



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 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593
DALLAS Billy Keith, 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

September 24, 1968

**Six Manifestos Slated
At Continental Congress**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Six manifestos, touching on such subjects as "The World Crisis and the Social Revolution" will be presented to the Continental Congress on Evangelism when 2,500 Baptists from a dozen different national Baptist bodies meet here Oct. 10-13.

The manifestos will be presented at the beginning of each session of the congress by a committee composed of members from six of the Baptist conventions involved.

There will be no votes taken on the manifestos, congress officials explained, and the statements will not be binding on any of the dozen Baptist bodies involved.

Topics for the manifestos are (1) "The Gospel and the Human Situation," (2) "Human Freedom and Dignity," (3) "The Church and Its Mission," (4) "The World Crisis and Social Revolution," and (5) "The Biblical Revelation," and (6) "The Cosmic Christ and the Space Age."

Each manifesto will seek to relate evangelism to specific issues and needs of the world today, and will emphasize the significance of evangelism in the modern world, said Wayne Dehoney, North American Regional Coordinator of the Crusade of the Americas and pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville.

The Continental Congress on Evangelism is a part of the hemispheric-wide Crusade of the Americas involving Baptists in 31 countries of North, Central and South America. Baptists from the United States and Canada are involved in the meeting at the Shoreham Hotel here.

A committee headed by Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City and a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, was asked to draw up and to present the manifestos.

Hobbs said that the committee selected the topics to be covered in six documents, and that each member has been asked to write one manifesto for approval by the entire committee before being presented to the entire congress.

Committee members who will draft the statements are Daniel A. Dryer, associate general secretary of the Atlantic United Baptist Convention, St. Johns, New Brunswick, Canada; Herbert Hiller, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Woodside, N. Y. of the North American Baptist General Conference; Kenneth R. Kennedy, executive secretary of the General Association of General Baptists, Poplar Bluff, Ark.; L. Venchael Booth, executive secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., Cincinnati; John Havlik, associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board evangelism division, Atlanta; and Hobbs.

Both Hobbs and Dehoney pointed out that the statements would not be "binding" upon any of the local churches among the participating denominations, or upon the denominational bodies themselves, but would be an expression of concern from the conference participants relating evangelism to the needs of today's world.

"We hope to say something of significance and importance in an imaginative way," said Dehoney, who added that the manifestos probably would be "the newsworthy items coming from the congress---even more so than the speeches."

Principal speakers for the four-day meeting will be George Beasley-Murray, principal, Spurgeon's College, London, England; Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond; Kenneth L. Chafin and Dale Moody, professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; C. E. Autrey, evangelism secretary for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta;

J. H. Jackson, president of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.; Chicago; Gardner Taylor, president, Progressive National Baptist Convention, New York; John W. Williams, pastor of Saint Stephen Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., and official of the National Baptist Convention of America;

-more-

DARLAN-CARVER LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Rhebens Lopes, pastor of the Villa Mariana Baptist Church in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and president of the Crusade of the Americas; Owen Cooper, president, Mississippi Chemical Corp., Yazoo City, Miss.; Mrs. R. L. Mathis, promotion director, SBC Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.; Gordon Schroeder, pastor of the Redford Baptist Church, Detroit, (American Baptist); Carl W. Tiller, director of budget methods for the U. S. Bureau of Budget and former president of the American Baptist Convention; Howard Butt, grocery chain executive from Corpus Christi, Tex.; and John Edmund Haggai, evangelist from Atlanta.

-30-

Maryland Special Convention
Recommends Sale of College

(9-24-68)

BALTIMORE (BP)--The Baptist Convention of Maryland, in its first called special session in history, voted overwhelmingly to sell the property originally slated for a Baptist college in Walkersville, Md., "as quickly as feasible."

It was also the shortest convention meeting in history, lasting a mere 46 minutes.

That was the time it took to hear and approve a lengthy report of a special committee of seven appointed by the convention president at the request of the convention to take the necessary steps to dispose of the college property, or decide how to use it.

There was little discussion and almost no debate on the committee's recommendation to sell the property "at the best price possible", although no specific price was placed on the buildings and grounds.

Disposal and sale of the property was placed in the hands of the State Mission Board of the convention and its executive committee.

Total assets of the property, including a 140-acre tract about 50 miles Northwest of Baltimore, reportedly are about \$750,000, while liabilities are listed at about \$575,000.

The committee recommended sale of the property after examining and evaluating three possibilities, and concluding "there is nothing else we could do but recommend the sale of the property," according to committee chairman Cecil C. Anderson, pastor in Silver Spring, Md.

The alternatives not approved were to convert the property to a Baptist teaching center or assembly, or to retain the property to see what developments would come later in the denomination to utilize the property.

The committee reported a minimum of \$272,000 would have to be expended immediately to provide an assembly, plus a minimum of \$130,000 a year to amortize an estimated \$850,000 debt. Cost of holding the property as it now exists was set at about \$62,500.

Messengers to the special convention meeting here at Temple Baptist Church voted, with only three dissenting votes, to accept the committee's recommendation that the property be sold, and that the convention's State Mission Board be authorized "to accept or reject offers" on the property.

-30-

WMU Names Field Worker
For Children 6 To 11

(9-24-68)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Miss Bobbie Sorrill of Nashville, editor of Junior Sunday School materials for the Baptist Sunday School Board, has joined the field services staff of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) here.

Miss Sorrill will help develop the church missions program for children ages six through 11 in the new grouping-grading plan recommended for Southern Baptist churches beginning in 1970, and is the first WMU staff member added to implement the new grouping-grading system.

