

Thirty Thousand At Opening Of Baptist World Congress

Baptists of the world last Sunday afternoon joined those of Georgia in a throng estimated at more than 30,000 in Ponce de Leon Park, Atlanta, for the opening of the sixth Baptist World Congress, a great assemblage where the leading purpose, as already manifest, will be a devout affirmation of the principle of religious liberty for men on earth.

Messages of welcome and the roll call of the nations followed the call to order by Dr. George W. Truett, president of the World Baptist Alliance, after a long Baptist parade through downtown Atlanta and an international ceremony at Peachtree street and Ponce de Leon avenue earlier in the afternoon.

Thirteen persons were reported overcome by heat and given treatment at the Red Cross first-aid station at the park.

The note of freedom was struck at the outset when Dr. James Henry Rushbrooke of London, Alliance general secretary, read the following message addressed by President Roosevelt to the congress through Dr. Louie D. Newton, the Atlanta pastor who has had charge of the local arrangements:

President's Message

In these days when many of the cherished institutions of free government are challenged it behooves all who believe in democracy as a way of life to rally to the defense of those principles which are fundamental to our happiness as a nation.

The freedom which we cherish—freedom of conscience, freedom of the press, freedom of education and freedom of assembly—and which is our priceless heritage out of the struggles of our forefathers, can be maintained and perpetuated only at the cost of eternal vigilance.

The Sixth World Congress of the Baptist World Alliance assembles at a momentous time in world history. But it will, I am sure, meet all issues with courage and with faith. I had occasion sometime since to appeal to all of our countrymen to foster the spirit of toleration. The members of the great Baptist communion have a peculiar heritage of devotion to the principle of religious freedom. As inheritors of the noble tradition of Roger Williams their place must ever be among those who uphold freedom of conscience.

I do not, therefore, hesitate to reiterate to the Baptist World Alliance the appeal to which I referred:

This is no time to make capital out of religious disagreement, however honest. It is a time, rather, to make capital out of religious undertaking. We who have faith cannot afford to fall out among ourselves. The very state of the world is a summons to us to stand together. For as I see it, the chief religious issue is not between our various beliefs. It is between belief and unbelief. It is not your specific faith or mine that is being called into question—but all faith. Religion in wide areas of the earth is being confronted with irreligion; our faiths are being challenged. It is because of that threat that you and I must reach across the lines between our creeds, clasp hands, and make common cause.

In extending hearty greetings may I express the hope that your sessions will be fruitful of wise counsels and that out of your deliberations will come a firm resolve so to employ our heritage of freedom that justice may be maintained and extended among men and nations.

Very sincerely yours,
Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Lloyd-George Message

A letter from David Lloyd-George, former British Prime Minister, also was among those read at the opening session. It said: Please convey to the Sixth Baptist World Congress my warmest fraternal greetings, and warmest wishes for its success.

Throughout their long history, Baptists have always filled the front ranks of Evangelical Christianity. They have been pioneers of the Gospel in the darkest parts of earth, and uncompromising in their zeal for the establishment of their Master's Kingdom among men and for the rights of the citizens of that kingdom to the freedom of the soul in thought and devotion. Today, when that Gospel and that kingdom are being challenged by new and barbaric forms of paganism, the testimony of the Baptists is more than ever needed, to recall mankind to the great spiritual verities, and to the abiding value of the message of 'peace on earth and goodwill among men.' I trust that this World Congress may prove an inspiration, not alone to those of our faith and order, but to all who share our purpose to further the rule of the Kingdom of Heaven and the brotherhood of man.

D. Lloyd-George.

Great Choir on Hand
A large choir was seated on the stand and sang hymns before and during the meeting, joined by thousands of voices in the con-

gregation. Also on the stand, beside the Alliance officers were the members of the executive committee, which already has recommended in an advance meeting, that the Congress place emphasis upon a pronouncement for religious freedom.

Dr. Truett, at the canopied speakers' stand at the far end of the field, struck his gavel promptly at 2 p. m. after the singing of hymns by a choir and the congregation and an opening prayer delivered by the Rev. Griffith J. Harris, of Cardiff, Wales.

