



**BAPTIST PRESS**

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March 6, 1970

WMU Convention To Commemorate  
Mission Boards' 125th Anniversary

DENVER (BP)--Top personnel of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and SBC Home Mission Board will be featured on the program of the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of the Southern Baptist Convention here May 31-June 1.

The WMU Convention will commemorate the 125th anniversary of the organization of both of the mission boards, with sessions on Monday morning, June 1, featuring foreign missions, and on Monday afternoon emphasizing home missions.

Each session will present a glimpse of the past observing the founding of the boards 125 years ago, said Mrs. R. L. Mathis, Waco, Tex., president of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union who released the completed program for the meeting.

Missions strategy for the new decade will be outlined by the two top executives of the mission boards--Baker James Cauthen of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, and Arthur B. Rutledge, of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

The convention will open Sunday afternoon with a music and missions hymn festival featuring stars of the Lawrence Welk Show, Norma Zimmer and Jim Roberts. Directing the hymn sing will be Claude H. Rhea Jr., head of the fine arts division of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; and Gene Bartlett, music department secretary for Oklahoma Baptists.

Southern Baptist Convention President W. A. Criswell of Dallas will interpret the theme for the convention, "Living the Christ Life."

Foreign Mission Board appointees will also give testimonies, and Bob Tremaine, a home missionary and pastor in Worcester, Mass., will speak during the opening Sunday afternoon session.

Mrs. Mathis pointed out that the Sunday opening date is a departure of scheduling in recent years. The WMU Convention, the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, and the Southern Baptist Convention's committee on order of business cooperated in planning the new schedule so that the SBC could open on Monday night.

Pastors and other convention goers are invited to join the hymn sing sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union on Sunday afternoon, Mrs. Mathis said.

When the SBC Pastors' Conference opens on Sunday evening, the Woman's Missionary Union Convention will not meet. The women are asked to attend and support the Pastors' Conference. Each group will hold simultaneous sessions on Monday.

Mrs. Mathis urged persons attending the convention to be aware of the schedule change. "Women usually make reservations to arrive at the annual meeting on Monday morning. This year they should arrange to arrive before Sunday afternoon," she said.

The Monday morning session emphasizing foreign missions will feature messages by Cauthen, Jesse Fletcher, director of the Foreign Mission Board's Missions Support Division and Winston Crawley, director of the board's Overseas Division. A third board division head, Sidney C. Reber of management services, will sing a solo. Testimonies from foreign missionaries and missionary appointees will also be featured.

1 Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, will speak during the Monday morning session.

In the Monday afternoon session spotlighting the Home Mission Board, missions work in the western United States will be emphasized. Rutledge and Albert McClellan, program planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, will present an illustrated dialogue on "The West That Was." Rutledge will also close the session.

Kenneth L. Chafin, new Evangelism Division director for the board, will speak on "The West: A Continuing Spiritual Frontier."

Laymen, missionaries, pastors and Home Mission Board department secretaries and workers will tell about their work in the west.

They include Wendell Belew of the board's pioneer missions department, Atlanta; Dewey Hickey of Valentine, Neb.; LaVern Inzer of Winnemucca, Nevada; Tommy Grozier of Bellevue, Neb.; Roy Owen of the board's rural-urban missions department; Don Kim of Los Angeles; Benjamin Duque of Pueblo, Colo.; Wilfred Chung of Sacramento, Calif.; and Theo Patnaik of San Jose, Calif.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Complete program for the Woman's Missionary Union Convention will be mailed in the next few days.

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I N S E R T

On Baptist Press story mailed 3/4/70 headlined, "Letters, Editorials Protest Seminar on 'Authentic Morality,'" insert the following after graph 5:

An editorial in the Illinois Baptist countered, however, that "this approach makes some Baptists uneasy because of our traditional isolationism. In fact, many who are leaving the ministry say it is due to just such hostility when they dare to deal with current issues.

"Some may accuse our Baptist leaders of being 'crazy' because they dare to confront a segment of our society that some would prefer to ignore," the editorial continued. "But if they are 'crazy,' they are in good company--with none other than Jesus Christ himself... Had he been content to live a life of quiet meditation, he would never have gotten in trouble. If our churches desire lives of quiet meditation, they too will never be troubled. But neither will they be counted. They will only be ignored."

pickup with remainder of story.

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North Carolina Editor's War  
Against Liquor Surfaces Again

3/6/70

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--The continuing battle over liquor-by-the-drink in North Carolina surfaced again here with wide publicity of an exchange of letters marked "personal" between the editor of the Baptist state paper and the president of the Young Democrats Clubs of North Carolina.

The exchange took place after Robert Bingham, of Boone, N.C., president of the Young Democrats Clubs, was quoted as favoring legislation in the 1971 North Carolina General Assembly allowing local option voting on liquor-by-the-drink. He said he hoped to get his organization to support such legislation.

Marse Grant, editor of the Biblical Recorder and a registered Democrat, responded to Bingham's position in a letter to him marked "personal...and not for distribution in the press or elsewhere."

In his letter, the North Carolina Baptist editor noted growing Republican strength in the state and said it seemed "foolish" to rally young Democrats around a divisive issue like liquor-by-the-drink. He said he would oppose it in the paper he edits.

