



BAPTIST PRESS

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March 12, 1974

Women Object to 'Men' so Congress Theme Changed

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (BP)--The women's liberation movement has brought about a change in the theme for the 13th Baptist World Congress, to be held in Stockholm July 8-13, 1975.

In its spring session, the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) administrative subcommittee changed the theme from "New Men for a New World--Through Christ" to read "New People. . ."

The change came about after Robert G. Torbert, ecumenical officer for American Baptist Churches in the USA, relayed a concern from the division of American Baptist Women that the theme's wording conflicted with ideals of the current women's liberation movement.

The change is significant chiefly in the English language, where the word "men" is interpreted not only as meaning mankind, as in the theme's context, but as particularly noting members of the male sex, a BWA spokesman said.

Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the Baptist Union of West Germany who is chairman of the Congress program committee, said that German and most other European languages would translate the theme using a word (menschen) meaning "people" without sexual connotation.

He said that when the committee selected the theme in July 1972, English speaking members had agreed on "men" both because it provided a completely monosyllabic theme and because the word "man" is generally used in English translations of the Bible to denote persons of both sexes.

"The scriptural text for the chosen theme reads in the King James Version: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17).

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16th Black Church Joins Illinois Baptists

3/12/74

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (BP)--The Macedonia Baptist Church here is believed to be the first black congregation in Illinois to affiliate with Southern Baptists as soon as it was organized.

Organized recently with 48 charter members, the church has chosen to affiliate with the Illinois Baptist State Convention, which includes about 900 Southern Baptist churches in the state. The Illinois Association already includes about 16 black congregations.

Harold Cameron, who serves as state missions director for Illinois, said, however, that it is believed these 16 congregations were organized, functioning churches before identifying with Southern Baptists. In the case of the Macedonia Church, it sought Southern Baptist affiliation from its inception.

Odean Weary, who is retired from the U.S. Air Force, has been called as pastor of the new church. Weary, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Illinois when he was assigned to Chanute AFB near Champaign.

Charles L. Chaney, church extension director for the Illinois Association, estimates that as many as 30 new Southern Baptist black churches could be organized in Illinois by 1985.

"In addition, as many as 70 existing non-aligned black churches may affiliate with us," Chaney said. "Although we are not pressuring anyone, we want our black brethren to know

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the door is wide open. The day must come when the Southern Baptist Convention is not identified as a white denomination, but one in which all ethnic groups are involved."

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Pre-School Child Care
At SBC Meeting in Dallas

3/12/74

DALLAS (BP)--Pre-school child care will be provided during the annual Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meeting week here, June 10-13, 1974, at First Baptist Church, Dallas.

The nursery service will be limited to children of persons attending the sessions from outside Dallas County.

The facilities will be open from 30 minutes prior to each SBC session and will close 30 minutes after each session is concluded.

W. Dean Willis of the local arrangements committee for the SBC's Dallas meeting said a nominal fee will be charged per child, with extra charges for those children picked up late and for food, should the child not have a sack lunch.

Willis said there should be some identification on each child and his or her belongings. Entrance to the child care facility will be on Patterson Street. Nursery care will be on the church's second floor, with the beginners on the fourth floor, he said.

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Campbellsville Announces
Joint Engineering Program

3/12/74

CAMPBELLSVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Campbellsville College, a Southern Baptist school here, has established a joint engineering program with Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Through a recently announced joint, five-year program, a student may attend Campbellsville College for about three academic years and Georgia Tech for two years.

After completing all academic requirements at both schools, the student will be awarded a bachelor's degree from Campbellsville and a bachelor of engineering degree from Georgia Tech, a Campbellsville spokesman said.

A two-year associate in science in social work program has also been approved by the Baptist school's trustees, the spokesman said.

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UPDATE

On story mailed 3/8/74, headlined "'Flyer' Gambling Article Draws Texas Baptists' Fire," add the following graphs as an update.

Later, John J. Hurt said he was willing to forgive the airline. The Baptist editor said he had been contacted by the president of Texas Parade Magazine, publisher of the Texas Flyer.

"I'm confident the airline did not intend to run the article," Hurt said. "I regret the airline was a party to distributing the article."

"It is my hope the airline will be and the magazine's publisher will be on guard to such biased stories in the future," Hurt said.

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