A native of Virginia, Miss Sorrill has worked in Missouri as Girls' Auxiliary director for the state WMU organization, has been historian for the National Park Service in Yorktown, Va., and Murfreesboro, Ky., for the Joints Chiefs of Staff in the Department of Defense in Washington, D. C.; and for the Army in Leavenworth, Kan.

She is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., the University of Maryland, College Park, Md., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

-30-

September 1969 Baptist Press
Diverse Panels Set
For Crusade Congress

WASHINGTON (BP)--Fourteen panel discussions ranging from how-to sessions on revival crusades to analysis of the social impact of evangelism have been scheduled for the Crusade of the Americas Continental Congress here Oct. 10-13.

The panels are intended to cover every aspect of the hemispheric-wide Baptist campaign and hopefully spark frank, controversial discussion, according to William Self, pastor of the Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta, and committee chairman for arranging the panels.

Panel subjects include:

The Biblical Basis for Evangelism, Evangelism in the Inner City, The Need for Renewal, "Where Have All the Flowers Gone" (a look at evangelism and the hippie), "Can Anyone Under 30 Be Converted" (campus evangelism), The Social Effects of Evangelism, and Understanding Media.

The panelists will represent a wide range of disciplines, races, denominations, Self said.

Included are Gordon G. Johnson, vice president of Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.; Doris Ann, manager of religious affairs for NBC-TV; G. R. Beasley-Murray, principal at Spurgeon's College in London; Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board; Walter Smyth of the Billy Graham Organization; and A. V. Washburn of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"Our objective was to get as wide a representation as possible from different Baptist groups, representing both our common ground and our differences of view," Self said.

-30-

Scripture Passages To Be
Returned To Two Quarterlies

NASHVILLE (BP)--Printed scripture passages will be returned to two Sunday School quarterlies beginning with the July-September, 1969, issues, announced the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

The decision followed evaluation of a test period during which the printed texts were omitted from four quarterlies, said James L. Sullivan, the board's top executive.

"It is evident," said Sullivan, "from the response we have received that the users of this material want the scripture lesson printed." The text had been omitted from the young people's quarterlies in the Uniform Lesson Series and in the Life and Work Curriculum since the third quarter, 1968.

"The return of the printed passage to the young people's Uniform Lesson material will give an option to users. If they prefer not to have the printed text in the quarterly, they may use the Life and Work young people's quarterlies," continued Sullivan.

Because of publishing schedules, the third quarter of 1969 is the earliest date possible for the change.

"As in all of our publication efforts, our policy is based upon what we believe are sound educational principles, our best estimate of the needs and desires of the users of the literature, research findings in particular areas and administrative judgment to harmonize the plus and minus factors that are existent in any such decision," said Sullivan.

According to Sullivan, most negative responses came from smaller churches. Many of these churches, said Sullivan, "feel very strongly that their young people will not study the Bible at all if the scripture text is not available in their quarterlies.

"It is our job to provide Bible teaching materials. If such materials ought to include the printed lesson text in order to strengthen the hand of teachers and students, we are happy to include it."

The Sunday School Board leader stated, "We shall continue our policy of quoting the basic scripture text from the King James Version. Lesson writers and editors are then permitted to quote from any English translation."

He made only two conditions for use of such translations. These are: (1) "verses used are checked against the generally recognized texts in the original Hebrew or Greek for accuracy" and (2) "that the version chosen gives a clearer meaning in light of the original language and today's meaning of words."

-30-

California Board Approves
Emphases For Next Five Years

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California approved a program of work for the next five years, and voted to recommend a record budget of nearly \$2½ million for 1969.

The five-year program of work projects annual emphases for the years 1968-69 through 1972-73. The first year, 1968-69, will emphasize the Crusade of the Americas, and "Advance in Stewardship."

The board also voted to advance the current department of stewardship education and promotion from a half-time basis, to a full-time department, effective Jan. 1, 1969; to combine the current half-time Brotherhood and church music departments into one full-time department; and to make the position of associate in the Training Union department a full-time job, all effective Jan. 1, 1969.

Emphases for the remaining four years will carry out the themes, "Advance in the Seventies," "Advance in Mission Outreach," "Advance in Mission Leadership," and "Advance in Evangelism."

A 1969 state convention budget totalling \$2,497,131 was adopted for recommendation to the state convention in November. The budget includes a Cooperative Program goal of \$1.3 million, with 26 per cent going to Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes.

A report from the convention's total program committee indicated that a special study committee had made several recommendations concerning the future of the convention's state assembly in the high Sierras mountain range, but no action was taken on the report, except to receive it and release the committee from responsibility.

A public hearing on the study report will be held in the near future before the total program committee drafts a final report to be made to the convention for adoption, but the chairman of the committee indicated that the hearing probably would not be held before the next convention session in November.

Weighing pros and cons of the assembly's future, the committee report recommends that the site be retained by the convention and that its management be turned over to a new "committee" responsible directly to the convention.

In his report to the Executive Board, the state executive secretary, Robert Hughes, made it clear that he does not agree with "all of the recommendations," and some controversy is expected to surround the committee's recommendations.

In other actions, the board revised its committee structure, combining the public affairs committee and the denominational relations committee, retaining the current board operations committee and the total program committee.

-30-

Richmond Church Names Thompson

(9-24-68)

RICHMOND (BP)--The First Baptist Church of Richmond has called Luther Joe Thompson, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tenn., for the past nine years, as its pastor, effective Nov. 3.

Thompson, 49, will succeed Theodore F. Adams, pastor of the 4,000-member church for 32 years who has retired and is now teaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

-30-

Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.



BAPTIST PRESS

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY NO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203

RECEIVED
SEP 25 1968

HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC