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July 30, 1968

Peace-War Involvement
A Duty, Youths Told

By W. C. Fields

BERNE, Switzerland (BP)--The leader of Baptists in Europe told young Baptists who are gathered here from all over the world that Christians have a duty to be actively engaged in debate on issues of war and peace.

C. Ronald Goulding of London, England, secretary of the European Baptist Federation, told the 7th Baptist Youth World Conference here that any Christian who is not involved in attacking this "paramount evil" of our day "is failing to enter into the mind and will of God as we know it in the Christian conception of creation."

Goulding, who works with 1,200,000 Baptists in Europe, told the youth delegates, "War is the ultimate symbol of man's disharmony because it is the most tragic and spectacular expression of man's inability to live with his fellow man."

"War therefore is a sin, the most terrible social product of man's rebellion against God," he said.

Jesus called on his followers to be "peace-makers," not just peace-lovers, he stated.

He added, however, that those who say "peace at any price" and "let us cause no trouble" are not true peace-makers.

Pointing out that "peace at any price" can be as big an evil as a deliberate act of war, Goulding said, "No peace can be anything but a temporary and uneasy armistice which is not founded upon the rock of justice."

Goulding works with Baptists on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

The question of peace came up frequently in the 200 discussion sessions held daily during the seven-day conference. About 5,600 young people were present from about 60 nations.

Vietnam, Indonesia, the Arab-Israeli stalemate and the Nigerian-Biafra war came in for examination by the youths, most of whom are college and high school students.

Vehement condemnation of the policy of the United States in Vietnam, which is fashionable among youth groups in many parts of the world at the present time, was at a minimum during the conference here.

One of the youth delegates from Czechoslovakia, Vlastimil Pospisil, told the assembled young people that the new conditions now prevailing in his country have greatly increased the freedom of the churches to carry forward their work.

About 700 of the conference participants are from Europe, about 4,500 from the United States, with about 200 from the rest of the world.

The conference was planned for discussion and exchange of the views of youth, but not for passing resolutions. Adults were barred from the discussions sessions, except in the case of resource persons.

The Thursday night session of the conference featured a choral reading group from Georgetown (Baptist) College in Kentucky, presenting a speech chorus program, "World Without End."

It depicted in drama, with lighting and sound but without scenery, man's search and affirmation of his faith in the midst of difficulty and tragedy.

The Wordmasters, directed by Edwina Snyder, are one of only four collegiate speech chorus groups in the United States.

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New Freedom Reported
For Czech Baptists

BERNE, Switzerland (BP)--The liberalizing trends of the new regime in Communist-dominated Czechoslovakia have opened the way for a larger religious life in the country.

A delegate to the 7th Baptist Youth World Conference, Vlastimil Pospisil of Miloslavov, Czechoslovakia made the claim before 5,600 youths here and stated that he and his fellow countrymen have a new freedom for Christian witnessing.

"This year with us in Czechoslovakia is the year of hope for further work in the vineyard of the Lord," he said.

"Our youth and the whole church are permitted to assemble openly and we have founded youth groups in our churches, which have always existed, although not openly," he stated.

Pospisil indicated that a nationwide Baptist Youth Congress is planned for later this year, the first in 20 years. A youth magazine is also being started.

Speaking to Baptist youths from 60 nations, the Czech delegate said, "Our youth are not satisfied to do work that is unimportant but rather want to take on work that entails great responsibilities."

He said to his fellow Baptists from around the world, "At the moment I cannot give statistical figures about our youth groups because we have not registered them before now. But, according to my estimation, there is a membership of 4,500 in our churches, of whom 500 are young people."

The Baptist churches are spread over the entire country and range in size from 50 to 450, he stated.

"In our country," he added, "the Baptist Union is the smallest of all religious groups, but its activity is the best known."

Other Communist countries represented at the Youth Conference here were Yugoslavia, Poland, East Germany, and Hungary.

Although not represented because of restrictions on their travel, young Cuban Baptists sent a telegram of greetings to the Conference.

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Paul Tournier Tells Youth
To Love People, Not things

BERNE, Switzerland (BP)--A world-famous physician, Paul Tournier of Geneva, told 5,600 students and youth leaders that one of the major separations among people today is between those who love things and those who love people.

Addressing the 7th Baptist Youth World Conference, the author and counsellor said, "At this very moment when the world of things has developed to the point where the industrial nations can attain unprecedented prosperity, young people instinctively find our mustering of things insufficient for the human heart."

Tournier interpreted the hippie actions in the United States and the student revolts in Paris, Rome and Germany as being at least in part a profound disappointment with the present facelessness and impersonality of our mass culture.

