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**Bennett Urges Baptist Action  
On Hunger, Poverty Problems**

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WASHINGTON (BP)--The Southern Baptist representative to the first White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health declared here that the Southern Baptist Convention "has not given sufficient attention" to the problem of hunger and poverty in the land.

G. Willis Bennett, professor of church and community at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said the convention needed to give more attention to the problem of hunger "in our publications and in national and regional conferences."

Bennett was named by the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission as its representative to the White House conference. In that capacity he served as one of 32 members of the religious task force working in advance to prepare recommendations for study by the 3,000 invited conferees.

The religious task force was one of eight groups preparing final recommendations to the President for action on hunger and malnutrition.

The Baptist seminarian praised the conference for bringing together "a widely diverse group of persons from all walks of life" and for reaching "common agreement" on the crisis proportions of the hunger problem.

Stressing his support of the call to ask President Nixon to declare a "national hunger emergency," Bennett said: "We can no longer ignore this problem. To do so would be immoral and disgraceful."

In discussing what the Southern Baptist Convention should do to help solve the problem of hunger among some 25 million persons, Bennett suggested further that churches should be encouraged to act locally in hunger and poverty programs of its own.

Also, concerned Christians should wire the President and their congressmen and senators "urging emergency action" and "urging approval of pending legislation" to feed needy persons, Bennett said.

Two bills awaiting final action in Congress were specifically mentioned by Bennett. One, a school lunch bill sponsored by Sen. Herman E. Talmadge (D., Ga.) would provide hot meals to all needy school children.

The other, a liberalized food stamp program promoted successfully in the Senate by George McGovern (D., S. Dak.), among other things, would give free stamps to the neediest families. This bill is now tied up in the House Agriculture Committee, Rep. W. R. Poage (D., Tex.) chairman.

Bennett commented also on the need to minister to poor persons at the level of their hunger and poverty in order "to reach these people with the gospel."

"We must show our commitment to the relief of their problems and the total elimination of hunger. They are not apt to listen to our words unless we prove our concern and love with action," he said.

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800 Baptist Leaders Plan  
For SBC Emphases, 1973-79

12/9/69

NASHVILLE (BP)--About 800 Southern Baptist leaders took a long look into the future of space and religion here at the Southern Baptist Planning and Promotion Conference.

Providing the peek into the future of space for the next 15 years was Edward B. Lindaman, a space scientist and department manger at North American Rockwell Corporation, Downey, Calif.

Albert McClellan of Nashville, program planning secretary for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee unveiled proposed religious objectives, themes and emphases for Southern Baptists for a six-year period, 1973-79.

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The two speakers shared the attention of the Baptist leaders with Evangelist Billy Graham, who spoke at a luncheon, and Olin T. Pinkley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Lindaman, who has accepted the presidency of Whitworth College at Spokane, Washington, told the Baptist leaders the same principles of planning for space exploration could be used to plan for accomplishing the mission of the church.

Five elements comprised the planning process for the moon shot, Lindaman said. He identified them as systems, goals, objectives, measurement of feedback and resources.

Describing the advances in space exploration, Lindaman said this nation's orbiting observatory on its first anniversary in space on December 6 provided the knowledge the universe containing earth is 40 billion light years wide, twice the size men had thought.

Concerning the proposed trip to Mars, Lindaman said such a venture, if undertaken, would begin on November 21, 1981 from a 270-foot-long, 12-man space craft attached to an orbiting space station.

Such a trip would find the explorers reaching Mars the following August and arriving home by way of Venus on Aug. 19, 1983, almost two years after the trip started.

A report by the joint SBC-state planning committee provided the look at the future in the area of religion.

McClellan, the general chairman, said that the committee brought together the work of the 30 state conventions and 19 SBC agencies. The committee recommended to the 800 planners attending the meeting a statement of purpose, objectives, themes and emphases for Southern Baptist programs during the years 1973-79.

Throughout the week, 14 different groups of state and SBC workers discussed and evaluated the suggested statements, refining them and making suggestions to the joint planning committee for revisions. The 14 groups also made suggestions for specific projects to carry out the objectives and themes.

