

August 9, 1958

Texas Baptists Set Baptism Goal For 1959

DALLAS--(BP)--Texas Southern Baptist churches have set goals for more than 110,880 baptisms next year as their part in the 1959 simultaneous evangelistic crusade by Baptists throughout the nation.

About 3500 Texas churches will be included in the crusade to lead individuals to profess faith in Christ, according to C. Wade Freeman, Dallas, superintendent of evangelism for Texas Baptists.

Freeman said that more Texas Baptist churches will probably announce plans to join the 1959 crusade and increase participation to more than 90 per cent of the co-operating Southern Baptist churches in the state.

Crusade dates in 1959 are Jan. 25-Feb. 8; Mar. 15-19, and Apr. 12-26.

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White Says Communism Increases In Japan

HOUSTON--(BP)--K. O. White, pastor of First Baptist Church here, said "there is a good deal of communism in Japan and it is growing."

Dr. and Mrs. White recently returned from a six-week mission tour of Hawaii and Japan.

He said "Japan is growing and there is a lot of poverty. Communists are giving them a lot of false rumors and hopes."

"The people are falling away from religion due partly to the emperor's renunciation of being a divine person," he added.

White preached the first revival in the new English-speaking Baptist church in Tokyo. He said the church paid \$40,000 for land less than one-fourth of a block in size on which to build the church.

He also visited the Baptist Assembly encampment at Amagi in the mountains near Tokyo.

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Sanderson Leads South American Conferences

DALLAS--(BP)--For 30 days Baptist pastors and laymen in four South American countries will attend church-centered evangelism conferences led by Leonard Sanderson, Dallas, secretary of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Jack Stanton, Denver, Colorado Baptist evangelism secretary, will accompany Sanderson on the conference tour to countries which have a total Baptist population of approximately 151,000.

Argentine Baptists, who are conducting simultaneous revivals in October and November, first invited Sanderson to teach a short course in church evangelism in their seminary and to help pastors prepare for the crusade.

Baptists in Brazil, Chile, and Peru also asked to be included in the series of church evangelism conferences. The Foreign Mission Board of the Convention is sponsoring the project.

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Sanderson will also be in Panama for evangelism conferences.

Laymen and churches in the Colorado Baptist General Convention are sponsoring Jack Stanton's tour. He will help conduct the conferences and visit other South American mission fields.

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What Better Collateral Then Bikes and Mower?

DALLAS--(BP)--Three bicycles, and a \$55 savings account---the most cherished possessions of two small boys and their sister---were offered as part of the underwriting for a church loan received here.

The three children also volunteered to contribute the family lawnmower as collateral for the building loan.

A. B. While, Dallas, executive vice-president of the Texas Baptist church loan department said the unusual church loan request from the children at Kearns, Utah, was being taken into consideration.

"I guess they just wanted to have a part in the building of the church," White said.

Originally founded for making loans to Texas churches, the church loan department in 1953 formed a corporation for loaning money to out-of-state churches.

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27 Nations Represented At Switzerland Meeting

RUSCHLIKON-ZURICH, Switzerland--(BP)--Over 100 delegates from 27 nations met at European Baptist Seminary here for sessions of the executive committee of the Baptist World Alliance.

Main item on the agenda of the executive committee was plans for the forthcoming Baptist World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1960.

The executive committee also considered future work of the Alliance, adoption of a budget, and personnel for the administrative staff.

A team of medical experts who have been touring mission fields around the world for the last few months under auspices of the Alliance also was present.

Several commissions of the Baptist World Alliance also held their meetings here, taking up such topics as religious liberty and Baptist doctrine.

41 delegates were from the United States, including the president of the Alliance, Theodore F. Adams, pastor, First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

Mrs. Maurice Hodge, Portland, Ore., new president of the American Baptist Convention headed a group of delegates from that convention.

Southern Baptist Convention delegates included Porter Routh, Nashville, executive secretary, Executive Committee of SBC; Mrs. R. L. Mathis, president of the Convention's Woman's Missionary Union; George W. Sadler, special European representative for the Foreign Mission Board and Mrs. Sadler; Baker J. Cauthen, Richmond, Va., executive secretary, Foreign Mission Board.

Robert S. Denny, Washington, associate secretary, Baptist World Alliance; Mrs. George Martin, Norfolk, Va., immediate past president of the Convention WMU; Clifton J. Allen, Nashville, editorial secretary, Baptist Sunday School Board, and Mrs. Allen.

M. J. Anderson, foreign missionary serving in Hong Kong; Gaines S. Dobbins, distinguished professor of church administration at Golden Gate Baptist Theological

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Seminary, Berkeley, Calif., and Mrs. Dobbins; E. H. Pruden, pastor, First Baptist Church, Washington.

J. D. Hughey, foreign missionary serving on the faculty of European Seminary here, and Mrs. Hughey; Allen W. Graves, dean of the school of religious education, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Frank Means, area secretary for Latin America for the Foreign Mission Board, and Mrs. Means; W. L. Howse, Nashville, director of education division, Sunday School Board, and R. Paul Caudill, pastor, First Baptist Church, Memphis.

Delegates also included two Baptists from Russia, one from Poland, and one from Yugoslavia.

Arnold T. Ohrn is general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance with offices in Washington. Also present from the BWA Washington office was Adolph Klaupiks, director of the Alliance's refugee and relief work.

