



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

December 14, 1971

New Brotherhood Executive
Committed to Lay Conspiracy

By Jack U. Harwell

MEMPHIS (BP)--The newest Southern Baptist Convention agency head is committed to creating a new conspiracy among Southern Baptist laymen.

Glendon McCullough, executive secretary of the SBC Brotherhood Commission here, calls it "a conspiracy of concern."

McCullough, a native of Georgia, will push that conspiracy with everything at his disposal in his new job of leading the laymen's involvement organization of the SBC.

"I don't have a lot of pre-conceived ideas about where Baptist men's work will go under new leadership," McCullough said in an interview just before he left his position in Atlanta as personnel director for the SBC Home Mission Board to assume the Memphis post.

McCullough is spending the first few weeks on the job here with Brotherhood Commission staff members, state Brotherhood secretaries, mission board executives, editors and everyone else who has ideas about improving Baptist men's work.

McCullough, however, has some strong ideas about ways to more effectively involve laymen in the life of the church; but he is open to listen to the views of others before jelling new commission policies.

One of his strongest views is that "Southern Baptist men desperately need to form a conspiracy of concern--a concern that takes us beyond the jolly fellowship, the polite corps of church-door greeters and the ushering franchise.

"We need to quit calling our Baptist laymen back to the churches to prop them up as institutions," he continued enthusiastically. "We must learn to be glad that they are out in the workaday world, where they have their greatest expertise. And we must learn how to undergird them for the greatest possible witness out there where they live and work."

McCullough, a graduate of Brewton-Parker College, Baylor University, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, added that his most urgent feeling at present "is to convey to Southern Baptists everywhere that exciting things are going on in the world of Christianity and that we can get laymen excited about being involved in them."

He cited the lay witness movement as an example of the "exciting things" that are happening.

"Renewal is breaking in on us in a million flashes of spiritual lightning," he said. "Now, as in the early church, the laymen are the 'lightning rods' for the reception of such unleashed power."

Digging even deeper into the significance of the renewal movement, McCullough said in an interview published in Home Missions Magazine that church renewal through the laity is an area which commends itself to the Brotherhood Commission for leadership.

He observed that the number of lay people who have had strong feelings for church renewal and who have gone outside the denomination to give it expression underscores the need for such a ministry by the commission. "If we can provide an environment for this type of renewal within

the churches, I believe we will have just as tremendous a response as other denominations have had, as well as the interdenominational" organizations, he said.

A lot depends upon understanding the theological base for the roles of the pastor and the laity, he continued. "The pastor does have more theological training, but that doesn't mean laymen can't carry out projects even he could not carry out. They can complement each other."

Saying Baptists have tended to make the pastor a business manager or executive, taking him out of the prophetic role, McCullough emphasized that it might be more precise to see the role of the pastor as equipping the laity for their unique role in the world.

"The laity are already in the world, and we must equip them for their role there as witnessing, professing Christians," McCullough said. "We must strengthen their concept of ministry when they are apart from the fellowship, for this is where they spend most of their time and where their witness is most needed.

"In reverse," he continued, "we strip the pastor of his equipping ministry by expecting him to enter the world and function as a layman, but because he is paid clergy, his witness is not half as effective as that of his laity. The effect is that we neutralize the ministry of both."

The Brotherhood Commission needs to help lead Southern Baptists to understand these unique roles pastors and laymen can play in renewal, and to get away from an institutional approach.

"This is not the decade of institutionalized organizations," he declared. "If we are just going to have eating meetings and plan a few one-shot projects and put a lot of names on Brotherhood rolls so we can make a good annual report, I am not interested. And I don't think our Baptist men are interested.

"Laymen need to be full partners in the mainstream of the church's life," he stated. "They can cut new highways in the jungles of modern society. We need to excite their concern and mobilize their unique skills and God-breathed gifts in life-changing ways.

McCullough, who spent 10 years as Georgia Baptists' first Royal Ambassador secretary and six years as pastor and associate pastor of Georgia churches, gave several specific examples:

"Baptists have got to redefine witness as a venture of faith into the full spectrum of man's need," he said. "And the Brotherhood Commission ought to lead out in the campaign.

He also cited church bus ministries as an example of an avenue of witness and outreach through which laymen can serve in "the full spectrum of man's need," as well as first person witnessing efforts.