On the speakers' stand were the forty-four members of the executive committee, who hailed from the four corners of the earth. Among these was Dr. Rushbrooke of London, general secretary, who is being mentioned as a likely successor to Dr. Truett, the American president, and Lieut. Governor Albert Matthews, of Toronto. Also present for the opening session were Governor E. D. Rivers and Mayor William B. Hartsfield.

Addresses of welcome were delivered at the afternoon session by Baptist leaders representing different organizations of the denomination.

In his address, Vice-President Nordstrom declared that "no Baptist World Congress has been better prepared than this Congress."

He said it was undoubtedly the largest ever held and "should be the most prosperous in every respect."

After paying tribute to Dr. Newton as the chief planner of the gathering, he asserted "we have come to Georgia to learn the secrets of Baptist progress."

At this point began the roll call of the nations.

Roll-Call Applauded

Enthusiastic applause resounded during this roll call. A number of the messengers, representing Baptist communions in far parts of the world, walked up on the speakers' stand garbed in the native costumes of their countries.

When Tanimola Ayorinde, of Nigeria in Africa, strode before the great assembly clad in the loose robes of his country, Dr. Rushbrooke, apologized lest he mispronounced so strange a name.

The audience gave a tremendous ovation a few minutes later after the Nigerian, in perfect English, had expressed the greetings of 20,000,000 inhabitants and 20,000 Baptists of his land.

As the roll-call continued there came to the platform the Rev. Benjamin Pradham for India and the Rev. Wu Chi Chung from China, whose message brought a touching note to the congress.

"It was not easy for me to come over here," he declared, "and leave my loved ones behind me in my war-torn country. But there is one happy result of our suffering. The war has packed our churches for the preaching of the gospel. The word of God has multiplied and will continue to multiply."

Answering the roll call for Burma, San Po Thin, a noted Baptist leader there, expressed praise for the southern hospitality which he has found in Atlanta and Georgia and also for the "Burma sunshine here which makes me feel even more at home."

Speaking for the Northern Baptist Church of the United States, Dr. E. A. Fridell, newly elected president, exhorted the 12,000,000 Baptists of the world to take steps to halt the advance of totalitarianism in various sections of the world. The distinguished churchman also urged the Baptists to explain their work for the underprivileged masses.

Need For Workers

Pointing to the rapidly expanding work in Haiti and Nicaragua, Dr. C. S. Detweiler said there is an urgent need there for more trained workers to spread the gospel, asserting that at present there are only eight ministers for 22 churches.

Others answering the afternoon call included Dr. H. H. Bingham, representing Canada; Rev. Santiago Canclini, Argentina; Dr. Djalma Cunha, Brazil; Rev. Honorio Espinoza, Chile; Dr. F. W. Simoleit, Camerons (by letter); Martin S. Engall, Congo; Rev. Benjamin Pradham, India, and Manchuria by proxy.

Dr. L. K. Williams, Negro pastor, of Chicago, and president of the National Baptist Convention, exhorted the gathering to a re-dedication of spiritual life.

"The preparation for a worldwide evangelistic crusade by Baptists," he declared, "for the reign of truth versus error and the overthrow of injustice, oppression and every form of tyranny and sin in the world must begin here, in and with us."

Another welcome was brought by Dr. G. L. Prince, president of the National Baptist Convention of America, who urged the Congress to seek a cure for the world's unrest by restating and clarifying the Baptist principles "which have stood for centuries and make for unity and brotherhood."

"Our anticipations," he contin-

Caribbean War Chief



In San Juan, Puerto Rico, Brig. Gen. Edmund L. Daley steps from the amphibian plane provided him by the war department to cover his vast insular territory. Daley is commanding officer of the recently created department of the Caribbean, which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and all intervening keys.

ued "are that you will bring to bear the full impact of your Christian influence for freedom of the soul and personal liberty and against all kinds of religious persecution."

Governor and Senator
Governor Rivers termed the Congress a striking manifestation of "the hope for a revival of religion and morality that has been so sorely needed in these times."

Senator Walter F. George told the congregation that the citizens of Atlanta are representative of Americans, whose tolerance is based on the high concepts of religious friendship. The circle of every man's love of tolerance is measured by the radius of his intelligence.

Messages From Foreign Lands

A message that was a prayer hushed the huge throng when Dr. H. Prochazka, of Czechoslovakia, described the plight of his people at the night session.

"I come from the land which was, is not and yet shall be," he declared.

