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World Missions Speakers
Urge Concern For Needy

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Almost 2,000 Southern Baptists from throughout the United States at the first annual World Missions Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly heard a call for more concern about the problems of needy people.

A battery of well-known Southern Baptist leaders issued the challenge during general sessions of the special week while denominational specialists through small conferences showed persons how to become involved with people in need in their communities.

Other presentations ranged from a dramatic theme interpretation to a colorful missions spectacular climaxed with fireworks, each seeking to carry out the conference theme of "Impact for Missions." A commitment service for home and foreign missionaries was also featured.

Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union, the conference highlighting foreign, home, state and community missions attracted mainly family groups, many active in missionary education organizations in their churches.

C. W. Brister, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth, keynoted the conference with an address on "People Who Care."

"There is a popular misconception that religion deals only with the spiritual life of individuals," Brister said. "The corrolary deception is that material needs like work, food, medical care, civil rights and education are outside the providence of God's concern."

"When the evidence of Jesus' life and work is viewed seriously, nothing could be further from the truth. The gospel touches every area of life," Brister declared.

Calling the 1960's the day of the little man, small nation, and protest groups, Brister expressed doubt that many Southern Baptist churches have a message for these people.

"Let's face it. Baptists like strengths, not weakness. It is much easier for us to be drawn to big organizational objectives than to meet the great needs of today."

Describing the persons in need with such terms as poverty, blindness, alcohol, illiteracy, jack knives, and out-of wedlock pregnancy, Brister declared they want action, not sympathy from Christian people.

Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, echoed the plea for involvement with the hope every Christian, not just the pastor, will make missions a family ministry.

"The criteria for a church is not how many persons we can get to come into a church building, but how many we can get to go out to minister," he said.

Brooks Ramsey, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Memphis, said Southern Baptist churches risk losing large segments of society "when we ignore the needs of the world."

"The intellectuals and young people sometimes call us 'phonies' and that hurts. But it's true when we refuse to meet our responsibilities."

Warning that Christians can't sit on a spiritual mountaintop while sin and strife flourish below, Ramsey declared: "We must go out and face the problems of the world if we are going to follow the teachings in the New Testament."

Ramsey said religious institutions should be used to minister to all people of the world and not maintained just for the sake of being maintained.

Albert McClellan, program planning secretary for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee accented the need for Christians to become involved financially in ministering to others.

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"The work of missionaries who are sent to work in various parts of the world are important," he said, "but we shouldn't forget that the prayers and financial support of local dedicated Christians are also necessary in spreading the gospel throughout the world."

The Cooperative Program is the organized way to fulfill this goal, he said.

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Brotherhood Expands Work
With Boys Ages 6 To 8

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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Directors of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission voted unanimously here to expand its missionary education program to include Baptist boys ages six to eight, and approved a record operating budget of \$559,440 for 1967-68.

Taylor O'Hearn, attorney of Shreveport, La., was elected chairman of the 35-member group representing 25 states and the District of Columbia. He replaced Hugh Cantrell of Arkadelphia, Ark., a pastor who served the maximum of two one-year terms.

Fred Worrill, an advertising executive of Atlanta, Ga., was re-elected vice-chairman, and C. A. Dabney, pastor of Applewood Baptist Church of Denver, Colo., was chosen recording secretary.

George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission at Memphis, called the decision to provide guidance materials in missionary education for boys 6-8 "a progressive move" in men and boys' work in the Southern Baptist Convention.

At an annual meeting a month earlier in Miami Beach, the Executive Board of SBC Women's Missionary Union voted to ask the Brotherhood Commission to assume this responsibility, making the first curriculum materials available for use in the churches, Oct. 1, 1970.

Involving an estimated 75,000 boys, the transfer of responsibility permits one agency to provide the missionary education guidance materials for all boys in the children's division (ages 6-11) of the new grading-grouping plan Southern Baptist churches will begin using in 1970, Schroeder explained.

At the present time the Brotherhood Commission offers guidance materials in missionary education for boys 9-17 and men 18 and older in 15,000 churches.

The new budget, an increase of \$47,000, calls for expenditures of \$321,164 for program development, \$138,588 for supporting services and \$99,688 for administrative services. It becomes effective October 1.

The agency expects to receive \$235,000 of the budget from the SBC Cooperative Program and the remainder from sales of publications and other materials.

With the exception of salaries, the largest expenditures are \$31,050 for field services and \$26,900 which will go for free materials for associational and church brotherhood units, Schroeder said.

In other action the directors approved a new internal organization pattern for the agency, added a personnel committee of five directors, and expanded its retirement program.

