

Baptist World Alliance

PRESIDENT:
REV. C. OSCAR JOHNSON, D. D.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

GENERAL SECRETARY:
REV. ARNOLD T. OHRN, D. D.

ASSOCIATE SECRETARY:
REV. WALTER O. LEWIS, D. D.

HEADQUARTERS:
1628 SIXTEENTH STREET N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.
COLUMBIA 9007

EUROPEAN OFFICE:
4, SOUTHAMPTON ROW
LONDON, W. C. 1

TREASURERS:
MR. C. T. LEQUESNE, K. C.
LONDON, ENGLAND

THE HON. ALBERT MATTHEWS, LL. D.
TORONTO, ONTARIO
CANADA

March 3, 1949

Foreign Mission Board, S. B. C.
2037 Monument Avenue
Richmond 20, Virginia

Gentlemen:

At meetings of the Administrative Committee of the Baptist World Alliance on December 2, 1947 and May 4, 1948, the suggestion of bringing the Rev. Jacob Meister of Berlin, President of the German Baptist Union, to America for a visit was discussed and approved.

At the February 17, 1949, meeting it was reported that Dr. Lewis strongly urged that the plan be realized as soon as possible, and that the Relief Committee recommended that this be done, so that Mr. Meister could reach the U.S.A. this spring. It was further reported that the North American Baptist Conference (German) was strongly interested in such a visit and would take the responsibility for Mr. Meister's expenses during a certain part of his sojourn in America.

The plan was approved by the Administrative Committee. It was thought that, if necessary, some of the proceeds of the offering on Baptist World Alliance Sunday might be used to cover the expense of Trans-Atlantic travel. It was pointed out that both the Lutheran and the Methodist denominations in this country had brought over fraternal messengers from Germany (Neimueller, Sommer). It was stressed that the purpose of the proposed tour was not to collect money, but to bring fraternal greetings from the Baptists of Germany to the Baptists of North America. On the other hand it was thought that his visit would undoubtedly stimulate interest in the relief program.

We should like to know whether the Foreign Mission Board would be interested in making use of Mr. Meister's services for a certain time this summer, under similar arrangements to those provided by the North American Baptist General Conference. We should also like to know if your convention would wish Mr. Meister to bring greetings during the annual meeting of your organization. Mr. Meister is expected to reach this country in April.

Yours most sincerely,

Arnold T. Ohn

ATO/JRF
Dictated, but not read

March 9, 1949

Dr. Arnold T. Ohrn
Baptist World Alliance
1628 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.

Dear Dr. Ohrn:

I am happy to learn from your letter of March 3 that the Reverend Jacob Meister of Berlin will be in America this spring. I believe that his visit can be used to be of great help to us in America and to German Baptists.

I suggest that you write to Dr. R. G. Lee, President of the Southern Baptist Convention, will reference to the possibility of Mr. Meister's bringing greetings to the annual meeting of our Convention from German Baptists. Personally, I think this would be most desirable, but the arrangements would be entirely in the hands of Dr. Lee as President of the Convention.

The Foreign Mission Board conducts only one conference during the summer, which is the Foreign Mission's Conference held in Ridgecrest, North Carolina. This year the dates are July 28 to August 4.

It is probable that the committee in charge of this Conference would be happy to have Mr. Meister on the program, but the chairman of the committee, Dr. Frank K. Means, is in South America at the present time. We shall have to wait until his return in April to take this matter up.

I am sorry that I am unable to make some definite proposals for Mr. Meister's services at the moment. Although I sincerely hope that our people may have the opportunity of hearing him, our Board does not have the channels for making such arrangements. Again, I suggest that you write to someone else. I think Mr. Merrill Moore, the Promotional Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee, would probably be able to give you more help than I can. I shall be glad to keep this matter in mind and use any opportunity than I have to secure his services for our churches.

Thank you for writing me. With kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

MTR/tsb

M. Theron Rankin

Baptist World Alliance

PRESIDENT:
REV. C. OSCAR JOHNSON, D. D.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

GENERAL SECRETARY:
REV. ARNOLD T. OHRN, D. D.

ASSOCIATE SECRETARY:
REV. WALTER O. LEWIS, D. D.

HEADQUARTERS:
1628 SIXTEENTH STREET N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.
COLUMBIA 9007

EUROPEAN OFFICE:
4, SOUTHAMPTON ROW
LONDON, W. C. 1

TREASURERS:
MR. C. T. LEQUESNE, K. C.
LONDON, ENGLAND

THE HON. ALBERT MATTHEWS, LL. D.
TORONTO, ONTARIO
CANADA

RECEIVED
MAR 24 1949

March 23, 1949

Dr. M. T. Rankin
2037 Monument Avenue
Richmond 20, Virginia

My dear friend:

Dr. Johnson has sent on to me a letter he has received from Mr. Sadamoto Kawano in Japan. Kawano is, as you may recollect, a member of the Executive Committee of the B.W.A., and as such, a call was sent to him to attend, if possible, the meeting of the Executive Committee to be held in Washington on May 2nd. Now Mr. Kawano writes to Dr. Johnson, "As I cannot attend the meeting in person, I want to select Mr. Taichiro Fujii as a proxy for me. Mr. Fujii is now a student of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He used to be a professor of the Seinan Gakuin Baptist College. I want to make a proposition that we are admitted to send our native messengers to the World Congress, at least two or three including Rev. B. Kimura of Hiroshima Church."

Now as to the meeting of the Executive Committee, the rule has always been that the Executive Committee takes care of the traveling expenses of the regular members of the Executive Committee, excepting always, overseas travel. If Mr. Fujii is accepted by the Executive Committee as a proxy, he is entitled to attend, but not entitled to have his traveling expenses paid. Now, I was thinking it would be just too bad if this brother could not be present because of this rule. I am, therefore, communicating with you to know whether your Board, as such, might think it fit to make some provision for Mr. Fujii, making it possible for him to come to Washington for May 2nd. It might mean a great deal to him in the future to have been present on such an occasion.

The other suggestion from Mr. Kawano concerning native messengers to the World Congress, you will, of course, be able to judge of much better than I. You probably know the men in question.

I was glad to have had the conversation that occurred during my last stay in Richmond. It is always a joy to meet you and exchange thoughts with you. May God bless you in your work, with strength of body, soul and spirit.

Yours most cordially,

ATO/JRF

Arnold T. Ohn