

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 21, 1973

**Black, White Dialogue
Smashes Sex, Race Myth**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)--Two Baptist ministers, white and black, set to smash myths about sex and race here, proclaiming "that our best hope for freedom from all racial and sexual mythologies" is to point people toward what it means to be human through Christianity.

"The good news of Christianity is that in Jesus Christ we can learn what it means to be human, and we can learn how to relate to other human beings of both sexes and all races," said Harry N. Hollis Jr., staff member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Hollis teamed with William H. Lawson, pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston for a dialogue on myths about sex and race during a national seminar on "A Future for the Family" sponsored here by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

In the dialogue, Hollis and Lawson sought to explode the myths that all blacks are immoral, that black people want to marry white people, that black men are exceptionally virile, and that blacks are totally uninhibited about sex.

Most of these myths are racist to the core, such as the myth that all blacks are immoral. It is another way of seeking to try to keep blacks in their place, Lawson said.

The black Baptist minister from Houston said it is "a great exaggeration" for some whites to feel that integration will automatically produce intermarriage. Blacks are not going around looking for white mates, Lawson said.

Responding to the myth that black men are especially virile, Lawson claimed that this charge is in itself an insult, because it implies that black people are sub-human, that they have less intellectual capacity and more physical capacity.

Lawson said that some blacks are beginning to believe that white people, not blacks, are the ones who are obsessed with sex, a myth derived from use of sex in advertising and in the mass media.

In his address to the 700 Baptists from 25 states attending the conference, Hollis said that "Jesus Christ is the rock on which to smash all myths about sex and race," because Jesus shows us the fullness of humanity and teaches us how to be fully human.

Hollis, director of special moral concerns for the denomination's social action agency which sponsored the seminary, said the church and the family have been afraid to talk honestly about both sex and race. Until recently, nothing has scared the church like dealing with sex, unless it is dealing with both sex and race, Hollis said. But this too is changing.

"Talk about sex can lead to everything from angry pickets to empty pulpits," Hollis said. "Talk about race has split churches and broken families, so when we talk about sex and race together, it is not surprising that the result can be dynamite.

"Yet talk we must, Hollis continued, "because it is often claimed, with some validity, that sex is the hidden agenda in conflicts between races in this country. To get at racial problems, we must go beyond race to examine sexual mythologies that blacks and whites perpetuate about each other.

"At the deepest level." Hollis said, "sexual and racial myths are based on a faulty perception of what it means to be human. We humans can not be fully understood in terms of anatomy or in terms of our skin color and hair texture. Instead, we must go deeper to explore the nature of being fully liberated humans.

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"What we desperately need, therefore, is Christian involvement in human liberation, the 34-year-old Hollis said.

At this time of women's liberation movements, when the hands that rocked the cradle are now rocking the boat, I want to say that I celebrate the advent of woman's liberation and man's liberation but only if they point to that much desired goal of human liberation," Hollis declared.

"Just as it is true that the church, with notable individual exceptions, has been one of the last institutions to integrate the races, so it will be true, I fear, that the church will be one of the last to implement the liberation of females and males to be the humans God intended," Hollis observed.

Hollis claimed that the Christian home rather than the church, offers the best hope for breaking down the cultural stereotypes and myths about sex and race. Though the church and school can help, the family is the key to learning how to live as human beings, he said.

"In the average white family, there has been too little teaching about sex or race," Hollis said.

"If little has been said about sex in the white family, less has been said about race. And as with sex, much that has been said is negative."

Children, he claimed, learn more about sex and race from watching their parents and observing their attitudes toward each other as sexual beings, and their attitudes toward those of other races.

Children listen not only to what their parents say about sex and persons of other races, they also observe what their parents do, or do not do, and pattern their own lives after the parents.

"If I never invite people of other races into my home on social occasions, I am providing a negative model for my children to learn how to relate to other races," he said.

Youth need to realize that Christianity offers good news about sex, Hollis said. "Sex is good, because God created us sexual beings."

Yet the "good news about sex" recognizes that sex is dynamite and needs discipline and control, not because sex is bad, but because it is good, he stated.

"The crucial element in good news about sex is that modern people can have the sexual pleasure and genuine fulfillment they are seeking as they allow God's redemptive love to express itself in their lives," Hollis concluded.

"Through Christ's redemptive love, we are free to express sex in the realistic way that God intends."

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Expansion Planned at
New Orleans Seminary

3/21/73

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--In its annual meeting, the Board of Trustees of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary approved a record \$1,846, 223 budget, authorized new construction and major renovation projects on the campus, made a number of decisions relating to the school's faculty and administration, and elected a slate of officers for the year ahead.

The new budget provides for a 5.5 per cent salary increase for faculty members and \$25,000 in funds for the library to support the doctor of ministry degree program.

Construction plans approved by the board call for the erection of an 18,000 to 20,000 square foot addition to the seminary's present library, extensive remodeling of the Frost Building and a wing of the classroom building, and remodeling of the present administration building, Martin Chapel, and the music and classroom buildings.

Cost of the library construction, including furnishings and remodeling of the present library space, is estimated at \$960,000.

