



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

**BUREAUS**

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
**DALLAS** Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996  
**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631  
**RICHMOND** Jesse C. Fletcher, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

July 14, 1970

NOTE TO EDITORS: The following are the first reports from the Baptist World Congress from Tokyo. Jim Newton, assistant director for Baptist Press, filed the reports from the Baptist World Congress Press Room, which he is managing.

Baptist World Congress  
Seeks Reconciliation

TOKYO (BP)--The 12th Baptist World Congress opened here with a plea by the keynote speaker for Christians to unite in breaking down the barriers of racial prejudice, social customs, and political differences which divide nations and individuals.

The 10,000 Baptists attending the Congress showed examples of unity and differences just before the keynote address in a roll call of nations at the international meeting.

A Rumanian, now living in the United States, shouted insults as the Russian Baptist representative walked off the stage beside her national flag. Richard Wurmbbrandt of Burbank, Calif., a converted Jew who is now a Lutheran, yelled from the back of the auditorium, "The blood of Christians is on that flag."

Just before he shouted, the Russian Baptist representative was greeted with prolonged applause. Wurmbbrandt's shouts were partially drowned out by applause for the United States representative walking across the stage.

Seventy-six of the 125 Baptist World Alliance (BWA) countries had representatives participating in the traditional ceremony, clad in national costumes. Girls from a Japanese Baptist school preceded each national representative, carrying flags.

Each person in the colorful parade, regardless of race or country, received enthusiastic applause. The Russian appearance drew most audience approval. The crowd also was enthusiastic over two South African representatives, a white and a black, who marched hand in hand.

The keynote address before delegates from 85 countries was delivered by Theodore F. Adams, retired minister from Richmond, Va., now teaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

"We seek in Christ's name to right the wrongs and to wipe out the evils that make us suspicious and keep us apart: such evils as poverty and hunger, prejudice and pollution, ignorance and disease and discrimination," said the former president of the Baptist World Alliance.

"As Christians, we must come to grips with the problems both of war and peace," Adams declared. "As ministers of reconciliation we seek to advance the cause of peace--peace with freedom and justice and righteousness."

Speaking on the Congress theme, "Reconciliation Through Christ," the American minister told the international audience that Christianity brings together people of different views and races and breaks down barriers between them.

Just before he spoke, about a dozen Japanese youths passed out copies of a resolution adopted by the Japan Baptist Youth Fellowship last November opposing the Baptist World Alliance for meeting in Tokyo and decrying the renewal of the US-Japan security treaty.

"If the BWA follows the path (expected), it will end up being used in the efforts of the Japanese government to tide over a critical situation in 1970, even though it is not the intention of the Baptist union to play such a role," the resolution said.

There was no demonstration. The young people silently distributed copies of the resolution outside Budokan Hall as the delegates streamed into the 15,000-seat auditorium adjacent to the Imperial Palace grounds.

In the keynote speech, Adams said that in many ways, Baptists have been at odds with each other. "We have misunderstood each other's deeds and words.

"And yet, with all our differences, here we are together, one in Jesus Christ. We come as representatives of the world fellowship of the Baptist World Alliance. We represent 31 million Baptists in nearly 100 countries. We came because we have a message, a mission and a ministry of reconciliation through Christ," Adams said.

BWA President W. R. Tolbert, vice president of the Republic of Liberia, stressed the significance of the fact that the Congress is meeting for the first time in the Orient. It also is the first time the BWA has had an African president or met in a non-Christian nation.

Shuichi Matsumura, Tokyo Baptist pastor and local arrangements committee chairman for the Congress, explained that Japanese Baptists "experienced some difficulty and some opposition" in arranging the meeting, but he was not specific. He apparently referred to the youths outside.

The Congress, which meets every five years, concluded on Saturday evening, July 18. Major speakers include Angie Brooks of Liberia, president of the United Nations General Assembly, and Baptist preachers from the USA.

-30-

BWA Told Christians  
Cannot Permit Divisions

7/14/70

TOKYO (BP)--A Negro Baptist minister from the United States told 10,000 Baptists here that Christians should protest a divided world that pits brother against brother because their faith proclaims "very starkly that every homicide is a fratricide and every war a civil war."

John W. Williams, pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., addressed himself to Baptists from nearly 80 countries in the official sermon of the 12th Baptist World Congress of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA).

Earlier delegates had discussed such issues as war and peace, racism and brotherhood, religious freedom and liberty, Christian unity and relations with other faiths, world hunger, and the breakdown of family life.

Most of the discussion took place during a morning symposium and a half dozen afternoon small group sessions.

During a meeting of the Baptist World Alliance Commission on Cooperative Christianity, a Baptist leader from the United States declared in a prepared paper that the 31 million Baptists of the world must develop more meaningful unity with fellow Christians to preserve Baptist vitality.

Robert G. Torbet of Valley Forge, Pa., head of the cooperative Christianity division for the American Baptist Convention, warned that a new and larger basis for Christian unity and ecumenism is essential for an effective witness in a secular world.

"Any communion or ecumenical body which does not take this need seriously will have no future," said Torbet's paper, which was read in

-more-

his absence by James Leo Garrett of Louisville, Ky., a Southern Baptist seminary professor who is chairman of the BWA Commission.

Torbet said the Roman Catholic Church is more active now in this area, that youth are indifferent to institutional unity and that many Christians are now expressing a sort of secular ecumenism.

"What is happening is a moving into new groupings around basic issues of human survival, welfare and dignity," he said.