Making up the personnel committee are chairman Jerry Glisson, James K. Pace and Dr. Leon Bolton, all of Memphis, Roy Collum of Philadelphia, Miss., and O'Hearn.

Next meeting of the directors was set for the week of July 25-21, 1968 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Assembly during world missions week.

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C O R R E C T I O N S

On Baptist Press stories mailed June 20, 1967, page 1, please make the following changes:

On story headlined, "SBC Publications To Begin One Devotional Reading," delete the words "to follow" on line 2 of graph 1.

On story headlined, "Seminary Prof Decries De-Emphasis of 'Words'," change word "to" to become the word "who" in graph 1, line 2. Thus it should read: "...chided social-actionist Christians who (not to) de-emphasize the importance of the preached word..."

Baptist School Holds 2nd
Desegregation Institute

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., will conduct a special institute again this summer to train school personnel to deal with school desegregation problems, according to announcement by the U.S. Office of Education here.

The institute will be one of 21 throughout the country financed by the Office of Education to train 1,200 teachers, counselors and supervisors in elementary and secondary education. The grants, totaling \$1,300,000 are authorized in Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In 1966 Ouachita University received \$35,599 for a similar institute.

The special study will focus on specific educational problems likely to arise as schools desegregate in accordance with congressional and court requirements.

Since the Title IV training program began in the spring semester of 1965, a total of 7,650 persons have attended the desegregation institutes. The 1967 program will bring the total receiving training to 8,850.

Participants are selected by the institutes, usually in cooperation with local school officials. Each participant will receive a stipend of \$75 a week plus travel expenses. Most of the institutes will last from four to six weeks.

Ouachita is one of 14 church-related schools to conduct the institutes this summer. Last year Stetson University, a Baptist school in DeLand, Fla., and Ouachita were included in a group of 10 church-related schools where institutes were held.

The program at Ouachita will be sponsored jointly with Henderson State Teachers College, also in Arkadelphia.

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Baptist Missions Worker
Appeals Taxation Suit

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NEWOKA, Okla. (BP)--An appeal has been filed in Seminole County District Court here protesting the assessment of ad valorem taxes on the home of L. M. Norwood, superintendent of missions for the South Canadian Baptist Association.

By a vote two to one, the Seminole County Board of Equalization had upheld the assessing of the Baptist association-owned property for taxation by the Seminole County tax assessor, Paul Matthews.

It marks the first time that a Baptist associational missionary's house has been listed on the tax rolls in the county even though the association has owned property here for more than 10 years.

"We will protest this to the state Supreme Court if necessary," Norwood said. "There is no proof that this same action is being done anywhere in the state except in Seminole County and in this specific case."

The equalization board indicated it based its action on a state attorney general's opinion which stated that any church property not used exclusively for religious purposes was subject to county ad valorem tax.

Matthews, the tax assessor, told the board that if the opinion was strictly followed, all church-owned housing for ministers in Seminole County would be subject to taxation.

A. C. Kidd, attorney for South Canadian Baptist Association, disagreed and cited the section of the state constitution exempting educational, religious and fraternal organizations' property from taxation.

Kidd said numerous state Supreme Court decisions have backed up exempting fraternal organizations, but this specific issue has never been taken to the high court because "no one has been presumptuous enough to tax church parsonages."

The dissenting vote on the equalization board was cast by C. B. Stobough of Wewoka who noted that the home of his (Methodist) church's district superintendent in another county is not on the tax rolls, and he didn't think the Baptist missionary's home should be taxed either.

Chairman of the board, Rudolph Black said he believed only one church-owned residence per church should be exempted from taxes.

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Architecture Conferences
Scheduled For Assemblies

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NASHVILLE (BP)--The annual Church Architecture Conferences are scheduled for August this year at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Assemblies to help church workers planning building programs.

The third annual Glorieta conference will meet Aug. 10-16, and the fourth such conference at Ridgecrest will be held Aug. 24-30.

The conferences are designed for pastors, staff members and architects of churches engaged in or planning a building program.

The Glorieta conference will feature Alvin Wood, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Flagstaff, Ariz.; Ross L. Sams, a church furnishings manufacturer from Waco, Tex.; and Architect Frank C. Dill of Houston.

Ridgecrest personnel will include Architects J. J. Croft Jr. of Asheboro, N.C. and Eugene Warren of Charlotte, N.C.

Also on the Ridgecrest program will be state Baptist church building consultants John K. Durst of South Carolina and Richard D. Smith of North Carolina; James Lackey of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission in Nashville; and Charles H. Rabon, pastor of First Baptist Church, Kershaw, S. C.

Secretary William A. Harrell of the church architecture department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville is the director of the conferences.