



PROGRESS REPORT

Baptist JUBILEE ADVANCE

EVERY BAPTIST WITNESSING FOR CHRIST

SPONSORING CONVENTIONS

American Baptist Convention
Baptist Federation of Canada
Baptist General Conference of America
National Baptist Convention of America
National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc.
North American Baptist General Conference
Southern Baptist Convention

January 6, 1959

Prayers and proclamations throughout North America officially opened the Baptist Jubilee Advance on the eve of the new year, 1959. Reports from the six cooperating bodies indicate that successful watchnight services were held in local churches of all the groups. The official BJA proclamation, "This We Would Proclaim," was read and prayers were offered for the success of the five-year evangelistic program.

Unique watchnight services were held in two churches of the North American Baptist General Conference. At the Forest Park (Ill.) Baptist Church, forty young people re-enacted Baptist history, showing in drama and song the religious struggles of the 16th century, the mission work of Adoniram Judson, and the origin and purposes of the Baptist Jubilee Advance. In the Evergreen Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., a panel discussion on BJA objectives and program highlighted the New Year's Eve service.

In Canada, the Toronto Daily Star's December 24 issue carried a 15-inch column advance story on the watchnight services which were held in hundreds of churches from St. John, Newfoundland, to Port Alberni on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

A united kickoff rally to launch the Baptist Jubilee Advance in the Detroit, Mich.-Windsor, Ontario area was held Jan. 2, with an estimated 3,000 persons present. Local executives from all six Baptist groups brought greetings and reaffirmed their cooperation with the Advance's program.

Two main speakers at the Detroit rally were the Rev. Dr. Jesse Jai McNeil, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Detroit, affiliated with the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., speaking on "A Serious Call to a Baptist Advance," and the Rev. Dr. Duke McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., speaking on "Baptists Advancing Together, 1959-1964." The purpose of the Baptist Jubilee Advance was outlined by the rally's presiding officer, the Rev. Dr. Woodrow Clark, pastor of the Royal Oak Baptist Church, Detroit, and chairman of the evangelism committee of the Detroit Association of American Baptist Churches. The Rev. Dr. Arthur Farrell, executive secretary of the Michigan Baptist State Convention (ABC) led in prayer. A 600-voice choir sang for the rally, which was held in Detroit's Masonic Auditorium.

January 4 marked four special BJA presentations on the mass media of radio and television. The first episode of the "This Is the Answer" Televangelism series was telecast in nearly 100 cities across the United States. (Other cities will screen the series beginning Jan. 11 or 18. These stations will start with the second or third episode and run the opening episodes at the end of the series, to keep the nation-wide programming uniform.)

Also on January 4, the CBS radio program "Church of the Air" presented the Baptist Jubilee Advance by featuring representatives of all six Baptist groups in its service. The sermon was by the Rev. Dr. Thomas B. McDormand, general secretary of the Baptist Federation of Canada and president of the BJA. On the same date, the Canadian Broadcasting Company's "Church of the Air" program, coast-to-coast in Canada, featured the Rev. G. M. Ward, Regina, Saskatchewan, chairman of the Baptist Federation of Canada's Committee on Evangelism, speaking on the BJA topic "New Life for You."

(more)

A half-hour dramatic presentation about Roger Williams, followed by a brief announcement of the opening of the Baptist Jubilee Advance, was the program on CBS television's "Lamp Unto My Feet" on January 4. According to Frederick L. Essex, director of radio and television for the American Baptist Convention, another "Lamp" program later in the year will also feature BJA.

January 1 was the publication date for The Broken Wall, by Dr. Markus Barth, son of the famous theologian Karl Barth. This book will be used as a study book on Ephesians in the American Baptist Convention's 1959 Schools of Evangelism and Simultaneous Evangelistic Effort.

The American Baptist Convention also announced plans for its 1959-60 emphasis, "Mission to the Academic Community." Two of the ten special project sites where the Mission will concentrate its activities have been named: Linfield College, the American Baptist-related university in McMinnville, Oregon, and the Baptist Student Foundation at the University of Wisconsin, in Madison, Wis.

The Negro conventions plan special revivals during 1959, and report that several "pep conferences" have already been held.

The North American General Conference has named January 11 as "Commitment Sunday." At that time special efforts will be made to enlist all church officers, teachers, and leaders in the 1959 evangelistic program, which will work especially through Simultaneous Revival meetings, to be held January 11 through March 31, 1959. The Rev. Dr. Frank H. Woyke, executive secretary of the North American Baptist General Conference, stated that churches of this group are cooperating virtually 100 per cent with the BJA program.

Plans for Bible Study groups and training classes in evangelism in churches of the three conventions which make up the Baptist Federation of Canada are underway. Texts will be chosen from those published by the American Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

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