

August 20, 1958

RAs Cheer Loudly
At Congress Events

By Theo Sommerkamp

(Pictures Accompany)

FORT WORTH--(BP)--Confidential to mothers and dads, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, and pals of 8858 boys---You'll be hearing tales of the Second Southern Baptist Convention Royal Ambassador Congress for months to come.

You'll hear about a rodeo, pistol-shooting exhibition, pole-vaulting of Olympic Champ Bob Richards, the Hardin-Simmons University Cowboy Band from Abilene, Tex., the Texas Rangers, and other Western activities.

You'll also discover that many of the Western heroes of these nine to 16-year-old boys gave their testimony for Christ along with their demonstrations.

Fort Worth---dubbed "Cow Town" by home folks and visitors alike---provided an appropriate setting for this Congress. George W. Schroeder, Memphis, executive secretary of the sponsoring Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, termed it "the greatest gathering of boys in the world under the banner of Christ."

The attendance goal for this second Congress (first under Brotherhood sponsorship) was 8858. Congress officials are certain this goal was reached. In fact, they estimate attendance was closer to 9000.

The events were designed to please the tastes of boys, and at the same time draw them closer to their common aim, being better individual ambassadors for Christ.

During a dramatic presentation on foreign missions, boys took a "let's pretend" trip around the world. They saw an evangelistic conference in Japan, a Baptist seminary in Nigeria, and a worship service in Latin America. Missionaries home on furlough were introduced, and the boys cheered them as they would their football favorites.

The international flavor was further provided by the presence of 13 Ambassadors from outside the U.S. They represented 10 nations. Several internationals were there because RA boys in the States helped, for instance, as Missouri Ambassadors took care of the expenses of an Ambassador from Hawaii.

The boys cheered heartily again when Bob Richards was pole-vaulting. (The boys had lots rather cheer than clap.) When Richards was going for a vault at 15 feet, the boys shouted "Go! Go! Go!" in a deafening chant.

Laying aside his pole vaulting stick, Richards, a minister, told the excited fellows: "What I've achieved, I owe all to my Lord Jesus Christ. I run with Jesus Christ helping me every step of the way.

"If you haven't found Christ," Richards continued, "you've missed the greatest experience of life, greater than any athletic achievement."

Another great cheer went up for the bronc-tamers at the rodeo and for the Hardin-Simmons Cowboy Band's rendition of "Deep in the Heart of Texas."

The Ambassadors gave their counsellors and parents a lesson in attentiveness, "sitting out" a 2-1/2 hour program in record 106-degree weather in an un-air conditioned Will Rogers Coliseum.

The Ambassadors received sound words of advice.

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Eddie Hurt, Memphis, RA secretary for the Brotherhood Commission, said "Go home with the theme of the Congress in mind---'Christ in Me, the Hope of the World.'"

Courts Redford, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, sent a message: "The next 10 years will be the most important years for Southern Baptists. Royal Ambassadors will play important roles."

W. R. White, president of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., said boys must avail themselves of the "great principles taught to Royal Ambassadors."

A fourth word of advice was conveyed in the boys' own theme song, "The King's Business." The hymn says, "I'm here on business for my King. This is the message that I bring . . . Thus saith my Lord and King, 'Oh, be ye reconciled to God.'"

Missionary W. W. Enete, home from Brazil, started his talk with the customary "Boys and girls," but corrected himself to add, "But there are no girls present."

However, it became evident there were girls present. Most, naturally, were sisters of Royal Ambassadors. But not all. A mother watched dutifully as her teen-age daughter held hands with one of the older Ambassadors as they entered the Coliseum.

Many of the older RAs have a better idea of their vocational opportunities and college planning because of an emphasis here. Adult laymen told how they---machinists, deputy sheriffs, accountants, and other workmen---witnessed for Christ in their affairs.

