BAPTIST PRESS

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
127 NINTH AVE., N., NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE AL 4-1631

Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

February 20, 1959

Marse Grant Elected
Public Relations Head

NASHVILLE--(BP)--J. Marse Grant, editor of Charity and Children, Baptist weekly newspaper published at Thomasville, N. C., has been elected here to head the Baptist Public Relations Association for 1959-60.

Grant succeeds Albert McClellan of Nashville, program planning secretary for the Executive Committee, Southern Baptist Convention.

Roald Sorensen, director of public relations at Campbell College, Buies Cr ek, N. C., was re-elected membership vice-president of the association. The public relations group also re-elected its secretary, Harry R. Koontz of Berkeley, Calif., who is director of publicity at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Other officers are both newly-elected. George Bagley, assistant to the executive secretary, Alabama Baptist State Convention, Montgomery, is program vice-president, and Badgett Dillard, director of administrative services at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will edit the association's Newsletter.

The association voted to hold its 1960 meeting at Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 1-2.

Grant, a former daily newspaperman, is chairman of the public relations committee for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Charity and Children, while published by the North Carolina Baptist Children's Home, carries news of general denominational interest, both state and national.

The Baptist Public Relations Association is composed of persons employed in writing, editing, photography, television, promotion, films, and other phases of public relations for colleges, boards, and other Baptist-related agencies.

It has an annual winter workshop at which the members of the association discuss common problems and receive pointers from experts on various public relations activities.

-30-

Louisiana College
Gets In The Swim

PINEVILLE, La.--(BP)--Contract for the construction of a new $25,000 indoor swimming pool at Louisiana College has been let, according to announcement from G. Earl Guinn, president of the Baptist school.

"The new pool meets a definite need on our campus. It will be regulation AAU size and will enable our students to compete in intercollegiate swimming meets," Guinn explained.

-30-

Shorter College Gets
Administrative Aide

ROME, Ga.--(BP)--President Randall H. Minor of Shorter College here ... reports that Arthur Jackson is joining the college staff as administrative assistant.

Jackson, former executive secretary of the Baptist Foundation, an agency of Georgia Baptist Convention, Atlanta, will move to the Shorter campus and assume his duties the middle of February. In this new capacity he will work with President Minor in projecting immediate and long-range plans for the college's development.

-30-

Eddleman Installation
At Seminary Planned

NEW ORLEANS, La.--(BP)--H. Leo Eddleman, former president of Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., will be formally inaugurated Feb. 26 as the fifth president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The ceremonies will be held on the seminary campus and at the First Baptist Church, New Orleans.

Eddleman was elected president of the Seminary on Nov. 25 and assumed his responsibilities Feb. 1.

The largest group of Protestant religious educators ever to assemble in New Orleans is expected for the event.

Following the procession and greetings from civic, religious, educational and alumni representatives, Eddleman will be officially installed by T. O. Winn, president of the Seminary Board of Trustees.

The inaugural address will follow.

Three former presidents of the seminary will participate in the inaugural ceremonies.

Dr. W. W. Hamilton, New Orleans, who served from 1928-1942, will offer the dedicatory prayer; Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, president from 1943-46, will give the invocation, and Dr. Roland Q. Leavell, president emeritus, Jackson, Miss., who was its head from 1946-58, will pronounce the benediction.

-30-

Louisiana Meets 2
Baptist College Foes

PINEVILLE, La.--(BP)--The Louisiana College Felines will meet two other Southern Baptist colleges in their 1959 football schedule.

They will play Mississippi College of Clinton, Miss., here on Sept. 19. They will tangle with the University of Corpus Christi at Corpus Christi, Tex., on Oct. 10.

-30-

EDITORS: This must not be released before Feb. 26, 1959

Membership Of Churches
Surpasses 9 Million

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Nine million members of churches, seven million in Sunday schools, $400 million given, 400,000 converts baptized . . .

These are the significant figures to Southern Baptists for 1958, showing growth of the Southern Baptist Convention on the eve of the Baptist Jubilee Advance.

Total membership of churches co-operating with the Convention surpassed nine million for the first time, reaching a total of 9,206,758. This was a 2.7 per cent gain.

Enrolment in Sunday schools, the Bible-teaching agency of the churches, topped seven million for the first time. The total there is 7,096,175, up 1.8 per cent over 1957.

