



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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July 6, 1972

Small Church Conference
Set By Baptist Agencies

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists will hold their first modern-day national conference for the small church, March 26-29, 1973, at Ridgecrest, N.C.

Larry Bryson of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board announced here that his agency will co-sponsor the conference with the Baptist Sunday School Board's department of church administration.

Bryson, assistant director of the division of associational services, leads the Home Mission Board's program of rural-urban mission work.

"Southern Baptists may no longer be agrarian, but we are still predominantly a rural-small town people," he said.

"In adapting to the rapid urbanization of our nation, we have neglected the small church," Bryson said.

"Most everything we have planned has been for the larger church, and we expected the small church to adapt. But the smaller church is hurting for leadership, and adaptation was often difficult to accomplish," he added.

Bryson said the conference will seek to strengthen the under-300-member church's relationship to the community.

According to Bryson, more than 22,000 of the denomination's 33,000-plus churches are within the less than 300 member category.

In addition, nearly 8 1/2 million members are in towns and areas of less than 50,000, with six million of these in areas with less than 10,000 population.

"I see this conference as an opportunity to call much needed attention to the small church--its needs and its future," he said. "Actually, we are late in doing so, and we are rushing to fill a strong need for strengthened leadership in these churches," Bryson said.

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Ron Willis Named Street
Minister In San Antonio

7/6/72

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (BP)--Ron Willis, who pioneered for Southern Baptists in a street ministry in the Haight-Ashbury area of San Francisco, will become street minister of First Baptist Church here, August 15.

For the past 2 1/2 years, Willis, 31, has directed an inner city ministries program under the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Bangor, Maine.

Willis first joined the Home Mission Board in early 1967 to continue an experimental street ministry which he had begun in Haight-Ashbury in Nov. 1966, while associate pastor of South San Francisco's Immanuel Baptist Church.

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When he moved to Bangor in Nov. 1969, the street ministry had spread to Oakland and Berkley at the University of California. Willis was also serving as pastor of Golden Gate Baptist Church, Oakland.

"In San Antonio," Willis said, "I hope to conduct a three-phase, need-oriented ministry similar to ones I led in California and Maine. It will combine the evangelistic and social implications of the gospel of Christ."

Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, said Willis's efforts will include ministries to rehabilitate runaway teenagers and reach military personnel.

Ministries in Bangor combined spiritual witness with such programs as a free medical clinic, free clothing store, folk-rock Sunday worship services, Tuesday night Bible study, drug rehabilitation, ministry to derelicts and street kids and residence program for homeless men.

A native of Sacramento, Calif., Willis is a graduate of the University of Maine.

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Retired SBC Leader, Ralph
Herring, Dies in Charlotte

7/6/72

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)--Ralph A. Herring, 71, former director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Seminary Extension Department, died in a hospital here July 2.

Herring, a leukemia victim, directed the seminary extension program, 1961-68, just before his retirement.

For 25 years he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., where funeral services were held. Burial was in Forsyth Memorial Park, Winston-Salem.

The son of Baptist missionaries to China, Herring was second vice president of the SBC in 1938 and was twice elected president of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. He was pastor of two Kentucky churches before going to North Carolina.

He is survived by his wife, the former Willeen Tull of Charlotte, a daughter and three sons.

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James Irwin Added To Men's
Congress In Cali, Colombia

7/6/72

YAZOO CITY, MISS. (BP)--Astronaut James Irwin has been added to the program of the Second Congress of the Pan American Union of Baptist Men set for July 17-22 in Cali, Colombia.

Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, president of the Pan American Union of Baptist Men, said here that representatives from most countries in the Western Hemisphere will attend the congress. Cooper, a layman, is newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Among other program personnel will be Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; V. Carney Hargroves, president of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and David Wong, chairman of the BWA's men's department.

The BWA men's department and the Pan American Union are co-sponsoring the meeting.

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"Meet Jesus" Festival Draws
Teenagers to Baytown

7/6/72

BAYTOWN, Tex. (BP)--More than 9,000 teenagers, stomping their feet to Jesus music and pointing index fingers heavenward, attended

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a six-day "Meet Jesus" Festival here.

The festival featured Jesus rock groups and two young international evangelists who conducted evening and morning open-air sessions in Baytown's Lee Park.

Billie Hanks Jr., 28, of Ft. Worth, a Southern Baptist, spoke at evening rallies, and Brian Willersdorf, 35, a Baptist from Sydney, Australia, spoke at the morning Bible study sessions.

