

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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August 24, 1976

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**BWA Sharply Increases
Allocations for Outreach**

MELBOURNE, Australia (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance general council, meeting here, boosted the Alliance's 1976 budget by 53 percent and its proposed 1977 budget by 70 percent in actions aimed at greatly increasing the BWA worldwide programs.

The BWA had begun 1976 operating on a budget of \$264,000--a figure long judged to be far inadequate for a world organization, a spokesman said. Actions by the general council in Melbourne increased the 1976 figure to \$405,000, and set objectives of \$488,700 for 1977 and \$518,070 for 1978.

Despite great distances separating Australia from traditional Baptist origins in North America and Europe, 187 Baptist leaders from 31 countries participated in meetings of the BWA general council and of BWA study commissions at Whitley Baptist College in Melbourne. The BWA is made up of 106 member bodies, with 28.6 million members in some 80 countries.

Fred B. Rhodes of Washington, D. C., BWA treasurer, said that the increases have been made possible by increased contributions to the Alliance, partly in allocations from its 106 member bodies and partly in gifts from individual Baptists in all parts of the world.

A general council member, Duke K. McCall of Louisville, Ky., observed that the increased contributions were in response to aggressive programs of outreach adopted at the Baptist World Congress in Stockholm a year ago.

The largest part of the budget increase will go to a new program of evangelism and education, aimed at assisting Baptist conventions and unions to promote preaching, soul-winning, and Bible study programs within their own framework and geographical area.

Other increases will go to a program of communications, helping Baptists of the world to know each other better, a program of study and research which brings together scholars from all parts of the world for the exchange of ideas, and the development of regional programs within continental areas. The BWA program of relief and development operates outside the regular budget.

Rhodes estimated that a total of \$214,000 will come from member unions and conventions in 1976, to be supplemented by \$130,500 in other gifts, and \$40,500 in miscellaneous earnings.

A major portion of the "other gifts" item is expected to come from a special fellowship of individuals known as Friends of the Alliance. The volunteer movement is chaired by W. A. Criswell, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, Tex., and a past president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The general council also gave approval to increased goals for its relief and development program. Needs originally estimated at \$577,150 for 1976 were judged at the meeting here to increase to \$638,150. A goal of \$610,000 was envisioned for 1977.

The relief program, which includes self-help and developmental projects as well as disaster relief, operates strictly within the limits of money received. Administrative costs generally are borne by the BWA budget, and all designated gifts are transferred in their entirety to points of need. Chester Jump of Valley Forge, Pa., is chairman of an international committee that evaluates needs and disburses available funds.

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In other action, the general council gave final approval to the moving of its European office from London, England, to Hamburg, West Germany, on October 1. Gerhard Claas will become the BWA's associate secretary for Europe at that time, and C. Ronald Goulding, associate secretary in the London office since 1965, will move to Washington as a member of the headquarters staff in October. The BWA also has an office for Asia, in Sydney, Australia.

Besides housekeeping chores conducted by the general council, the assembled Baptist leaders worked together in "division committees" to advance the Alliance's worldwide programs, in departmental meetings for men, women and youth, and in four study commissions. The commissions dealt with Christian ethics, church life, doctrine and interchurch cooperation, and freedom, justice, and peace.

Each of the various groups is international in membership, and the periods provided for a sharing of concepts and for international planning in each of the various areas.

Council approved plans by the BWA's new division committee on evangelism and education for an international program of sharing and encouragement in these areas of spiritual and study outreach. The division is headed by Goulding. James L. Sullivan of Nashville, Tenn., president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a BWA vice president, is division chairman.

Enlarged programs in communications, protection of religious liberty and human rights, world relief, and international study forums also were approved.

A report on BWA President David Y. K. Wong's travels to five continents during his first year in office highlighted the council's opening session. On a trip to Mainland China early in his term he said he "met many Christians who hold to their faith" despite the existence of a communist government. He noted that "some Christians copy verses from the Bible and circulate them among people who long for something more than material benefits."

His travels took him to six other countries of Asia, and then to North and South America and Eastern Europe. Churches he attended in the USSR "were filled with people; many stood in the aisles, by the walls, and on staircases."

The BWA general council received and approved preliminary plans for a 2nd World Conference of Baptist Men at Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, April 5-9, 1978; for a 9th Baptist Youth World Conference at Hong Kong, July 19-23, 1978; and for the 14th Baptist World Congress at Toronto, Canada, July 6-13, 1980.

Guatemala City, Guatemala, was selected as the meeting place for the July 11-15, 1977, meeting of the general council; and Brighton, England, for the July 2-7, 1979, meeting of the council. The 1978 meeting place is still undecided.

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Alliance Notes Gains In
Regional Fellowships

Baptist Press
8/24/76

By C. E. Bryant

MELBOURNE, Australia (BP)--A vitalization of regional programs launched at the Baptist World Congress in Stockholm a year ago was viewed as highly successful when the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) general council met at Whitley Baptist College here.

The increased regional emphasis was aimed at giving greater presence of the international program at continental levels, said Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary. Regional organizations, known as fellowships, now operate in Europe, Asia, North America, South America, and the Caribbean--taking the BWA program to the churches in these areas.

