

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Belgium Baptists Urged
To Elect Women Delegates**

PERUWELZ, Belgium (BP)--After lengthy discussion of the role of women in the church, an unofficial group of Belgian Baptists meeting here agreed to request the next General Assembly of the Belgian Baptist Union to reconsider its policy prohibiting women from serving as official delegates to the annual General Assembly.

The unofficial group also discussed a Christian view of abortion, generally opposing in principle the practice of abortion.

Both subjects were discussed in the light of Biblical revelation, according to Rudolph M. Wood, Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Belgium.

The meeting at Peruwelz Baptist Church was prompted by discontent with the policy reaffirmed three years ago by the Belgian Baptist Union, which prohibits women from serving as official convention delegates.

Participants looked at scripture passages for guidance, and made note of the social evolution which has taken place through the years in terms of education, status and job opportunities for women.

Guy Mahieu of the Malmedy area of Belgium, using Matthew 28 as his text, reminded the Baptists that the news of Christ's resurrection was first given to a woman.

Wood summarized the discussion by saying, "It was felt that women play a vital part in the overall mission of Christian witness and teaching, and that they are capable of exercising measures of leadership and responsibility. Failure to recognize this deprives a church of potential strength.

Abortion was considered at the gathering in context with what a Christian attitude on the subject might be. The topic was particularly relevant at the time because a well-known gynecologist in the country was being tried for violation of existing laws. He did not deny having performed abortions, and contended that the existing antiquated laws needed to be repealed.

A local Catholic physician spoke on the physical aspects of abortion, informing the Baptists of the methods utilized and possible physical consequences.

Wood reported that "there was virtual unanimity among those present to oppose in principle the practice of abortion. However, the extent to which this should be enforced by law was questioned."

A committee was appointed to draw up a position paper to be circulated among the churches for study.

Local churches may take any action they deem appropriate to express their conviction on the subject, Wood pointed out.

Wood said that the paper would state the conviction that "the taking of life, no matter what the stage of development, is contradictory to Biblical precepts. However, in a free society, the church must realize that it cannot impose its standards, but must accept the responsibility for educating its youth and convincing others of the validity of its views."

He also said that the paper would include a statement concerning the Christian's responsibility toward unwanted children, particularly when institutions are overcrowded.

Golden Gate Names Parrott
Director of New LA Center

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)-- Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here has announced plans to open a new satellite center in the Los Angeles area starting Oct. 3, 1973, and has named John H. Parrott of Roswell, N.M., as director of the center.

Parrott, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Roswell, will assume the newly-created position effective July 16, according to Golden Gate Seminary president Harold K. Graves.

Offices for the new center, located at 12311 Chapman Ave., in Garden Grove, Calif., opened May 15. The new center, located about three-fourths a mile south of Disneyland near the intersection of Harbor Boulevard and Chapman Ave., includes offices, classrooms, conference rooms and library.

The new branch is to be known as the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary--Los Angeles Center.

The Los Angeles Center will accept candidates for all basic theological degrees and the new doctor of ministry degree. Both day and night classes will be conducted at the Garden Grove location, and surveys are being taken to determine the need for classes to be offered at the other locations within the greater Los Angeles area.

The center will also offer programs designed for continuing education. A survey of pastors and church staff members in the area revealed the need for additional training and courses focusing on practical skills and competence, seminary officials said.

Parrott, new director of the center, has long been active in denominational affairs, currently serving as chairman of the program committee of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, the SBC body which drafts and recommends the \$35 million budget of the SBC.

He also has been president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, president of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, and chairman of the New Mexico convention's Executive Board.

Parrott has been pastor of churches in Arkansas and Indiana, and at First Baptist Church, Las Cruces, N.M.; First Baptist Church, Palestine, Tex.; and First Baptist Church, Roswell, N.M., where he has served since 1959.

He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he earned master and doctor of theology degrees.

The new Los Angeles center Parrott will direct was started with a gift of \$35,000 by an anonymous donor who felt such a center would be a giant step toward developing a strategy of theological training combined with the missions and evangelism thrust in the West. The seminary is seeking to raise \$150,000 to fund the new center.

Courses offered at the center will be credited as work at the Seminary. The courses are designed to provide training for pastors and other staff members who are not able to leave their present positions to attend classes on the Mill Valley campus.

Present plans for curriculum offerings include courses of one week or less in duration, and quarter-length courses (ten weeks). Only a small matriculation fee will be charged.

Golden Gate Seminary was founded in Berkeley, Calif., in 1944. It presently occupies a 148-acre campus on Strawberry Point, some five miles north of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. It is fully accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Scheduling, Financing Cause
Dale Evans Show Postponement

FORT WORTH (BP)--Scheduling complications and long-range financial commitments have forced a postponement of "The Dale Evans Show," which was slated for production by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here.

The announcement was made jointly by Dr. Paul M. Stevens, president of the Radio-TV Commission, and Miss Evans.

"We regret the delay, both from the standpoint of plans already completed and from television's need for a show of this kind," said Stevens. "We expect 'The Dale Evans Show' to be re-scheduled sometime in the spring of 1974."

"The re-scheduling fits into my plans and I look forward to the program with great enthusiasm," said Miss Evans.

Filming for two half-hour segments of the show was to begin in May in Hollywood.

"The Dale Evans Show" is expected to follow an unstructured format to allow for the continuance of exciting events. Planned as essentially a Christian talk show, it will be designed to bring a whole spectrum of the American way of life into spiritual focus.

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Becerras Named SBC
Home Missionaries in Houston

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board of Directors appointed Abel and Joyce Becerra of Houston as full career missionaries.

The Becerra's are among more than 2,200 missionaries serving throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and Panama.

Becerra, a native of Alamosa, Colo., is the pastor of Park Memorial Baptist Church, a Spanish-speaking church in Houston. He is a graduate of the University of Corpus Christi, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

A Frederick, Okla., native, Mrs. Becerra attended Southwestern State College, Weatherford, Okla., and Dallas Baptist College.

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