SIDELIGHTS: "Buffalo Bill, Jr." of TV, Dick Jones, cancelled out at the last minute because of a contract he'd just signed that obligated him to stay in Hollywood . . . Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, sent his regrets. He'd planned to attend but tension in the Mid-East forced him to make a trip to Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan to see missionaries there . . . Boys saved money diligently to come. They washed cars, mowed lawns, and did various other chores . . . Commercial chartered buses, church and school buses were very much in evidence but at least 400 cars were parked in the rodeo parking lot, indicating that many came that way . . . A popular place was a dairy bar near the Coliseum offering a ham salad sandwich, iced tea, and a full-size banana split for only 69 cents . . . Boys at the rodeo grounds selling their \$1 tickets to a meal of Texas barbecue because they'd already over-indulged on Texas Cokes, Texas popcorn, and Texas peanuts . . . Lady registering her son announced "My girl's here too but she's not an RA" . . . Florida boy, asked if this was his first trip to Texas, replied "Mister, this is my first trip" . . . George Schroeder, when registration reached 8000 mark with more still in line, said "The Lord really answers prayer" . . . Some Fort Worth camera stores almost sold out of \$3 to \$5 cameras (to RAs) . . . Boys were staying as far away as Dallas, 32 miles east, and Weatherford, 28 miles west . . . Man from North Carolina frantically searching for color slide of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, also in Fort Worth. He needed it to include in picture report on trip at next prayer meeting back home . . . Hap Hovenkamp, Baptist and Fort Worth rancher, almost missing supper because of demand for his autograph following his appearance in rodeo.

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State Conventions Have Special Mission Months

NASHVILLE--(BP)--During September and October, state Baptist conventions related to the Southern Baptist Convention will have their special state mission offerings. The total goal for the 26 states exceeds \$1-1/4 million.

The offering in some cases is sponsored by the state Baptist convention at large. In others it is sponsored by the state Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary for Baptist women.

Goals in individual states will range from \$2000 in Ohio, one of the newest state conventions in Southern Baptist circles, to \$250,000 in North Carolina, the second largest state in the Southern Baptist Convention in terms of church membership.

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Funds received during the state mission offerings will be used generally for church extension (in keeping with the SBC effort to establish 30,000 new churches and missions)---supplementing salaries of pastors of small churches and missions, constructing new churches, and buying sites for new churches.

In nearly all cases, the state mission offerings will be preceded by a special season of prayer by the members of the Woman's Missionary Union and other Baptists.

Each state also has special needs for which part of its offering will be used. Half of Mississippi's \$100,000 goal will be used in buying sites for new churches. Oregon-Washington will place \$2100 of its \$6000 goal in a church building loan fund and use \$900 each for its state assembly grounds, Canadian missions, and Baptist student work.

Tennessee will use a large share of its \$44,000 goal to aid Negro Baptists through American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville and in direct assistance to worthy students at Negro Baptist schools.

Alabama's \$30,000 goal will go to no special projects. It will be added to the regular state missions budget. In Alabama, the Woman's Missionary Union and the state convention hold separate state missions offerings, a custom followed in some other states.

The first \$10,000 received in California (toward its \$25,000 goal) will be used for language group missions and pastoral salary aid.

New Mexico projects to be provided for with its anticipated \$40,000 include improvements to the parking lot at the state Baptist office in Albuquerque, improvements at the remote Parkview Medical Mission in northwest New Mexico, and remodeling and new equipment at two student centers.

Baptist Bible Institute will receive 18 per cent of Florida's \$46,000 goal. Another 15 per cent goes to the state temperance organization and 12 per cent to Jacksonville Baptist Home for Children.

\$40,000 of Texas's expected \$175,000 offering will be allotted to Latin American scholarships.

South Carolina's WMU is sending \$10,000 of its \$53,000 to a good will center in Charleston. District of Columbia's \$10,800 will be used in full for its two Christian centers.

North Carolina is allocating \$75,000 for development of new missions and churches. The state convention office has on hand requests to buy sites for church extension.

