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Nashville, Tennessee

S.B.C. FOREIGN MISSION BOARD VOTES WITHDRAWAL
FROM FOREIGN MISSIONS COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA

RICHMOND, Va.—(BP)—The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention voted at its annual meeting to withdraw from the Foreign Missions Council of North America. The action breaks a tie first formed in 1899. The reason for the severance is that the Foreign Missions Council of North America is about to be resolved in a division of the National Council of Churches, a new church union group. The vote to withdraw was unanimous. It followed the recommendation of Dr. M. Theron Rankin, secretary of the Board, who explained that the Foreign Mission Board had never leaned toward union and that it could not remain a party to a group disposed to church union. Baptist state secretaries and editors present heartily concurred in the decision.

Following is the full report adopted by the Foreign Mission Board:

"The Foreign Missions Conference of North America at its annual meeting in January, 1949, voted to reject a proposal that the Conference become the division of foreign missions of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Representatives of some of the church bodies which will have membership in the National Council of Churches voted against the proposal because they did not want to take action that would cause the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and other groups with a similar viewpoint to withdraw its membership.

"This vote meant that the Foreign Missions Conference would remain a separate and completely autonomous organization as it had been through the fifty years of its history, and was so interpreted by all members of the Conference.

"Throughout the year following this action, officers and members of the Conference have sought earnestly to adjust its organization and functions to enable it to serve the large number of its members who will have membership in the National Council of Churches, and, at the same time, to preserve the integrity of the vote taken at the January, 1949, meeting. The efforts of a year demonstrate that this cannot be effectively done. If the Foreign Missions Conference is to function effectively for its members who will have membership also in the National Council, it must maintain an organic relationship with the National Council of Churches which will not be in accord with the vote taken in January, 1949, and which will not be acceptable to our Board.

"Plans are now being made to call a special meeting of the Foreign Missions Conference in April to reconsider the relations of the Conference to the National Council of Churches. It is hereby voted that the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention withdraw its membership in the Foreign Missions Conference and thus leave the Conference free to make such changes in its structure and functions as a majority of its members may deem suitable to their needs.

"In making this recommendation, we wish to record our appreciation of the fairness of consideration that we have received at all times from the officers and members of the Foreign Missions Conference. This Board expresses its appreciation of the valuable services which we have received from the Foreign Missions Conference throughout the years of our membership. We regret to lose the benefit of such services, but we are happy to believe that the withdrawal of our membership will not cause us to lose the Christian fellowship which we have enjoyed with the members of the Conference."

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD APPOINTS NEW
MISSIONARIES; BRINGS TOTAL TO 748

RICHMOND, Va.—(BP)—Southern Baptists will reorganize mission work in the Orient to keep all available missionaries in communist China and the surrounding countries, according to a plan adopted recently in the spring meeting of the Foreign Mission Board. The action is based on recommendations by Dr. Baker James Cauthen, secretary to the Orient, and Dr. M. Theron Rankin, general secretary of the Board. New work is planned for India, Siam, Korea, Indonesia, Malaya, and the Philippines where fifteen Southern Baptist missionaries who formerly worked in China are now located.

The 52 missionaries still in communist China will stay as long as possible and will be joined by others if communist authorities ease entry restrictions. Meanwhile, plans are being made to redeploy the 52 Chinese-speaking missionaries into the new fields if they find it necessary to leave China.

The Board also reaffirmed its plan to place 100 missionaries in Japan. Fifty-five are already under appointment, forty are now in Japan, and fifteen others were approved at this session. A preaching mission was authorized for Japan to begin late in September. The fifteen Southern Baptist ministers who will make a two months evangelistic tour have not yet been selected.

In South America, Dr. Everett Gill, Jr., field secretary, was authorized to begin operation of a new Spanish-speaking seminary at Cali, Columbia. Rev. W. L. Cooper will serve as president and Anne Margrett as directress of women. The first term of service for Paraguay was shortened to four years and the second to five years.

New interest was shown in the use of modern devices for mission work. Dr. Everett Gill, Jr., announced that two airplanes had been purchased for service in North Brazil. Fon Schofield, director of visual aids for the Board, displayed a new 31-minute sound film on Africa, actually filmed by Mr. Schofield in Nigeria. He announced that three other sound films from Africa will be ready soon. The Board authorized him to make further photographic missions, one to Hawaii in 1950 and one to South America in 1951.

Frank C. Laubach, internationally known authority in the field of adult education, was invited to explain his methods to the Board at their fall meeting, October 10-11. At least one Southern Baptist missionary will attend the Laubach school to learn this new technique of mass education of illiterate adults. Dr. Laubach has devised a plan that enables one person to teach a large group of people to read in a short time.

(More)

2...New Missionaries

R. Kelley White, Florida; C. E. Hereford, Texas; and John Buchanan, Alabama, were designated to inspect the educational needs in Nigeria, Africa. A missionary was instructed to survey the Moslem world with the view of finding ways to increase our Christian witness to Mohammedans.

Altogether 41 new missionaries have been appointed by the Board in 1950, 36 of them at this meeting. Fifteen will go to Japan, fifteen to Latin America, two to Europe, two to Nazareth, six to Nigeria, and one to Arabia. These new appointments bring the total to 748 missionaries in 24 different countries. Fifty others are expected to be appointed by the end of this year. The goal is a total of 1700 to be reached within the next ten years.

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EUROPEAN SEMINARY HAILED MOST SIGNIFICANT VENTURE

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)—The new Baptist seminary in Zurich, Switzerland, is the stone that will help David attack Goliath, according to Dr. Josef Nordenhaug, editor of The Commission, who has just returned from a six weeks inspection tour of the school and its possibilities. "Baptists of Europe," he said, "have been living half-afraid in the presence of a giant all because of an inferiority complex inside themselves." He was referring to the gigantic state and institutional churches of Europe. His point was that the seminary in Zurich would give the Baptists of Europe a post-graduate school, not competitive with the national seminaries, strong enough to supply a vigorous trained, confident Baptist leadership.

The seminary, organized last year, has 28 students from 15 countries. They must work five hours a week and may work ten. The first five hours applies on their board and tuition. They are paid for the other five hours. They live four in a room, much too crowded for effective work, in Nordenhaug's opinion. There are two Methodists from Austria. The rest are Baptists, one of them a former Roman Catholic priest and another a Ph.D. graduate from the University of Hamburg. English is used as the basic language.

On a tour of Europe, investigating the impact of the seminary on Baptist thinking, Dr. Nordenhaug found that it had universally caught the imagination of people and was regarded as the most significant venture in European Baptist life in 100 years.

In Austria, a Methodist bishop declared, "Most significant thing that has been done for evangelical Christianity in the recent history of Europe."

O. K. Armstrong, American journalist who spent four days at the school, said, "Here is one of the finest things Baptists have done in the old world."

"The seminary will bring a revival of concern," Nordenhaug declared, "it will teach Christianity as something that moves out into the hearts of men and not as something to be underscored in a book."

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