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March 2, 1973

**1,000 Laymen Attend
Missions Prayer Breakfast**

ATLANTA (BP)--In the first prayer breakfast of its kind, Baptist speakers, including Georgia's Governor Jimmy Carter challenged more than 1,000 Southern Baptist Laymen and their pastors to make use of "potential power" for missions in the homeland.

Carter was the official host for the breakfast sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, the Home Mission Board and Georgia Baptist State Convention Brotherhood Department.

"I hope this prayer breakfast will be mirrored one hundred times over all the nation, Carter said. "This is a meeting of laymen primarily. It's purpose today is to describe what we can do in our own quiet, fumbling, sometimes failing way for Christ."

The one thing that binds all men together is Jesus Christ, Carter said. "In laymen we have a tremendous reservoir of power; our purpose is to tap that reservoir for Christ."

Brotherhood Commission Executive Secretary Glendon McCullough pledged to Home Mission Board Executive Secretary-Treasurer Arthur B. Rutledge that laymen want to be involved in every possible point to undergird what the state conventions, associations, and local churches are trying to do."

Bob Tremaine, SBC home missionary in Worchester, Mass., illustrated laity potential by telling of two laymen from Georgia who began a mission in Worchester.

In the Northeast, he ministers in a spiritual vacuum, Tremaine said, "but where ever there's a need, God has a promise and whenever we claim God's promise he will meet the need.

"God had to change me," Tremaine said. "I had to stop worrying about getting people to come to my church and I had to find ways to get my church to go to the people, to minister with the people."

Tremaine said his church gained entrance to many high rise apartment buildings, seemingly unapproachable before, through the "service entrance."

"When we began asking people for the privilege of serving them in the name of Jesus Christ, we had to say stop, we can't do anymore," he said.

Court Shepard, language missionary in San Diego, Calif., said a California layman who had enough interest in a doctor from India to teach the man how to drive a car is largely responsible for the doctor's spiritual conversion and now serving on the biology faculty of a Baptist college.

Shepard, who works with some 500 ethnic groups in the city, said a woman has become an "international" missionary after Shepard and a Baptist woman visited her and offered to teach her English. After learning English, the woman traveling with her military husband, has worked with other Japanese and English groups in Guam and West Germany.

Governor Carter related instances on lay involvement in the Northeast and in his own state.

"In my home community, Sumter County, an area afflicted for the last 25 years with racial disturbance, I have seen conservative, white Baptist laymen during a community rally kneeling with arms around a black child who has just accepted Christ. The churches in my community did not and still do not permit a black person to enter.

"During a one week period, because some laymen had courage, we had 565 people make professions of faith."

Arthur B. Rutledge said the more than 1,000 men participating in the prayer breakfast was "an inspiring sight that shows laymen want to do more than to receive an offering or usher."

"You are saying men are deeply concerned about the spiritual life of this nation," Rutledge told the men. "Home missions doesn't begin with the Home Mission Board--it begins with the local church. It is time to challenge all of us in helping turn this nation into a land that loves the Lord."

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Mrs. Gene Wise, Missionary,
Dies after Lengthy Illness

3/2/73

DALLAS (BP)--Mrs. Gene H. Wise, 49, missionary to Brazil for nearly 23 years, died in a local hospital after a long battle with cancer. Funeral and burial were in Irving, Tex., on Feb. 26.

The family has lived in Irving since early 1971 when they returned to the states because of her health. They were appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1950. They lived and worked in Rio de Janeiro until 1962, when they moved to Campinas, Brazil.

Mrs. Wise, the former Aleene Greenlaw, was born in Flagstaff, Ariz., and lived in California and Brazil as a girl. When she was 18 her family returned to the United States, and she entered New Mexico State College, Las Cruces, where she and Gene Wise met.

Mrs. Wise is also survived by a teenage daughter, Shirley, and two older daughters, Mrs. Walton Shields of St. Louis, Mo., and Mrs. Michael Frush of Irving; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Greenlaw of San Pedro, Calif.; and a sister, Mrs. R.C. Gray of Garden Grove, Calif.

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Herschel Hobbs Named Visiting
Professor at Southern Seminary

3/2/73

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Former Southern Baptist Convention President Herschel H. Hobbs has been named Sewell Visiting Professor of Pastoral Studies to teach during the July, 1973, term at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Hobbs, who retired recently as pastor of First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, will be teaching a two-hour course on "The Life and Work of the Pastor."

He is probably best known as the radio preacher for The Baptist Hour, which reaches an estimated listening audience of 50 million over 600 radio stations.

Hobbs is a graduate of Southern Seminary, and in 1964 received the seminary's E.Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award.

The annual visiting professorship, made possible by gifts from industrialist Warren P. Sewell, Jr., of Bremen, Ga., is awarded to a widely-known pastor whose skills and insights in ministry have singled him out for recognition, according to seminary officials. Previous Sewell professors have included Walter Moore of Georgia and Clarence Cranford of Washington, D.C.

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