



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

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May 3, 1968

**Campaign Seeks To Show  
Plight Of Nation's Poor**

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--The opening scenes of the developing drama of the Poor People's Campaign in the nation's capital made it clear that a prime objective is to make the plight of the poor visible to the American people.

The hope of the leaders of this exposure is that the public will become aroused enough to demand action, immediate action, on the part of the power structure of the nation to relieve the conditions of the "have not" people.

Larry Rosser, coordinator of metropolitan support for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), told a jammed session of the National Civil Liberties Clearing House here that "the poor are invisible."

The philosophy of the Poor People's Campaign can be summed up in one word, "visibility," Rosser explained. "The problem is how to make the poor visible," he said.

The plan is to get the poor people on television enough and reported through other communications media to such an extent that the public will demand that Congress and the power structures of the nation will deal with them, Rosser revealed.

This to a large extent will explain the dramatic presentations to high government officials, the seven marches from various points in the nation to Washington, the building of a temporary Poor People's City in a prominent place in the District of Columbia, and other tactics that may develop.

In an official "declaration" released by Ralph Abernathy, head of SCLC and of the Poor People's Campaign, it is said that "the central goal of this campaign is income sufficient to provide a decent life for every American."

It is the contention of the campaign leaders that 35 million Americans live below the poverty level of \$3,500 a year income.

The declaration of the Poor People's campaign makes five demands on Congress. They are legislation and funds to provide for:

1. A meaningful job at a living wage for every employable citizen. This is to be achieved through public service career jobs, massive construction programs, and encouragement of private business in job programs.
2. A secure and adequate income for all who cannot find jobs or for whom employment is inappropriate. Some are asking consideration for a guaranteed minimum wage for all people.
3. Access to land as a means to income and livelihood. A new modernized Homestead Act for public lands for the poor along with the means to develop this land productively is being asked for.
4. Access to capital as a means of full participation in the economic life in America. The claim is made that the poor have been exploited for hundreds of years to develop the economic base of the country. "Now we come for a fair share of the fruits of our labors and an opportunity to use the capital which we helped to create," they declare.
5. Recognition by law of the right of people affected by government programs to play a truly significant role in determining how they are designed and carried out.

During the first week of the campaign in Washington about 100 of the SCLC leaders and representatives of white, black, brown and red poor people presented their needs and demands to governmental officials.

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Visits were made to members of Congress, the Department of Labor, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Department of Justice, Department of State, Department of Agriculture, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The government officials received the group respectfully and sympathetically. No immediate promises were asked for by SCLC and none were given by the government. However, the campaign leaders said they would be back in 10 days for answers.

Of course, no satisfactory answers and solutions are expected in 10 days, and plans are proceeding for massive demonstrations in the nation's capital until the government acts.

Both resistance and cordiality have been expressed in Congress. Several Congressmen and Senators warned about the possible violence and bloodshed that might result from the campaign. Others said that these people, who have no lobby in Washington, have a right to be heard.

One of the interesting aspects of this effort is that no specific legislative proposals are being made to Congress. Rosser explained that SCLC raises the issues and confronts the power structure with the problems, but it is up to the government to work out the answers.

This could be both a strength and a weakness of the campaign according to some observers. Its strength is that there is room for flexibility and negotiation on solutions. Its weakness is that such a massive demonstration of protest without accompanying specifics to relieve conditions could result in frustration, both of Congress and of the poor people.

An almost certain point of conflict between the campaign leaders and the government will be the location of "shanty towns" for the thousands of poor who will be brought to Washington. The choice of the demonstrators is the mall, the extensive open area between the U. S. Capitol and Washington Monument.

This area is the center of a large complex of government buildings and tourist attractions. It is the most visible and open section of the city, which is the kind of location sought for the temporary town of the poor.

If the government refuses to grant permission for use of the mall area, which it is most likely to do, it is certain that demonstrations will take place in the attempt to use it anyway. This could result in mass arrests, and most certainly of prominent publicity, without which the Poor People's Campaign cannot succeed.

A point of concern both to the campaign leaders and to government is the possibility of the eruption of violence. The SCLC is dedicated to the nonviolent approach and reportedly is taking all precautions to contain and control any outburst of violence. Whether or not it will succeed is the question.

A major problem will be how to house, feed and provide for sanitation for 3,000 to 5,000 people living in a temporary "tent city" for an indefinite length of time.

Plans are underway for the construction of temporary lean-to tent-like structures that will provide for eight people. These will be grouped in clusters for about 250 each. A temporary government for the poor town will be set up. Many will be housed in churches and other places.

Local agencies, churches and private businesses are being enlisted to provide food services.

For sanitation, the leadership is hoping that sewage disposal lines can be connected. But if the town is finally located where this is not available, plans are to use chemical disposal units, such as jiffy-jons and johnny-on-the-spots.

The Methodist Building, located one block from the Capitol, will be the center of much of the activity of religious groups assisting in the Poor People's Campaign. Already offices are there for coordination of religious-group efforts with the SCLC.

