



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
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August 6, 1968

Baptist World Alliance  
Group Urges World Peace

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance, meeting for the first time in Africa, urged 29 million Baptists in 120 nations to work for "peace in the whole world in our time."

The resolution asked Baptists affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance to give themselves through prayer, citizenship, and education to "build spirit and understanding on a sustained basis" for world peace.

In other major actions, the BWA Executive Committee voted to establish a study commission on Cooperative Christianity, and adopted resolutions on world relief, on world evangelism, and on the violent death of Martin Luther King.

William R. Tolbert, president of the Baptist World Alliance and vice president of the Republic of Liberia, was host for the three-day meeting at Ricks Institute, a Baptist school 15 miles outside the city of Monrovia.

It was the first time any world-wide Baptist meeting had been held in Africa, and the influx of delegates from many lands created much excitement in the usually quiet city, observers said. There were 90 members and visitors from 21 countries attending the meeting.

They were welcomed to the city with two festive dinners, with the president of Liberia attending both dinners. The first was given by the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, with President William V. S. Tubman as special guest. President and Mrs. Tubman were hosts to the delegates at a State Dinner in the Executive Mansion the following evening.

At the first dinner meeting, Tolbert said that in a world of crises and different ideologies, it is the duty of all Christians irrespective of denomination to strive to bring pagans, atheists and animists to the glory of God.

The Vice President told his guests that the occasion could not fade away without expressing special thanks and appreciation to President Tubman whom he described as a man with a keen interest in humanity and of unbiased consideration for all denominations.

President Tubman said the fellowship of the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee in Liberia was a unique occasion in the history of the nation. He said unlike other international meetings prior to it, the fellowship grouped people from all parts of the world of the same communion.

He explained the social aspect of his "Open Door Policy" and told the guests that the Liberian government welcomed everyone without considering creed, color or race. "There are no strangers in Liberia" the chief executive added.

President Tubman conferred special knighthood degrees in the Liberian Humane Order of African Redemption on 14 BWA leaders.

Two delegates from Rumania were present--the first time any representatives from this Eastern European country had attended a BWA meeting in many years.

They were Iochim Tsunea, general secretary of the Rumanian Baptist Union, and Nicolai Kovaci, vice president of the union. They report a membership of 120,000 in their country's Baptist Congregation.

The resolution on world peace stated: "We proclaim to the world our deep feeling that war as a means of permanent solution is untenable, and we believe that any price that is not based on justice and righteousness is equally untenable and dangerous."

The resolution further noted that "peace is a Christ-like characteristic and should be the goal of every Christian expressing itself in one's peace with God and with his fellowman."

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"As Christians," it said, "we are admonished to be peacemakers among men, and in our hearts we yearn desperately so to be and do."

The statement was presented by James L. Sullivan of Nashville, executive secretary of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, on behalf of a resolutions committee made up of ten members from seven nations.

Although the original resolution did not mention the Vietnam war specifically, the Executive Committee approved an amendment from the floor making the statement more specific.

As a final paragraph, on an amendment offered by Ernest A. Payne of London, the following was added: "Further, in regard to present conflicts in Vietnam, Nigeria, the Middle East and other places, we appeal to our members to uphold urgently in prayer all those working for speedy and just solutions."

In addition to urging all Baptists and other Christians to engage in prayer and to strive "to be informed Christian citizens in every changing international situation," the resolution proposed that Christians develop plans and programs for personal reading, for family discussion and for church educational use "in the hope of building spirit and understanding on a sustained basis as we strive for peace in the whole world in our time."

Another resolution was adopted in respect for Martin Luther King, giving thanks for "his strong compassion for the underprivileged and oppressed, his unshakable courage in what he believed to be right, and his advocacy of a non-violent solution to evils and injustices in society."

The resolution also suggested that the committee "would draw the attention of all Baptists to the need for Christians to struggle for a righteous order of society in a spirit of Christ-like love."

