

July 24, 1950

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

52 NATIONS, 48 STATES REPRESENTED  
AT EIGHTH BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS

CLEVELAND, Ohio—(BP)—The Eighth Quadrennial Congress of the Baptist World Alliance was convened in the Public Auditorium, Saturday afternoon, July 21, by President C. Oscar Johnson, St. Louis, Mo.

More than 14,000 persons heard the opening scripture read by the Rev. Frank C. Bryan, Bristol, England, and the opening prayers by the Rev. Buntura Kimura, Hiroshima, Japan, and the Rev. Edward H. Pruden, Washington, D. C.

Lieutenant-Governor George D. Nye, representing governor Frank J. Lausche, welcomed the Baptists to Ohio and Dr. D. R. Sharpe, general chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, welcomed the visitors on behalf of local Baptist groups.

The Rev. Johannes Norgaard, vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance and principal of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Tollose, Denmark, responded in behalf of the 52 nations and 48 states represented in the registration in the early hours of the Congress.

Mr. Norgaard reminded the assembly that "millions of our fellow-Baptists around the world are awaiting to hear some word of encouragement and reassurance in this dark and near-chaotic time."

Dr. Robert J. McCracken, speaking on the subject, "Christianity in the Atomic Age," said: "What makes Christianity a gospel is its affirmation that neither society nor man need stay the way they are. Human nature can be changed. If Christianity affirms anything at all, it is that human nature can be changed, genuinely and permanently changed." Concluding his address, he suggested that "humanity is done unless it gets back to God."

Following the afternoon session thousands of Baptists packed the sidewalks of Cleveland's broad Euclid Avenue to see a parade of other Baptists almost two miles long. After the parade, which concluded with refreshments for the paraders at Cleveland Stadium, an estimated 20,000 viewed a great outdoor pageant of nations. The pageant featured the flags and national costumes of all the countries of the world with strong Baptist communities. The evening was climaxed with music by the city choir of Detroit, solos by the Negro baritone, Roland Hayes, and address by Dr. E. McNeil Poteat, and the reading of a message from the President of the United States.

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## 2...Baptist World Congress

Dr. Poteat, pastor in Raleigh, N. C., and former president of Colgate-Rochester Seminary, declared that the Baptists of the world, numbering more than 18,000,000, can become the leaders in healing the breaches that have been created between the free churches by independence and autonomy. He proposed that the Congress set up machinery to work toward this end, first among all the Baptist groups--and then among all the free churches.

The message from the President of the United States came when he cancelled, because of the Korean War, at the very latest hour his scheduled address to the Congress. In his message he said, "I believe there is no problem, moral or economic, in the field of our national sphere or among the nations of this troubled world, that would not yield to the intelligence, the courage and the faith of free men if those who seek the solution approach the problem in the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount.

"To succeed in our quest for righteousness we must, in St. Paul's luminous phrase, put on the armour of God: 'For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.'"

The younger generation of Baptists had their own moment on the stage of the World Baptist Congress Sunday night. Thousands of young men and women from all over the country and a few from abroad gave a convincing demonstration that the future of the churches well may be secure in the hands of young people dedicated to Christ.

They held a youth rally in the public auditorium Sunday night bringing to a close a week-end that attracted 20,000 delegates to Cleveland for inspiring services of worship, colorful pageantry of the first protestant parade in Cleveland in 25 years, and an eye-filling spectacle at the Stadium.

Today 10,000 messengers participated in the Sunday morning service of worship and heard a sermon by a great Negro Baptist preacher--Rev. Gardner Taylor of Brooklyn--while more than 120 of the visiting ministers were guest preachers in protestant churches of many denominations in Cleveland and nearby cities of Ohio. In the afternoon hundreds stood in the aisles to hear Dr. C. Oscar Johnson, president of the Baptist World Alliance, in his presidential address, declare Baptists must never allow their unity in Christ to be disturbed by the independent actions of its autonomous conventions and unions.

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS WILL CONSIDER  
FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF COLLEGES

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--A called meeting of the Arkansas Baptist state convention to consider the closing of Central College, North Little Rock, and the "financial emergency" of Ouachita College, Arkadelphia, has been set for August 22 at the Second Baptist Church here, Dr. B. L. Bridges, executive secretary of the convention, has announced.

The recommendation to close Central College was made by a special committee and approved by the executive board of the state convention at a recent meeting. The action must be voted on by the convention before it becomes final. This is one of the reasons back of the special called session.

The other reason for the meeting is to consider "ways and means to come to the rescue of Ouachita," Dr. Bridges declared. "In considering the closing of Central, we decided that it was better to have one college well cared for than have several poorly looked after," he said.

Last year's student enrollment at Central College was 327. The junior college was started approximately 50 years ago as a girl's school in Conway, Ark. It was moved to Camp Robinson in North Little Rock in 1948.

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MISSOURI BAPTISTS ASK HOSPITAL BOARD  
TO WITHDRAW REQUEST FOR FEDERAL AID

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.--(BP)--The executive board of the Missouri Baptist General Association has again asked that the Baptist Memorial Hospital of Kansas City withdraw its request for federal funds. Meeting on July 11, the board re-affirmed by unanimous vote the report of its committee on institutions which had been adopted in April this year. The report said:

"The committee is deeply concerned because the Baptist Memorial Hospital Board of Kansas City has requested federal aid in their building program. We would recommend to the Hospital Board that they withdraw their request for federal aid. It is our belief that to accept federal funds for this institution contradicts the great Baptist principle of complete separation of church and state "

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LONG-TERM SERVANT DIES

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Noan B. Fetzer, for 38 years bookkeeper for the executive board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, died at his home in Nashville on July 18. A deacon and Sunday school teacher in Belmont Heights Church here, he remarked recently, "There's no use arguing about it. I'm a Baptist first, last, and always."

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