After all the final reports from the 14 groups are compiled, the joint planning committee will recommend the statements to the SBC Inter-Agency Council, the SBC Executive Committee, and finally to the Southern Baptist Convention for consideration and action.

McClellan said that the statements of objectives and emphases may undergo numerous revisions before the final recommendations are made to the SBC, but that there seemed to be unanimity in the discussions on approval of the 1973-79 themes.

General overarching theme for the six year period would be if adopted, "Sharing Christ," with a specific theme each year.

Committee recommendations for the themes were: 1973-74, "Sharing Christ Through His Word;" 1974-75, "Sharing Christ in a Secular Society;" 1975-76, "Sharing Christ by Proclaiming Liberty;" 1976-78 (two years), "Sharing Christ Through Bold Missions;" and 1978-79, "Sharing Christ by Reconciliation."

Following McClellan's report, Southeastern Seminary President Binkley spoke on the theme for Southern Baptist Convention programs during 1970-71, "Living the Spirit of Christ in Openness and Freedom."

Binkley said that the source of freedom is the absolute lordship of Jesus Christ, saying that the paradox of Christianity is that Christians believe that man finds ultimate freedom in becoming a slave to the leadership and direction of Jesus Christ.

He cited three safeguards against the abuse of freedom, as summarized by the Apostle Paul: "(1) Is this course of action appropriate in the Christian Life?... (2) Is this course of action constructive?...and (3) Does this course of action lead to slavery, or towards greater freedom?"

Binkley said that faith in Christ sets man free from inward bondage to sin, self-centeredness, anxiety, guilt and moral blindness, from excessive concern for ourselves, and from the fear of reasonable criticism.

Following the closing address by Binkley to the general session, the 800 state and SBC leaders split into 14 different groups to discuss specific plans for the 1970's.

The meetings were held for state convention executive secretaries, and SBC agency heads; state and SBC workers in the Sunday School, church music, church training, Brotherhood, student work, Woman's Missionary Union, evangelism, missions, seminary extension, stewardship and church architecture programs.

Sessions were also held for associational superintendents of missions, and associational directors of religious education and music.

Billy Graham Says He Agrees  
With Criswell On Liberalism

NASHVILLE (BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham told 800 top Southern Baptist leaders here he agrees with Southern Baptist President W. A. Criswell of Dallas "when he warns us against error that can destroy us from within."

Graham's comments drew strong "amen" comments from the Baptist leaders when he questioned why Baptists would want to adopt the same methods and theology of the Europeans, when they go to Europe and see so many empty churches there.

The famed evangelist was apparently referring to Criswell's highly-publicized remarks earlier this fall when he urged liberals who cannot accept the convention-adopted statements of faith to leave and join another church instead of boring from within "and destroying us."

"We have a responsibility to guard against error," Graham said in his speech at a luncheon sponsored by the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission in connection with the Southern Baptist Planning and Promotion Conference here.

Graham warned that "one of Satan's techniques is to infiltrate us," and that Baptists must always guard against theological error within their ranks.

His comments concerning theological liberalism came as one of four points in a message in which he said Southern Baptists have something unique to contribute to the world, but also have some corresponding heavy responsibilities.

One of these responsibilities, Graham said, is to remain theologically true to the Bible. The Southern Baptist Convention, he added, is the most evangelical of all denominations and is one of the most theologically sound of all.

Graham said another unique responsibility of the denomination is to continue its strong evangelistic efforts, for "if we lose our evangelistic emphasis, we are lost."

The outspoken evangelist said there is a corresponding responsibility of the SBC in the area of social action. "For too long we have allowed people to point their finger at us and say we didn't have social concern," Graham said.

He urged Baptists to attack the areas of social injustice, racism, war, poverty; and to equally attack the problems of pride, lust, greed and jealousy among individuals.

Earlier, in his address, Graham had painted a dismal verbal picture of the problems of society, saying that some experts predict that if the problems of pollution are not solved, the world has only a 50-50 chance of reaching the 1980's.

Citing not only the war in Vietnam, but 45 other wars across the world, Graham decried war, racial turmoil, crime (which he said increased 33 per cent last month in Washington, D.C.) and even a religious crisis in the nation.

