

BAPTIST FEATURES

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Albert McClellan, *Director*

Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

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Missionary Hallock
Handles Congress Plans

By Marse Grant

RIO DE JANEIRO--(BP)--Between now and June 26, 1960, Missionary Edgar F. Hallock, Jr., is not likely to spend much time loafing.

Not that the energetic director of the publishing house division of the Brazilian Baptist Sunday School Board was ever guilty of that, but as chairman of the general committee on arrangements for the Baptist World Congress here June 26-July 3, 1960, his work is cut out for him in the next year and a half.

Heavy responsibility for the success of the Congress rests on him and the 26 sub-committees working under his direction. All committees have been meeting monthly for more than a year.

The organization is set up similar to that which a host city utilizes in entertaining a session of the Southern Baptist Convention. For example, there are committees on registration, publicity, reception and information, housing, transportation, exhibits, meals, interpreters and preachers, music, first aid, tours and excursions, communications, immigration and personal documents, exchange of money, nursery, and relations with government officials.

A five-member executive committee is composed of Hallock, two vice-presidents, and two recording secretaries (one Portuguese and one English).

Hallock, a Southern Baptist Convention missionary estimates that 15,000 people will attend the Congress, with 5,000 of them coming from outside Brazil. "We are planning on 4,000 from the United States and 1,000 from all other countries of the world," he said. This means that Brazil's attendance will be about 10,000, including a 3,000-voice choir. Organization of the choir is already underway, with the singers coming from Rio, Sao Paulo, and six other cities in Brazil.

Being host to 15,000 people is not a simple job, Hallock and his committees are finding. There's the problem of transportation from hotels to stadium, for example. It is hoped that shuttle buses can be used since public transportation is filled to capacity most of the time.

Arrangements are already being made to simplify the feeding of so many people, particularly at lunch. The government tourist office is expected to provide a catering service at the stadium. This will save delegates the time-consuming trip back to their hotels.

There will be an official currency exchange booth at the stadium, along with a post office. If plans are finalized, there will be a curio shop so visiting Baptists can do a bit of souvenir shopping during the lunch hour.

Asked if he had any suggestions to folks planning to come to Rio in 1960, Hallock observed that patience was a virtue of all good Christians. "It will especially be helpful in South America," he added. "This continent is just now being discovered by Americans. The tourist movement is growing, but still not as well developed as it is in Europe and the Holy Land, for instance.

"The conduct of Baptists as they travel through South America will have a great influence on our work. We have every reason to believe that the Congress will be the greatest boost Baptist work has ever received in this section of the world. Ask our fellow Baptists in America to join us in that prayer."

For the past 36 years, Hallock's father has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Norman, Okla., where the Brazilian missionary was reared. A graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he is now in his 17th year as a missionary to Brazil. His wife is the former Zelma Curnutt, a native of Gould, Okla., and they have four children.

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High School Juniors Succeed In College

DELAND, Fla.--(BP)--The senior year of high school isn't an absolute essential to success in college---at least not based on the records of 38 freshmen attending Stetson University here.

The 38 were part of the early admission summer program on the campus of Stetson last summer. They had just completed their junior year in high school. At the Baptist college they took an eight-week special session including English, mathematics, and developmental reading.

In the fall, they enrolled in the college as freshmen, skipping their senior year in high school. When first-semester grades at Stetson were computed early this year, the 38's grade average was found to be higher than the average for the entire freshman class.

College officials said the 38 had adjusted themselves to university life "surprisingly well." Each of the 38 students participated in one or more extra-curricular activities---campus politics, college newspaper work, sports, fraternities, music organizations, or denominational student groups.

"They have brought to these activities the same energy, enthusiasm, and finesse which had made them both popular and successful in high school," according to A. F. Tuttle, one of the directors of the early admission program.

All of them had at least a "C" grade average, and 12 made at least a "B" average. Eleven of them were honor roll students their first semester in college.

Stetson is making plans for its second summer early admissions program, which will be coming up in a few months.

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Tennessee Legislature Passes Immunity Law

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The 1959 Tennessee state legislature has passed a bill establishing a minister-communicant relationship when the minister is called into court as a witness.

The bill, certain aspects of which have been attacked by ministers themselves, has been sent to Gov. Buford Ellington. If he signs the bill, it will become law.

Rep. Robert C. Taylor of Nashville, a lawyer and Baptist deacon, said the bill establishes a relationship for the minister similar to that recognized between attorneys and clients and doctors and patients.

The minister, under provisions of the bill, could be fined or jailed for revealing information given to him in confidence. Only if the communicant permits him to reveal the confidence may he do so.

The penalty for violating the law is a fine of \$50 and up to six months in jail.

An officer of the Nashville Ministerial Association voiced this complaint about the provisions of the bill:

"No minister intends to divulge confidential information but we think we are the ones to decide what is confidential and what is not.

"Cases could arise when, as citizens of the community, we would feel obligated to testify. This bill, as I understand it, would forbid our making that decision."

Tennessee law does not presently provide a minister-communicant relationship granting the minister immunity privileges in court. -more-

The bill says that it will apply to ministers, rabbis, priests, and rectors 21 years of age and older. If there is a question about whether the witness in court is one of these, the court has discretionary power to settle the question.

The bill is the outgrowth of a court case in west Tennessee last year involving a Baptist minister. He refused to testify in court about information given to him in confidence by parties in a divorce suit.

The presiding judge fined the minister and imposed a suspended jail term. Former Gov. Frank Clement later pardoned the minister. Agitation for a law formally recognizing the minister-counnicant relationship was stirred up by the judge's action.

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Office For Atlanta
College Drive Open

ATLANTA--(BP)--A campaign office has been opened here to direct the fund drive for \$3 million for a Baptist liberal arts college.

The Atlanta Baptist school would be a coordinate college of Mercer University, four-year Baptist institution in Macon, Ga.

The fund drive will be conducted in the Atlanta metropolitan area under auspices of the Atlanta Association of Baptist Churches, which has 146 churches and 120,000 total membership.

A formal name for the new college has not been chosen.

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E. L. Howell Gets
Department Office

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--E. L. Howell, general associate in the Mississippi State Baptist Brotherhood department here for two years, has been elected secretary of the department.

Howell succeeds W. R. Roberts who resigned recently to become state field representative of the Southern Baptist Relief and Annuity Board.

The position of associate which Howell holds will be discontinued for the present and the approximately \$10,000 allocated in the department budget for that work will be transferred to the fund provided for the development of the new Henderson Point assembly property on the Gulf coast.

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Woman's Missionary
Union Adds 2 Floors

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--(BP)--Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention, plans to add two floors to its office building here.

Construction is to begin this spring to care for expanding promotional and business needs. The building enlargement will cost about \$417,000. After the construction is finished, there will be five floors.

Woman's Missionary Union has had its offices in Birmingham since 1921, when they were moved from Baltimore. The WMU moved to its present site in 1951, purchasing a building from an insurance company for \$500,000.

The WMU engages in missionary support and education among women and girls in the Southern Baptist Convention. It employs 85 persons at its office.

Total circulation of its four periodicals published here is over 628,000.

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