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October 25, 1972

Brotherhood and Home Board
 Unite for Lay Evangelism

MEMPHIS (BP)--Two Southern Baptist Convention agencies have joined forces to offer church opportunities for spiritual experiences in lay renewal.

Terms of the arrangement call for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta to emphasize renewal evangelism, including a renewal evangelism weekend, and a continuing spiritual growth process.

Under the plan, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission based here will specialize in lay witness missions as an initial renewal experience. Mission action projects will serve as the main avenue of response for persons who have been spiritually motivated.

The cooperative arrangement in lay renewal was announced jointly by Arthur Rutledge, executive secretary of the mission board in Atlanta, and Glendon McCullough, executive director of the commission in Memphis.

Details of the cooperative effort were worked out by Reid Hardin, director of renewal evangelism for the Home Mission Board, and James Johnson, director of the lay ministries department of the commission.

The two agencies plan to work together to provide churches with coordinators for lay renewal and in the training of these specialists.

Under the plan, the commission will produce and distribute guidance materials on lay renewal experiences and opportunities to the churches on a regular basis.

In a memorandum on the cooperative effort, the agency leaders defined lay witness mission as a weekend renewal experience where a group of lay persons visit a church to share their faith in small and large group experiences.

Renewal evangelism was described as the process of intensive care given to a church which has had an initial renewal event. Through renewal evangelism, a church participates in an itinerary of activity designed to develop a life-style of evangelism. These activities run at least one year.

The agency leaders said their organizations will both respond to church and individuals who inquire about renewal and will recommend an approach based upon the needs of the inquirer.

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Government Lay ministry Crosses
 Political Lines, Nixon Aide Says

10/25/72

FORT WORTH (BP)--A White House aide and ordained Baptist minister told students and faculty members at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here that a lay ministry that crosses national political and religious lines lies hidden beneath the surface in the vast federal government complex.

Wallace Henley, a special assistant to President Nixon, said that as a part of this hidden religious movement in government, a group of White House staffers meet every other week for prayer and fellowship.

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Henley, an ordained Baptist minister who once was public relations director for Mobile College, a Baptist school in Mobile, Ala., said his own participation in the group was part of his Christian commitment, completely separate from his work for the president.

At the meetings, someone speaks, the group talks about prayer concerns for the nation, and then they pray, said Henley.

There is nothing secret about the sessions. "The president is aware of it," he said. The White House prayer fellowship started about three years ago, he added.

Henley pointed out that both houses of Congress have a prayer fellowship, as do most federal agencies. "The largest prayer fellowship in Washington is at the Pentagon," he said.

These prayer fellowships have provided a new way for the government staff members to relate to each other, and to talk and pray about their problems, he said.

Henley, religion editor for the Birmingham News before joining the White House staff, said that the nation is frustrated because "we as men have been making claims of our institutions that only a Messiah could accomplish.

"As a nation, we thought that legislation and politics could bring unity, peace, order and stability," he said. "But these were only counterfeit mechanisms.

"In the late sixties, people began waking up to the fact that these counterfeit mechanisms were not working. What ensued were riots in the streets and on the college campuses," he observed.

"Agencies without the injection of the Deity have been tried by governments as the salve of the problems of our times," he added. "But they at best are only limited tools of us limited men.

"Without a vibrant theology of transcendence--the cross of Jesus Christ--unity of man is not possible," Henley declared.

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New York Convention Opposes
Tax Credit Aid to Schools

10/25/72

ALBANY, N.Y. (BP)--The Baptist Convention of New York, meeting here for its third annual session, adopted a resolution urging concerned Baptists and all others who value religious freedom to express opposition to tax credit proposals to aid parochial schools.

Another resolution adopted by the convention called upon leaders in state and national government to exert moral influence to strengthen the moral fibre of the nation.

In other actions, the convention set a state-wide Cooperative Program goal of \$160,000 for 1973, allocating about 18 per cent (\$25,000) to Southern Baptist mission causes, and adopted a grand total \$589,000 budget for the year. Most of the budget support will come from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Paul S. James, executive secretary of the convention, reported that during the past year, the New York convention had experienced a 10 per cent increase in baptisms (conversions), a 12 per cent increase in church membership, and a 15 per cent increase in Cooperative Program missions giving.