All above the first \$90,000 (on a goal of \$125,000) in Georgia will be used in building a new center for Baptist students at University of Georgia in Athens.

In Kentucky, the WMU offering supports its own program as well as that of the state association. About \$30,000 of the \$50,000 goal will be given for special state association projects with the other \$20,000 used for statewide WMU work.

Illinois will use its entire offering toward construction of a Baptist student center and chair of Bible at University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. The goal this year is \$20,000.

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CORRECTION: In Baptist Press release of Aug. 15 headlined "Baptist Federation Draws Up Declaration," please make a change in dates in line 3, paragraph 1. The dates of the Berlin meeting were July 26-31 instead of as sent. Thank you.--Baptist Press

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Ellis Will Teach New
Testament At Southern

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--E. Earle Ellis, author and college professor, has been added to the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, according to President Duke K. McCall.

McCall also said that Robert L. Cate, Matthew Pierce Matheney Jr., Henry J. Durham, and Ronald F. Deering will serve as instructors.

Ellis, who will teach New Testament courses, holds degrees from the University of Virginia and the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, where he received a Ph.D. degree.

A native of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., he also has studied at the University of Virginia Law School; Faith Theological Seminary, Philadelphia; Southern Seminary, and the Universities of Tuebingen and Goettingen in Germany.

Ellis taught last year at Aurora College, Illinois. He is author of Paul's Use of the Old Testament, published by Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh, with an American edition by Eerdmans Publishing Company.

At the present time Ellis is writing a commentary on the gospel of Luke for the Tyndale Bible Commentary series. He has published articles in New Testament Studies, Evangelical Quarterly, Journal of Biblical Literature, and Christianity Today.

Cate, Matheney, Durham, and Deering are graduate students who are nearing completion of requirements for their degrees of Doctor of Theology at Southern Seminary. Cate, a native of Nashville and graduate of Vanderbilt University, will teach Old Testament Hebrew.

A graduate of Baylor University and Brown University, Matheney will teach introductory courses in Old Testament. He is a native of El Dorado, Ark.

Deering and Durham served in 1956-57 as instructors of Greek New Testament, the course they will teach this year. Deering, a summa cum laude graduate of Georgetown College, Kentucky, is a native of Hamilton, O.

Durham is a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and is a native of Fernandina Beach, Fla.

Still more faculty members will be added within the near future, McCall said.

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Home Mission Board
Votes to Reorganize

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board has unanimously voted a major reorganization "to take its increasing mission opportunities in America."

The reorganization was approved at the board's semi-annual meeting during the annual Home Missions Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly here.

The set-up adopted by the Board calls for five divisions, besides administration. They are missions, education and promotion, evangelism, chaplaincy, and church loans.

The missions division includes departments of language group ministries (formerly direct missions), city missions, associational missions, pioneer missions, work with Negroes, survey and special studies.

The division of education and promotion includes editorial service, missionary education, and promotion and news service. Good will centers, rescue missions, juveniles and broken homes, and work among Jews will be included in the department of city missions.

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Directors elected for the respective divisions are: L. O. Griffith, Atlanta, division of education and promotion; Alfred Carpenter, Atlanta, division of chaplaincy; Leonard Sanderson, Dallas, division of evangelism; and Frank Garrison, Atlanta, division of church loans.

The director of the division of missions was not elected, but the board voted to appoint a special committee to be composed of five state members of the board and the present administrative committee to nominate a person for this position.

The administration was given authority to employ professional assistance, if deemed necessary, to make a job analysis for the new organizational set-up.

The committee considered recommending that all Home Mission Board offices be moved to Atlanta, but requested additional time to study such action. The board allocated \$38,000 for immediate implementation of the new organization.

The new organization will become effective Jan. 1, 1959. The committee to study the organization and work of the board was appointed Apr. 10, 1957.

