

February 4, 1974

Annie Armstrong Had Own
Ideas on Women & Missions

By Catherine Allen
for Baptist Press

During March, Southern Baptists will attempt to roll together \$7,200,000 for home missions in a special Easter offering named for Annie Armstrong, a pre-"women's libber" who lived by her own strict set of do's and don'ts for women.

In a day when all Southern Baptist leaders were men, and women were more silent than mice in a church, Annie Armstrong quietly agitated among women for a convention-wide missions organization for women.

When women finally took heart from the encouragement of mission board leaders and organized Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in 1888, they elected Annie Armstrong the corresponding secretary. Her work in that office for the next 18 years paralleled that of today's WMU executive secretary.

Miss Armstrong worked tirelessly and effectively to sound the call of foreign missions and home missions to women. She established many patterns and projects that continue to frame WMU. Yet she was no feminist by today's standards.

Having grown up in a church that seated men on one side and women on the other, she never uttered a word in public when a man was present.

She opposed having men and women seminary students taught in the same classes and resisted the establishment of the WMU Training School, near Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, so strenuously that she resigned her WMU post.

She considered it entirely improper to receive a salary for her services to missions, so she vigorously turned down offers of remuneration.

With the same determined spirit she pursued the things she believed in. Immediately after Woman's Missionary Union was founded, the ladies undertook a special missions offering for Miss Lottie Moon, a missionary in China who had urged the founding of WMU.

Miss Armstrong handwrote letters to hundreds of missionary societies promoting the offering--permanently damaging her hand.

Simultaneously, Miss Armstrong led WMU to undertake a special project for home missions.

Women filled "brick cards" with money to build a church in Havana, Cuba. This and other fund-raising projects led in 1895 to the first "Self-Denial Offering" designed to pay home missions debts. The offering grew into an annual week of prayer and thanks offering.

Although she was an avid supporter of foreign missions, home missions was Miss Armstrong's first love. She never journeyed abroad but traveled extensively among frontier missionaries to Indians.

She worked personally with immigrants and blacks in her home city of Baltimore and led in packing hundreds of barrels of supplies for home missionaries.

Miss Armstrong championed the starting of the Home Mission Board' building and loan fund in 1900. Her devotion to home missions was permanently recognized in 1933 when the special offering for home missions climaxing the week of prayer was named in her honor.

The week of prayer for home missions will be spotlighted March 3-10, 1974.

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Though Miss Armstrong was a stickler for men and women keeping to their distinctive roles, it is believed she would be proud to see the week of prayer and offering 1974-style. She would be proud to know that home missions now bubbles at the center of Southern Baptist interest and that home missions is of vital importance to men as well as to women.

She would heartily endorse the theme for this year's observance, "In Him Is Life," especially as it is considered at the Easter season. She would be happy to know that the WMU-sponsored offering netted \$6,884,357.61 for home missions last year. The offering is aided by promotion from the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Of course, home missions methods and scope have changed greatly from Annie Armstrong's turn-of-the-century culture. Today almost 2,200 Southern Baptist home missionaries are under appointment in all 50 states, plus Panama and Puerto Rico. The home missions program costs more than \$18,000,000 a year to operate, and that boils down to \$32.58 a minute, according to Arthur B. Rutledge, executive director -treasurer of the Home Mission Board.

The Cooperative Program (unified budget) of Southern Baptists and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are the main sources of income for the convention's home missions endeavors.

If the \$7,200,000 for the Easter offering is reached, Rutledge said, the missionary force in the United States could have a net increase of 50 by the end of 1974. Also, he noted, the almost 2,200 Southern Baptist home missionaries could be more adequately supported in the face of an unstable economy.

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(Adapted from the February, 1974, issue of World Mission Journal)

BP PHOTO mailed to state Baptist paper editors

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Billy Graham Scheduled
On SBC Program in Dallas

2/4/74

NASHVILLE (BP)--The proposed agenda of the 117th session of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-13 in Dallas, will feature every living former SBC president and conclude with an address by Evangelist Billy Graham.

The agenda, released by committee on order of business chairman, W. O. Vaught Jr., Little Rock, begins Tuesday morning and concludes Thursday night at Dallas Convention Center.

Four former SBC presidents will interpret the convention theme, "Share His Love Now." They are Carl Bates of Charlotte, W. A. Criswell of Dallas, H. Franklin Paschall of Nashville and Wayne Dehoney of Louisville.

Major addresses, besides that of Graham, include the presidential address by Owen Cooper, a layman from Yazoo City, Miss.; the convention sermon by R. J. Robinson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Augusta, Ga., and a presentation on religious liberty by Glenn Archer, retiring director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Washington.