Hanks and Willersdorf announced they are merging their worldwide evangelistic efforts into The International Evangelism Association. Working separately, the two evangelists already have preached to a combined total of one-half-million persons in 30 countries.

Hanks formerly assisted Evangelist Billy Graham and his associates in 14 crusades around the world.

The "Meet Jesus" Festival spilled over into shopping centers, parks, a football stadium in nearby Dayton and a number of other public places in widely scattered afternoon rallies.

The raised index finger, the signature of the Jesus Movement, typified the teenagers exuberant proclamation to Baytown area residents that "Jesus is the only way."

The festival was sponsored by the Evangelism Division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Baytown area Baptist churches. Hanks said teenagers recorded 283 decisions for Christ, 163 of them first-time professions of faith.

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Photo mailed to State Baptist Editors.

Baptist College President
Wins International Golf Title

7/6/72

HOUSTON (BP)--William H. Hinton, president of Houston Baptist College, won the 1972 Rotary International Golf Championship during a four-day, 72-hole tournament here.

Hinton, a left-handed, 11-handicap golfer, out-shot contestants from all over the world.

He is the only president in Houston Baptist College's 10-year history.

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27 Commissioned As US-2
Workers In National Missions

7/6/72

ATLANTA (BP)--Twenty-seven Baptist young adults completed orientation and will begin a two-year missionary stint this summer in the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's US-2 program.

The new appointees are all college graduates and three are seminary graduates. They will serve in the homeland in mission fields stretching from Alaska to Vermont.

More than one half of the new US-2ers are former student summer missionaries, and others were active during college in Baptist Student Unions.

Gwen Williams of Alexandria, La., who will work as consultant in church music in Detroit, is the first black US-2 appointee. She worked in Detroit for two summers as a summer missionary under the mission agency.

The US-2 volunteers will work in goodwill centers, musical programs for youth, inner-city outreach ministries, beginning Baptist work on several college campuses and local church programs.

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The US-2 program has been likened in the past to the Peace Corps. However, one new appointee, Sally White, said, although she had considered the Peace Corps for several years, "I think the US-2 program has a much deeper meaning and purpose to me than the Peace Corps."

Miss White of Florala, Ala., will go with her soon-to-be husband, Joe Glaze of New Orleans, to Fairbanks, Alaska, in August where they will work on the University of Alaska campus.

Two pilot programs will be started with the US-2er's leadership: Doreen Maxfield of San Antonio will work as an interpreter to deaf students at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, Tenn.; Anthony Hough of Muncie, Ind. will help the SBC's Brotherhood Commission develop a program oriented to young men.

Most of the 27 young adults plan to further their education after the US-2 program and most have plans to enter some kind of Christian vocation with a major emphasis on missions.

"Near the end of graduation from college I realized I didn't know specifically what area of Christian ministry to pursue," said Tom Willingham of Chesnee, S.C., an appointee to begin Baptist student work on Brown University campus in Providence, R.I.

He added, "I was a bit restless from being in school most of my life. I felt like taking a break and becoming involved in the real world. Also, it will help me make a decision on what kind of further studies to do, and it will provide practical experience."

Linda Gaddis of Atoka, Okla., appointed with her husband Bill of El Paso to Montpelier, Vt., taught children of missionaries to South Korea for two years under the SBC's Foreign Mission Board's Journeyman program.

Another US-2 appointee, Helen Nelson of Albuquerque, N.M., has a sister serving as a Journeyman in South America and is the daughter of former HMB missionary, James Nelson, now director of missions for the state of New Mexico.

The 27 appointees increase the US-2 force to 56. They join a full-time home mission force of 2,224 serving in the United States, Panama and Puerto Rico and 943 Home Board and BSU summer missionaries. Many summer missionaries are supervised by US-2 personnel.