The resolution on evangelism gave a wide and inclusive meaning to the word "evangelism". It noted that the year 1969 will be a time of special evangelistic emphasis on several continents, including the Crusade of the Americas in all the Western hemisphere, and it resolved:

"That we renew our consecration to the work of evangelism--evangelism being understood to involve both the redemption of the individual, that individual's growth in Christian character and service, and his involvement as a Christian in the broad spectrum of the life of his total commitment."

In other actions, the Executive Committee gave attention to plans for a Baptist World Congress in Tokyo July 12-18, 1970. Shuichi Matsumura and W. B. (Dub) Jackson of Tokyo reported on plans for local arrangements. A program committee was appointed by Alliance President Tolbert, with Mrs. R. L. Mathis of Birmingham, Ala., as committee chairman.

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"Cooperative Christianity"  
Commission Set By BWA

8/6/68

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)--A Study Commission on Cooperative Christianity was appointed by the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee at its meeting here.

The commission, which will be increased to 25 members, will be charged only with "study of Baptist relations with other Christians." It is not authorized to take action regarding union.

Duke K. McCall, chairman of the Commission on Doctrine, saw it as "a forum for inquiry and study."

Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the alliance, named James Leo Garrett of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., as chairman, and Rudolf Thaut, principal of the Baptist Seminary at Hamburg, Germany, as co-chairman. Dr. Robert G. Torbet of Valley Forge, Pa., is secretary.

Other members of the central panel are Emanuel Dahunsi of Nigeria, Brooks Hays of the U.S.A., Mervin Himberry of Australia, and David S. Russell of Great Britain.

The new commission will make five study groups within the Baptist World Alliance. The others deal with doctrine, Christian teaching and training, missions, and evangelism, and religious liberty and human rights.

Its appointment was authorized at the request of the Commission on Doctrine, in the belief that "this is far too big a subject for the present commission, and too important a subject to neglect."

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Baptists Urged To Give  
Day's Pay To World Relief

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)--Baptists of the world will be given opportunity to "contribute at least one day's earnings in 1968-69 for the cause of world relief."

A resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance expressed "deep concern for the many people of the world who are presently suffering hunger and who are in great need of other necessities of life."

It recognized "the generosity of the developed countries that already are supplying large amounts of surplus food to remove this need."

The resolution further expressed the "farvant hope" that governments in the countries where "there are still large supplies of surplus foods going to waste or being destroyed... will do everything possible to make this food available to welfare organizations and that these states will provide shipping costs when necessary."

And then it urged "all Baptists around the world to put forth every effort to meet the needs of hungry people."

"We recommend," the resolution continued, "that each member of our Baptist churches be challenged to contribute at least one day's earnings in 1968-69 for this cause to the relief fund of the Baptist World Alliance or the national Baptist relief agencies in their area."

In a companion resolution, the committee noted "tragic needs of Nigeria at this time," and instructed Baptist World Alliance General Secretary, Josef Nordenhaug, to send \$6,000 immediately "as a first step...to meet the needs of suffering people in Nigeria." It urged also that all 81 constituent bodies of the Alliance "respond now to the present crisis."

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Report Recommends Changes  
In Seven Texas Colleges

8/6/68

DALLAS (BP)--Recommendations that two Texas Baptist schools be sold and another be given a self-determining, self-perpetuating board are included in the controversial Carden Report, the Baptist Standard, weekly Texas Baptist newspaper reported here.

The report also recommends allowing Texas Baptist schools to receive government loans for buildings, and grants for equipment and programs.

Charges of secrecy have surrounded the Carden Report since its recent presentation to the Education Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, which voted to have a year's committee study of the report before any presentation to the state convention.

The report, according to the summary published in the Baptist Standard, recommends:

1. Howard Payne College at Brownwood, Tex., and Wayland College at Plainview, Tex., be sold to proposed tax districts and thereby separated from the convention.
2. East Texas Baptist College at Marshall, Tex., become a "special purpose junior college" primarily for those studying for religious vocations.
3. The University of Corpus Christi be given an "independent self-perpetuating" board and "allowed to determine its own future."
4. Mary Hardin-Baylor College for women be placed under the administrative control of Baylor University and at the end of two years its future re-evaluated.
5. Hardin-Simmons University at Abilene drop its graduate program with some exceptions.

