

Baptist World Alliance

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

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

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

October 3, 1949

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

Dear Dr. Rankin:

Thanks for your letter of September 26th in reply to mine of September 23rd.

The problem of Mr. Dixon of El Salvador will be clear from the following quotation:

"We now have a problem concerning the incorporation of Baptist work in this country. The government has asked us to do this, but they wished to incorporate us as "The Baptist Church of El Salvador." We thought of getting legal standing for the Baptist Convention of El Salvador, but they say that we can not form a legal corporation out of delegates from churches that are not incorporated or that do not have their legal existence. Neither do they like the idea of granting it to each of our twenty odd churches with more to follow from time to time as they may be organized. This would also be difficult for us as most of our churches are small and poor and composed of simple country people. The government apparently is quite sympathetic with us although our democratic organization is difficult for them to understand. They say that only in matters pertaining to property and representation before the government do we need to unite. Apparently, however, it is either a matter of a centralized church government as far as legal affairs go, or the incorporation of each church. We could then incorporate a Convention formed of such churches, but which would leave out the unincorporated churches. This virtually means outside the law.

"You probably know what has been done in other countries, so I am taking the liberty to write you for information and suggestions if you would be so kind as to help us."

Miss Ford says that she knows that in cases where it has been necessary for the property of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to be registered or incorporated, holding committees

have been formed, which can handle these legal details.

If you can tell me the methods of procedure in such matters, and give me any other information which may be of help to those who write me about such things, I shall deeply appreciate it.

Yours with every good wish, I am

Most cordially,

Arnold T. Olson

ATO/JRF

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RECEIVED OCT 24 1949

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THE HON. ALBERT MATTHEWS, LL. D.
TORONTO, ONTARIO
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October 21, 1949

Dr. Everett Gill, Jr.,
2037 Monument Avenue
Richmond 20, Virginia

Dear Dr. Gill:

Mr. Quarles from South America, who took part in the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance held on May 2nd, afterwards wrote me a letter ~~saying~~ that the Rev. Mr. Almedo, of the River Plate Convention, would be coming to the Baptist World Congress next year. He has studied at the New Orleans Seminary, and has presumably a good command of English. Mrs. Quarles says that he is an enthusiastic speaker, and proposes his name for some youth rally or something along those lines.

Before putting his name on the program we should like to know a little more about him. I asked Dr. T. F. Adams, and he suggested that I check the matter with you as he did not seem to know the man.

Could you please tell ^(also) me whether any others, speaking English well, will be coming from Latin America? We are anxious that Latin America should be represented on the program in a suitable way, but up to now no other name but that of Almedo has been given to us. I would be grateful for any suggestion and any commentary you may wish to make. This matter is somewhat urgent as we are working on the program all the time, and like to get certain things settled as we go along.

In your last letter you asked how matters are turning out with respect to a presidential visit to South America on the part of Dr. C. Oscar Johnson. I have taken the matter up with Dr. Johnson on two or three occasions after receiving your letter. He would very much like to go, but it seems to be very difficult for him at such time of the year when it would be best to go to South America. He finds it, for instance, very difficult to be away during Easter time. I wonder if you would care to send him a word in the way of encouragement to go. As you know, his term as President of the Baptist World Alliance expires when the Congress adjourns next July. No other President of the Baptist World Alliance will have served such a short time- only three years. I am anxious that he should go, if he can stand up to it physically. He is working under a terrific strain already.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am

Yours most cordially,

ATO/JRF

Arnold T. Ohm

October 31, 1949

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

Dear Dr. Ohrn:

Thank you so much for your word regarding the program for the 1950 Alliance in Cleveland. Mr. Olmedo studied in the United States and is one of our best preachers in Argentina. I have cabled Rio for definite information on the name of their representative, and emphasized the fact that he should speak good English.

Dr. Rankin states that our Board will not be able to help to the same extent as it did for the European Congress last year, believing that the national groups should do more toward the expenses of their representatives. To what extent this may affect our representatives from Latin America is problematical. The Brazilian Convention does not meet until January, so unless we appoint some individual from Richmond, it will probably not be possible for us to know definitely until that time.

I am still hoping that you and Dr. Johnson will be able to make the trip to Latin America, and I believe that he is still definitely interested. I shall gladly write him a word about this.

With kindest regards to you, I am

Sincerely,

Everett Gill, Jr.

EGJr/tsb

October 31, 1949

Rev. Thomas A. Cray
First Baptist Church
McAllen, Texas

Dear Mr. Cray:

On October 17th I wrote you concerning Mr. A. J. L. Boudin of Belgium, saying that his name is unknown at our headquarters here, and that I had written to our connections in Europe to find out about him.

Today we received the following answer from our correspondent in Europe who is well acquainted with the Baptist churches in Belgium:

"I do not know Mr. Boudin- in fact I never heard of him. He is not one of our Baptist pastors or a leader in any sense of the word in Baptist work in Belgium. In fact he may not be a Baptist at all. I am writing to the pastor of the Church in Mont-sur-Marchienne to see what we can learn concerning him. I will send you his reply when received. But in the meantime you may be sure that Mr. Boudin is not anyone who is associated with us or who has any special claim on our attention."

As soon as we receive any more information concerning Mr. Boudin, I shall send it to you.

Yours most sincerely,

A. T. O.

ATO/JRF

Copy to Dr. M. T. Rankin
Richmond, Virginia