"In this flattened, normalized mechanized world, man feels himself to be simply a cog in an enormous machine, a thing, an instrument of production and consumption," he said.

He labelled as a serious sickness the atmosphere in universities where the student becomes a number, a case, with no personal relationships with his teachers.

Tournier indicted the universities, especially in Europe, for intellectual rationalism, "ex cathedra" courses which call for unquestioning acceptance, and a lack of a true community of learning.

To the Baptist youths of 65 countries gathered in Berne's Festhalle, the physician and renowned psychologist said, "It is necessary to heal our civilization of this sickness of depersonalization, to give it a poetic and vibrant spirit."

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"On whom can we rely for this renewal of the sense of persons if not on the believers (in Christ), above all on young believers?" he asked.

Tournier pointed his young audience to the example of Jesus. "Consider how he expressed his personal solicitude as a shepherd for the least of the wandering sheep."

Speaking in French, Tournier's English interpreter was a friend of many years, Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

The author of almost two dozen books which are widely read in the United States, Tournier challenged the Baptist young people to join their lives to the liberating power of Christ and thereby become true pioneers "to give our modern world a more human face."

Three steps are necessary to true personhood, he said. First, any man, to become aware of himself, needs to be spoken to and listened to.

Second, there must be interpersonal exchanges, not merely on an intellectual level but on the emotional level as well.

Third, this personal contact with others must be coupled with the presence of God.

Tournier asked the assembled youths to consider a new openness in their lives whereby "others will be able to meet Jesus Christ and discover in him the 'Person' par excellence."

Prolonged applause marked the end of his address.

Afterward, the youth delegates, ages 17-30, divided into 200 small discussion groups to react to the address and other matters of common interest.

The seven-day conference, under the auspices of the Baptist World Alliance, includes about 200 adults who are speakers, resource persons and tour leaders.

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Swiss Baptists Take On Odds of Four to One

By W. C. Fields

BERNE, Switzerland (BP)--The Swiss Baptist Union, one of the smallest national groups of Baptists in the world, took on the task of entertaining visitors who outnumber them nearly four to one--and won!

The 14 churches and 1,500 members of the Swiss Union were hosts for the 7th Baptist Youth World Conference which registered over 5,600 here.

In welcoming the young Baptists from 60 nations, Claus Meister of Ruschlikon-Zurich, Baptist seminary professor and president of the Union, pointed out the fact that there is not a Baptist church in the host city of Berne, the federal capital of Switzerland.

In spite of these limitations, however, the Baptist visitors from around the world praised the handling of the conference arrangements as evidences of Swiss efficiency and Baptist hospitality.

Swiss Baptists hope that the presence of all of the youth delegates in Berne will create an interest which can enable the local Baptist preaching station to grow into a church.

All of the Baptist churches in the country speak German. One at Lugano in the Italian-speaking south also uses Italian.

Salem's Chapel in Zurich is the largest Baptist church and has about 600 members, almost half of the Baptists in the entire country.

Like some other Baptist groups in Europe, Swiss Baptists have deaconesses who are vocational Christian workers who wear distinctive dress.

Some of the Baptist church members also have a membership in the state church, the Swiss Reformed Church which is closely related to Presbyterianism.

Although the Swiss Baptist Union receives some financial help from the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Union assists with the work at Lugano and has a missionary couple in Cameron.

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The SBC Foreign Mission Board has been a major supporter of the Baptist Seminary at Ruschlikon, a suburb of Zurich. The school, which draws students from all over Europe, was established in 1949.

The second meeting of the Baptist Youth World Conference was held in Zurich in 1937.

The Swiss Baptist Union is a member of the European Baptist Federation and the Baptist World Alliance.

The Baptist World Alliance, sponsor of the seven-day youth conferences every five years is a fellowship of over 29 million Baptists in 124 countries.

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Churches Told to Adjust to African Revolutions

7/30/68

BERNE, Switzerland (BP)--Churches in the Western world have to reckon with the revolutionary changes taking place in Africa if Christianity is to continue as a positive force on that seething continent, according to a Cameroon Baptist leader.

Solomon Gwei told 5,600 young people assembled here for the 7th Baptist World Youth Conference that "Africa and the rest of the world need the Gospel of love to replace the propagation of prejudices, rivalry, hatred, suspicion, national and racial intolerance."

Gwei, educated in Baptist schools in Cameroon, Nigeria, and Ruschlikon-Zurich, Switzerland, also in Princeton Theological Seminary and the University of Michigan, is a teacher and Baptist pastor.