Gifts to churches for all objectives--local, national, and world-wide---went over the $400 million mark, something that hasn't happened before. Total 1958 gifts amounted to $419,619,438.

Baptisms, an indication of the evangelistic fervor of the denomination since they tell how many persons accepted Christ as Saviour during the year, topped 400,000 again during 1958. The year's total was 407,892, up 4.7 per cent.

These statistics were reported by J. P. Edmunds, secretary of research and statistics for the Convention's Sunday School Board in Nashville. Part of the responsibility of Edmunds' department is to compile the annual records for Southern Baptists.

Per centage gains of from six-tenths of 1 per cent to 13.9 per cent were reported in various phases of denominational life. In the major areas, no losses were reported.

The number of churches increased six-tenths of 1 per cent, from 31,297 in 1957 to 31,498 in 1958.

Enrolment in Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador organizations in churches---these are groups for men and boys respectively---showed the largest per centage gain, 13.9. Enrolment climbed from 511,521 in 1957 to 582,497 last year.

A close second in per centage gain was that of choir enrolment--12.6. An increase of 69,673 was reported, bringing total choir enrolment in 1958 to 622,694.

Gifts to missions and benevolences showed a greater per centage gain for the year than did total gifts. While total gifts were increasing 5.6 per cent from $397,550,347 to $419,619,438, the portion of them going to missions and benevolence was rising 6.8 per cent.

Total missions-benevolence giving stood at $74,750,699 last year compared with $70,015,299 the previous year. Missions-benevolence giving includes support to home and foreign missions, and to hospitals, children's homes, and homes for the aged operated by Southern Baptist groups.

The total value of property of the 31,498 churches went up a whopping 9.8 per cent, a gain from 1957 to 1958 of $162,961,428. The 1958 total evaluation was $1,825,474,318.

Other gains pointed out in Edmunds' report are: Vacation Bible schools, enrolment up 4.7 per cent from 1957 to 2,908,157; enrolment in Baptist Training Unions, up 3.7 per cent over the year to 2,503,920; enrolment in organizations of the Woman's Missionary Union, up 5.4 per cent to 1,395,974.

Baptisms were 18,176 more in 1958 than in 1957 when they were slightly under the 400,000 mark. This is not the first year, however, that these have been over 400,000.

-more-

Increases were considered significant because of the entry of Southern Baptists---with five other Baptists in North America---into the five-year program of growth beginning Jan. 1, 1959, known as the Baptist Jubilee Advance.

The 31,498 churches are located in 42 states, plus the District of Columbia and Hawaii. The report shows that open country churches still comprise almost half the total number of churches---15,472. Another 4546 churches are located in villages and 3733 churches in towns. Only 7747 are classified as city churches.

The Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845 with 351,951 members of 4126 co-operating churches. By 1873 its membership had reached the one million mark, and by 1940, the five million mark. In the 18 years since 1940, membership has increased more than four million.

Statistics reported here are based on reports from churches themselves to their district associations of churches. Associational clerks in turn file reports of their associations each year at Edmunds' request.

-30-

EDITORS: This must not be released before Feb. 26, 1959.

A brief summary of 1958 statistics follows:

SUMMARY OF 1958 STATISTICS

	1958	1957	Increase	Per cent Increase
Churches	31,498	31,297	201	.6
Baptisms	407,892	389,716	18,176	4.7
Membership	9,206,758	8,966,255	240,503	2.7
Sunday school enrolment	7,096,175	6,972,350	123,825	1.8
Vacation Bible school enrolment	2,908,157	2,777,104	131,053	4.7
Training Union enrolment	2,503,920	2,414,584	89,336	3.7
Choir enrolment	622,694	553,021	69,673	12.6
W.M.U. enrolment	1,395,974	1,324,295	71,679	5.4
Total Brotherhood enrolment	582,497	511,521	70,976	13.9
Total gifts	$419,619,438	$397,550,347	$22,069,091	5.6
Missions and benevolences	$ 74,750,699	$ 70,015,299	$ 4,735,400	6.8
Total value of church property	$1,825,474,318	$1,662,512,890	$162,961,428	9.8

Research and Statistics Department

Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

DO NOT RELEASE FIGURES PRIOR TO FEB. 26,1959.

BAPTIST PRESS

A BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE
Concise, thorough, accurate, and current news reports about Baptists or of special concern to the Baptist people.

