

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director**BUREAUS****ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041**DALLAS** Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631**RICHMOND** Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 6, 1971

**Theology of Ecology Urged
At Seminary Lecture-Dialogue**

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Calling the ecological crisis "the most important and controversial social issue we face today," a Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission staff member urged churches to develop a theology of ecology and a practice stewardship of power to correct abuses of the environment.

During a lecture-dialogue at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here, Harry N. Hollis Jr., of the SBC Christian Life Commission called for churches to exercise their power in the ecological crisis "to help establish the correct order of national priorities."

Hollis, director of special moral concerns for the commission, suggested that Christians work for legislation to prevent the ravishing of the soil, air and water, that churches refuse to do business with industries which pollute the air and water, and that religious institutions re-examine their stock portfolios.

"To: the businessmen whose factories belch smoke into the air and spew filth into the streams, we must say, 'The earth is the Lord's,' and we must translate these words into concrete actions," said Hollis.

The same approach should be directed, he added, toward "generals who take napalm and fry the forests in the name of peace... , to strip mine owners whose huge mechanical shovels rake through the soil in order that their hands can rake in more dollars... , to politicians who talk a good anti-pollution game but who vote for loopholes to allow special interests to continue to ravish the environment...."

Individual proposals for specific actions to deal with the pollution problem will not be enough, nor will it be enough to apply more technology, he continued. Hollis urged "a change in attitude that will lead to a change in action.

"It is not enough to spend our time philosophizing about ecology while we are smothering to death under an avalanche of cans, klenex and candy wrappers," he quipped.

Hollis urged action based on a theology of ecology drawn from biblical teaching that God is creator, that creation is good, that man should respond to God's creation with stewardship, that God will judge man for misusing the earth, that the whole creation is moving toward completion with a divine purpose, that God is redeemer, and that man must respond to creation and redemption with love.

Hollis quoted several experts in the field as predicting the possible extinction of mankind if something is not done soon about the pollution problem.

"The real horror of the future may not be the extinction of Homo Sapiens but a mutation into some kind of sluggish human equivalent of the carp which now lurks in the poison depths of Lake Erie," Hollis said.

Calling the pollution problem the most controversial social issue of the day, Hollis said he once felt the problem was so great it might pull people of differing views together to fight a common problem, but his view has changed.

Ecology is controversial because it will involve the examination of such issues as "compulsory birth control, abortion and a shift in popularly held views of family life," he said. It also will call for higher taxes and further modification of the free enterprise system to stop industrial pollution, and will lead to limiting the number of automobiles.

Hollis cited figures indicating it would cost \$100 billion in the next five years to clean up the country. But the cost of pollution ultimately is greater than the cost of cleaning up the problem, he added.

Hollis said estimates showed that air pollution alone costs the average American \$65 a year, not including the dangers to health and shortened life span.

The lecture-dialogue was part of a monthly series started at the seminary last fall to give students and faculty members an opportunity to hear and talk with experts on current issues related to Christianity, a seminary spokesman said.

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Three Missionary Families
Evacuate East Pakistan

4/6/71

RICHMOND (BP)--Three Southern Baptist missionary families have left East Pakistan, scene of fighting between Pakistani armed forces and supporters of Bengali independence, according to a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board official here.

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Jones and Mr. and Mrs. W. Trueman Moore left Dacca on April 4 for Karachi, West Pakistan.

The Moore and Jones families proceeded to Tehran, Iran, where they will arrange to come to the United States for furlough. The Young family plans to remain in West Pakistan, according to information received here by John D. Hughey, the board's secretary for Europe and the Middle East.

After a phone call from the missionaries in Tehran, Hughey said that eight missionaries apparently are still in East Pakistan, though on April 4 there had been no contact with them for 10 days.

"There have been no details about those left behind, but we feel they are quite all right," Hughey said. "We also have that assurance from the State Department."

