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July 23, 1973

Reconciliation and Relief
Highlight Baptist World Meet

EINSIEDELN Switzerland (BP)--When 282 Baptist leaders from 32 countries came together in this Catholic pilgrimage site for annual meetings sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance, July 13-17, attention focused mainly on fellowship, study, and implementation of programs on World reconciliation and relief.

V. Carney Hargroves, alliance president, noted that attendance was the largest both in number and geographical representation of any BWA annual executive committee meeting.

Representatives from all continents and both the East and the West political spheres mingled throughout the week.

In addition to business sessions by the BWA executive committee, the participants engaged in discussion in study commission meetings on doctrine, Christian teaching and training, missions and evangelism, religious liberty and human rights, and cooperative Christianity.

"Despite our cultural differences, we are all one in Christ," one participant said. "We are able in all candor to focus attention on the central objective of meeting our responsibilities as Christian people."

Joseph B. Underwood, chairman of BWA's three-year World Mission of Reconciliation through Jesus Christ, reported that 98 Baptist groups in 80 countries are participating in the world program that aims at reconciliation of man with God (evangelism) and reconciliation of man with man (Christian application of the gospel).

Underwood reported growing evangelistic success in countries around the world.

A total of 13,095 persons were baptized in the Tele u churches of India during the month of June.

Nigerian Baptists reported 1600 new professions of faith in the first of 15 regional crusades in that African country.

Brazilian Baptists have set a goal of doubling their membership (baptized believers) of 450,000 in the ten year period ending in 1982, their centennial year.

The executive committee adopted two resolutions dealing with peace. One noted that "we earnestly thank God for whatever lessening of hostilities has taken place during the past year," especially "evident improvement in relations between east and west," and pledged Baptists of the world "to work with others toward greater understanding and peace."

The other statement pledged participants to "all return to our countries to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of God, to the proclamation of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be agents of the reconciling love of God to all men everywhere."

The executive committee gave tentative approval to operating budgets of \$229,000 in 1974 and 1975. Fred B. Rhodes, western treasurer, reported however that additional income must be found to meet these budget goals. He said also that several worthy proposed programs had to be omitted from the budget because of the lack of funds.

The alliance is supported by contributions from its 95 member conventions and unions, and from individuals and churches.

In addition to the operating budget however, the committee approved a goal of \$423,100 for relief projects in 1974. This budget is administered separately from the operating budget and is dependent on voluntary contributions.

Three new conventions were admitted to membership in the BWA--the Baptist Convention of Mozambique, the Baptist Convention of Malawi, and the Baptist Community of Bandudu in Zaire. They raise the membership of BWA to 95 conventions in 75 countries.

Einsiedeln was selected as meeting place because of its proximity to Zurich where the European Baptist Federation met during the following days.

The town is the home of a thousand years old Catholic monastery which is one of the most popular pilgrimage sites in Europe. The abbot of the monastery was host to the Baptists at an organ concert on Sunday evening.

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1975 Baptist World
Congress Theme Set

7/23/73

EINSIEDELN, Switzerland (BP)--"New Men for a New World Through Christ" will be the theme of the 13th Baptist World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden in the summer of 1975.

The theme was recommended by the congress program committee, chaired by Gerhard Claas of West Germany, and adopted by the Baptist World Alliance executive committee at its annual meeting here.

The congress will meet July 8-13, 1975.

An attendance of 11,000 is expected from more than 75 countries.

V. Carney Hargroves, president of the BWA, said that the theme is a logical successor to the theme "Reconciliation Through Christ," used at the 12th congress in Tokyo in 1970.

The Stockholm congress is one of three major world meetings being sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance during the next two years.

The 8th Baptist Youth World Conference will meet July 31-August 4, 1974 at Portland, Ore., USA, with an expected attendance of 8,000 young people.

Karl-Heinz Walter of West Germany, chairman of the BWA youth committee, said that except for the adult leaders of youth, attendance at Portland will be restricted to the 16 to 25 age group.

The first World Conference of Baptist Men will meet in Hong Kong, November 19-25, 1974. It will be sponsored by the Men's Department of BWA, of which David Y.K. Wong of Hong Kong is chairman.

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World Baptists Observe 30th
Anniversary of Relief Program

7/23/73

EINSIEDELN, Switzerland (BP)--The beneficiaries of Baptist World Alliance relief efforts in seven countries came to say thanks to the alliance executive committee in its annual meeting here.

It was a 30th anniversary observance for the relief program which was organized to help alleviate some of the suffering caused by World War II.

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The executive committee approved a recommendation from the relief committee for a goal of \$423,100 to underwrite relief projects in the year 1974. This is the largest goal in the movement's 30-year history, and compares with the goal of \$319,600 for 1973.

The anniversary program, directed by Chester J. Jump, relief committee chairman, also included words of gratitude from representatives from Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Nicaragua, Rwanda, and Vietnam, where Baptist relief efforts have been appreciated in recent years.