The convention voted to set a goal of achieving a 20 per cent increase in Sunday School enrollment to a total of 20,000 enrolled, by 1975, the twentieth anniversary of Southern Baptist work in New York.

The convention also voted to make establishment of church-type chapels a priority, calling on church and association leaders to increase the number of church-type chapels as a base for continuing ministries. Messengers also urged churches to accept a goal of a minimum 10 per cent budget allocation to missions through the Cooperative Program and to increase that allocation by one per cent annually.

H.C. (Bud) Schumacher, an IBM executive from New York City, was re-elected president of the convention.

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John Wilkes Named Director
Of European Baptist Press

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)--John M. Wilkes, general secretary of the department of communications of the French Baptist Federation, has been named director of the European Baptist Press Service here.

He succeeds Ione Gray of Richmond, international editor and writer for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, who has filled the position on an interim basis since June, 1971. At the end of December, she will return to her position with the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

Wilkes, a Southern Baptist missionary to France since 1965, will assume responsibility for directing the news service on Jan. 1, 1973. He has held several positions among Baptists of France, including pastor of two churches, one English-speaking.

In addition, he was interim director of the Baptist Recording Studio in Ruschlikon from 1968-69. Ruschlikon, a suburb of Zurich, is also the site of the European Baptist Theological Seminary.

His appointment was announced by C. Ronald Goulding, secretary-treasurer of the European Baptist Federation, which sponsors the news service.

During the federation's council meeting in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, recently, Andrew D. MacRae, then president, expressed appreciation for the "dedicated and outstanding work" of Miss Gray.

Previous directors of European Baptist Press Service have been Theo Sommerkamp, now associate director of public relations for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, Dallas; and John Allen Moore, a Southern Baptist Missionary who was the first director.

-30-

"Good News" Translator, Artist
Awarded Upper Room Citation

10/25/72

ATLANTA (BP)--Good News for Modern Man translator Robert Bratcher, a Southern Baptist Bible scholar, and illustrator Annie Vallotton of Paris, received a dual award of the annual Upper Room citation in a presentation here.

The Upper Room, a United Methodist daily devotional guide with a circulation of more than 3 million in 39 languages and 47 editions, also paid tribute to the American Bible Society which published Good News for Modern Man, the Today's English Version of the New Testament.

Bratcher, a former Southern Baptist foreign missionary, and Miss Vallotton, a member of the Reform Church, were cited for their contributions to world-wide Christian fellowship through their particular work with Good News for Modern Man.

Since it came off the press Sept. 15, 1966, the American Bible Society has distributed more than 35 million copies of Good News for Modern Man throughout the world, according to Ed Cunningham, director of the new Atlanta regional office of the American Bible Society and also a Southern Baptist. It has been an all-time best seller.

Bratcher was the chief translator of the popular edition which contains a 3,000 word common language vocabulary, but the bearded scholar said here "there is still a need for the traditional translation for faithful readers of the Bible."

Born of missionary parents in Brazil, Bratcher earned a doctorate in theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and served as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary to Brazil from 1949-56.

Translating and writing articles for the American Bible Society, he now heads the task force in translating the Old Testament into modern language.

The co-recipient of the Upper Room citation, Swiss-born Annie Vallotton, illustrated Good News with nearly 200 of her stick figure line drawings. In describing her illustrations she

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said, the reader must finish the drawings with his eyes."

Living now near Paris, she attended the Ecole des Arts Decoratifs in Strasbourg, France.

Miss Vallotton has written or composed a number of books, Bible songs, children's stories and Christmas records. In France she does a television series called "Moi, Clementine."

She is now working on some 400 drawings to be used in the Today's English Version of the Old Testament, scheduled for publication in 1976.

Previous recipients of the Upper Room citation include John Mott, who fathered the world Christian movement; Frank Laubach, who founded the world literacy movement; and Billy Graham, famed world evangelist.



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