Recommendations made by the committee conformed with certain basic principles and with consideration of the growth and expansion of the board, the policies of the board, relationships to other Baptist bodies, and the scope of the present work, the committee reported.

The board now has work in 43 states, and includes Alaska, Cuba, and Panama.

Courts Redford, Atlanta, executive secretary-treasurer, said of the new set-up: "We have here a unified mission program in which all forces, state and Convention-wide, can participate."

Redford, in his report to the board, said the board has 1248 missionaries, 66 mission pastors, 447 summer student workers, and 401 chaplains now on home mission fields.

Redford also reported receipts from the 1957 advance section of the Cooperative Program of \$815,075 as compared with \$802,569 received from this advance in 1956.

He reported "splendid progress" in pioneer work of the Home Board in Chicago and New York and helpful contacts made by W. Bertram King, Home Board liaison worker in Canada, with Baptist groups there.

Redford said the Home Mission Board is co-operating in special denominational programs and emphases, namely: the 1958 emphasis on prayer, 1959 evangelistic emphasis, the 30,000 Movement, and third jubilee. These are part of the Baptist Jubilee Advance.

Other action taken by the board was the adoption of the following proposed use of funds from the Advance section of the Cooperative Program in 1958--- church loans, pioneer missions, direct missions, annuity payments, insurance, administration, and the amount allocated toward the implementation of the new organizational set-up.

The board also elected the following officers to fill vacancies: Henry Barksdale, Atlanta businessman, local vice-president, and Mrs. R. N. Landers, Atlanta, recording secretary.

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Breakdown By States Of RA Congress Figures

FORT WORTH--(BP)--Incomplete registration figures from the Second Southern Baptist Convention Royal Ambassador Congress here give this breakdown by states:

Alabama, 495; Arizona, 12; Arkansas, 90; California, 42; Colorado, 14; District of Columbia, 2; Florida, 302; Georgia, 226; Illinois, 175; Indiana, 33; Iowa, 3; Kansas, 72; Kentucky, 256; Louisiana, 363; Maryland, 53; Minnesota, 1.

Mississippi, 524; Missouri, 418; Nevada, 1; New Mexico, 105; North Carolina, 122; Ohio, 3; Oklahoma, 362; Oregon-Washington, 14; South Carolina, 356; Tennessee, 222; Texas, 3848; Virginia, 251; foreign, 13.

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CUTLINES

KEEP BLOWING---Mike Hollingsworth, left, and David Potter of Fort Worth try to outdo each other in blowing up balloons at the Second Southern Baptist Convention Royal Ambassador Congress. Balloons advertised the "Baptist Hour" and were distributed at the Radio and TV Commission exhibit---Baptist Press Photo by Theo Sommerkamp.

WHERE THEY MET---With the exception of the rodeo, sessions of the Second Southern Baptist Convention Royal Ambassador Congress were held in Fort Worth's Will Rogers Coliseum. The nearly 9000 registrants often overflowed the seating area. "Christ in Me, Hope of the World" was Congress theme.---Baptist Press Photo by Theo Sommerkamp

OLYMPIC CHAMPION---Bob Richards shows signs of exhaustion as he heads for locker room after pole-vaulting demonstration, followed by excited autograph-seekers. He grips vaulting stick in one hand, handkerchief in other to mop brow. Richards, a minister and Olympic champ, told boys at the Second Southern Baptist Convention Royal Ambassador Congress in Fort Worth: "If you haven't found Christ, you've missed the greatest experience of life."---Baptist Press Photo by Theo Sommerkamp

RIDE'EM COWBOYS---Rodeo ground at Weatherford, Tex., was scene of rodeo staged especially for boys attending the Second Southern Baptist Convention Royal Ambassador Congress. Two-thirds of 8000 boys present had never seen a live rodeo before. Needless to say, they cheered loudly at pageantry of horse-riders, calf-ropers, and bronc-busters.---Baptist Press Photo by Theo Sommerkamp.