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August 9, 1958

Protection For Clergy Provided in D. C. Bill

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Privileged communication for clergymen is provided in a bill reported by the House District of Columbia Committee here.

The bill (H. R. 8470) was introduced last year by DeWitt S. Hyde (R., Md.), and it provides that a clergyman--minister, priest or rabbi--cannot be required to testify in the courts about conversations he has had as a part of his pastoral duties.

At the present time in the District of Columbia only physicians and attorneys have the right to keep confidential matters which they learn in their professional capacity.

The proposed legislation was evoked by a divorce case last year in which a minister was forced by the law to testify concerning a man and woman who had sought his counsel during family difficulties.

Renewed national interest has been recently stirred in this problem by the Tennessee case of James Glisson, pastor of the McLemoresville Baptist Church, who refused to divulge what he considered confidential information in a case similar to the one in the District of Columbia.

Glisson was sentenced for contempt of court and given a suspended 10-day jail sentence and fined \$50. He was later granted a full pardon by the Governor of Tennessee.

There is no uniform code in the states of the nation regulating privileged communications for the clergy, although most people have assumed that such provisions exist.

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Would Exempt Churches From Transportation Tax

WASHINGTON--(BP)--A proposal to exempt certain religious, educational and charitable organizations from transportation taxes has been introduced in Congress here.

Francis E. Dorn (R., N. Y.) has introduced a bill to repeal the tax on transportation of persons in the case of non-profit and religious organizations as provided in the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

At the present time a transportation tax of 10 per cent is charged on tickets or fares involved in the transportation of persons. The new proposal would exempt from the transportation tax those organizations that now qualify for exemption from the income tax under the religious, educational and charitable sections of the Internal Revenue Code.

The bill (H. R. 13645) has been referred to the House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means.

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Education Bill Passes
House, Senate To Debate

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Many of the church-state problems remain in the National Defense Education Act of 1958 as passed by the House of Representatives here, according to W. Barry Garrett, associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The Senate is expected to debate a similar bill momentarily.

The Elliott education bill as passed by the House provides for an extensive college student loan program, advances in the field of teaching mathematics, science, and foreign languages, and provisions for counseling improvements in the nation's secondary schools.

In an earlier analysis, C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, stated that certain sections of the bill would put the Government and church institutions of higher education into business together.

"How much government supervision will be necessary in order to carry out the 'conditions of agreements' as specified in the bill and as they will be developed in the administration of the bill is difficult to conjecture, but the door is open," Carlson declared.

Referring to the language institutes and centers as provided in the bill and the manner in which they may be set up and administered, Carlson said, "Since some religious movements have wedded themselves to the cultures of certain areas in the world the above provisions are far more intimately related to church interests than would appear at first reading. In fact, one can almost predict that some contracts would involve overt proselyting efforts."

Carlson had previously suggested changes in the proposed education bill which would have eliminated most of the church-state problems involved. However, leaders in the House were not convinced of the dangers suggested, and the House after two days of debate passed the measure in spite of the cautions of the Baptist leader.

In commenting on Carlson's analysis of the Elliott education bill, Garr tt was careful to point out that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs had not taken a position for or against Federal aid to education, but that it was concerned primarily with the advance of religious liberty and the maintenance of separation of church and state in whatever bill might be passed.

The Senate bill contains some of the same church-state problems as that passed by the House, although it differs in several details, according to Garrett. If the Senate version of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 is passed, both measures will go to a Senate-House Conference Committee where differences will be ironed out and where it will be put in final form before presentation to both houses for approval or disapproval.



BAPTIST PRESS

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**R U S H
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To

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August 9, 1958

(Note to Baptist state paper editors: The following information is being sent only to the editors of the Baptist state papers. It is not a Baptist Press release, nor is it to be identified as coming from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. It is information from a reliable source of information, and is to be used in your own way for your own purposes. -- WBG.)

Special Appropriation For
D. C. Hospitals Is Sought

WASHINGTON--Last minute pressure is being exerted on Congress to secure an appropriation of \$1,020,000 for two District of Columbia hospitals. The institutions to be benefitted are a hospital operated by a private corporation and one operated by Georgetown University, an institution of the Roman Catholic Church.

Legislation (H. R. 10622) has been introduced by John W. McCormack (D., Mass.), House majority leader, to provide for an increase in the authorization for funds to be granted for the construction of hospital facilities in the District of Columbia. The practical effect of the measure is to provide a half million dollars for each of the two above mentioned hospitals. This is not within the framework of the Hill-Burton Act, but is a special appropriation for these two institutions.

This surprise proposal comes near the close of the second session of the 85th Congress when the members are anxious for adjournment, when the pressure for consideration of hurry-up legislation is intense, and when adequate debate on new proposals is limited.

It is reported that Mr. McCormack, an unusually keen and powerful politician, is pressing vigorously for passage of his proposal before adjournment of Congress. It is predicted by inside sources that he will be successful.

Congressmen are under great pressure not to oppose such proposals. They do not want to appear to be opposed to powerful religious forces, and they do not want to appear to be opposed to the relief of suffering humanity. Additional difficulty in a Congressman's mind in opposing such proposals is the precedent set by the grants in aid given to sectarian and other hospitals for the past 12 years through the Hill-Burton Act.