"A year ago Czechoslovakia was an island of peace in Central Europe. Since then it has passed through thunderstorms and changing scenes. Yet in all the happenings that have taken place, my people have had in their hearts the prayer of the servants of God."

Applause greeted the message brought by Prof. Oswald Turn, from Estonia, who declared that in the twenty-year history of his country no person there has been imprisoned or persecuted for his religious convictions.

"My country is in that area of Central Europe where barbedwire barriers are common," he said. "In these times of hatred our Baptists have proved to be a people of good will and understanding."

The German minister said there are 300 preachers and 80,000 Baptists in his country who send their greetings to the Baptist World Alliance which met in Berlin five years ago. Germany, he added, would be pleased to have another Baptist World Alliance in Berlin at any time.

From Italian Baptists came a plea for sympathy through the Rev. Manfredi Bonchi.

Explaining that in Italy there are altogether 5,000 Baptists and 50,000 Protestants in a population of 45,000,000, he termed his country one of the most neglected missionary fields of the world.

Soviet Situation

"The hammer does reach those on this earth who dare love the heavenly Ruler," declared the Rev. L. V. Nebrash, representative from Soviet Russia.

"For some thirty-five years no united meetings of any kind have been permitted in Russia. Our greetings to this Congress can come only from individuals. Our churches are closed, we can meet only in secret services at the risk of our property and sometimes of our lives.

"Does religion still exist in Russia or has it been exterminated? It has not been exterminated, and it will not be, for Christians do not live by their own strength alone, but by the grace given from above. The spiritual hunger of the masses in Russia is about ten times stronger today than it ever was before."

At the conclusion of the roll call, several spirituals were sung by the combined Negro choirs of Atlanta, and the Saturday night session ended with the benediction pronounced by Dr. C. J. Tinsley, of Australia.

Otto

By MISS HAZEL BRADLEY

Mrs. Julius Curtis, assisted by Miss Sallie Ledford, entertained for her recently married daughter, Mrs. Ed Keener and Mr. Keener, of Clayton, on Saturday evening, July 22, at 7:30. Mrs. Keener will be remembered as Miss Kate Curtis. The honor guests were given a shower of beautiful gifts. The house was decorated with summer phlox, ice cream, cake, and iced tea were served. Callers enjoying the evening

were: Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Hull, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Henson, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Henson, Mrs. Charlie Ledford, Mrs. Harley Reynolds, Misses Edith Cunningham, Sallie and Bertie Ledford, Geneva and Janice Reynolds, J. L. Reynolds and Junior Henson.

Miss Lou Emma Hames, of Clarksville, Ga., visited her aunt, Mrs. Henson and Mr. Henson, during the past week.

As house guests last week-end Mrs. Ada Hyatt had her daughters, Mrs. C. M. West, of West's Mill; Mrs. Don Davis, Sylva, and Mr. West and Mr. Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Carter and family, of South Carolina, visited her sisters here last week-end.

Miss Connie Bradley, of Highlands, visited her mother, Mrs. Betty Bradley, over Sunday.

Miss Elsie Rae Curtis, of Dillard, Ga., visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Curtis, last week-end.

Mrs. Cora Ledford, of South Carolina, will be visiting friends and relatives here for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jamison and daughter, Carlene, came over from Greenville Sunday to attend the funeral of Mr. W. E. Mozeley, at Otto.

Miss Hopkins, of Franklin, has been spending several days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hopkins.

Mrs. Andy Setser and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Waldrop, of Cartoo-gechbaye, visited Mrs. Tom McDonald Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Cunningham and H. W. Rogers, of Franklin Route 2, visited at the home of Mr. Rogers' sister, Mrs. Ed Bradley, Sunday.

SUGGESTION

Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace has suggested to Congress that it might be well to extend federal crop insurance to cotton because of the large number of hazards faced in growing the crop.

PROGRESS

Owners of both dairy and beef cattle in practically all states are making substantial progress in practically all states are making substantial progress in eradicating Bang's disease from their herds, with North Carolina well to the front in this effort.

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All taxes for the year 1938 will be advertised, beginning the second week in AUGUST, and property sold on September 4th. Pay your taxes NOW and avoid payment of advertising and sale costs.

A. B. SLAGLE

Tax Collector for Macon County