Additionally, the report proposed a Coordinating Board for the entire educational system which would "be largely a policy making organization" directed by a chancellor.

Local trustees would be continued for the remaining institutions: Baylor University, Waco, Tex., Dallas Baptist College, Dallas, Houston Baptist College, Houston, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and East Texas Baptist College in its new role.

The report also recommended that the convention reverse its policy and permit government loans for buildings and "government grants for equipment and programs." It suggested conditions which would leave the institutions free of government control.

The convention has been consistent in its policy of prohibiting government grants. It reiterated in 1966 its policy against loans, turning down a committee recommendation which would have permitted them.

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These recommendations were made in a voluminous report submitted through the Texas Baptist Education Commission which had employed William R. Carden Jr., for a year's analysis of the nine Baptist schools. The report is now in the hands of a 12-member committee which is to report to the Education Commission and the convention within a year.

The report initially was presented to the presidents of Baptist schools and to members of the Texas convention Education Commission, about 90 people in all, meeting in Salado, Tex.

In strongly-worded editorials published on two consecutive weeks, the Baptist Standard criticized the secrecy which surrounded the report, asking why the entire report had not been released to Texas Baptists and to the public.

In publishing a summary of the report, the Baptist Standard acknowledged it was violating the secrecy label still affixed to the report. "Too many have said too much in the daily press for us to do otherwise," wrote Editor John J. Hurt.

Hurt observed that most major daily newspapers had carried partial and incomplete summaries of the Carden report. "Texas Baptist leadership surely must know by now the easiest way to mix error with truth and half truth is to try to keep confidential that which is shared with almost a hundred people."

Copies of the 454-page report, Hurt said, were "bootlegged" to the Baptist Standard but the entire report officially has not been released, he added. It will be distributed to trustees of all the schools, however.

Earlier, Texas Baptist Executive Secretary T. A. Patterson and Education Commission Secretary Woodson Armes had issued statements calling on Texas Baptists to rely on the facts "rather than on hearsay and speculation," concerning the report, and urging news media to refrain from overstating reports concerning the closing of several Baptist schools.

Armes said some interpretations in the news media concerning the report were "unfortunate," and pointed out that no concrete action was taken except to authorize a year's study. Any proposals coming from the study must then clear the Education Commission, the Program Coordinating Committee of the convention, the convention's Executive Board, and then the Baptist General Convention of Texas itself.

Carden introduced his report with a description of the problem ahead, pointing to increasing student enrollments that grow more acute each year, and centering on budget problems including inflation and larger appropriations for state schools.

"This cost squeeze from external factors has hit the Texas Baptist schools at the same time they have been faced with a declining percentage of gifts from the Baptist General Convention of Texas," he said. Carden explained that 26 per cent of the convention income went to the schools in 1959, but that now the figure is only 21.6 per cent. Dollar gifts increased, but percentages declined, he added.

Carden said Baylor University needed an endowment ten times its \$21 million and other schools had similar deficiencies. Student costs, he said, are as high as they can go except possibly at Baylor and Dallas Baptist College. He also was critical of what he called a "premium price" charged students in all institutions without "first class service."

The report then raised the question of a convention decision of "limited (financial) resources among nine" schools, an increased Baptist student ministry on other campuses of both. He added that 700,000 students on Texas campuses by 1980 "constitute the greatest mission field for Texas Baptist work."

Carden said the Texas Baptist colleges face a "quality gap" of \$10 million in their annual operating budgets. He added that \$15 million was needed for construction.

He sounded an optimistic note stating: "This is a grim picture, but there is much that it does not take into account. It omits, to begin with, the fact that there are some first class students attending Texas Baptist colleges, and some first-rate faculty to instruct them. No institution, however small and poor, is not without a core of competent faculty and students. There are not now enough of either to convert the Baptist colleges into the institutions they must become, but there are some, and they constitute a foundation upon which to build."



**BAPTIST PRESS**

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AUG 8 1968  
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