



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
400 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 Orville Scott, 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) 254-5461
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, 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

October 24, 1972

**Continental Baptist Women's
Assembly Draws Record Crowd**

By Catherine Allen

TORONTO (BP)--More than 2,500 women attending the continental assembly of the North American Baptist Women's Union here were urged to become messengers of reconciliation and fellowship across political, racial and denominational lines.

The record crowd more than doubled the previous attendance at meetings of the North American Baptist Women's Union, a part of the woman's department of the Baptist World Alliance.

Although most of the 2,500 persons were Southern Baptists, the crowd included women from more than 15 Baptist bodies from throughout Canada, the United States, and the Caribbean. As many as 400 came, for example, by bus from Virginia.

Major speakers emphasized the reconciliation theme and told of plans for an international program called the World Mission of Reconciliation through Jesus Christ sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance throughout 1973-75.

Kenneth L. Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston and North American coordinator for the reconciliation emphasis, urged the women to create peace and fellowship among their fellow Baptists, and to become ministers of reconciliation in their own communities.

"When we think of reconciliation, we should think not of slogans, banners and budgets, but of people within our reach in need of help," Chafin said.

The president of the Baptist World Alliance, V. Carney Hargroves of Philadelphia emphasized that reconciliation through Christ is not so much a campaign as it is a way of life.

"We need world-wide reconciliation--reconciliation in the family, the community, the school and the church," Hargroves declared.

The goal of the Baptist World Alliance is to help Baptists balance the stress of freedom and independence with a feeling of unity, Hargroves added.

The president of North American Baptist Women's Union, Mrs. I. Judson Levy of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, called on the women present to enlist voluntarily in the work of reconciliation, and to stress reconciliation in the Nov. 6 Baptists Women's Day of Prayer.

"It is thrilling to see that the day of prayer has become a great force of unity, binding together women from different conventions, classes and races," Mrs. Levy said.

Messages from three leaders from three continents--Asia, Africa and America--emphasized the need for fellowship, especially for Baptists living under conditions of political restrictions.

Mrs. Louise Paw, a Burmese Baptist now serving with the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society in Valley Forge, Pa., told the women, "You don't know how hungry you can be for fellowship until you are without it."

Mrs. Paw, who served as the Baptist World Alliance vice president during a period when travel in and out of Burma was prohibited, said that today Christians are a major force in influencing the direction of the Asian revolution.

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Mrs. Atinuke Bamijoka, a Nigerian who is president of the Baptist Women's Union of Africa, reported that African women are increasing their participation in Christian involvements despite trends of materialism and nationalism.

She said that more African nations are represented in the Baptist women's organizations this year than ever before. She challenged Americans to put away their excuses and match the commitments of Baptists in non-Christian countries.

Mrs. R.L. Mathis of Waco, Tex., president of the BWA women's department who has just returned from trips to South Africa and East Germany, said that women in these nations, despite limitations of education and freedom, are emerging as leaders of reconciliation.

Mrs. Mathis, also president of the Southern Baptist Women's Missionary Union, said she was the first Baptist leader from the United States in 20 years to be granted a visa to visit East Germany. "They granted me a visa because I am a woman, and they thought I was harmless," she quipped.

Churches in East Germany, she reported, are packed with young people. Teenagers at one church sang in English, "We Shall Overcome," she added.

"These Baptists are greatly committed to the work of Christ," she said. "They want to do many things that they can't do, while we don't do many things that we are able to do."

Elected president of the North American Baptist Women's Union for the next five years was Mrs. Lawrence S. Casazza of Washington, D.C., member of a church affiliated with both the American and Southern Baptist Conventions.

Mrs. Casazza, recommended by the union's nominating committee, was elected by ballot over Mrs. Mary O. Ross of Detroit, president of the Women's Auxiliary Convention of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., who was nominated from the floor. The vote count was not announced.

Other new officers elected were: vice president, Mrs. Carl Holmberg of Worthington, Minn. president of Baptist General Conference Women; secretary, Mrs. Herbert Hillar of East Detroit, Mich., president of the Woman's Missionary Union of the North American Baptist General Conference; and treasurer, Mrs. Mary H. Wright, Philadelphia, former president of the women's auxiliary to the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention.

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Two Sentenced for Murder Of Alabama Bible Salesman

10/24/72

DADEVILLE, Ala. (BP)--Two 17-year-old youths were sentenced to 30 years imprisonment each here after pleading guilty to the murder of the son of Southern Baptist missionaries who was selling Bibles in Alabama to raise funds for a seminary education.

Jimmy Lorenzo Hicks and Ramon Silmon, both of Camp Hill, Ala., had been charged with the murder and robbing of Tom C. Hollingsworth II, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom C. Hollingsworth, Southern Baptist missionaries to Argentina for 22 years.

Hollingsworth, 24-year-old student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, was found dead by hunters north of Camp Hill, Ala., in a wooded area so dense that search planes flying overhead could not spot his car only 200 feet away. He had been missing since June 27.

Police sources said his head had been bashed in by a blunt instrument, and the Bibles he had been selling in the area were scattered around in the woods.

Sheriff James T. Farrow said that the two youths who pled guilty to the murder had promised Hollingsworth they would purchase Bibles from him if he would drive them to their homes so they could pick up money to make the payments.

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Instead, they forced him to stop the car in the woods, robbed him of \$9.07, and killed him, the sheriff charged.

Hollingsworth, a foreign missions volunteer, was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Hollingsworth. At the time, the parents were in Bellaire, Tex., on medical furlough from their assignment in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Born in Fort Worth, Hollingsworth grew up in Gatesville, Tex., and was a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

Hicks and Silmon, both 17, were first charged with first degree murder, but the charges were reduced to second degree murder when they said they would plead guilty.

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BWA Executive Committee Picks
Swiss Site for 1973 Meetings

10/24/72

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance has chosen Einsiedeln, Switzerland, a small town rich in religious history, as the meeting place for its 1973 Executive Committee and Study commission sessions.

About 200 persons from 35 countries are expected to attend the sessions slated July 13-17, 1973, at Einsiedeln, population 8,500, located about 45 minutes by bus from Zurich where the European Baptist Federation will be meeting, July 18-22.

Einsiedeln is famed for its Benedictine abbey which houses a fountain and image of Mary, the object of annual pilgrimages. Ulrich Zwingli was pastor there from 1516-18, before he broke with the Catholic church and led the reformation about 1523.

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Williams Named to Head
Oklahoma Foundation

10/24/72

TULSA, Okla. (BP)--In a called meeting here, the board of directors of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma named C. Fred Williams of Oklahoma City to succeed Thomas E. Carter as executive secretary of the foundation when Carter retires next May.

Williams, former director of endowment and capital giving service for the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission based in Nashville, has been associate executive secretary of the Oklahoma foundation since 1968.

A native of Oklahoma, Williams was state Training Union director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma from 1959-65 when he joined the SBC Stewardship Commission.

Williams, 53, has been pastor of Baptist churches in Red Rock, Centrahoma, Calvin, Mooreland, Cleveland, and Hugo, Okla. He is a graduate of East Central State College, Ada, Okla., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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