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Bob Denny Elected Top
World Baptist Executive

BADEN BEI WIEN, Austria (BP)--Robert S. Denny, senior associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, was elected here as general secretary of the world Baptist organization that includes 30 million Baptists in 120 countries.

Denny was elected to a five year term beginning July 1970, to succeed Josef Nordenhaug who is retiring in October 1970. The Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance meeting here elected Denny to the post.

Nordenhaug, a native of Norway and Baptist leader in both America and Europe, has been the Alliance's general secretary since 1960. He is 66.

Denny, a native of Sommerset, Ky., has been related to Alliance activities since 1938, and on the staff of the Alliance since 1956. He is 55.

He was elected chairman of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) youth committee in 1950 when he was then associate in the student work department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Denny joined the Alliance staff in 1956 as associate general secretary and youth secretary. He has either directed or assisted in the planning of every world-wide meeting sponsored by the Alliance since 1950, and has been active in logistics and financial projects among other roles and duties.

Denny was a campus student director for Baylor University and Louisiana State University before joining the Sunday School Board student department and the Baptist World Alliance staffs.

He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with degrees in business and law, and holds an honorary doctorate from Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky. He is married to the former Jane Ray Bean, a well-known Southern Baptist student worker who was an international student worker for Southern Baptists, 1955-59.

Theodore F. Adams, past president of the Alliance and former pastor of the First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., was chairman of the nominating committee of 11 which recommended Denny to the post.

Adams, in making the recommendation, emphasized Denny's administrative ability, his rapport with young Baptist leaders throughout the world, and his wide experience in world travel. Adams added that moving Denny to the top post would open the way for election of a young man of another race or nationality to head the world wide youth programs Denny has been directing. No one was elected to that post, however.

Nordenhaug was asked to stay on the Alliance staff until October 1970, so he can complete editing of the official report of the Baptist World Congress in Tokyo, July 12-18.

The grey-haired Baptist executive has a varied background, serving as pastor of Baptist churches in Norway, Kentucky, and Virginia, editing the Southern Baptist foreign missions publication and serving as president of an international Baptist seminary in Switzerland.

Nordenhaug has been pastor of the First Baptist Church, Oslo, Norway; the Irene Cole Memorial Baptist Church, Prestonburg, Ky.; the Vinton (Va.) Baptist Church; and the Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va.

He was editor of The Commission magazine, publication of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, from 1948-50, and became president of the European Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon-Zurich, Switzerland, in 1950, a post he held for 10 years.

During his annual report to the Alliance Executive Committee, Nordenhaug made a plea for reconciliation of "groups within the Christian community" who are engaged in what he called "a tug of war" over social and spiritual aspects of the gospel.

Nordenhaug declared that cutting the gospel in two over such things is alien to the gospel, for the New Testament clearly teaches that faith and work are inseparable.

"The great tragedy of our time is that we are prone to pay lip service to the love of God while neglecting our neighbor as a person," Nordenhaug said.

In his report to the committee, Denny estimated that more than 8,000 persons from 70 countries are making plans to attend the 12th Baptist World Congress in Tokyo next July. He said that 214 tour groups had been organized in North America, and a charter plane is planned for Europe.

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World Baptist Group Resolves
On Evangelism, Peace, Relief

8/13/69

BADEN BEI WIEN, Austria (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance closed its annual meeting here by adopting a resolution on evangelism and reconciliation, and reaffirming two earlier resolutions on world peace, and world relief for the hungry.

The 130 Baptist leaders from 31 countries met for five days of business sessions and study forums, including a new study commission on Cooperative Christianity when six papers concerning Baptist relationships with other Christians were presented.

The resolution on evangelism adopted by the group took note of the need for reconciliation between peoples and nations and between men and God, and called for a world wide emphasis on evangelism and reconciliation during the 1970's.

Rather than draw up a new resolution on world peace, the Executive Committee reaffirmed a statement adopted at their 1969 meeting in Monrovia, Liberia, which urged Christians to "quest longingly for peace at every level as we foster peace among individuals, among citizens of various countries, and advocate peace among the world's governmental bodies."

If further asked Baptists to pray "all those working for speedy and just solutions" to the present conflicts in Vietnam, Nigeria, the Middle East, and "other places as well."

The Executive Committee also reaffirmed a resolution it adopted the previous year on relief efforts to help the hungry and starving, urging each member of each Baptist Church in the world "to contribute at least one day's earning" to national or international Baptist relief works to meet the needs of hungry people.

Earlier, Alliance Associate Secretary Frank H. Woyke reported that Baptists had contributed \$101,598 to relief causes through the Alliance during the first six months of 1969, and that the contributions so far this year had already exceeded the \$96,610 distributed by the Alliance for relief during 1968.

Woyke pointed out that while the Alliance does not have an organization itself to administer the relief funds, it works through existing channels with national Baptist bodies such as those in India, Nigeria and Vietnam.

