



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 1, 1972

**Laymen Urged to Combat
Giants of Hate, Racism**

MEMPHIS (BP)--Stating that the giants of prejudice and hate are stalking our land today, the top executive of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission challenged 250 Baptist laymen to do some things about the problem of racism that their pastors cannot do.

"There are some giants who stalk our land today--giants of prejudice, giants of hate," said Glendon McCullough of Memphis. "Our greatest sin is to avoid taking on these giants.

"I'm thinking the laymen of this country are ready to do something in the matter of race the pastor can't do," he continued. "If you don't do something, you will lose the younger men in your churches," McCullough warned.

McCullough made the statements in the keynote address at a regional leadership training institute here designed to train 250 church Brotherhood leaders from 13 states in mission action, Brotherhood organizational methods, and other mission activities.

Most of the institute was devoted to specific suggestions to the laymen on what they can do about the problems of racism, poverty, aging, moral issues, and evangelistic outreach.

Sponsored by the SBC Brotherhood Commission, the conference also included conference leaders in special fields from the SBC Home Mission Board, the SBC Christian Life Commission, and the SBC Sunday School Board.

The extensive training was sandwiched between the keynote address by McCullough and a closing challenge by Arthur Rutledge, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board.

McCullough sketched a spiritual future for Baptist laymen which called for varying efforts through the churches. "The first step is to dig in and reach some new spiritual depths," McCullough said.

In addition to urging action against the giants of prejudice and hate, McCullough called for laymen to help "confused young men looking for answers about war. We need a church that can listen, particularly men who can listen in love," he said.

Rutledge pictured the United States today as a time of unusual opportunity for laymen. He cited the needs of the people and the growing responsiveness to the gospel.

The need for a Christian ministry is evidenced by the mounting crime rate, racial tensions, threat of alcohol and drugs, and the growing suicide rate, he said.

Rutledge pointed to the response of youth in the Jesus movement, the variety of witnessing efforts of choirs and college groups and the 411,000 persons added to Baptist church rolls by baptism in 1971 as proof of responsiveness to the gospel.

In a plea for more involvement for mission action, Rutledge said many people haven't heard what Baptist laymen are saying because they feel the men are interested in them just as another member in the church and another notch in their belts.

"We have to learn to care for people, not only for their souls, but for them as persons."

In response to the call for more mission action activity, the Brotherhood Commission disclosed plans for a series of mission action conferences for men in 1973.

Earlier, McCullough identified the institute as one of the main ways the Brotherhood Commission helps to train church leaders.

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In three similar institutes in 1971, the agencies trained 237 specialists who gave instructions to more than 10,000 church Brotherhood leaders during the next 12 months.

States represented in the 1972 institute included Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia.

Special guests at the institute included 14 Baptist laymen from Mexico, accompanied by James Philpot, missionary to Mexico, who translated into Spanish instructions in lay evangelism, Royal Ambassador work, and Baptist men's work.

At the closing general session, the Baptist visitors sang "How Great Thou Art" in Spanish.

Their Memphis visit included talks in several Baptist churches, a visit with Mayor Wyeth Chandler, who presented them a key to the city, and visits into the homes of Baptist laymen.

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Whiteaker Named Annuity
Board Vice President

5/1/72

DALLAS (BP)--Kermit E. Whiteaker of Dallas has been elected vice president and assistant to the president of the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board here.

He will join the board's staff May 15, according to Darold H. Morgan, president and chief executive officer of the agency.

Morgan said Whiteaker will establish a pilot project in all phases of pre-retirement and post-retirement guidance and planning for those served by the Annuity Board.

The pilot project has grown out of the board's ambassador-at-large program, which is being phased out this fall, Morgan added.

A native of Maysville, Mo., Whiteaker, 61, has served for the past three years as minister of education at Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas.

Well-known in religious education circles, he held similar posts with other churches earlier in Texas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. At one time, Whiteaker was Baptist minister to students at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

In May, 1971, he was elected a trustee for the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Whiteaker also served for six years as a member of the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Morgan said the need for retirement guidance for ministers and church and denominational workers is a high priority item for the Annuity Board. Such guidance would be available both before and after retirement.

Morgan said the board has the responsibility to fill "the great need" for publications, conferences, correspondence, and other forms of guidance regarding retirement years.

He added that Whiteaker will bring to the board "experience and identity in pre- and post-retirement planning, since he has set up similar types of programs in churches he has served."

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CORRECTION

On BP story dated April 26, headlined: "Radio-TV, Brotherhood Agencies Move Toward Four Day Work Week," please delete graphs 8 and 9, and the phrase "outside the seminaries" from the last graph of the story. A check with the seminaries has disclosed that although few classes meet on Mondays, the seminary administrative and faculty offices are open on Mondays and the staffs work five days a week. The quotes are thus not precisely accurate. Thanks.

--Baptist Press

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SBC Ministers' Wives
To Meet in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (BP)--Emphasizing the theme, "Let Freedom Ring," the wives of Southern Baptist ministers from throughout the nation will gather here for a luncheon meeting of the Conference of Ministers' Wives Tuesday, June 6.

Sessions will be held at the Ukrainian Baptist Church at Seventh and Girard in Philadelphia, beginning at 12:45 p.m.

The conference will feature an address by Donald Moore, professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and noted counselor and speaker.

Musical entertainment will be presented by Mrs. Jimmy Jones of Pasadena, Tex.

Presiding at the conference will be Mrs. Charles A. Watkins, of Roanoke, Va., president of the organization.

Mrs. Watkins said tickets for the luncheon meeting would be available on Monday, June 6, or advance reservations may be made by writing the vice president of the organization, Mrs. D. B. Martin of 9 Edwards Court, Mt. Holly, N.J. 08060.

Other officers are Mrs. T. Earl Ogg of Monroe, La., secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Billy Mobley, Ohoskie, N.C., corresponding secretary.



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