Pointing to the African refugee problem created by warfare in many places, including the latest Nigeria-Biafra conflict, Gwei stated that the churches must follow the steps of Jesus in compassion for one million homeless Africans.

A crucial question at present, he said, was how to "Africanize" Christianity. The Christian gospel came to Africa in Western theological terms and thought forms, "firmly encased in traditional ecclesiastical organizations specifically Western in type," he said.

Gwei told the young Baptists filling Berne's Festhalle that one of the tasks before Christians on his continent is for African theologians to develop an African theology, an expression of their faith in the languages, thought forms, culture and life which will make it meaningful to Africans.

Addressing representatives of 65 nations, he said, "Whatever happens to the church in Africa affects the entire church of God of which she is a part. Our coming together as Baptist youth of the world is to remind us that we live in One World and have One Lord, and should bear One Witness."

Gwei told the youth delegates that they could help to achieve better understanding between Baptist churches of Europe and America and the younger churches of Africa.

"The mother churches should take our aspiration as a drive to the maturity for which they have been working and praying," he said.

He concluded, "In our aspiration we need your inspiration."

Gwei's address was preceded by a roll call of nations. Young men and women moved across the flag-draped platform before a capacity crowd, gave their name and country and repeated in their own language the conference motto: "One World, One Lord, One Witness."

Gwei was one of three speakers at the Youth Conference describing church conditions in various parts of the world. Others dealt with Asia and Latin America.

The speaker from Asia, Othelo D. de Leon from the Philippines said that 13 Asian nations sent delegates to Berne. He added, "Delegates from Burma were not allowed to leave their country."

A telegram from young Cuban Baptists said in part, "We cannot be with you because it is not possible. As we would like to be with you sharing these wonderful experiences, we keep praying for you."

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The representative of Vietnam received prolonged applause and a standing ovation. Officials of the conference interpreted this spontaneous gesture as an expression of appreciation to Vietnamese Baptists and other Christians for their faith and witness in the midst of tragic times for their country.

While the representatives of the nations stood in a line across the huge platform, an international youth choir of 800 voices, led by William J. Reynolds of Nashville, Tenn., sang "The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah."

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Missions Hemisfair Depicts World Missions, Cultures

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--The food, music, and cultures of Europe and the Middle East, of South and Central America, of the Caribbean, of Africa and Asia, and of the United States combined to challenge almost 2,000 persons attending the Southern Baptist World Missions Conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here.

Called "Missions Hemisfair: 68," the international exposition featured missionaries describing their fields of work and the culture of their people.

Missions Hemisfair also included a talent show produced by local talent, conferees, missionaries, and assembly staffers.

Capitalizing upon a Crusade of the Americas emphasis, the exhibit showing South and Central America seemed to be one of the most popular.

Julian Bridges, missionary to Mexico, was present in full Mexican regalia to tell about work in that country, and Hoke Smith Jr., Latin American field representative for the SBC Foreign Mission Board, hosted the display about Argentina.

Smith, dressed in the costume of an Argentine Gaucho (cowboy) entertained a constant crowd with a demonstration of Gaucho-style knife fighting with his son Hoke Smith III.

When not flashing his knife, he was exhibiting the bolo, a three-ended rope weighted at each end with heavy balls, used to hunt game by the Argentines. (He later confessed he was not really a Gaucho, and had even fallen off a horse earlier in the week.)

What made the Latin American exhibit perhaps the most entertaining was the music. Records of Latin music were supplemented by Mrs. Smith playing Argentine music on the piano.

Other areas of the world, including Africa and Asia, were represented with music, curios, missionary guests and a large contingent of MKs (missionary kids).

Home Missions made their impact through an exhibit featuring an Indian pottery maker, a silversmith, and home missionaries.

While the senses of sight and touch were filled at the exhibits, those of taste and smell were also treated. A complete Mexican dinner, featuring enchiladas, tamales, frijoles, and toastadas, preceded the Hemisfair. "A world of food" refreshment center served fair visitors.

Missions Hemisfair: 68, was climaxed by a service held on the shore of Glorieta Lake. The service told the legend of the little lights that early Christians in New Mexico used to celebrate Christmas.

The service pointed the way to the approaching Crusade of the Americas with the crusade cross and map illuminated and reflected in the lake.

World Missions Conference was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union Auxiliary, with the assistance of the SBC Home and Foreign Mission Boards.

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Baylor Gets Federal Funds To Improve Dental Program

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baylor University is one of 37 church-related schools awarded grants for the improvement and strengthening of training programs in allied health professions, according to announcement here by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW).