Theodore F. Adams of Richmond, Va., USA, a past president of the alliance, personally recalled the discussions in the organization meeting in Chicago in May 1943, and told how Baptists have rallied to succeeding needs through the years.

Two men who have served as relief coordinators of BWA, Adolfs Klaupiks (1950-68) and Frank H. Woyke (1968-71) also reminisced on the relief movement's history.

Carl W. Tiller, current coordinator of the relief program, suggested that Baptists everywhere help observe the 30th anniversary by making special gifts of money in the amount of 30 banknotes in their country's currency.

Using the smallest banknote in the United States and Canada, this would be \$30. In Switzerland, where the meeting is being held, this would mean 30 ten-franc notes or 300 Swiss francs.

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World Baptist Leaders
Pledge Work for Peace

7/23/73

EINSIEDELN, Switzerland (BP)--Two hundred eighty Baptist leaders from 32 countries closed the annual meeting of the Baptist World Alliance executive committee here by resolving "to work with others toward greater understanding and peace."

The resolution, presented by Geoffrey H. Blackburn of Australia, chairman of the resolutions committee, noted in its preamble that "peace among nations, races, generations, classes and the sexes continues to escape us."

In another resolution, the executive committee members resolved "that we all return to our countries to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of God, to the proclamation of the gospel, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be agents of the reconciling love of God to all men everywhere."

The complete text of the resolution on peace reads:

"Whereas peace with justice has been an enduring dream and a continuing vision of the people of God and of Baptists in particular, and

"Whereas peace among nations, races, generations, classes and the sexes continues to escape us,

"Therefore, be it resolved that we reaffirm the commitment made at the 12th Congress of the Baptist World Alliance in Tokyo, three years ago, to work with others 'toward greater understanding and peace.'

"Be it also resolved that we earnestly thank God for whatever lessening of hostilities has taken place during the past year, and

"Be it further resolved that we express special gratitude to God for evident improvement in relationships between east and west, and

"Be it further resolved that, as we thank God for His peace that passes all understanding being unfolded by His grace in our personal lives, we pledge ourselves to work faithfully as instruments of His peace for the things that work for peace--justice, truth, and righteousness--to the furtherance of the great goal of peace of earth and good will toward men."

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POW, MIA Group Told
By Allen to Get Busy

GRANBY, Colo. (BP)--A group of recently released prisoners of war, their families, and the families of men missing in action in Southeast Asia were urged to get out of their shells of depression and to start helping other people in need.

Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church in San Antonio, Tex., gave the advice to 115 POWs and their families and MIA relatives at a retreat at remote Snow Mountain Ranch, 87 miles northwest of Denver.

The military-related families are the guests for one week of High Flight, a non-profit foundation headed by former Apollo 15 astronaut James Irwin. High Flight seeks to provide spiritual help, legal advice and general counseling.

Allen said he decided to tell the guests how to get up when they were down after re-searching their needs and talking with several of them in detail.

"I found more need per inch among these people than in any other situation in my ministry of 30 years."

Allen said he learned on good authority that at least half of the marriages involving POWs were in difficulty and that the percentage could go higher.

"There are some couples who are having trouble communicating with each other after six years apart, but came to this retreat in an effort to solve this problem."

Allen said his inquiry also surfaced conflicts between various members of MIA families.

"For instance, the parents are still clinging to the hope after seven years that their son is still alive, and are critical of their daughter-in-law who doesn't share that belief. The daughter-in-law wants to start a new life but fears the reaction of her in-laws.

"A third part of the triangle involves a teenage brother of the missing man who is threatening suicide because he feels his parents haven't given him any attention in seven years."

However, Allen reminded, he also met families who have learned how to deal with their problems with help from religious resources. Allen said his information showed that about 60 per cent of MIA wives are using their faith in God to sustain them during their husbands absence.

"Keep in mind I said it was their faith, not their church. The research showed many of these wives claimed very little help through the church and were expecting very little even now."

In developing his arguments against depression, Allen used as an illustration the conversation between God and the prophet Elijah in the Bible in I Kings 19 when the prophet was despondent and on the run. Allen told the family members there were at least six lessons in this passage of the Old Testament which applied to them.

"God cares about your body and wants you to fix it up. He wants you to know he doesn't forget you when you're down. He recognizes that your actions create your moods and wants you to start doing something. He wants to speak to you in the common places of life, perhaps through a child or a friend. He's got something important for you to do and he trusts you to do it. And he's given you spiritual brothers and sisters to help you."

During the expense-paid retreat, fifth in a series High Flight has sponsored for POW and MIA families during June and July, Allen is serving as a counselor. The retreats have attracted 1300 hundred persons from 310 families, including 26 POW families.

The final retreat features presentations by Irwin, an appearance by Norma Zimmer of the Lawrence Welk Show, and conferences on sharing hangups, the services of the prisoner of war resource center in San Diego and what the Bible says about facing problems.