



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631

September 19, 1969

**Heart Attack Claims Baptist
World Leader, Josef Nordenhaug**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance since 1960, died of a heart attack enroute to a hospital here, Sept. 18.

Funeral services were scheduled for 2:00 p.m., Monday, Sept. 22, at the Calvary Baptist Church of Washington.

Nordenhaug, 66, has been confined to his home for two weeks with the heart ailment, but physicians had told him he might be able to return to work in about four days. Stricken with coronary failure about 4:00 p.m., he died enroute to the hospital.

A native of Norway, Nordenhaug had been chief executive of the international Baptist fellowship with about 27 million members since his election in 1960 at the Baptist World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

He had planned to retire in July, 1970. In August, the Executive Committee of the Alliance elected Robert S. Denny, senior associate secretary of the Alliance, as Nordenhaug's successor.

The illness that ended in death began as Nordenhaug was preparing to speak Sunday, Aug. 17, in Bucharest, Romania, following the meeting of the BWA Executive Committee in Baden Bei Wien, Austria, where his successor had been elected.

He returned to his office in Washington Aug. 22, but began a rest at home under doctor's instructions on Sept. 3.

The Baptist World Alliance, composed of 85 Baptist Conventions and unions in 70 countries, includes about 27 million of the world's 30 million Baptists.

Nordenhaug often described the program of the Alliance as "the five fingers of the Baptist hand of international fellowship." The five points of the program include: an agency of international communication, a forum for study and fraternal discussion, a channel of cooperation for relief purposes, a vigilant force for safeguarding religious liberty, and a sponsor of regional and world-wide gatherings for the furtherance of the gospel.

Before his election as chief executive of the Baptist world organization, Nordenhaug was president of the European Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon-Zurich, Switzerland, developing the newly-born institution into an agency for "increased cooperation and fraternal understanding among Baptist unions in Europe."

A gifted linguist, he would never say how many languages he spoke, but his co-workers said that he could speak any of the languages of Eastern and Western Europe. He was also trained as an architect, theologian, and cabinet maker.

He was editor of The Commission, publication of the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board, from 1948-50, before becoming seminary president.

Nordenhaug was also an ordained Baptist minister, serving as pastor of Baptist churches in Oslo, Norway; Prestonburg, Ky.; Vinton, Va.; and Lynchburg, Va.

The chief executive of the Southern Baptist Convention, Porter W. Routh of Nashville, said on learning of his death: "Dr. Nordenhaug was a Southern Baptist, but his concern and sense of compassion reached all Christian groups and the whole world.

"His leadership in developing the seminary at Ruschlikon," Routh said, "played a significant part in the resurgence and growth of European Baptists, both in Eastern and Western Europe.

Educated in Norway and the United States, he attended the University of Oslo earning a master of science degree in chemistry, geophysics and astronomy. He was born in Oslo, Aug. 2, 1903. He taught at the Baptist seminary at Oslo for four years as a student.

He earned both the master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He returned to Norway for several years, and then moved to the United States in 1933 to become pastor in Kentucky.

While he was president of the seminary in Ruschlikon, he was European representative of the SBC Foreign Mission Board in matters of relief and rehabilitation, and was instrumental in bringing extensive aid for constructions of churches and schools in Austria, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Norway, and Switzerland. He was chairman of the Baptist relief committee for Hungary after the Hungarian uprising in 1956.

He is survived by his wife, Helen, of Arlington, Va.; two children, Theodore of Macon, Ga., professor of philosophy at Macon University; and Mrs. Paul Ciholas of Buies Creek, N.C.

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President Nixon Calls For
'Stay-In-School' Campaign

9/19/69

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Richard M. Nixon has issued a proclamation calling for public officials and private citizens to work together in a national "stay-in-school" campaign.

"Parents, teachers, religious advisors, and friends" are asked by the President "to contribute to the national welfare" by urging young people to stay in school.

The encouragement and counseling of concerned citizens can play a decisive role in the lives of potential dropouts, President Nixon said. "The course of thousands of lives can be constructively influenced by this kind of individual action," he declared.

The President cited the temptation faced by many young persons to drop out of school for economic or personal reasons. He suggested that private and public employers could help by providing part-time jobs for those who need extra money.

Most of those who abandon the classroom before graduation must compete with better educated persons for available jobs, the President said. This competition will increase for persons with inadequate education, he indicated.

The U. S. Office of Education records show that about one million young persons drop out of school each year. This number is decreasing, a spokesman said.

The southeastern states have the highest percentages of dropouts with a total of 31.8 per cent dropping out between the ninth grade and graduation. The western states have the best record with only 12.1 per cent.

Among the southern states, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky and Mississippi lead with dropout rates averaging more than 34 per cent. North Carolina, Louisiana and Tennessee run a close second with 32 per cent or more young people dropping out of high school before graduation.

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Baptist College Students
Commended For Search Effort

9/19/69

DALLAS (BP)--The student body of Dallas Baptist College has been presented a commendation by Dallas Chief of Police Charles Batchelor for its efforts in finding the body of a hit-and-run accident victim.

The commendation honored some 200 students at the Baptist college for "meritorious service to community and adherence to the principles of law and order."

The students organized search teams and combed the area surrounding their campus in an attempt to find the body of the accident victim. After a two-day search, four of the Baptist college students discovered the body close to the campus.

Authorities theorized that when 13-year-old Robert Wayne Lawson was hit by a vehicle, the driver panicked and hid the body. Police in Shreveport, La., are holding a suspect, awaiting extradition, for the crime.

Praising the students as "concerned young people," Chief of Police Batchelor presented the commendation in an all-school assembly to Student Government President Larry Horn, of Dallas.

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3

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Horn, responding in behalf of his fellow students, said that "if, as young people, we are going to succeed in life, we must learn to give of ourselves."

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Welsh Elected Utah-Idaho
Convention Top Executive

9/19/69

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (BP)--Darwin Welsh, associate executive secretary of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, has been elected the convention's new executive secretary.

He succeeds Charles H. Ashcraft, who resigned effective Sept. 1, to become executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist Convention in Little Rock.

During the past 4½ years, Welsh has been associate executive secretary and state secretary of missions for the Utah-Idaho convention.

In addition, he has been business manager, missions stewardship, Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador secretary for Utah-Idaho Baptists.

A native of Texas, Welsh is a graduate of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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