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The Baptist university in Waco, Tex., will receive \$35,397 for basic educational improvement of its program to train dental hygienists, according to the government release.

The grant is authorized by the Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act of 1966 and is administered in the Bureau of Health Manpower of the National Institutes of Health, an agency of HEW.

According to the release, the grant can be used for salaries and associated fringe benefits of professional and supportive staff, purchase of supplies and equipment, alterations and renovations, books and periodicals.

Awards under this program go to eligible "training centers" on the basis of a formula which provides \$5,000 for each eligible curriculum, plus \$500 for each student enrolled in the professional phase of the training.

Baylor, the only Baptist institution on the list, is one of 230 colleges and universities receiving a total of \$9,750,000. Of this amount, the 37 church-related schools will receive a total of \$1,188,194.

Twenty-nine of the schools are Roman Catholic and two are Lutheran. In addition, there is one each Christian, Church of the Brethren, Methodist, Presbyterian and Seventh Day Adventist.

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Survey Of Assembly-Goers Gives Clues On SBC Issues

By Larry Jerden

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--Questions of fundamentalism, involvement, and the everyday application of Christianity were raised in a random survey of participants in the Southern Baptist World Missions Conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here.

"What do you think is the greatest basic issue facing Southern Baptists today?", was the major question asked of a dozen conference participants. A total of 1,700 attended the week-long meeting, carrying out the theme "Impact for Missions, 68."

The responses to the question were as varied as the ages and backgrounds of those making them.

Three of the answers dealt with the question of fundamentalism. Gretchen Welch, an 18-year-old Glorieta Baptist Assembly staffer from First Baptist Church of Bothell, Wash., said Baptists are too often Fundamentalists.

"We are not groovy enough. We can't appeal to kids if we are too fundamental," the blue-eyed, blonde staffer responded.

Ruby Yates, gray-haired conferee from First Baptist Church in Charlotte, N. C., agreed that fundamentalism was the issue, but differed in how it should be treated.

"The real question is 'are we going to stick to Baptist traditions or are we going to drift away?' Are we going to stay united as we have been?"

Jim Harris, 34-year-old minister of adult education at Charlotte also mentioned "Baptist traditions," but related them to involvement.

"The major issue is getting people involved in Christianity, especially 'Christian' people. We are just now facing issues that other areas have been facing for years. We can't rest on the traditions of 30 years ago to face the issues of the new day," he said.

"Involvement, that's the major issue," said Joe Ballard, of First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Tex. "We need to get the church involved in more activities to reach more people."

Race was mentioned by only two of the respondents.

"Perhaps race is the major issue," said Bruce Boyd, also a 17-year-old member of First Baptist Church in Huntsville. "At least it is the major issue in my church. We haven't done anything about it yet, but it is the main problem."

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The other respondent that considered race the main question facing the convention was Mrs. Mel McCann of Bethel Southern Baptist Church in Wilmington, Calif., but her husband, the pastor of the church and Brotherhood director of the Association, disagreed.

"The biggest problem I see is how are we going to face the ecumenical movement. Are we going to succumb to it or stand alone?"

Three of the persons attending the conference were concerned with Southern Baptists' response to their faith in general.

Said Betty Seale, 18, a staffer from Canton, Tex.; "We are not concerned enough about our own religion. People spend too much time worrying about other people's religion and not enough time paying attention to their own faith."

Armando Silverio, a home missionary to the Italians in Pittsburg, Pa., said our failure to live our faith has caused many of the other issues we face.

"The major issue is that we are not living what we profess, preach, and teach. Because of this, we have created issues such as race.

"If we would truly do unto others as we would have them do unto us, people wouldn't be in the streets rioting."

Jesse Fletcher, secretary of missionary personnel for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and a major conference speaker, said the issue was "whether we can muster a truly Christian response to the responsibilities and opportunities of our day.

"Can we meet the world's social problems and come to grips with the spiritual needs of its people?" he asked. "Can we share with the whole world and yet also with the neighbor at our door?"

Similar responses came from two others, who indicated the major issue lies in questions as old as Christianity itself.

"Can we find practical ways to express the gospel in today's world," asked Norman Godfrey, director of field services for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. "This is the real issue."

Reflecting on the many issues which face Southern Baptists, Hubert Brumright, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said the issue was one of the Bible.

"The issue is the real nature of Biblical authority," he said. "What is the Bible going to mean in terms of all the other issues? In other words, what right does the Bible have to speak to us and to control us?"

Most of the participants interviewed indicated that the conference had helped them to come to grips with the issues facing Southern Baptists, although they were not agreed on what the major issue really is.



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