Declaring that "the ecumenical movement has lost its ecumenical spirit," Graham observed that crisis and turmoil during the National Council of Churches' meeting in Detroit one week earlier "had threatened the very existence of the National Council."

The real struggle, he added, "is the unseen struggle between God and Satan, between the forces of good and evil."

Southern Baptists, he said, can play a unique role in that struggle if they will remain true to the Bible, continue to emphasize evangelism and missions, and to put their beliefs into social action.

"Thank God for Southern Baptists' concern for world missions," Graham declared. "Let's never lose that concern. Let's go into the whole world--a world afire with revolution."

Graham strongly supported "both openly and privately" the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, the unified budget plan that supports a total world missions program sponsored by the denomination.

"No other denomination has devised a better plan for supporting a total missions program," Graham said. Then he pointed to a backdrop depicting the theme for the Cooperative Program during 1969; entitled "Concern," and said: "The Cooperative Program is 'Concern' for people."

Earlier, in a news conference, Graham fielded reporters' questions on Vice President Agnew's remarks concerning television news coverage, the Vietnam War and reported massacre at My Lai 4, and a dozen other topics.

On Vietnam, Graham said he had never taken a position personally. He acknowledged his close contact with President Nixon, but said he had not discussed the My Lai massacre reports with him.

"To shoot women and children is absolutely inexcusable," Graham declared. He added, however, that nobody knows for sure what really happened at the Song My community, or whether there was really a massacre there. Graham said he supported the idea of a presidential commission to investigate the charges.

Graham commented on Vice President Agnew's remarks, saying that sometimes the news media needs someone to give them suggestions. Then he offered a few suggestions of his own, saying the press should do a better job of covering the religious news of the day, citing an interracial evangelistic crusade he led in Montgomery that got no network coverage and the recent Anaheim, Calif., crusade he led.

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Former Hardin-Sommons Student  
President Wounded Three Times

12/9/69

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--A former study body president at Hardin-Simmons University here has suffered combat wounds in Vietnam for the third time.

Capt. Robert Larry Bates, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Bates of Carlsbad, N.M., is recuperating from shrapnel wounds in a Japanese Hospital.

The elder Bates reported that his son suffered wounds about the arms and body, complete loss of hearing in one ear and a 30 per cent loss of hearing in the other ear.

"He's doing pretty well," his father said. "However, it will be about 30 days before any type of operation can be performed because of infection."

Bates, a 1967 graduate of the Baptist school who earned his second lieutenant rank through the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) at Hardin-Simmons, strongly supported the U.S. position in the Vietnam War before he left, saying "I'm anxious to go."

"The people over there need our help," he said. "We're doing a lot more than just killing the enemy. I've never met a soldier who has been there who said we shouldn't be there... I think we had to make a stand somewhere in Vietnam."

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Popfest Witnesses  
Report 1,000 Converts

12/9/69

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (BP)--When the smoke cleared from the Palm Beach Music and Arts Festival here recently, witnessing teams checked their notebooks and reported that more than 1,000 young men and women were won to Christ during the gigantic drug and rock music marathon.

The evangelistic effort, led by the First Baptist Church, here, sought to bring the gospel to more than 50,000 hippies, high schoolers and college students gathered at the Palm Beach International Speedway.

Fenton Moorhead, the church's "minister to the generation gap," reported that most of the converts resulted from a Sunday morning worship service on the main stage led by California Evangelist Arthur Blessitt.

"There were hecklers, indifferent and interested people. Almost 20,000 people crawled out from under their blankets and out of their cars to hear the word of God preached," Moorhead said.

"For three solid hours after the service, our gospel tent was filled with kids wanting to know more about Jesus. Our counsellors never worked so hard in all their lives," He added.

As the temperature dropped on the third day of the popfest, the shortage of firewood was so acute that the gospel tent inhabitants burned the wooden chairs they had been using.

Festival promoter Dave Rupp told the assembled multitude, waiting to hear music from the Rolling Stones, that they were welcome to use the raceway bleachers for firewood if they liked.

The young people refused to destroy the property.

"We had a true worship experience there," Moorhead commented.

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