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
W. BARRY GARRETT, REGIONAL EDITOR
1628—16th St., N. W., Washington, 9, D. C.
Telephone: ADams 2-1760

February 20, 1959

Peace Committee Ask
United Baptist Witness

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- Two Baptist committees have joined to ask for a united Baptist witness on world peace. The American Baptist and Southern Baptist committees met in joint session here and initiated plans for a united and identical resolution on peace by the Baptist conventions in the United States and Canada.

Walter Pope Binns is chairman of the Southern Baptist committee and Culbert G. Rutenber is chairman of the American Baptist committee. The committees were appointed by the two conventions at their 1958 meetings at the suggestion of Clarence W. Cranford, ABC president, and Brooks Hays, SBC president.

A special committee of four members was appointed to ask for two representatives from each of the other North American national Baptist bodies for the purpose of drafting a joint resolution on world peace to be presented to the annual conventions in 1959. This would be the first time that all the major Baptist groups in North America said the same thing at the same time on the same subject.

The feeling of the committees was that such a statement would be exceedingly valuable in presenting the Baptist position to the United Nations, to governments, and to other Baptist groups around the world.

The two committees also agreed to request the Council on Christian Social Progress of the American Baptist Convention and the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention to confer on world peace problems, and, if possible, to have joint conferences on the subject. The American Baptist agency already has a well-developed program on world peace and maintains a representative at the United Nations.

The Southern Baptist committee on peace will recommend to the SBC in Louisville that the Christian Life Commission be given a special directive to follow through with a program on world peace, working with other Christian groups on the problem, and looking forward to the possibility of establishing a Southern Baptist observer at the United Nations.

-30-

*News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Albert McClellan, director; Theo Sommerkamp, assistant director; 127 Ninth Ave. No., Nashville 3, Tenn.

Public Affairs Committee
Invites Canadian Baptists

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- Another step toward North American Baptist solidarity has been taken by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here. The Baptist Federation of Canada has been invited to participate in the work of the Committee, according to announcement by C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director.

The Baptist Public Affairs Committee has been a cooperative effort by six national Baptist conventions in the United States. They maintain an office in the Nation's capital to serve as an information and interpretation agency both to the Government and to the Baptists, especially in the area of church-state relations.

The six cooperating conventions at present are the American Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., the National Baptist Convention of America, the Baptist General Conference of America, and the North American Baptist General Conference.

According to T. B. McDormand, the general secretary of the Baptist Federation of Canada, the Federation has appointed a Public Affairs Committee of its own in order to deal with the increasing religious liberty problems in Canada.

In extending the welcome to Canadian Baptists, Carlson says that "religious liberty is a matter of principle and concern to all Baptists everywhere, and if the Baptists of North America can present a united front on this subject our Christian testimony will be felt more impressively in all areas of life."

Commenting on the expansion of the BJCPA Carlson announced that steps have already been taken toward the formation of a similar organization of European Baptists to help deal with religious liberty problems in Europe. The religious liberty commission of the Baptist World Alliance is at work on these plans, Carlson said.

-30-

Baptist Pastor Leads
Prayer in U. S. Senate

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- E. Herman Westmoreland, pastor of the South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., offered the opening prayer in the United States Senate recently. Following the prayer Westmoreland was introduced by Sen. Lyndon Johnson (D., Tex.) and commended highly as an outstanding Baptist leader, having served as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives open their daily sessions with prayer, sometimes by the official chaplain and at other times by visiting clergymen.

-30-

Vatican Ambassador
Issue Raised Again

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- Two Roman Catholic members of Congress have taken opposite sides of the question of sending an ambassador from the United States to the Vatican.

Rep. Victor L. Anfuso (D., N. Y.) introduced a concurrent resolution asking for "immediate establishment of diplomatic relations with the Vatican through appointment of a United States envoy." He stated that there was no violation of separation of church and state in such a proposal, and that the United States would gain much information that would be helpful in fighting Communism.

-more-

Sen. John F. Kennedy (D., Mass.) on the other hand says, "I am flatly opposed to appointment of an Ambassador to the Vatican. Whatever advantages it might have in Rome -- and I'm not convinced of these -- they would be more than offset by the divisive effect at home."

In its recent meeting the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs authorized the executive director, C. Emanuel Carlson, to communicate with Mr. Anfuso, Mr. Kennedy, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee concerning the position of the Baptist group on the subject.