Reports from each of the regions were heard at the Melbourne meetings, attended by 187 Baptist leaders from 31 countries. The BWA is made up of 106 member bodies with 28.6 million members in some 80 countries.

Publication of Sunday school literature for use in Caribbean area churches is one of the most visible of the regional gains. "This literature is written for the Caribbean in the Caribbean and produced as a joint effort of the various national unions within our fellowship," said Azariah McKenzie of Jamaica. "We are confident this will greatly promote the teaching and witnessing ministry of the church."

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A report read by Michael Zhidkov, pastor of the Baptist Church at Moscow, USSR, detailed work of the European Baptist Federation (EBF) which links Baptist Christians in both eastern and western Europe. Looking to future programming, the report, written by Alexei Bichkov, EBF president, noted that "it is necessary to develop the cooperation of Christians in the proclamation of the gospel, and to challenge all the believers in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord to zealous actions in the matter of reconciliation and compassionate action for the people of the world in their need."

A Latin American Baptist Fellowship is in the process of organization and will include Portuguese and Spanish speaking Baptist conventions and unions in Central and South America, said Ebenezer S. Ferreira of Brazil.

Alan C. Prior of Australia, reporting for the Asian Baptist Fellowship, noted spiritual health and material aid projects throughout the region, in which Baptists assisted one another at their points of need and in cooperative programs of advance.

"Officers of the fellowship recognize that they stand at the beginning of their task," Prior said. "It is immense and continuing. But the church continues, and our resource is in God. Many Christian leaders are saying they believe that the next great spiritual revival will have its origin in Asia. If this is so, Asian Baptists will pray that they may be worthy to be part of it."

Floyd Harris, a layman from Annandale, Virginia, spoke for the North American Baptist Fellowship, of which he is vice chairman. There has been a continual growth pattern, he said, both in membership and in stewardship response.

"In the United States, the civil observance of the nation's Bicentennial has prompted reflection, study, and preaching in our churches with respect to our Baptist heritage and with regard to matters of religious liberty and human rights," Harris said.

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Missionary Burned
While Repairing Car

Baptist Press
8/24/76

BOULDER, Colo, (BP)--Southern Baptist Missionary Jerald W. Perrill was badly burned over the right side of his body Aug. 20 while working on his father's car.

He is in Boulder (Colo.) Community Hospital suffering from mostly second degree and a few third degree burns, according to William R. Wakefield, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Southeast Asia. The burned area extends from his elbow to his shoulder and then down his right side to his knee.

Perrill and his family had planned to leave Boulder the next day to return to Thailand where they are serving. "At the present, it is uncertain how long Perrill will have to be in the hospital," Wakefield said. Skin grafts may be necessary for the small areas where third degree burns were sustained, he added.

The accident occurred after Perrill refilled the gas tank in his father's car, which was empty because of a leak. He attempted to pour a small amount of gas into the carburetor while his father tried to start the car. The car backfired through the carburetor, igniting the can of gas in Perrill's hand. He jerked back, spilling the flaming gas on the right side of his body.

Perrill was born in Kansas but lived in Boulder during much of his childhood. Mrs. Perrill is the former Elaine Fortenberry of Mississippi. They have three children.

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College's Model Workshop
Followup to Colloquium

Baptist Press
8/24/76

NASHVILLE (BP)--A model trustee orientation workshop conducted by Belmont College here was the first of several expected at Baptist colleges around the country as a followup to the National Colloquium on Education held in Williamsburg, Va., in June.

The Belmont workshop centered around the same general theme of school "purpose," emphasized by the colloquium, which was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

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The difference between the Belmont weekend-long program and other trustee workshops, generally, is that others are school program-oriented, according to Belmont President Herbert Gabhart.

The Belmont workshop, however, viewed the school's purpose in terms of religious, academic and service responsibilities to the denomination, Gabhart said.

Speakers included Gordon Blackwell, recently retired president of Furman University, a Baptist school in Greenville, S. C., and Ben C. Fisher, executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission, and George E. Capps Jr., the commission's associate director, both of Nashville.

Despite some predictions that college students in the 1980s are expected to be fewer in number than now, Blackwell said he is optimistic about the future of church-related colleges.

He stressed a need for church-related schools to remain "strong academically," with teachers "called to introduce young people to the truth of God."

The first duty, he said, "is to encourage and guide young people committed to Christian vocations and to help them prepare for ministry."

Continuing Blackwell's emphases, Capps said, "Commitments for church-related vocations are usually made during a student's college years."

Fisher said he believes today's teachers are generally better prepared than ever before. And he cited four goals as "musts" for Baptist colleges: transmit knowledge; give professional training; develop responsible citizenship; and provide a Christian dimension.

Baptist philanthropist Jack C. Massey of Nashville, prior recipient of Belmont's first honorary doctoral degree, told the trustees and staff:

"Belmont knows it has a responsibility to turn out a product that is consistent with the needs and desires of the business community. And I think it's important because this means these graduates will have a better-than-average chance at landing an acceptable job."

Gabhart said he hoped the Belmont workshop would become a model for other Southern Baptist colleges and universities. Subsequent workshops will feature other aspects and opportunities at Belmont, he said.

Plans are underway at several other Baptist schools for workshops similar to the Belmont program, based on the colloquium emphases, Capps said.