

September 6, 1957

Hamilton, Ontario---The 10th Baptist World Congress dates have been set. The Congress will meet in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 26 through July 3, 1960. The dates were agreed upon at the meeting of the executive committee of the Baptist World Alliance here. The Congress will bring together representatives of 22 million Baptists in 101 nations. Congress will be held in the 20,000-seat gymnasium in Rio.

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Dallas, Texas---Southern Baptists will try to lead 475,000 persons to accept Christ during 1958. The year will be opened with the signing of pledge cards on January 5 in Southern Baptist churches. Those signing cards will commit themselves to renewed effort to win non-Christians to the Lord. The evangelism plans were announced by Leonard Sanderson, secretary of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, with offices here.

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Hamilton, Ontario---Theodore F. Adams, Baptist World Alliance president who suffered a heart attack in the spring, began to resume duties recently. He spoke during the meeting of the executive committee of the Baptist World Alliance here.

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Seoul, Korea---A check for \$2 was mailed from Korea to the treasurer's office of the Southern Baptist Convention in the United States last month. The Korean children who sent it attended a Vacation Bible school conducted by Southern Baptist missionaries. The children said they wanted their missionary offering to help spread the Gospel around the world.

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Nashville, Tennessee---Dr. Austin Crouch, 87-year-old executive secretary emeritus of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, was killed Aug. 28 when struck by an automobile near his home in Nashville. Dr. Crouch retired in 1946 but had continued to be active in Baptist work and enjoyed good health. He was among the leaders in establishing much of the business and financial procedure followed by the Convention today, including the Cooperative Program to support both local and worldwide missionary, benevolent, and educational work.

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Two state Baptist executive secretaries and the dean of state Baptist editors in the Southern Baptist Convention announced they will retire. The secretaries are Ben L. Bridges of Arkansas and C. C. Thomas of Maryland. Thomas also edited the monthly Maryland Baptist. Finley W. Tinnin, editor of the Baptist Message, published weekly in Louisiana, is the retiring editor.

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Glorieta, New Mexico---Millions of copies of obscene magazines are being sold each month in America, chiefly to teen-agers and college youth, a study conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here learned. The conference was directed by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. The conference called on Southern Baptists' 30,800 churches to join a fight to drive obscene publications from the newsstands. One speaker described them as a "horde of locusts" which "openly sneer at Christian morality."

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Ridgecrest, North Carolina---"If work doesn't serve a useful purpose to all concerned the Christian can not engage in it," a Baptist layman told a conference on labor-management problems at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly. The statement was made by Paul Sanders, who is on the faculty of the law school of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Sanders is vice-chairman of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.



THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

September 8, 1957

Gifts from all states during August totalled \$1,412,078. Of this \$1,212,347 was through the Cooperative Program and \$199,730 was in designated offerings.

None of these figures, of course, includes money kept by local churches and state Baptist conventions for their own activities.

Gifts in August, 1957, in both Cooperative Program and designated categories ran higher than for the corresponding month the year before. Total August, 1956, offerings were \$1,189,559.

To date this year, the Southern Baptist Convention treasurer's office reports total receipts of \$17,526,564 which is 9.23 per cent greater than that received through August, 1956.

Total Cooperative Program gifts for the eight months are \$9,465,278 (up 7.25 per cent) and total designated gifts are \$8,061,286 (up 11.65 per cent).

A \$630,000 disbursement to the Foreign Mission Board was the greatest amount paid out to a Convention agency in August. It brought the total Foreign Mission Board disbursement this year to \$10,063,415.

Next greatest disbursement for the month was \$210,000 to the Home Mission Board. Its total for the year increased to \$3,153,747.

Dates Named For 10th
Baptist World Congress

HAMILTON, Ont.--(BP)--The 10th Baptist World Congress, calling together the leadership of 22 million Baptists in 101 nations, will meet at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 26-July 3, 1960.