The Interreligious Committee on Race Relations here has expressed belief that the campaign's goals are "basic to any standard of human dignity" and that "the continued blight of poverty in so affluent a nation as ours constitutes a clear denial of human dignity."

SBC Missions Gifts  
Continue Upward Climb

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention world missions gifts continued their upward climb during the month of April, when an end-of-the-month tally disclosed that Baptists have contributed \$24.7 million so far during 1968 to SBC missions causes.

The \$24.7 million exceeds missions contributions for the same period in 1967 by \$1.4 million, or 6.19 per cent, reported the SBC Executive Committee here.

Of the total missions contributions for SBC causes, \$8.7 million has been channeled to 19 different agencies of the convention through the Cooperative Program unified budget plan, an increase of \$436,392 or 5.24 per cent in Cooperative Program gifts over last year.

An additional \$15.9 million has been contributed to specific, designated missions causes, mostly foreign missions, so far during 1968. Designations are up \$1 million over 1967 figures, or 6.72 per cent.

During the month of April, contributions to the Cooperative Program reached \$2.1 million, and designations were \$2.6 million, bringing total gifts for the month to \$4.8 million.

Cooperative Program gifts have exceeded the \$2 million mark every month so far during 1968, said John H. Williams, financial planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee. Last year, Cooperative Program gifts fell beneath the \$2 million level during three months out of the year, including April.

Williams pointed out that Cooperative Program contributions passed the \$2 million mark for the first time in a single month during 1965, and that the \$2 million figure was passed twice in 1966. In 1967, it jumped to nine months out of the year that \$2 million was exceeded.

Biggest recipient of the \$24.7 million has been the SBC Foreign Mission Board which supports missions efforts in 69 countries. So far during 1968, foreign missions has received \$19 million in designated and Cooperative Program funds.

The SBC Home Mission Board has received \$3 million to support mission efforts in the homeland.

The figures in the monthly report include only amounts given to support nation and world-wide Southern Baptist Convention causes, and do not include amounts contributed to local and state-wide missions.

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Georgia Commission  
Proposes Liquor Law

5/3/68

ATLANTA (BP)--A recommendation for a uniform state liquor law to permit whiskey and beer sales in all Georgia counties is contained in a report of the Governor's Crime Commission, but Gov. Lester Maddox said he would seek answers to several questions before endorsing the law.

Gov. Maddox said, "If making all Georgia counties wet would reduce our problems, as suggested in the report, then an explanation must be offered as to why, during the past three years, the percentage of illicit stills, destroyed in wet counties, equals the percentage of stills destroyed in dry counties."

He also said he must be shown that there are just as many social problems, traffic problems, drunk drivers, speeders and alcoholics in dry counties as in wet counties.

Gov. Maddox asked if the amount of alliances between public officials and illicit liquor interest is less or greater in wet counties.

The governor agreed that Georgia's liquor laws need to be revised, but insisted first there should be "far more effort to enforce present laws."

Other recommendations expected to be made by the Governor's Crime Commission include internal investigation units for medium and large police departments, a high school diploma or its equivalent for every state law enforcement employee, ending of jury sentencing in noncapital cases, merger of the state pardons and paroles board with the state probation department and others.

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Livingstone Named BSSB  
Youth Section Supervisor

NASHVILLE (BP)--Charles R. Livingstone, formerly editor of adult life and work materials for the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has been named supervisor of the department's newly-created youth section.

Livingstone will supervise editors who will develop new periodicals for 1970, field services consultants in the area of youth and training of youth leadership and a program design and research consultant who will be responsible for research projects in the fields of youth leadership.

A native Kansan, Livingstone was graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and did graduate study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, the University of Oklahoma, Norman, and George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville.

Before his employment at the board, he served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Barnsdall, Okla., and First Baptist Church, Braman, Okla., and as associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Blackwell, Okla.

He and his wife, June, a native of Ponca City, Okla., have three sons, John Charles, 15, Terry Mark, 13, and Michael David, nine.

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Jose Silva, Retired  
Cuban Missionary Dies

5/3/68

ATLANTA (BP)--Jose B. Silva, a retired Southern Baptist missionary to Cuba and the former president of a Cuban college, died here at the Georgia Baptist Hospital after a long illness.

A native of Havana, Cuba, Silva attended high school and Jose Marte College in Mantanzas, becoming a teacher and finally president and owner of the college he attended.

He first came to the United States in 1908 and began working with Texas Baptists several years later. In 1911, he was appointed as career missionary by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to serve in Tampa, Fla. From here he went to Cuba where he served until 1935, when he returned to continue his work in Tampa, Fla., until he retired in 1950 after 40 years of service.

He is survived by a son, A. J. Silva of Atlanta, who presently also is a Southern Baptist missionary to the Spanish-speaking in Georgia.

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Annuity Board Director  
Jesse Moores, Dies

5/3/68

DALLAS (BP)--Jesse Alvin Moores, 45, a staff director of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, died at his home here.

