



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
 News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

450 James Robertson Parkway  
 Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
 Telephone (615) 244-2355  
 W. C. Fields, Director  
 Jim Newton, Assistant Director

**REGIONAL OFFICES**

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Editor/161 Spring Street, N.W./Atlanta, Georgia 30303/Telephone (404) 523-2593

**DALLAS** R. T. McCartney, Editor/103 Baptist Building/Dallas, Texas 75201/Telephone (214) RI 1-1996

**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Editor/200 Maryland Ave., N.E./Washington, D.C. 20002/Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 21, 1966

**Fields Elected President  
 of Religious PR Council**

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**NASHVILLE (BP)**-- The public relations secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention, W. C. Fields of Nashville, was elected here as president of the Religious Public Relations Council.

The action came during the organization's 37th annual convention, meeting at the Southern Baptist Convention building here. Fields, as outgoing vice president, was general chairman for convention arrangements.

Meeting in the south for the first time in the organization's history, six Baptists delivered major addresses to the three-day convention. Four others led small group conferences.

Southern Baptists delivering major addresses included George Schweitzer, chemistry professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; James L. Sullivan, executive secretary treasurer of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Dan Grant, professor at Vanderbilt University, Nashville; and Miss Marjorie Saunders, public relations director at Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas.

Two National (Negro) Baptists also addressed the convention -- Sam Proctor, special assistant in the Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington; and Charles E. Boddie, president of American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville.

Southern Baptist public relations workers won four out of ten top awards presented by the council to its members for outstanding work.

The awards went to Miss Ione Gray, press relations director of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, for a news story; Mrs. Agnes Ford and Robert Jackson of the Baptist Sunday School Board, for photography; and two awards to Clarence Duncan of the SBC Radio and Television Commission, for the film "The Inheritance" and for a special public relations project concerning opening of the commission's new building in Fort Worth.

The council also presented awards to the religion editors of three metropolitan daily newspapers, to a St. Louis radio station, and to the National Broadcasting Co., (NBC-TV) for production of "The Inheritance." The SBC Radio-TV Commission worked with the NBC-TV religious programming unit in production of the award-winning film shown on the Southern Baptist Hour.

Newspapers receiving the awards included the Dallas Times Herald, Stewart Doss, religion editor; the Worcester (Mass.) Telegram, Marilyn W. Spear, religion editor; and the Kansas City Star, Mary Hobbs, religion editor. The radio station honored was station KMOX, St. Louis.

The Religious Public Relations Council is a professional society composed of about 775 public relations workers with 38 denominations and church groups.

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**Baptist Pastor Stages  
 Hootenanny at College**

4-21-66

**MURFREESBORO, N. C. (BP)**-- Students at Chowan College (Baptist) here were entertained recently by a Baptist pastor from Orlando, Fla.

Richard J. Milham, pastor of Powers Drive Baptist Church in Orlando, called his program, "A Hootenanny for People Who Really Give a Hoot."

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Christians Urged To Get  
Out Where The People Are

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ATLANTA (BP)--Churches have a Bible-based responsibility to reach out into the strategic centers of civilization where the life and death issues are born, a Presbyterian pastor told Baptist mission center leaders here.

"Any church that is not related significantly in an outgoing way to the people and the community around it, is in danger, in fact is approaching its own death," Fred A. Stair of Atlanta said during a mission centers conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Stair is pastor of Atlanta's Central Presbyterian Church which is recognized nationally for its multiple ministry in a fast-changing, inner-city neighborhood.

He told the Baptist group that Christians who waste time and money looking inward at the existence of the institutions have lost the blood of their mission, and the churches will begin to weaken.

"The current introspection of the church, the institutionalizing of the church, is nothing but an indication of the cancerous diseases of bad theology, lack of pastoral concern, lack of love, and lack of outreach," he said.

To develop a sensitivity to the community, Stair said, Christians must be willing to do more than just read about inner-city problems or juvenile delinquency, or ravages of slums -- "they must get out to where these people are and see it, and smell it, and hear it, and feel it."

There is no social gospel, he said. The church actually is the only institution with outward orientation, with a bent toward serving people outside of the institution.

Individual Christians must be concerned with people, not with institutions; God will take care of the church, Stair said.

Christians first must develop a sensitivity to the community in a pastoral or personal sort of way, with a willingness to add action to concern. The, with the added strength of a theological or faith commitment, Christians will be the only ones who show concern for the full spectrum of life--body, mind and soul.

"You who are the Christians going out," Stair told the mission workers, "are the only people in the entire community who are looking at life as a whole, who are looking at persons as a whole, who are looking at the total maturity of the individual."

The biggest problem facing the church, in trying to minister to a community, is definition of the community, Stair said. People live, work, go to school, worship, and play in different communities.

"I think the great unsolved question in contemporary Protestantism at the point of our ministry to the world," he said, is "where is our community?"

"We have to determine who and what the community is and where it is before we can find out its needs, and then on the basis of those needs, find out how to minister to them," he said.

The four-day conference was attended by more than 200 leadership personnel from Baptist Mission and good will centers, which strive to meet the physical and social needs of individuals through a spiritually-based ministry.

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Blake Sees Baptist  
Difficulty in Unity

NEW YORK (BP)--Because of their congregational structure Baptists would have problems joining any proposed united church said Eugene Carson Blake, general secretary-elect of the World Council of Churches.

To have such Baptist involvement "would put an undue strain on the convention and not be according to Baptist understanding of how the church operates," Blake said.

"Maybe it is congregation by congregation that would decide whether or not they want to be a part of this united church," he continued.

Blake feels it is "conceivable" that Baptists and Catholics could "be under one roof . . . because both of them agree to this: the church of Jesus Christ is one. This is only because the Catholic Church is beginning to recognize the reality of a Christian church beyond them."

Blake made the remarks in a discussion about the possibility of having the Roman Catholic Church a member of the World Council of Churches. It was broadcast on a WCBS radio interview program called, "The World of Religion."

He said that in theory the "World Council of Churches must take the position that any Christian church is eligible for membership."

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