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July 22, 1968

Crusade of Americas Body
Approves World Crusade Idea

By Jim Newton

SAO PAULO, Brazil (BP)--The Central Coordinating Committee of the Crusade of the Americas approved after lengthy discussion here the idea of a world-wide crusade in 1974 or 1975 as a climax to the hemispheric-wide crusade in 1969.

The action was one of two major decisions which drew extensive discussion during the four-day meeting here.

Earlier, the Central Coordinating Committee reaffirmed the three purposes of the Crusade of the Americas--personal salvation, spiritual growth, and social involvement--with emphasis on the social aspect, but not to the neglect of the others.

The 52-member committee, composed of representatives from each of the 38 participating Baptist conventions in North, Central and South America, made it clear that both actions expressed the personal views of the members and not those of the convention's represented.

In addition to approving the idea of a world-wide crusade in the 1970's, the committee also accepted a committee report which called for letters to participating Baptist conventions and to the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee concerning the world-wide crusade.

The committee recommended that letters be sent to each of the Baptist conventions in the Crusade of the Americas asking if they favored a world-wide crusade.

A letter was also authorized to the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee asking for time on the program of the 1970 Baptist World Congress in Tokyo for a report on the Crusade of the Americas and other campaigns, with possible discussion of the feasibility of a world-wide crusade.

One last meeting of the Central Coordinating Committee was scheduled for sometime in April of 1970 to study the results of the letters to the participating conventions, results of the crusade itself, and to decide on whether the committee still favors the world-wide crusade idea. Date and place of the meeting was not decided.

Samuel Libert of Rosario, Argentina, chairman of the sub-committee, said that if the Coordinating Committee still feels in 1970 that a world-wide crusade is needed, it could suggest to the Baptist World Alliance that such a campaign be proposed and the Alliance would decide its own course.

Most of the discussion centered, not around whether the members favored a world-wide crusade, but around the proper procedure for staging such a campaign.

Numerous questions were posed asking whether it was within the province of the Crusade of Americas Central Coordinating Committee to recommend such a world-wide effort. Two top Southern Baptist leaders took differing positions.

Ray Roberts, executive secretary of the Baptist State Convention of Ohio, said that the Southern Baptist Convention had taken no action on a world-wide crusade, and had appointed the SBC members only to deal with the hemisphere campaign. It would be out of order to petition the Baptist World Alliance without approval from the Southern Baptist Convention, and even then it would not be necessary to go through the Crusade of Americas committee, he observed.

Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor in Oklahoma City, said however that since the SBC had not delegated any authority to the members, they should feel free to express personal opinions with the understanding that it does not bind the respective conventions.

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S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

The debate took even longer because of the language barrier, and the necessity of translating every sentence into either English or Spanish. A motion made in Spanish recommending that "we have a world-wide crusade" (English translation) was unacceptable to English-speaking representatives who argued that the committee should only "commend the idea of a world-wide crusade."

Reubens Lopes, president of the Crusade of Americas who was presiding, observed that "we have a communication problem," and interpreted both motions to be the same in spirit.

The world-wide campaign idea was scheduled to come up on Friday afternoon, but was delayed because of lack of time to a special session at a reception on Saturday afternoon. After two hours of discussion, the question was still not settled, and a committee was appointed to come back with a recommendation to a second called session.

When the committee report was presented, a motion was made that it be approved without discussion or debate, and the vote was unanimous.

Discussion also enshrouded the action on approving a committee report re-affirming the third purpose of the Crusade of the Americas as approved two years ago, stating as a basic purpose: "establishing of true moral and spiritual bases for the betterment of mankind's economic, social, and physical welfare."

The statement was re-affirmed, but not until it was amended to cite also the other two objectives: "the deepening of the spiritual life of believers and the bringing of lost men to God through belief in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Several committee members, primarily Gordon W. Anderson of the Baptist General Conference in Chicago, argued that the statement would be mis-interpreted by some to be an emphasis on social issues instead of personal salvation. "Man's greatest need," said Anderson, "is to be saved."

As adopted, the statement reaffirmed all three purposes, emphasizing the latter by stating: "We declare ourselves as deploring injustice, prejudice, and greed in the hearts of men..." It did not mention, however, any specific social problems or issues other than in general terms.

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

In other major actions, the Central Coordinating Committee approved the production of a documentary film on the Crusade of the Americas, and a recommendation that each region produce 15-minute radio programs as part of the Crusade of Americas.

Most of the meeting was devoted to routine reports from committees, and to reports from the six regional coordinators and the general coordinator outlining crusade plans and procedures in each area and participating convention.

In reports to the committee, both Crusade President Reubens Lopes and General Coordinator Henry Earl Peacock of Sao Paulo, cited significant results of the crusade even before the climax comes in 1969.

Lopes, pastor of Vila Mariana Baptist Church here who first proposed the crusade in 1965, said two important results already have been the involvement of local churches in the campaign and the integration of Baptists in the Americas.

Saying he was not referring just to racial integration, Lopes explained that for the first time, Baptists in every country in the hemisphere were working together in a real, positive kind of integration that crosses national and racial lines.