Other US-2 appointees are as follows:

Valerie Hardy of Rockville, Nd. (assigned to Wichita, Kans.); Darrell Adams of Las Cruces, N.M., and Jeanette Thornton of Lawton, Okla., who will be married during the summer, (assigned to University of West Virginia, Morgantown);

Also, Danny Pritchett of Albertville, Ala., (assigned to Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Ariz.); Gary Kieser of Kansas City, Mo., (assigned to Santa Barbara, Calif.); Richard Lemaster of Dickerson, Md. (assigned to Taos, N.M.);

Also, Hubert Harvey of Thomaston, Ga., (Assigned to Norfolk, Va.); Kent Gee of Houston, Tex. (assigned to Philadelphia, Pa.); John Fox of Maryville, Tenn., (assigned to Birmingham, Ala.);

Also, Bettye Long of Mena, Ark., (assigned along with Helen Nelson to Pittsburgh, Pa.); Judy Lambeth of College Park, Ga., (assigned to Indianapolis, Ind.); Fred and Virginia Karnes of Charlottesville, Va., (assigned to South Florida);

Also, Fred and Vicki Labyer of West Palm Beach, Fla. (assigned to Puerto Rico); Ron Carothers and Margie Williams, both of Winston-Salem, N.C., soon to be married, (assigned to Many Farms, Ariz.); and Elizabeth Shirley of Ringgold, Ga., (assigned to Phenix, Ala.).

NOTE TO STATE PAPER EDITORS: Individual stories featuring the US-2 appointees have been sent by the Home Mission Board to state Baptist papers. Please change the total appointees from 26 to 27, since another was added after the individual stories were mailed.

Chaplains Group Stamps "OK"
On Endorsing Navy Chaplains

WASHINGTON (BP)--A special investigating group of the General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel has recommended that its member denominations continue to grant ecclesiastical endorsement for qualified applicants for the Navy chaplaincy.

The recommendation came after a three month study of procedures followed by the Navy in the court-martial of an American Baptist chaplain, Cmdr. Andrew F. Jensen.

The five-member study group was appointed by the general commission after a member group, The American Baptist Convention (ABC) announced that it was suspending endorsements pending an investigation.

The American Baptist ban against endorsing chaplains for the Navy was lifted after three months, according to a recent announcement by Paul O. Madsen, associate general secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, the ABC endorsing agency for military chaplains.

Since mid March the five-member special group of the chaplains commission and officials of the American Baptist Convention have had extensive conversations with top Navy personnel concerning its handling of the case involving moral charges against Cmdr. Jensen.

The ABC complained that they were not notified prior to the court-martial of the evidence against Jensen. Further, they maintained that any moral and spiritual disqualification concerning chaplains should be the business of the sponsoring denominations.

Jensen was cleared of the charges against him and is presently under Navy assignment for post graduate study at Princeton Theological Seminary.

In its conversations with Navy officials, the chaplains commission and the American Baptist Convention received a number of assurances concerning Cmdr. Jensen, according to the chairman of the special commission, Hugh M. Miller, a United Presbyterian minister from Dover, N.J.

Besides Jensen's choice of assignment, assurance was given that he would not be at a disadvantage in further opportunities for promotion.

Miller wrote further in a letter to members of the general commission that the matter of restitution of money spent for civilian counsel "is a more difficult, unresolved problem which, we understand, his denomination will continue to pursue."

Madsen, in his announcement to lift the ban against endorsing Navy chaplains, said the convention had been assured by top Navy personnel that future moral cases will be referred "to the religious body involved in concert with established procedures and communications."

Madsen said also that Jensen's permanent military record will not carry a reference to the court-martial.

A. Ray Appelquist, executive secretary of the General Commission of Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel, said "there really is a new clarified relationship" between denominations and the military services.

But, Appelquist continued, the need exists for further clarification of the definition of "ecclesiastical endorsement."

He noted that the general counsel of the Department of Defense and the Armed Forces Chaplain Board are working on this at present, and the commission hopes to have more information by its October, 1972, meeting.

The General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel

is an umbrella group that acts as liaison between the military and 41 denominations and affiliated agencies. The Southern Baptist Convention is not a member of the commission.

Southern Baptists relate to the military on chaplaincy matters through the SBC chaplains commission, located at the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, and through the Home Mission Board's division of chaplaincy. The same personnel staff both SBC organizations.

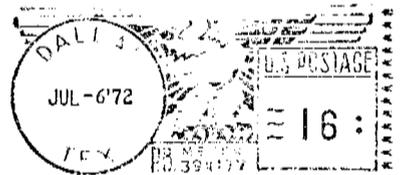
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A NOTE OF REMINDER TO EDITORS: During the next two weeks, Baptist Press mailings will be handled by the Dallas Bureau of Baptist Press. Please send any stories you need to submit or direct any questions you have to: Orville Scott, the bureau chief; Robert O'Brien, the assistant bureau chief; or Janice Henry, the editorial assistant. Nashville office will resume handling mailings on Tuesday, July 18.



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