Previously, when the issue was before the Nation, the Baptist Committee asserted "its unshaken conviction that any diplomatic relationship between the United States Government and the Vatican....is a violation of the historic American principle of the separation of church and state."

The Baptist committee also pointed out that such an Ambassador to a religious body would be "out of harmony with the spirit of the First Amendment which forbids any legislation respecting an establishment of religion." At the same time it deplored "the injection of this controversial issue into the American scene" at a time when national unity was of paramount importance.

-30-

Church-State Problems
Confront 86th Congress

WASHINGTON --(BP) -- Many knotty church-state problems are facing Congress by legislation proposed the first month of the first session, according to W. Barry Garrett, associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

In a church-state legislative survey of the 86th Congress Garrett reported to the Baptist Committee that numerous proposals had been made in Congress that would tap the resources of the Federal treasury for public funds to be used to aid church institutions.

Commenting on his findings Garrett said, "although all of the legislators would declare their devotion to the principle of separation of church and state, they are not all clear on the meaning of that expression and most of them would deny that their proposals violate this cherished American ideal."

He then observed, "Perhaps the questions to be decided are: How much of the church is in the institutions of the churches? And how much coercion in religious participation is involved in governmental aid to the institutions of the churches?"

Garrett's survey revealed proposed legislation that would aid private and parochial education by allowing income tax benefits to the taxpayers, providing Federal funds for classroom construction and to supplement teachers' salaries, guaranteeing loans for college and university construction, providing bus transportation for school children, and helping in the construction and instruction programs of both new and old college related schools of nursing.

Other areas of church-state legislation include the proposed Christian Amendment to the Constitution to make the law of Jesus Christ the law of the land, social security exemption for the Amish on grounds of conscience or religious belief, the provision of a military chaplain at West Point instead of the arbitrary appointment of a Protestant Episcopal minister, protection of spiritual communications made to clergymen, and special legislation on prayer calling for vocal prayer at the United Nations and for a National Prayer for Peace Day.

-30-

Commends UN Report
On Religious Liberty

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- High commendation was voiced by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here for the report on religious liberty recently made to the United Nations Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Arcot Krishnaswami of India was the special rapporteur who formulated the 12 rules that were debated in the U. N. Subcommission.

Mr. Krishnaswami made a special study and collected information from 62 governments and 31 non-governmental organizations. In January hearings were conducted in preparation for the filing of a special report a year from now.

As a result of his investigation Krishnaswami believes that there is an increasing measure of religious toleration in most countries and that a trend is in progress toward equality of treatment of individuals without regard to their religious affiliation.

The 12 rules formulated by Krishnaswami for the prevention of religious discrimination are:

1. Duties of Public Authorities: Constitutional, legislative, and administrative measures should be adopted prohibiting public authorities from discriminating against groups or individuals in the matter of religious rights.

2. Freedom to Maintain and to Change Religion or Belief: The right to maintain religion or belief does not admit of any limitation. No one should be forced to change his religion or belief and parents have the prior right to decide upon the religion or belief in which children should be brought up.

3. Limitations to Freedom of Religion or Belief: Limitations on practice of religion or belief are permissable only to prevent disorder and crime and to protect public safety.

4. Freedom of Worship: Equal freedom of worship should be ensured and protected for all religious beliefs.

5. Marriage and its Dissolution: "Everyone should have the right to enter into a valid marriage celebrated in a form which is not contrary to his religion or belief." In a state which permits divorce, dissolution of marriage should not be denied to anyone whose convictions permit divorce, solely on the ground that he professes a particular religion or belief.

6. Disposal of the Dead: Account should be taken, in regulating the disposal of the dead, of the demands of the religion of the deceased in such matters as funeral processions, burial, cremation, performance of rites, and the display of religious symbols.

7. Dietary Practices: "No one should be prevented from observing the dietary practices prescribed by his religion or belief."

8. Pilgrimages: Assurances should be given that pilgrims will be permitted to journey to sacred places, inside or outside their own country.

9. Training of Religious Leaders: No religious group should be prevented from training its religious leaders and when such training is available outside the country, no permanent limitations should be placed upon travel abroad to receive such training.

10. Dissemination of Religion or Belief: "Freedom to disseminate a religion or belief should be recognized in so far it does not impair the absolute right of everyone to maintain his religion or belief."

-more-

11. Objection on Conscientious Grounds: States recognizing exemption of military service on conscientious grounds should make no adverse distinction between claimants on the ground of religion or belief professed. The same principle should extend to attendance at official ceremonies and when the taking of an oath violates a religion or belief, a solemn affirmation should be permitted instead.