In the open discussion which followed, some delegates voiced various degrees of opposition to Baptist involvement in ecumenical relations with those of other faiths.

In another speech before the same group, Gunter Wagner of the Baptist Theological Seminary faculty in Ruschlikon-Zurich, Switzerland, said that any study of Christian cooperation, unity or union should deal first with the unity of the Christian message, then the unity of Christians as persons and finally the unity of the church organization.

At a meeting of the BWA Commission on Religious Freedom and Liberty, a Baptist pastor, Roger Hayden of Northampton, Great Britain, said there are varying degrees of denials of religious freedom in such countries as Red China and other Communist countries, Spain, Colombia and South Africa.

Several questions were thrust at six delegates from the Soviet Union about religious liberty and freedom in Russia. Ilia G. Ivanof, Moscow Baptist Church pastor, said that religious freedom does exist in Russia.

"Only one condition exists for these freedoms, and that is that we obey the law," said Ivanof. "We acknowledge and respect the laws of our country."

Most of the discussion at the session centered on government financial aid to religious parochial schools in the United States.

Hayden said situations, such as the racial separation imposed on churches in South Africa because of the government's official position of apartheid, abridge religious freedom.

Williams, in the Congress sermon, said that Christianity proclaims that "every time we witness the light of a man whose rights have been taken away from him, whose dignity has been denied, whose sanctity has been spoiled or sullied, whose importance has been belittled, that we (Christians) will have to stand up and declare, this is my brother.

"Aside from the overtones of racial prejudice in this vision, there is also a class distinction that needs to be broken down in the life of all Christians if they are to give the whole Gospel to the whole world." Williams said.

In an earlier address during the day, U Kyaw Than, General Secretary of the East Asian Christian Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, said Christians should tackle three main issues--peace, hunger and reconciliation between people and nations.

"While two-thirds of the world is begging for bread, the wealth of the nation that could provide bread is spent on a space venture to bring back a rock from the moon," decried Than.

The six-day Congress, meeting at the Budokan near the Imperial Palace grounds, concluded July 18, with an address by Evangelist Billy Graham.

## BWA Delegates Told Man Has Potential To Find Solutions

TOKYO (BP)--Delegates attending the 12th Baptist World Congress of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) heard a Swedish theologian and an international panel of five persons describe man's human existence as a dualism with potential for creating either a utopia or a world of withering decay and death.

"The sermons of condemnation do not come from the pulpits in these days but from the platforms from which scientists and philosophers and poets speak to the world," said David Lagergren, president of Bethel Seminary, Stockholm, Sweden.

"Modern industry--the source of wealth and welfare--also pollutes the water and air and exhausts the resources of the earth," he explained. "It dehumanizes men by putting them in as cogs in an enormous machine, and it threatens mankind with destruction," he said.

Urbanization has many assets which facilitate our daily lives, but it also creates overcrowding, slums, and the loneliness of the city, the speaker added.

Panel members registered differences of opinion concerning solution to such world problems as pollution, poverty, racial hatred and war.

David Goodburn, a 21-year-old student worker from London, England, said poverty problems, especially in the "third world of underdeveloped countries," are too great to be solved by the churches acting alone. He said government is the only agent with enough resources to help solve these problems.

"The job of the church," he said, "is to attack the spirit of our own people who put their own interests first. Our task is to educate our people about their responsibility for the problems of the world."

David Gomes of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, however, argued that solution of the problems of the world would come through prayer and evangelism.

Gomes, pastor and director of the Bible School of the Air, suggested that the Baptist World Alliance maintain a mission supervisor who would work with and coordinate denominational missionary programs.

Lagergren warned the Congress audience about what he feels are two fallacies: oversimplification and pessimism. "Oversimplification is childish, and resignation is a sin," he declared.

"We must not be blinded by the power and the force of money, for man--not money--matters," said one panel member. Another said that the concept of the church must be reconsidered. Too many people are invited to "join the club" when they should not be admitted without a serious sense of motivation and mission, he said.

Bruce W. Neal, pastor of the James Street Baptist Church, Hamilton, Ohio, and Herman H. Jacob, principal, Baptist Secondary School, Agra, India, were also members of the panel. Edwin H. Tuller, general secretary of the American Baptist Convention, U.S.A., chaired the panel.

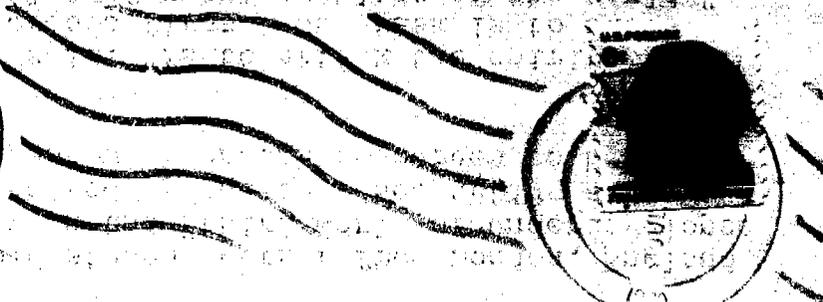
Sessions of the 12th Congress of the Baptist World Alliance met in Budokan Hall, July 12-18. More than 10,000 representatives from 76 of the 125 countries where Baptists have work related to the Alliance attended.

NOTE TO DAILIES: If you publish before July 18, you will want to change tense in the last graph of the three preceding stories from Tokyo.



**BAPTIST PRESS**

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219



DAVIS C. WOOLLEY, HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 NINTH AVE. N.  
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 16 1970  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SEC