Arnold T. Ohrn of Washington, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, announced the date following a meeting of the BWA executive committee here. The last Congress met in London in 1955.

Rio hotels have assured accommodations for at least 4,000 delegates from outside Latin America, Ohrn said. The Congress sessions will be held in the 20,000-seat gymnasium, adjacent to Rio's famed 150,000-seat municipal stadium.

The executive committee, by vote at Hamilton, designated Brownell Tours of Birmingham, Ala., as travel coordinators for the excursions to Rio. Robert S. Denny, associate secretary of BWA, said that a central coordinating agency is considered necessary in moving such masses of people to and from Rio at the beginning and close of the Congress. It was explained that tours will be arranged down both South American coasts to visit mission centers.

The executive committee also gave attention to plans for a Baptist World Youth Conference in Toronto June 27-July 2, 1958. A crowd of 6,000 young people from 50 nations is expected.

BAPTIST FEATURES

Released by BAPTIST PRESS
127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn.

September 8, 1957

AUSTIN CROUCH

The last time I saw Austin Crouch was at lunch on August 15. He was as cheerful as ever, and yet was visibly concerned with certain trends in present day preaching. He was to go to Texas on a matter of business, and I jokingly told him that he was traveling as much as he did when he was Executive Secretary of the Executive Committee. "Well," he replied, "I have a certain thing to do, and time is running out for me." He went to Texas, returned home on Tuesday, and was killed on Wednesday - time was indeed running out for him.

The news reached me at my vacation spot on the afternoon of the funeral, at the very hour of the funeral, in fact. I had known Dr. Crouch intimately since 1932 when I first came on the Executive Committee. The dark days of "the depression" brought out the financial genius and the indomitable faith of the man, as could not have been otherwise shown. Who, serving on the Executive Committee in those days, can ever forget the agonizing labors, the gnawing anxiety, and sad to say, the carping criticism through which the Committee and he passed.

Through it all Austin Crouch set his face like a flint to preserve the honor of Southern Baptists and keep alive the aggressive compliance with the Great Commission.

It fell to my lot, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Executive Committee to accompany Dr. Crouch on many trips throughout the Convention, relative to the financial affairs of our boards and agencies. Thus, I had an unusual opportunity to see the working of his mind, and to know the heart of the man.

I watched him in conference with bankers and trust officers of financial institutions, and saw how many of them changed in their attitude toward him, from condescending tolerance to unhesitating respect - and how when he said, "This is what the Southern Baptist Convention will do if given time" - they accepted it as an accepted fact.

It cannot be refuted that, under God, Austin Crouch saved the Southern Baptist Convention. Great help had he from a great host, but his was the guiding hand and the great heart that pointed the way and insisted on a course of action that prevented disastrous detours.

He knew the Convention's workings, and its constitution, its limitations and its freedom of action as did but few - to my knowledge, as no other Southern Bap-

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tist. Withal, he never paraded his knowledge - essentially he was rather a shy man - certainly a modest man.

But woe betide the brother who called in question a statement made in his annual reports! He had his finger on the chapter and verse!

The soul of honor, he had no part in denominational demagoguery, nor, be it admitted, did he have much use for a shouting strutter full of sound and fury, and well nigh empty of anything else.

Mrs. Storer and Mrs. Crouch were close friends, and kept each other "Convention company." She was a lovely personality, and when she went on ahead to the great company of the lovely land, I think Austin was never quite the same. He hid it well, but sometimes he would well over. Not long ago, he came up to the office and closed the door, and just sort of "let go" for a few minutes. But all is over now, and safe home, the voyager.

The reunions over there! Myrtle, his wife, "Little Jap" as he lovingly called her - Charley Daniel - dear silver-haired, golden-hearted Charley Daniel, and a mighty host of those for whom the trumpet sounded are on the other shore - Austin Crouch has gone home!

The Southern Baptist Convention will never live long enough to repay its debt to him - our dear beloved friend.

J. W. Storer
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Southern Baptist Foundation