12. Financial Support of a Religion or Belief: No one should be compelled to contribute to the support of a religious institution not in conformity with his convictions. Public authorities should not differentiate between religions or beliefs in matters of taxation or subsidy.

-30-

Religious Liberty
Is World Problem

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- Religious liberty problems continue to loom large on the world horizon according to C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. He pointed out three specific areas to the recent meeting of the Committee here.

The denial of religious liberty in Spain, suggestions for an American ambassador to the Vatican, and the distribution of United States foreign aid through church channels are three pressing issues at the moment, Carlson said.

In Spain eight Baptist churches have been closed by the Government and two others have had restrictions imposed on their building programs. Eight other Protestant churches have been closed in Spain, and four more have received verbal orders to close.

Concerning the proposed U. S. representation at the Vatican Carlson said, "Without having explored opinions on the Hill, I venture a personal reaction to the effect that the passing of the Anfuso resolution is not a political probability." However, in view of the possibility of a ground swell of public support for the move, the Baptist Committee gave the executive director authority to act in harmony with previously adopted resolutions opposing such ambassadorial representation.

"The distribution of United States surplus food through church agencies is continuing to raise questions and to point toward complications," Carlson reported. Although there has been no overall survey to determine to what extent church agencies are using these surplus commodities for their own advantage in the furtherance of their own aims, Carlson quoted one newspaper man, who said:

"These needy persons turn out to be, not the refugees whom such Protestant agencies such as Church World Service have been helping, but those who are in distress in countries where poverty has been generated by a combination of reactionary economic system supported by the Catholic Church and a high birth rate demanded by the Church's teaching against birth control.

"It will come as a shock to Americans to learn that the 'neediest country' in the world, as measured by U. S. donations abroad, is not war-torn Korea, but Italy.

"More than one-fifth of all the U. S. food given to religious and charitable organizations went to Italy, a total of $28,423,000 in the fiscal year 1958. And 99 per cent of it was sent there by the NCWC (National Catholic Welfare Conference) to be distributed through Catholic welfare groups in that country to strengthen the Church there."

-30-

DC Pastor Invents
Communion Glass Filler

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- A dispenser that can fill as many as 60 communion glasses at one time has been patented by the pastor of a Baptist church here.

James O. Duncan, pastor of the Hillandale Baptist Church in the suburbs of the District of Columbia and former editor of the Capital Baptist, believes that his invention will be of great help to churches with large congregations. At present the task of filling each glass by hand may keep several persons busy for long periods of time. His gadget would enable one person to fill large numbers of glasses rapidly.

-30-

Baptists Are Organizing
For Religious Liberty

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- Thirty-two Baptist state conventions, city societies and national groups have reported that they have elected committees to do special work in the area of religious liberty. This information was revealed in a survey of Baptist executive secretaries, conducted by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The report also reveals that others have plans for similar organization, and it is known that others not reported are already in existence. Some of the groups have Public Affairs Committees, while others have assigned religious liberty responsibilities to subcommittees of existing social action agencies.

The Baptist executives revealed their awareness of a long list of religious liberty problems throughout the Nation. These have been summarized by C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the BJCPA, in a series of five questions.

1. At what point does "welfare aid" to the person become sectarian aid to religious institutions? Examples of these aids are free lunches in schools, bus transportation, distribution of surplus foods, free textbooks and public health services through sectarian hospitals.

2. How much religious influence does it take to have domination or discrimination in local government? The Baptist executives pointed out these areas of problems: public health policies, recognition in public ceremonies, and representation of religions among elected leaders.

3. What uses can religious groups properly make of public property and on what terms? The executives reported such problems in the area of teaching Bible in public schools, religious services in public buildings, benefits from government redevelopment projects, leasing hospitals or other public welfare agencies.

4. Can law be used for obtaining religious participation? Illustrations of these problems are found in use of compulsory school attendance laws for religious instruction, distribution of Bibles to school pupils, the right to build churches in given areas, monopoly or preferred opportunity to churches on profit from gambling, and enforcement of religious holidays and observances by law.

5. Where do tax policies become inequitable or unwise as church benefits? Illustrations here are the various forms of tax exemptions for churches and church related institutuons, income tax relief for clergymen, and income tax relief for parents paying private school tuition.

