

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 31, 1971

Religious Educators To Look
At "What's Happening Now"

ST. LOUIS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, meeting here for a two-day session May 30-31 just prior to the Southern Baptist Convention will feature a series of addresses on what's "Happening Now" in church ministries.

The program will cover what is happening in the fields of day care, youth work, ministry to exceptional persons, ministry to the aging, church busing, and will conclude with an address on the place of evangelism in religious education by Kenneth L. Chafin, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Evangelism Division.

Southern Baptist Convention President Carl E. Bates, who will preside over the SBC sessions on Jun 1-3, will address the association on "The Place of Religious Education in My Ministry."

Dialogue sessions are scheduled following the addresses by Chafin, Bates, and Gaines S. Dobbins, retired professor of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who will speak on "The Contribution of Religious Education to Baptist Life."

Another major address will be brought by W. L. Howse, director of the Education Division for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. A luncheon paying tribute to Howse's contributions to Baptist life will be held at noon Monday, May 31, following his address.

Participants in the luncheon paying tribute to Howse will be Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the SBC Foreign Mission Board; James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the SBC Sunday School Board; Joe Davis Heacock, dean of the School of Religious Education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth; and Richard Kay, director of the Church Services Division for the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

The conference will get underway at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, May 30, at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis, and will conclude at 9:30 p.m., Monday, May 31.

Each session will open with a devotional message and Bible study by J. Earl Mead, retired Baptist leader from Dallas.

The "Happening Now" features will be part of each session, with the opening Monday morning meeting emphasizing a report on ministries through day care by Elizabeth Hutchens, associate professor of religious education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

James L. Pleitz, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla., will report on "Involving Youth in a Dynamic Church Program." Last year, Guideposts magazine named the congregation "Church of the Year" because of its creative youth program.

Another major address during the Sunday evening session will be brought by Peter McLeod, pastor of First Baptist Church, Waco, Tex.

What's "Happening Now...Ministry to Exceptional Persons" will be discussed by Doris Monroe, consultant, ministry to exceptional persons, church training department, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Russell Noel, immediate past president of the Religious Education Association and minister of education for First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., will speak on "Happening Now... Ministry to the Aging," and Jaroy Weber, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., will discuss "Happening Now...A Dynamic Bus Ministry."

Music for the conference will be directed by William Robert Souther, minister of music and youth, First Baptist Church, Brookhaven, Miss., and pianist will be Sue Murphy, pianist at Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis.

President of the association is William H. Souther, professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and president-elect is Joe Burnette of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

Burnette is one of three current vice presidents, including also Ernest J. Loessner of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and Miss Mickey Martin of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville. William E. Young of the church administration department, SBC Sunday School Board, is secretary-treasurer.

Theme for the convention will be, "For This Cause...Commitment."

-30-

Texas Churches Make Rapid
Comeback After Hurricane Celia

3/31/71

CORPUS CHRISTI (BP)--Eight months after Hurricane Celia ravaged the coastal bend area, Texas Baptist churches whose buildings were damaged or destroyed are making a rapid comeback.

W. H. Colson, superintendent of missions for the Corpus Christi Association says that by early August all of the damaged churches in the association will have remodeled their buildings.

Memorial church, one of many suffering sever damage from the hurricane's 150 MPH winds, dedicates its newly-remodeled plant April 4, said the pastor, Walter Kruse. Dedicatory speaker will be T. A. Patterson, executive secretary of the 1.9 million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Others who are still remodeling, but plan dedication services soon, are Tulosa-Midway, Primera, Lexington and Second, said Colson.

With the dedication services, said Colson, there is a rededication and total commitment on the part of both pastors and lay people that has, in many instances, caused the churches to be stronger and to do more than ever before.

But while the damaged churches are mostly rebuilt, there is much more to be done in rebuilding the city, Colson said.

More than 4,000 families still live in government trailers, Numerous homes and businesses still await insurance settlements or small business administration loans for remodeling.

Colson said the entire coastal bend area is moving as rapidly as possible, using local, state and federal resources to get the families back into permanent homes.

The greatest damage to Baptist property was in the Corpus Christi Association which caught the eye of the storm as it slammed ashore. Colson said damage to 52 church and mission buildings in the association were estimated at \$2,189,000. The Corpus Christi Association office suffered \$27,000 in damages, the University of Corpus Christi lost more than \$1 million in property and Zephy Baptist Encampment experienced \$200,000 in damages.

Colson said Baptist churches in the Corpus Christi Association have received more than \$175,000 in aid since the hurricane. This includes \$141,000 for rebuilding churches, principally through the convention's disaster relief fund. The Oldham Little Church Foundation gave \$24,750 to help in construction.

Also, churches across Texas provided 39 loads of food, clothing, building materials, furniture and appliances, Colson said.

Proposed Program
Southern Baptist Religious Education Association
May 30-31, 1971
Chase-Park Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, Mo.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, May 30

- 2:00 Worship Through Singing---William Robert Souther, minister of music and youth, Baptist Church, Brookhaven, Miss.
- 2:10 "The Upward Look"---J. Earl Mead, Dallas, Texas
- 2:25 Call to order, appointment of committees, program preview
- 2:40 "Happening Now... Ministry Through Day Care" -- Elizabeth Hutchens, associate professor of Religious Education, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.
- 3:00 "The Contribution of Religious Education to Baptist Life"--Gaines S. Dobbins, emeritus professor of religious education and church administration, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 3:40 Dialogue with Dr. Dobbins
- 4:00 Benediction

SUNDAY EVENING, May 30

- 7:00 Worship Through Singing
- 7:10 "The Upward Look"---J. Earl Mead
- 7:30 "Happening Now... Involving Youth in a Dynamic Church Program"--James L. Pleitz, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.
- 8:00 Dialogue with Dr. Pleitz
- 8:15 Special Music
- 8:25 Address--Peter McLeod, pastor, First Baptist Church, Waco, Tex.
- 9:15 Benediction

MONDAY MORNING, May 31

- 9:00 Worship Through Singing
- 9:10 "The Upward Look"---J. Earl Mead
- 9:25 Address (to be announced later)
- 10:10 "Happening Now... Ministry to Exceptional Persons"--Doris Monroe, consultant, ministry to exceptional persons, church training department, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- 10:30 Special music
- 10:35 Greetings from special groups
- 11:05 Special music
- 11:10 Address--W. L. Howse, director, Education Division, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- 12:00 Benediction
- 12:30 Luncheon tribute to W. L. Howse

MONDAY AFTERNOON, May 31

- 2:30 Worship in Song
- 2:35 "The Upward Look"---J. Earl Mead
- 2:55 "Happening Now... Ministry to the Aging"--M. Russel Noel, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.
- 3:15 "The Place of Religious Education in My Ministry"--Carl Bates, president, Southern Baptist Convention; pastor, First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C.
- 4:00 Dialogue with Dr. Bates
- 4:15 Benediction

MONDAY EVENING, May 31

- 7:00 Worship in Song
- 7:10 "The Upward Look"---J. Earl Mead
- 7:30 "Happening Now... A Dynamic Bus Ministry"..Jaroy Weber, pastor, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.
- 7:50 Business session
- 8:10 A word from the new president--Joe Burnette, president-elect, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.
- 8:20 Special Music
- 8:30 "The Place of Evangelism in Religious Education"--Kenneth Chafin, director, Evangelism Division, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.
- 9:10 Dialogue with Dr. Chafin
- 9:30 Benediction



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