R. Fred Bullen of Canada, acting as relief chairman in the absence of R. Dean Goodwin, the permanent chairman, outlined a relief program calling for \$50,000 to meet refugee needs in Nigeria and other parts of Africa, \$28,000 to meet emergency needs in Haiti, and lesser amounts for needs in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and South America.

The Executive Committee approved a goal of \$160,000 for projects in relief and rehabilitation during 1970.

Bullen stated that the funds, both in the goal and amounts received, do not include a total estimated at \$600,000 spent by Baptist groups on their own mission fields for relief purposes.

In other action, the Executive Committee approved an application for membership in the Alliance from Togo, and gave tentative approval for membership application from Angola awaiting receipt of further information. Both are African nations.

Delegations from seven Eastern European countries attended the meeting, representing Baptists in Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), Hungary, Poland, Romania, the U.S.S.R., and Yugoslavia. Five delegates from Russia brought with them copies of a new Bible and hymn book printed in their country. During the meeting, disappointment was voiced that two Cuban delegates were unable to attend because of "last minute developments."

Two addresses at the meeting urged greater enlistment and participation by laymen in church activities. The pleas came from Bullen, who is general secretary for Baptists in Canada, and from Owen Cooper, industrialist in Yazoo City, Miss.

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World Baptists Discuss
Cooperative Christianity

BADEN BEI WIEN, Austria (BP)--More than a hundred Baptist theologians, mission leaders, educators and others from 13 countries spent 14 hours during five days discussing such matters as Baptist cooperation with other Christians, doctrine, religious education, evangelism and missions, religious liberty and human rights.

The discussions, along with numerous prepared scholarly papers, came during five study commission meetings held in connection with the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee sessions here.

Few formal decisions came from the conferences, but the prepared papers were to be made available to other scholars for study and consideration.

The meetings did result, however, in a recommendation from the Commission on Missions and Evangelism for an international crusade of reconciliation in the 1970's and a draft by the Commission on Religious Liberty and Human Rights for a Manifesto on Human Rights to be presented for adoption at the Baptist World Congress in Toyko in 1970.

Though it took no formal action, a great deal of interest was focused on the first meeting of a new Baptist World Alliance Study Commission on Cooperative Christianity, chaired by James Leo Garrett of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and by Rudolf Thaut, principal of the Baptist seminary in Hamburg, Germany.

Thirty-four persons attended the session, discussing a total of eight papers, six written by Baptists, one by a Mennonite, and one by a Roman Catholic.

The Catholic, Ray Ryland of San Diego, Calif., who reported on his doctoral dissertation research concerning attitudes of the Southern Baptist Convention toward the ecumenical movement, also delivered personally a letter of fraternal greeting from the Vatican Secretariat for Promotion of Christian Unity, John Cardinal Willebrands.

In the opening session, Garrett outlined three basic guidelines for the studies in Cooperative Christianity between Baptists and other Christians.

The guidelines provided that the study should be as inclusive as possible, that the commission ought to deal both with theological issues considered stumbling blocks to cooperation as well as unity between Baptists and other Christians that might be more readily and easily realized, and that the commission ought to study the history of attitudes toward other Christians and the relations and non-relations which have characterized various Baptist groups throughout the world.

Thaut told the commission that changes in society make the study imperative, and called on Baptists "to be a bridge between the evangelical churches outside the conciliar movement and the conciliar movement itself."

Other papers on were presented by John Howard Yoderm, a Mennonite seminary professor from Indiana; Ernest A. Payne of London, former general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, and a president of the World Council of Churches; Ivan Motorin, a Russian Baptist pastor; Robert G. Bratcher, translator for the American Bible Society and former Southern Baptist missionary; William R. Estep Jr., professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; Sergio Corda, an Italian pastor and professor at European Baptist Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland; and D. Mervyn Himbury, principal of Whitley College in Australia.

The commission will meet again in connection with the Baptist World Congress in Tokyo, July 12-18, 1970.

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Seven Countries Invite
Baptist World Congress

8/13/69

BADEN BEI WIEN, Austria (BP)--Seven nations have invited the Baptist World Alliance to hold its 1975 Congress, the Alliance's Executive Committee was told here.

The invitations have come from Stockholm, Sweden; Dusseldorf, Germany; Mexico City, Mexico; Vienna, Austria; Jerusalem, Israel; Amsterdam, Holland; and Toronto, Canada.

The invitations were referred to the Alliance's administrative sub-committee for a recommendation. The next congress is scheduled in Tokyo, Japan, July 12-18, 1970.

The Alliance Executive Committee tentatively slated its own annual meetings for the next three years, including 1970 in Tokyo; 1971 in Canada, 1972 in Jamaica. The Executive Committee meets annually, while the Congress meets every five years.

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