



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 6, 1972

Jewish Organization Commends Israel Baptists for Resolution

NEW YORK (BP)--A resolution adopted by the Baptist Convention of Israel, denouncing anti-Semitism as "a sin against Christ," has drawn praise from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The Jewish organization here issued a statement commending the Baptist group for denouncing the concept of "Christian rejection of Jews as being accursed by God and as deserving of suffering because Jews chose to remain loyal to Judaism and their Jewish heritage."

Rabbi Solomon S. Bernards, director of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League interreligious cooperation department, said that the Baptist statement was especially significant since it came "from a community of Christians who live and work in the Holy Land."

Rabbi Bernards added that the Israel Baptist statement "reflects a concern which grows out of the daily life of meeting in the land hallowed by Jew and Christian alike."

In late August, Southern Baptist missionaries in Israel released the text the Baptist Convention in Israel had adopted last May, but had not released pending its ratification by Baptist churches, institutions and officials.

The resolution adopted in Israel preceded by only a few days adoption of a similar resolution by the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Philadelphia. The first such Southern Baptist resolution condemning anti-Semitism as un-Christian was adopted by the SBC in St. Louis in 1971.

Baptists in Israel adopted what some consider to be the strongest Baptist statement yet on anti-Semitism.

The resolution deplored the "incomparable suffering of the Jewish people" in history and modern times, acknowledging that such persecution of Jews often took place in so-called "Christian countries."

The resolution further denounced anti-Semitism as "a sin against Christ, . . . and a sin against the Jewish people . . . and as a denial of the spirit and teaching of Jesus."

Though the resolution pointed out that Baptists have always championed those who endure religious discrimination, "this is not to excuse many Baptists and other Christians for their silence when six million Jews perished in Nazi lands under Hitler. "Baptists in the future," the resolution continued, "should resolve to accept responsibility for the welfare of those who suffer if they are to teach and proclaim responsibility."

The resolution further warned Christians against teaching the crucifixion of Christ in a way that would directly or indirectly place upon the Jewish people today responsibilities which belong to corporate humanity, and not to one race or community.

The 29 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Israel, in releasing the text of the resolution expressed hope that the statement, coupled with the similar resolution passed by the SBC, would "mark a new milestone in positive, reciprocal Jewish-Baptist life encounters."

Alma Hunt Invited to World Bible Society Assembly

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NEW YORK (BP)--The executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, -more-

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Miss Alma Hunt of Birmingham, has been selected as one of three national religious leaders to represent American churches at a meeting of the United Bible Societies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

According to the American Bible Society here, the three American representatives will be Miss Hunt, Oswald C.J. Hoffmann, president of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., and speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" radio program; and Kelly Miller Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church of Capitol Hill, Nashville, Tenn., and assistant dean of the Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

The World Assembly of the United Bible Societies will meet in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Sept. 25-29. "Let the Word Speak" will be the theme for the meeting. The United Bible Societies has work in 150 countries, working through national Bible Societies which last year distributed 171 million copies of the Scripture in 1457 languages.

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Hobbs, Westmoreland, Brown
To Teach at Golden Gate

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MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Two prominent Baptist pastors and a former Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria have been named visiting professors of preaching at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The three are Herschel H. Hobbs, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and long-time pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City; E. Hermond Westmoreland, retired pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston; and Nobel Brown, former missionary to Nigeria.

Hobbs, principal speaker for the Baptist Hour radio broadcast since 1958, will teach two courses in the spring quarter, 1973, at Golden Gate Seminary. Hobbs plans to retire as pastor of the Oklahoma City church in January, 1973.

Westmoreland, now minister-at-large for the Houston church who preached the annual convention sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention session in Philadelphia last June, will teach during the fall and winter quarters, 1972, at the seminary here.

Brown, administrator and professor at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomosho, Nigeria, will teach during the fall quarter.

All three will instruct courses in preaching, dealing with such subjects and construction as delivery of sermons, preaching skills, worship, Biblical preaching, and planning a preaching program.

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