



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 25, 1970

Church Music Conference
To Meet After SBC, June 5-6

DENVER (BP)--The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, which traditionally meets just prior to the Southern Baptist Convention, will hold its sessions following the SBC this year.

The Church Music Conference will begin Friday morning, June 5, and conclude at noon Saturday, June 6, with sessions at First American Baptist Church of Denver, according to Bob Burroughs, president of the conference and minister of music, First Baptist Church, Abilene, Tex.

Program for the meeting will include a symposium, a dialogue session, panel discussions, four major addresses, a banquet and evening with a Negro composer and actor, eight different concerts and the world premier of an anthem commissioned especially for the meeting.

Major speakers for the meeting will be Carlton Young, professor of music at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas; Don Berry, president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and pastor of Memorial Drive Baptist Church, Houston; Austin C. Lovelace, minister of music, Montview Presbyterian Church, Denver; and Burroughs, who will deliver the annual president's address.

Following a banquet at the Cosmopolitan Hotel, headquarters hotel for the conference, on Friday evening the conference will return to the host church for "an evening with Jester Hairston," 80-year-old Negro composer and actor from Hollywood, who wrote the musical score for Lilies of the Field and several other motion pictures and television productions.

The opening Friday morning session will feature a composer's symposium discussing the objectives, philosophy and role of church music composers, with presentations of each participating composer's compositions by the host church's choir.

Composers participating in the symposium include Young of Southern Methodist University, Dallas; Eugene Butler, minister of music for First Methodist Church, Wichita, Kan.; and John Peterson, composer from Grand Rapids, Mich.

A panel of Baptist musicians will discuss the topic, "Music In Evangelism--Where Are We," during the Friday afternoon session.

Two reports from staff members of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board will be brought--one dealing with copyright laws, and another on new church music materials being produced by Broadman Press.

Groups and individuals scheduled to present concerts at the conference include: the Chapel Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Beaumont, Tex.; the Hardin-Simmons University Brass Choir, Abilene, Tex.; Jamall Badry, evangelistic singer, Oklahoma City; the Church Choir, Central Baptist Church, Aurora, Col.; the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Choir (Negro), Denver; the Wesleyan Bell Choir of First United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge, La.; and the Southwest Baptist College Choir and Woodwin Ensemble, Bolivar, Mo.

The conference will close at noon, Saturday, June 6, following presentation of an anthem commissioned and written especially for the 1970 SBC Church Music Conference. The anthem, entitled, "Come Down O Love Divine," was written by Claude L. Bass, professor at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee. It will be presented by the Southwest Baptist College Choir, directed by Don Sears of Bolivar, Mo.

Burroughs said that reservations for those planning to attend the conference should be made no later than April 1 through the secretary of the organization, Mary June Tabor, 1141 North Robinson, Oklahoma City, Okla.

First American Baptist Church, Denver, is located just across from the Colorado state Capitol, and is seven blocks from the headquarters hotel.

Missouri Baptist College
President Plans Retirement

HANIBAL, Mo. (BP)--L. A. Foster, president of Missouri Baptist College, has announced plans to retire effective June 30, 1970, after 20 years in the presidency.

Missouri Baptist College has two campuses, one in Hanibal, Mo., and one in St. Louis. The unique arrangement was established under Foster's term of office when Hanibal-LaGrange Baptist College was merged with a proposed new Baptist school in St. Louis a few years ago.

Foster had the task of consolidating the junior college in Hanibal with the new school in St. Louis. The two campuses have a total enrollment of more than 700 students.

He became president of Hanibal-LaGrange College in 1950 when 198 students were enrolled. Since then enrollment has more than tripled, the faculty has increased 60 per cent and the school has been accredited by the North Central Association.

Foster is former vice president of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, and former president of the Missouri Junior College Association.

The executive committee of the board of trustees has been given the responsibility of nominating a successor.

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Swedish Baptists Upset
By Government Tax Plan

2/25/70

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (BP)--A government finance commission in Sweden has alarmed free church leaders by proposing to tax all voluntary gifts exceeding 4,000 crowns (\$800) a year, European Baptist Press Service has reported.

"The State reaches Into the Collection Plate," read the headline on the editorial response in the Baptist newspaper, Veckoposten.

Erik Ruden, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Sweden, commented that "this taxation would amount to the most far-reaching intervention of the state into the life and activity of voluntary associations ever devised. For Christian organizations, the effect will be devastating," said Ruden.

The Swedish Free Church Council immediately announced it would seek conferences with Prime Minister Olof Palme and with the minister of finance to express objections to the proposal before it is introduced into parliament.

The council claimed that no government in the western world has made such a far-reaching tax proposal as the Swedish commission now presents.

Swedish Baptists, leaders in the free church movement (non-Lutheran Protestants) responded with numerous arguments against the proposal. Included were such statements as:

--The proposal would be difficult to enforce, since much of the money contributed to churches is given in cash anonymously.

--It would meet with strong opposition from members of various other organizations supported by voluntary contributions. Nearly all Swedes belong to at least one, often several clubs, societies, groups or associations that would feel the impact of the proposed law.

--It would seriously endanger the relationships between the free churches and the government; as well as relationships with the state church (Lutheran) in Sweden.

--The proposal, which includes the possibility of state financing for projects now being carried on by private organizations, would be accompanied with state control for use of the funds.

There was some question raised as to whether church-operated seminaries or foreign mission programs might fall under the list of certain groups which would be exempt from the taxation of voluntary gifts.

The proposal exempts from taxation contributions made to certain groups related to national defense, education, scientific and overseas aid efforts.

Veckoposten's editor concluded that the minister of finance would do well to consult with his political friends who belong to the free church movement before endorsing the commission's plan. It was Veckoposten that first publicized the effects of the proposal.

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Feb 23 1970
Baptists From 62 Countries
Registered For World Congress

WASHINGTON (BP)--Representatives from 62 countries have registered for the Baptist World Congress in Tokyo, July 12-18, and Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Robert S. Denny has predicted the number will eventually reach 70 countries.

Denny said he expected registration for the congress to exceed 8,000 persons.

Persons from all but 11 of the 50 states in the United States have registered for the congress, with Texas leading the list of registrants with 141 persons. Illinois has 105, Michigan, 106 and Virginia 81, the report said.

Outside the United States, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan lead in the number of registrants.

Denny said that several Baptist leaders from other countries have been invited to speak on the program, but have not been able yet to raise enough funds to meet transportation costs.

"Some gifts have already been given by Americans and Europeans to help boost a travel fund for delegates coming from less affluent nations," Denny said. "We have reports that Baptists in some nations of Africa and Asia are pooling their monies in order that their area might be represented."

Denny returned recently from Japan for conferences with Shuichi Matsumura, chairman of the congress, and other members of the local arrangements committee.

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CORRECTION

On story mailed 2/23/70, headlined State Student Directors Elect Clayton President; change date on last line of story to read: "The association will meet next in Chicago, Feb. 15-17, 1971." Thanks

--Baptist Press



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