Of the six missionaries evacuated from East Pakistan, Mr. and Mrs. Young are both from Mississippi (Thomastown and Kosciusko); Mr. and Mrs. Moore are natives of Arkansas (Mansfield and Greenwood); and Mr. and Mrs. Jones are from Delaware, Ohio, and Woodbury, Tenn., respectively.

Of the eight missionaries remaining in East Pakistan, three are natives of Mississippi --Mr. and Mrs. Buckley of Picayune and Gibson, Miss.; and Thurman, of Monticello. Mrs. Thurman is a native of McWilliams, Ala.

Mr. and Mrs. McKinley are natives of Kentucky, he from Nora, and she from Louisville. Ryther is a native of Belle Fourche, S.D., and Mrs. Ryther was reared in Gonzales, Tex.

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SBC Home Mission Board
Aids Starving Migrants

4/6/71

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, through its disaster relief fund, and the Florida Baptist Convention here, have contributed \$2,750 to feed migrant workers left destitute after freezing crops left them with no work.

The move was initiated after newspapers in the area reported a migrant worker demonstration in front of President Nixon's Key Biscayne home.

Christian social ministries director Ray Dobbins and director of migrant missions Russell Kaufman supervised the dispensing of the funds. About \$650 was sent to Dade County, the hardest hit area. Another \$1,100 was used in the central part of the state.

According to Dobbins, government services' response to the crisis eased the load on church groups. "About 8,000 to 10,000 migrants were hungry at first," Dobbins explained, "but now the situation is not as bad as we had anticipated."

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Nursery Facilities At SBC
To Be Limited, Pound Says

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (BP)--Nursery facilities at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting here June 1-3 will be limited, and the chairman of the nursery committee for the convention has recommended that messengers do not bring infants and pre-school children to the convention.

Earl Pounds, chairman of the committee, said that because of the limited space, the committee had decided to try to care only for children through age three for out of town convention messengers. No local area children will be accepted in the nursery, he said.

Parents unable to make other arrangements will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, Pounds said.

The nursery will be located in the Exhibition Area of Keil Auditorium, on the level below the convention floor.

Pounds added that all children must have identification attached, that marked bags and bottles must be provided by the parents, and that all children must be picked up immediately after each session for feeding and other care.

Cost will be \$1.50 per session, per child, Pounds said.

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Alabama WMU Elects
Three New Staffers

4/6/71

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--Three new staff members have been elected by the Alabama Baptist Woman's Missionary Union with offices here.

Named to the posts, effective May 15, were Miss Charlottee Couche of Fort Worth, new Baptist Young Women's director; Miss Sue Whitmire of Fort Worth, as Acteens director; and Mrs. Earl Potts of Montgomery, as Missions Friends director.

Miss Couche, a native of Muskogee, Okla., is a graduate of Northeastern State College in Tahlequah, Okla., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. Miss Whitmire, a native of Alabama, is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

Mrs. Potts is married to the director of the Church Ministries Division director for the Alabama Baptist State Executive Board. She will work part-time as director of the WMU organization for pre-schoolers.

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LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE. NO.
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Outlines

BPRA OFFICERS NAMED: New officers of the Baptist Public Relations Association relax under the shade of a ~~large oak tree~~ ^{moss-covered oak tree} beside a placid lake at Middletown Gardens in Charleston, S. C. / From right to left, the new officers are: Mrs. Lee N. Allen of SBC Woman's Missionary Union, president; Tom Brannon of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, president-elect; W. C. Fields of the SBC Executive Committee, immediate past president and new awards chairman; Mrs. Agnes Ford of Nashville, secretary-treasurer; and Miss ~~Kathryn~~ ^{Lucy} Hoskins of the SBC Sunday School Board, BPRA representative to the Inter-Agency Council. Not pictured are ~~William~~ Jesse Fletcher of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, membership vice president; ~~and~~ Ed Shipman of the SBC Radio-TV Commission, program vice president; and Bill Munnely of Samford University, newsletter editor. (BP) Photo