



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

February 24, 1959

B J A. ACTS TO EXTEND PROGRAM

The Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee has invited all Baptist conventions and conferences in the United States and Canada to come into the Advance program. This action was taken when the committee met in Washington, D. C., February 19 and 20.

The Conventions now in the Baptist Jubilee Advance are: American Baptist Convention, Baptist Federation of Canada, National Baptist Convention of America, National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., North American Baptist General Conference, and Southern Baptist Convention.

The B.J.A. committee also voted to request the six conventions to add a year to the five-year series of emphases, making 1964 a year of evangelism. A request was addressed to the Baptist World Alliance to invite Baptist bodies all over the world to cooperation in an effort to make evangelism a major thrust of Baptists in over 100 countries in 1964.

These actions require the consent of the various conventions and conferences before they become a part of the B.J.A.

The climax of the Baptist Jubilee Advance will be in 1964, the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Triennial Convention, the first national organization of Baptists in America. This Convention, or Society, supported the first missionaries from America, Mr. and Mrs. Adoniram Judson. Growing out of this beginning was the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and the present day mission work of Baptists of America.

B.J.A. Makes Good Start.

Reports were made in Washington showing that the B.J.A., launched in December 31, 1958, in many thousands of New Year's Eve prayer meetings, is off to a good beginning. Rev. Dr. Leonard Sanderson, Dallas, Texas, chairman of the committee that planned the 1959 emphasis on evangelism, said that 27,900 Southern Baptist churches are to have simultaneous revivals in 1959.

The Rev. Dr. Jitsuo Morikawa, Director of Evangelism for the American Baptist Convention, said that the stimulation of Baptists working together, is "one of the most encouraging aspects of the B.J.A." He reported that 45 area meetings with American Baptist pastors had faced Biblical and theological questions in preparation for evangelism. He called attention to schools of evangelism in American Baptist churches where the "laity will wrestle with the faith" by studying Ephesians as interpreted by Prof. Markus Barth in a new book, "The Broken Wall." He said that "The methods, techniques, and program of evangelism should be determined by study of the word of God."

Dr. Costelloe Trotter, Secretary of Evangelism for the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., said that 500 National Baptist pastors "are now meeting in Chicago to plan simultaneous revivals."

Rev. Daniel Fuchs, evangelism leader for 300 churches of the North American Baptist General Conference, said that more than half of the churches have planned revival meetings, and other churches were preparing for evangelism by other means.

In Canada, B.J.A. has had "Wholehearted Acceptance," the Rev. Dr. Thomas B. McDormand, of Toronto, told the committee. Dr. McDormand is General Secretary of the Baptist Federation of Canada and is chairman of the Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee. He announced that the Canadian Broadcasting Company television network is carrying the Televangelism program.

Rev. C. E. Bryant, editor of Baptist World, who recently visited South America, reported that a "great spirit of evangelism is sweeping Brazil."

"Televangelism", a 13-week television series filmed for use in evangelism, is on 101 stations in the United States, Miss Lois J. Anderson reported. Miss Anderson is on the staff of the Department of Radio and Television of the American Baptist Convention, in New York. She said that about 1000 letters are received each week in Fort Worth and New York in response to the Televangelism series.

1960 Bible Teaching and Training

Bible teaching and training of church members will be the B.J.A. emphasis for 1960. The Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Cober, Philadelphia, Pa., presented a series of eight objectives of the B.J.A. for 1960. They are stated as follows:

BAPTIST JUBILEE ADVANCE
Bible Teaching and Training

PREAMBLE: In obedience to the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to "teach all nations," we commit ourselves during the second year of The Baptist Jubilee Advance to the achievement of the following objectives:

1. To search the Scriptures anew through Bible reading and study in home and church.
2. To intensify our evangelistic efforts within the teaching and training program.
3. To make a soul-searching study of the nature of the Church and its educational imperative.
4. To provide an intensive program of training in church membership and leadership.
5. To alert each church to the demand of the Gospel for the continuous spiritual growth of all its members, especially the new converts.
6. To strengthen the educational work of the church, including evaluation and coordination of all its organizations and activities.
7. To make clear the nature and abiding relevance and authority of historic Baptist principles.
8. To encourage our colleges and seminaries to train our present and potential church leaders for more effective participation in the teaching ministry of the church.

The 1960 emphasis will be introduced to the churches in Watchnight services on December 31, 1959. Two of the groups, the North American Baptist General Conference and the Southern Baptist Convention, will begin the Bible teaching and training program in 1960, while the others will not start it until after their annual conventions later in the year.

In another action, the B.J.A. committee approved plans for simultaneous evangelistic programs each year of the 5-year Baptist Jubilee Advance.