Moores joined the Annuity Board in 1953 as bookkeeper. He was named to head the electronic data processing department four years ago when the board began converting records to computer.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE

June 3-4, 1968

South Main Baptist Church

Houston, Texas

Monday, June 3, 1968

**MORNING SESSION**

- 10:30 Organ Meditation - Marjorie Casanova, Organist, First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.  
10:45 Call to Order  
Presentation of Program
- 10:50 Worship through Singing - David M. Ford, Minister of Music-Youth, First Baptist Church,  
Port Arthur, Texas
- 11:05 Concert - Adult Choir, First Baptist Church, Shreveport, Louisiana, William Kenneth  
Dooley, Conductor
- 11:30 Message - James W. Middleton, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Shreveport, Louisiana
- 12:00 Closing Prayer

**AFTERNOON SESSION (Monday)**

- 1:30 Organ Meditation - Mary Alford Miller, Organist, River Oakes Baptist Church, Houston,  
Texas
- 1:45 Worship through Singing - Gerald P. Armstrong, Minister of Music, River Oakes Baptist  
Church, Houston, Texas  
Martha Branham, Soloist, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas
- 2:00 Concert - Junior Choir, Baptist Temple, Houston, Texas, Dale Colvin, Minister of Music
- 2:15 Panel Discussion - T. W. Dean, Moderator, Dean, School of Music, Hardin-Simmons  
University, Abilene, Texas

Prepared statements on the following subjects, followed by discussion:

- (1) A philosophy of church music for training church musicians by our seminary Schools of Church Music. - Hugh T. McElrath, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky
- (2) A philosophy of church music for training church musicians by the music departments of our Southern Baptist colleges. - James D. Woodward, Chairman, Department of Church Music, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma
- (3) A philosophy of church music for training church musicians by the Music Departments of the Sunday School Board and the State Baptist Conventions. - J. William Thompson, Supervisor, Literary Publications, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee

- (4) Is the preparation which a Southern Baptist musician receives from one or more of our Baptist educational programs in music adequate and pertinent to the situation which he finds on a church field? Are there weak areas of preparation or emphasis? - Robert C. Renfro, Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia

- 3:45 A Hymn of Praise
- 3:50 Concert - Youth Choir, Park Place Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, H. Bert Coble, Director
- 4:10 Closing Prayer
- 6:00 Southern Baptist Music Conference Banquet, South Main Baptist Church - Jack Terrell,  
Master of Ceremonies, Associate Music Secretary, Baptist  
General Convention of Texas

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## EVENING SESSION (Monday)

- 7:30 Organ Meditation - Lew Zailor, Organist, First Baptist Church and faculty member, Houston Baptist College, Houston, Texas
- 7:45 Worship through Singing - Claude Rhea, Music Consultant, SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Virginia
- 8:00 Message: "Music on the Mission Fields" - Claude Rhea and Missionaries on furlough
- 8:35 A Hymn of Assurance
- 8:45 Concert - Volunteer State Chorale ( Singing Churchmen-Tennessee), Lewis O. Ball, Director
- 9:10 Closing Prayer

Tuesday, June 4, 1968

## MORNING SESSION

- 8:45 Organ Meditation - Charles Lively, Organist, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas
- 9:00 Worship through Singing - Randall Veasey, Faculty, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- 9:15 Papers of a Historical or Technical Nature
1. "Life of Plunket Martin" - Harry Eskew, Faculty, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
  2. "Baptist Music in the History of the U. S. A." - James C. Downey, Faculty, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
  3. "Plymouth Collection" - William J. Reynolds, Director, Editorial Services, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee
- 10:20 A Hymn of Assurance
- 10:25 Concert - Junior Girls Choir, Willow Meadows Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, Mrs. Easterwood, Director
- 10:35 Departmental Conferences and Election of Officers
- 1 - Local Church Division
  - 2 - Denominational Division
  - 3 - Educators Division
- 11:20 A Hymn of Faith
- 11:25 Concert - Handbell Choir, Sharpstown Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, Merrill Luman, Director
- 11:40 President's Message - Donald Winters, Head of Music Department, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- 12:00 Closing Prayer

## AFTERNOON SESSION (Tuesday)

- 1:30 A Hymn of Praise
- 1:35 Concert - John Lock, Organist, Dorchester, England
- 2:20 Business Session
- 2:50 A Hymn of Adoration
- 3:00 Music Publications, Broadman Press - Loren R. Williams, Music Sales Specialist, SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville
- 3:30 Concert - Houston Baptist College Singers, R. Paul Green, Director
- 4:00 World Premiere of "Praise God" - Bob Burroughs, Houston Baptist College Singers, Instrumental Group, R. Paul Green, Director
- (Bob Burroughs, Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas, was commissioned by the Executive Council of the Southern Baptist Music Conference, to write this anthem for the 1968 meeting in Houston. This anthem is published by Broadman Press.)
- 4:10 Adjournment



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