"I am talking about a renewal that changes the style and pace of daily life into a celebration of Christian freedom," he added. This kind of renewal could bring about a revolution in the churches that springs from a nationwide conspiracy of concern."

It could revitalize Brotherhood work, as well as Royal Ambassador programs, and influence the whole church. "While men in general carry the leadership role in the churches, the Royal Ambassadors have lacked leadership because the men were not sold on this concept of involvement," McCullough said of the Brotherhood's assignment to direct work with boys in the Royal Ambassador program.

"As far as providing leadership for youth organizations, undergirding mission programs financially and participating in mission action, there remains a desperate need for men to be involved," he said.

"I don't know whether they really haven't been able to see this, or whether we haven't communicated the concepts, but there is a breakdown somewhere," he lamented.

But McCullough is committed to trying to correct the breakdown, even if it takes leading a nation-wide conspiracy of concern among Baptist laymen.

Joe Waltz, Pennsylvania
Baptist Leader, Dies

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP)--Joseph M. Waltz, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, died Dec. 13 of an apparent heart attack while on a hunting trip in Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

Waltz and his son had gone hunting and had separated. Another hunter found the Baptist leader's body and notified his son.

Waltz, 46, became executive secretary of the newest state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention last year. He was the first person to hold the position.

A former president of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, Waltz was pastor of Southern Baptist churches in Fairborn, Ohio, and in Waynesburg, McKinney, and Ludlow, Ky.

He was a graduate of Georgetown Baptist College, Georgetown, Ky., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

In 1959 he became director of Southern Baptist work for the Pittsburgh area, and in 1964 was named superintendent of missions for the greater Pittsburgh Baptist Association. He was recently awarded a plaque for 10 years of "distinguished service" for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Active in denominational affairs, Waltz was a member of the Executive Board of the Ohio convention, a trustee for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and a member of the SBC committee on boards.

Two of his four children are ministers of music for Baptist churches--Marvin, 23, of First Baptist Church, Mason, Ohio; and David Carl, of Twin County Baptist Church, Kendall Park, N. J.

Funeral services were scheduled Friday, Dec. 17, at Valley Baptist Church, Middletown, Pa., near Harrisburg. Ray Roberts, executive secretary of the Ohio convention, and Larry Lewis, Sunday School, church training and music secretary for the Pennsylvania-South Jersey convention, officiated.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that memorial gifts be made to the Joseph M. Waltz Memorial Mission Fund, c/o the state convention office, to help start new chapels and missions throughout the Pennsylvania-South Jersey convention area.

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Growth, Evangelism Listed
As Church Program Priorities

12/14/71

NASHVILLE (BP)--Church program executives from Baptist state conventions heard a report here emphasizing growth in every area of Christian concern as a major priority of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Services and Materials Division.

Allen B. Comish, director of the division, told a meeting of the state secretaries of church program organizations that finding, reaching, winning and developing people for Christ and church membership would be a major concern of the division.

Other priorities listed by Comish included emphasis on Sunday night activities, summer youth programs, help for churches with only one staff member, and simplification in promotion materials and language of board-produced literature and products.

Comish said that the board's assistance to churches with multi-staff members has been "outstanding" in the past, ~~but~~ the board would now aim at helping the one-man-staff church.

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"Ours will be a simplified, practical, workable approach in all our work," Comish concluded.

The secretary of the Sunday School department for the board, A. V. Washburn, told the state leaders that Sunday School leaders were seeking not only to reach more people for Bible study, but also "to create a spirit of enthusiasm for and commitment to the Sunday School program of Bible teaching, outreach and performing the work of Christ through the church.

"The way of carrying out the mission of a church has always been a 'people to people' affair," Washburn continued.

"We are committed to become more than instruments of God to reach people today. We are out to mount a massive training drive to promote essential training for the 700,000 Southern Baptist Sunday School officers and teachers," he added.

In another major report, Philip B. Harris, secretary of the board's church training department, said his department is committed to four major thrusts in 1971-74.

The four thrusts, he said, are to train church members for evangelistic outreach, to train church members to enlarge and strengthen the Sunday night training program, to train members in distinctives of church training, and to train leaders of Sunday School teachers and officers.

The secretary of the board's church music department, William J. Reynolds, said that "church music will aim for continued warm and meaningful worship through music as an expression of Baptist faith."



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HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE. NO.
NASHVILLE TN 37203