-30-

BJA Plans Year Of
World Evangelism

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- A year of world evangelism in 1964 is being planned by the Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee, according to Thos. B. McDormand, general chairman. The BJA is a five-year program of evangelism to be climaxes in 1964 with the 150th anniversary of organized Baptist work in the U.S.A.

This decision was reached after hearing a report on the progress of the evangelism committee for 1959. Response for the current year of evangelism has been so enthusiastic that another such year on a world scale has been approved.

At the meeting reports were heard from the evangelism departments of the conventions cooperating in the BJA. Leonard Sanderson reported for the Southern Baptists that at least 10,000 SBC churches participated in the New Year's Eve watch night service at the close of 1958 to kick off the 1959 program.

Sanderson also reported that 27,900 SBC churches will participate in simultaneous revivals during the late winter and early spring of this year. In the February simultaneous census 750,000 census takers found 15 million persons who are the responsibility of Southern Baptists. On soul-winning committment day in January 1,500,000 persons pledged themselves to such efforts.

Jitsuo Morikawa reported for the American Baptist Convention that the inter-Baptist factor aspects of the BJA is proving to be one of the most profitable aspects of the program. He stated that American Baptists have had 45 meetings with ministers' groups in which they studied the Biblical and theological aspects of evangelism. This will be followed by six schools of evangelism of one week each for the lay members of the churches. Then simultaneous revivals will be conducted.

Castello Trotter stated that more than 500 preachers for the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., have met in Chicago to plan for simultaneous evangelism in that area.

For the North American Baptist General Conference Daniel Fuchs stated that a majority of their 300 churches participated in the launching of the year of evangelism last December and that more than 60 per cent will join in the simultaneous revivals.

In Canada, Thos. B. McDormand reported, that they had been successful in getting the Televangelism series on the CBS network, and that 30 per cent of their churches participated in the watch night service.

-30-

BJA Movement Opened
To All Baptist Groups

WASHINGTON -- (BP)-- All Baptists in the United States and Canada have been invited to participate in the Baptist Jubilee Advance, according to Thos. B. McDormand, executive secretary of the Baptist Federation of Canada and chairman of the BJA committee.

At present there are six Baptist groups cooperating with the BJA, but the committee has extended an invitation to all of the 20 organized Baptist bodies in the U. S. and Canada to participate.

The BJA committee that met in Washington recently announced that it is asking the churches again to observe New Year's Eve with a watch night service to launch the 1960 year of Evangelism through Teaching and Training.

In view of the evangelism emphasis through the five year period of the BJA the committee asked that the special committee on evangelism be continued through to the climax of the world evangelism year in 1964.

-more-

At the Washington meeting it was reported by C. E. Bryant of the Baptist World Alliance that he observed a great spirit of evangelism sweeping Brazil. He recently made a trip to South America to make plans for the Baptist World Congress that meets in Rio in 1960. He said that there are 165,000 Baptists in Brazil now, but by the time of the Congress there will be at least 175,000.

The BJA committee also heard a report that Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Armstrong, writers for the Reader's Digest, are preparing a new book on the Baptists of the world with the hope of publishing it in 1960.

-30-

Believes BJA Is God's
Answer To Help Baptists

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- The Baptist Jubilee Advance is one of God's answers to help Baptists do their part in rescuing a dying civilization, according to C. C. Warren, permanent vice-chairman of the BJA committee.

Warren told the BJA committee that met here recently that his observations led him to believe current civilization is in a dying stage unless God's people come to the rescue. "I venture to assert that God is challenging Baptists to spearhead the rescuing of what appears to me to be a dying civilization," he said.

The Baptist Jubilee Advance is a five-year program of evangelism culminating in 1964 with the third Jubilee of the organized work of the Baptist denomination in America.

Pointing out the threat of Communism, the moral decay of society and the advances in the power of destruction, Warren said that, unless Christ is recognized at the council table of the nations and unless the principles of the old Book called the Bible are taken into account, men cannot solve their problems alone.