Last year, Grant was one of the primary leaders in efforts to get North Carolina legislators to reject liquor law liberalization. On four roll call votes in the General Assembly, liquor-by-the-drink bills lost each time.

The issue was brought to the fore again when Grant's "personal" letter to Bingham was released to news media across the state by millionaire Hugh Morton of the North Carolina Travel Council, an organization which has pushed liquor-by-the-drink for two years. Bingham is employed in a Morton-owned real estate firm.

The news media in the state gave front page coverage to the release of the letter, and several carried editorials on it.

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Morton and Bingham claimed Grant was trying to "blackmail" them with the threat of rallying one million Baptists and half-million Methodists in opposition to liquor legislation. They asked if Grant would oppose giving people the right to vote on it.

Though he emphasized he would not support such legislation, Grant countered with the proposal that the issue be placed before all the voters in the state in a general referendum, instead of before only some of the voters on a local option basis.

Grant also argued that if the issue passes the legislature, the drink sales should be handled in the manner that liquor sales are now--in state-owned stores with state and local government receiving any profits.

"One thing I have learned from this experience," Grant said in an interview, "is not to write a letter to these fellows and expect them to keep it confidential. They don't know the meaning of the word.

"I have no apology for the letter, but would have written it differently if I had known that Hugh Morton was going to mail it to every news outlet in the state," Grant said.

"This move is typical of the desperation tactics used by the liquor promoters in 1969--tactics which failed," the Baptist editor said. "Perhaps the incident will stir our people into action again in 1971. If so, it would have been worth it."

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New Children's Sunday School  
Editor Named At Board

3/6/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Mrs. Muriel F. Blackwell, a former English teacher from Plain Dealing, La., has been named an editor in the pre-school and children's section of the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, effective Mar. 13.

She will be responsible for "More" and "Adventure," leisure-reading periodicals. She succeeds Miss Adrienne Bonham who has joined the Woman's Missionary Union staff, Birmingham.

Mrs. Blackwell, a native of Louisiana, is a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, and has done further study at Mississippi College, Clinton, and Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

She has taught in Louisiana public schools for 18 years. She has written or contributed to several board publications.

Mrs. Blackwell is married to William L. Blackwell and has two children, Lauren, 14 and Lloyd, ten.

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Cooperative Program Gifts  
Decrease for 1970 By .77%

3/6/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions to missions through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program unified budget decreased during the month of February by 6.18 per cent, causing total gifts for the year to drop below the 1969 level by .77 per cent.

The decrease in giving during the month of February offset and nullified an increase in contributions during the month of January, according to a report prepared by John H. Williams, financial planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee.

Total contributions through the Cooperative Program for the first two months of 1970 reached \$4,943,251, a decrease of \$38,438 or .77 per cent compared to the \$4.98 million given during the first two months of 1969.

During the month of February, Cooperative Program giving was \$2,329,680, a decrease of \$153,437 or 6.18 per cent from the \$2.48 million contributed in February, 1969. The February 1969 giving was a 12.6 per cent increase over February, 1968 gifts.

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Williams explained that there was one state (Kentucky) which has sent in only one of the two month's Cooperative Program checks, accounting for about \$100,000 of the decrease. Of the 31 state conventions, 15 have reported decreases in giving for the first two months of the year. Three states did not send in any funds during February.

In addition to the \$4.9 million in Cooperative Program contributions during 1970, Southern Baptists have given \$10.9 million in designated offerings to specific mission causes. The \$10.9 million is a \$139,225 or 1.25 per cent decrease when compared to 1969 designated gifts.

Combined Cooperative Program and designated gifts reached \$15.89 million, down \$177,663 or 1.11 per cent from the 1969 combined mission giving level.

Of the \$15.8 million total, \$13.3 million has gone to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and \$1 million to home missions.

The financial report includes only amounts given to national and world-wide Southern Baptist mission efforts, and does not reflect gifts to local and state mission causes.

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Illinois Board Opposes  
Aid to Non-Public Schools

3/6/70

CARBONDALE, Ill. (BP)--The Board of Directors of the Illinois Baptist State Association here has adopted a resolution opposing any form of government aid to non-public schools in Illinois.

The 72-member board encouraged each of the 900 Baptist congregations and 190,000 Baptists to express their feelings on the subject to their delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

The resolution urged the Constitutional Convention to retain in the new Illinois constitution those guarantees which prohibit tax funds being used to "support or sustain any school . . . controlled by any church."

The board also reaffirmed Baptist confidence in a strong, single public school system "rather than multiple systems which might be divisive in nature."

Wendell Garrison of Granite City, chairman of the committee which drafted the resolution, pointed out that it "is not an expression of religious prejudice, but is based on the conviction that if any special interest group desires private schools, it is their responsibility to pay for the same."

To illustrate his point, Garrison said that the state provides police protection for everyone. "If an organization desires extra protection, or separate protection," he said, "it is at liberty to provide its own security force. But if it does choose to set up its own security protection, it should not cry that it is being doubly taxed, or that the state is obligated to subsidize such protection."

Board chairman Charles L. Chaney of Palatine, Ill., named nine official representatives to attend Constitutional Convention hearings scheduled in East St. Louis, Alton, Champaign-Urbana, Effingham, Olney, Centralia, Quincy and Rock Island, Ill. These representatives will present the resolution to the Con-Con delegates.

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