Department to Mesabi, Minn. as pastoral missionary; William Darby Sharp of Williamson, W. Va. by Pioneer Missions to W. Va. as a pastoral missionary; and Lenard Olen Leftwich of Kendallville, Indiana by the Department of Rural-Urban Missions to Effingham, Ill. as superintendent of missions.

Wood, a graduate of Columbia Bible College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, is a former adult probation officer in McLennon County, Tex., and houseparent at the Buckner Children's Home. He is working on a doctorate in religion at Baylor University in Waco, Tex.

Wells, graduate of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Tex., and Southwestern Seminary, is former Minister of Music and Education in several churches in Texas.

Smith, former pastor in Oregon and California, is a graduate of Murray State College in Murray, Kentucky and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Crawford is a graduate of Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind., and Southwestern Seminary.

Sharp, the former pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Clinton, Tenn., and several churches in Kentucky, is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Leftwich, a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and Southwestern Seminary, has pastored the Marquez (Tex.) Baptist Church, and Westwood Chapel in Indianapolis, Ind.

-30-

Midwestern Seminary Gains
New Staff Members

7/15/68

KANSAS CITY, Miss. (BP)--Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Garner of Little Rock, Arkansas will join the staff of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, August 1. Mrs. Garner is the new director of the Child Care Center and Mr. Garner will serve as Housing Manager.

Mrs. Garner has been the Director of the Kindergarten-Nursery School of the Second Baptist Church of Little Rock for the last 13 years. She also taught public school for 10 years prior to her work with the church in Little Rock. She will be responsible for the selection of Child Care Center personnel.

Garner will supervise the single student's residence hall. He has been in sales for many years and is a deacon in Second Baptist Church, Little Rock.

-30-

BAPTIST PRESS

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203