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The major renovation of the First Building will be aimed at centralizing and unifying all administrative activities of the seminary.

Work on the wing of the classroom building will center around creation of faculty and student lounges.

Other improvements are aimed at adding comfort, effectiveness and versatility to present facilities, seminary officials said. The cost of the renovation projects is estimated at \$309,000.

Work on these capital improvements is scheduled to begin as soon as detailed plans and specifications can be provided by the architect.

The board voted to add the post of dean of student affairs and director of field education to the administrative staff. Named to the new administrative post was Paul W. Stevens, who had been acting director of field education since September.

Paul William Gericke was named as director of the library. He has been serving the seminary as director of library services since 1969.

The board also granted tenure to three professors: Eugene Brasher, associate professor of choral conducting; Earl Owen, promoted from assistant professor of voice to associate professor of voice; and Fisher Humphreys, assistant professor of theology.

Named as new associate professor of social ethics was Bobby Ell Adams, currently serving as a missionary professor at International Baptist Theological Seminary in Cali, Columbia, South America. His appointment will be effective Aug. 1, 1973.

Trustees noted the retirement of H. Clayton Waddell, professor of social ethics, and Miss Nelle C. Davidson, librarian.

New Orleans attorney A. Morgan Brian was elected to his sixth year as president of the board. Floyd W. Lewis, president of Mid South Utilities in New Orleans, was re-elected vice-president.

Hugh R. Brooks of New Orleans, formerly board treasurer, was elected secretary, and David M. Walker of Baton Rouge was chosen as board treasurer.

Concerning the capital improvements, Brian said "This is our first program of improvements in some time. We are all very excited about it. These projects, especially a more functional set of officers, are long overdue."

Brian also praised the seminary's administrative staff and faculty, who were the objects of a unanimous and enthusiastic resolution of praise and appreciation by the Board of Trustees.

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John A. Abernathy Dies;
Emeritus SBC Missionary

3/21/73

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (BP)--John A. Abernathy, 77, missionary to China, Korea and the Philippines for 40 years, died March 19 in a local hospital. Funeral and burial were to be held here March 22.

Hot Springs had been home for Dr. and Mrs. Abernathy since they returned from Korea in 1970. They retired from active service with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1961.

Upon learning of Abernathy's death, Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the board, said

"John Abernathy was one of the most remarkable missionaries in our day. His service was characterized by great faith, valiant courage and tender love for all people.

"Dr. and Mrs. Abernathy went to Korea in 1949 to initiate Southern Baptist work; there they laid the solid foundations on which the productive missionary efforts in that country have been based."

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In 1950, when the couple fled Seoul, Korea, ahead of the Communist advance, Abernathy wired the board: "No baggage; no bullet holes."

"No baggage" was an old story to Abernathy; on three occasions he lost all material possessions. "No bullet holes" had not always been true. Once in China he got too close to a Nationalist-Communist skirmish and was hit behind the left ear--the bullet stopping just short of his jugular vein.

Abernathy was robbed by Chinese bandits, interned by the Japanese during World War II and interrogated by Chinese Communists.

Prevented in 1948 from reentering China, the couple went to Korea. They were hardly settled in Seoul when North Korean Communists forced them to evacuate. After working for a short time in the Philippines they were able to return.

In 1963, after two years of retirement, the couple returned to the Philippines for a year to lead the English-language Baptist Church at Clark Field.

Abernathy, a native of Statesville, N.C., was educated at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; the University of Chicago; New Orleans Business College; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received the bachelor of Christian Training degree. He was granted an honorary doctorate from Tennessee Temple College, Chattanooga, in 1951.

Mrs. Abernathy is the former Jewell Leonard of Huntington, Ark.

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Robert G. Capra to Head
Fund Raising Service

3/21/73

NASHVILLE (BP)--Robert G. Capra has been promoted to head the Stewardship Commission's church and institutional fund raising service, the commission has announced.

Capra, who has served with the Commission for over a year, previously served as assistant director of endowment and capital giving and Cooperative Program promotion.

James V. Lackey, executive director of the Stewardship Commission, said, "We are very fortunate to have a man of Capra's qualifications already on the staff and prepared to take over this important responsibility. Bob Capra is a man of integrity and good judgment."

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Baptist Schools Short on
Tournament Perseverance

3/21/73

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The 32-team field for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national basketball tournament included four Baptist schools.

Oklahoma Baptist University, Ouachita Baptist University, Dallas Baptist College and Grand Canyon College all won district championships to qualify for the NAIA tournament.

Only Oklahoma Baptist University advanced beyond the first round, winning two games, before losing in the quarter-finals.

Oklahoma Baptist University defeated Alcorn A&M (Miss.), 79-76, and Winona State (Minn.), 82-72, before losing to second-seeded Augustana (Ill.), 63-46.

Quinnipiac (Conn.) defeated Ouachita, 75-66; Wisconsin-Green Bay defeated Dallas Baptist, 77-66; and Winona State defeated Grand Canyon, 70-64, in the opening round.

Guilford College, Guilford, N.C., won the tournament.

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