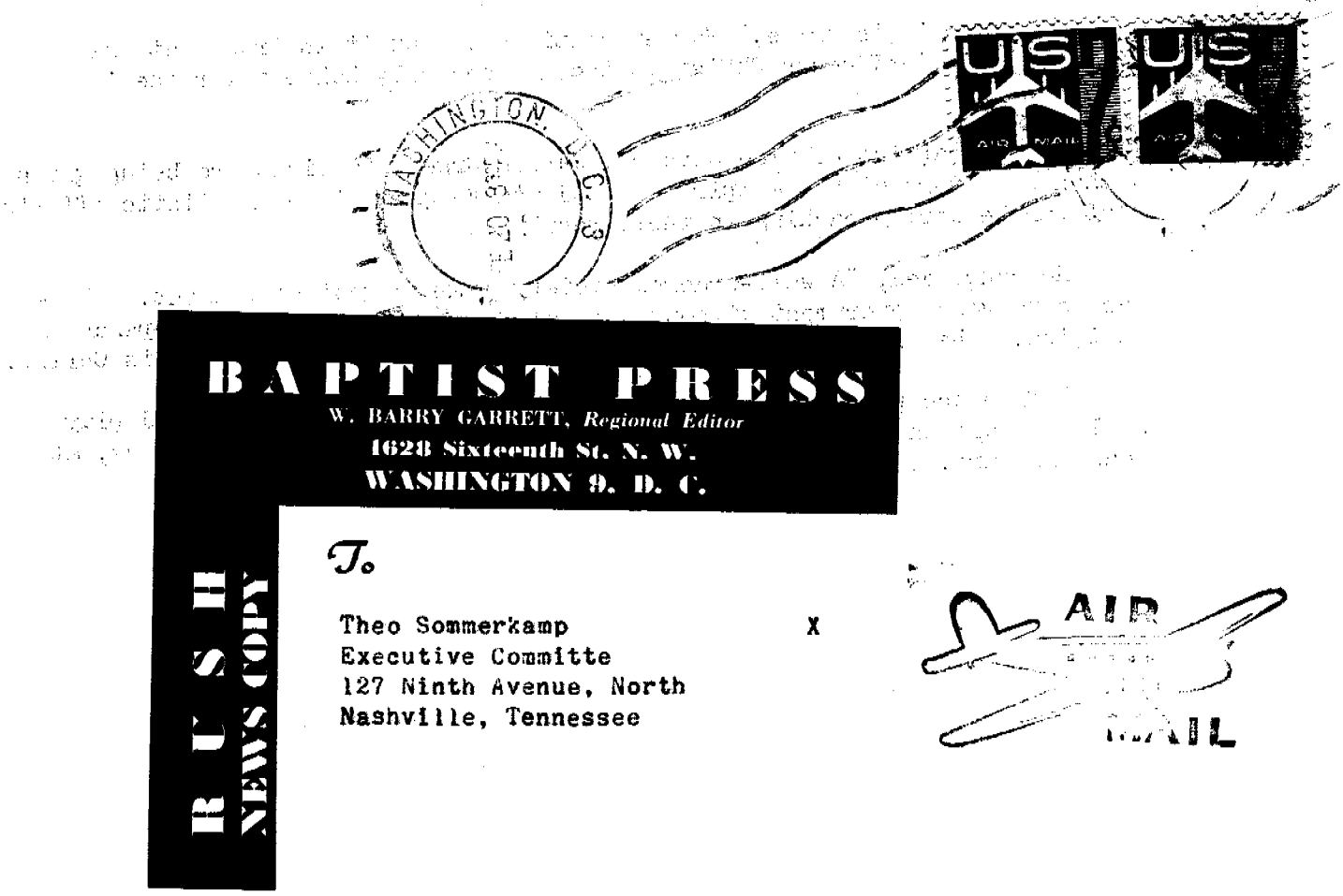
"Perhaps it is trite," Warren continued, "but it is true that the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is the one and only solvent for the ills of mankind."

In the Baptist Jubilee Advance, Warren urged, Baptists are being given a chance to work with the Spirit of God and to unite in evangelistic efforts that can be world-reaching in their results.

He concluded, "A well-ordered society demands good government. There can be no good government without a moral foundation. Morality depends on religion. The only religion that can answer the needs of our day is Christ.

"If we accept the challenge of our Baptist Jubilee Advance and play well our part in God's redemptive plan, it may be that he will use us, at least in part, to rechart the course of history."

-30-


WASHINGTON, D.C.
US
US
AIR MAIL
BAPTIST PRESS
W. BARRY GARRETT, Regional Editor
1628 Sixteenth St. N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.
RUSH
NEWS COPY
To
Theo Sommerkamp
Executive Committe
127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville, Tennessee
X
AIR
MAIL