Peacock, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, cited three major results already in his report as general coordinator--the increased number of participating conventions, a spirit of unity, harmony and brotherhood between these participating conventions, and a new mentality, especially where Baptists are few, poor and the work is very difficult.

On the last point, he added: "They have emerged with a new dignity, faith and zeal to do great and different things for our Lord." Baptists have been in the minority for so long in many of the Latin American countries that it gives them a sense of strength to be in something as big as the Crusade of Americas, he said.

Peacock, in a financial report, said however that the crusade is running in the red because of inflation, high cost, and the lack of contributions from cooperating conventions.

From July 1967 to June 30, 1968, the crusade spent about \$71,000, the report indicated. Biggest expenditures were for the operations of five regional coordinators' offices (not including the United States regional office financed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board), with about \$30,000 in expenses; and travel for the president and general coordinator, about \$12,600.

Receipts totalled about \$90,000 for the same period, with about \$81,000 of the amount coming from the Southern Baptist Convention. During a three-year period, the Southern Baptist Convention through its Foreign Mission Board has poured \$151,082 into the crusade, while the Brazilian Convention, the second largest in amount of contributions, has given \$5,000. Only 20 conventions have contributed, the report said.

Peacock concluded the report with observations that a new day for evangelism is dawning with the possibility of a world-wide crusade in 1974. "Never before in history has such a thing been attempted," he said. "By the grace of God, can't Baptists do it?"

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Sullivan Reaffirms Bible
Position of Board

7/22/68

NASHVILLE (BP)--James L. Sullivan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has reaffirmed that agency's position supporting the use of the King James Version of the Bible as basic in the Board's lesson materials.

The reaffirmation followed reaction from individuals, churches and associations against the omission of the printed scripture text in young people's quarterlies in the life and work and uniform lesson Sunday School series.

The Board leader told Baptist Press of response which indicated a mistaken belief that the Sunday School Board has taken a position against the King James Version of the Bible.

Sullivan explained that the printed lesson passage has been omitted in these quarterlies for two major reasons. "We feel first of all that the young people are thus further encouraged in the actual use and study of their own Bibles," said Sullivan. "This is not always the case when the Bible text is printed in the quarterly. Second, more space is available in the quarterly for interpretive material, giving the young people greater study aid. The number of pages in any quarterly is limited, and their use is carefully planned."

A statement in one of the quarterlies has been interpreted to suggest that the Sunday School Board considers the King James Version offensive. "That is just not so," said Sullivan. "The statement was that omission of the printed scripture passage means that we no longer offend the young people who disliked the King James Version. It spoke to the response we have been receiving from many young people, not to our own attitude regarding the translation."

The executive secretary-treasurer appealed for wide response from church and religious education leaders on the subject of printing the Bible lesson passage in quarterlies. "Any decision to return the text to these quarterlies or to remove it from other quarterlies cannot be implemented for about a year after the decision is made," Sullivan explained.

"Our policy remains to use the King James Version when the text is printed. However, we do allow, and have through the years allowed, quotations from any translation of the Bible so long as the passages quoted are faithful to the original Hebrew or Greek.

"We have a great appreciation for the King James Version translation," stated Sullivan, "and until another translation is as widely available and as widely accepted among Southern Baptists, the 1611 translation will remain basic in our lesson materials."

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Ridgecrest Has
First Mini-Conference

7/22/68

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--In keeping with today's world of mods and minis, Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly has experienced a Southern Baptist mini-conference.

The meeting of the Eastern Religious Education Association lasted two days and recorded an attendance of about 100. It followed by a day a two-week long "maxi-conference"--the Training Union Leadership and Youth Conference, which had a total attendance of over 8,400.

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The education association conferees voted unanimously to change the name of the organization to the Eastern Religious Education Association and elected Howard Foshee of the Baptist Sunday School Board as president.

Other officers are: Tom Allerton, minister of education and administration, First Baptist Church, Atlanta, first vice-president; Jim Dawkin, minister of education, Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church, Va., second vice-president; Mrs. Dorothy Corbitt, youth education director, Hampton Heights Baptist Church, Taylors, S. C., secretary-treasurer; Roger Harrington, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, song leader, and Eldon Boone, associate, Training Union Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown, pianist.

Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly is one of two assemblies owned and operated by the Sunday School Board.

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Vietnam-Bound Airman
Works At Glorieta

7/22/68

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--Mark Keyes, Airman First Class in the United States Air Force, worked here at Southern Baptists' assembly grounds until his leave expired and he was sent to South Vietnam.

The former Glorieta staffer from San Diego, Calif. said he couldn't resist the chance to work again at Glorieta.

"I wouldn't take my leave to come here if I didn't love the people, the atmosphere, the things that make up the spirit of Glorieta," he said.

Keyes, a jet aircraft mechanic from Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, worked in Holcomb Auditorium, the focal point for meetings and services.

He went from Glorieta to Phan Rang Air Base in South Vietnam.

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Olan Jones Appointed
To New Baptist Post

7/22/68

WAYCROSS, Ga. (BP)--J. Olan Jones has been named the first administrative assistant for Baptist Village here, the Georgia Baptist center for retired persons.

Jones, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, will serve as assistant to Baptist Village director Harvey R. Mitchell. Jones has been pastor of several Georgia churches.

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