Cooper, a retired manufacturing executive, will step down after two years as SBC president. He will preside throughout the three-day convention. He is the first layman to serve as SBC president since 1959.

For the first time, color television projection equipment will be used to increase visibility of platform presentations. Proceedings will be magnified and projected live on large screens to allow every person in the 20,000-seat convention center to view proceedings clearly. On the last night, when Graham speaks, a third screen will also be used in a 10,000-seat oval auditorium, adjacent to the convention center, Vaught said.

Tuesday and Wednesday nights respectively will focus on missions--home missions on Tuesday night and foreign missions on Wednesday night.

For the third consecutive year, music will be under the direction of William J. Reynolds,

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secretary of the church music department for the SBC Sunday School Board. Sam Prestidge, secretary of the church music department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will serve as assistant music director.

Music groups scheduled to appear through the convention include The Centurymen, the Oratorio Chorus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, the Perry Ellis Family of Brazil, the youth and adult choirs of First Baptist Church, Dallas, the adult choir of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., the Men's Chorus from Southwestern Seminary and the United Baptist Choir, Nassau, Bahamas.

Soloists include Russell Newport of Springfield, Mo.; Miss Joe Ann Shelton, Fort Worth, Tex.; three Dallasites--Miss June Hunt, Mrs. Martha Branham and Mrs. Anne Criswell Jackson; Frances Cooper Miles, Pensacola, Fla., daughter of President Owen Cooper; and Joe Carrell, Austin, Tex.

Much of the convention program will be devoted to conducting the business of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

About six and a half hours has been set aside for such business as election of officers, the report of the SBC Executive Committee, miscellaneous business, committee reports and receiving, reporting and acting on resolutions. Some six hours and twenty minutes will be devoted to hearing reports on the work of agencies related to the convention.

Other former SBC presidents on the program are K. Owen White, Herschel H. Hobbs, Ramsey Pollard, Brooks Hays, J. D. Grey, Robert G. Lee and Louie D. Newton.

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37218
(615) 211-2555
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor**BUREAUS**

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234
Telephone (615) 254-5461
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Dallas Convention Center

June 11-13, 1974

THEME: SHARE HIS LOVE NOW

Tuesday Morning, June 11

- 9:15 Music for Inspiration--Adult Choir, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi
Larry Black, Minister of Music
- 9:30 Call to Order
Congregational Singing--Directed by William J. Reynolds
Special Music--The Perry Ellis Family, Brazil
Theme Interpretation: Carl Bates, First Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
"Share His Love Now by Teaching the Bible"
- 9:50 Report of Registration and Constituting of the Convention--W. Fred Kendall,
registration secretary; retired executive secretary, Tennessee Baptist Convention,
Brentwood, Tennessee
Committee on Order of Business--W. O. Vaught, Jr., Chairman; pastor, Immanuel
Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas
- 9:55 Welcome--James H. Landes, executive secretary, Baptist General Convention of
Texas
- 10:05 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Committee on Resolutions and Tellers
- 10:10 Special Music--Frances Cooper Miles, Pensacola, Florida
- 10:15 Presidential Address--Owen Cooper, Yazoo City, Mississippi
- 10:50 Executive Committee Report (first section)
- 11:40 Miscellaneous Business
- 11:55 Introduction of Resolutions
- 12:15 Benediction

Tuesday Afternoon, June 11

- 2:15 Music for Inspiration--The Oratorio Chorus, Southwestern Baptist Theological
Seminary, Robert Burton, Director
- 2:30 Congregational Singing--Directed by Sam Prestidge, Dallas, Texas
Special Music--Anne Criswell Jackson, Dallas, Texas
Theme Interpretation: W. A. Criswell, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas
"Share His Love Now by Remaining Faithful to the Church"
- 2:50 Election of Officers
- 3:20 Introduction of Resolutions
- 3:40 Executive Committee Report (final section)
- 4:00 Election of Officers
Ambassador Service National Award
Miscellaneous Business
- 4:30 Benediction

Tuesday Evening, June 11

- 6:45 Music for Inspiration--The Centurymen, Buryl Red, Director
- 7:00 Congregational Singing--Directed by Buryl Red, New York City
Scripture: Herschel H. Hobbs, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Prayer: Ramsey Pollard, Memphis, Tennessee
- 7:15 "Reaching the Saints in Prison"--Radio and Television Commission
- 7:45 "Thy Will Be Done on Earth"--Christian Life Commission
- 8:05 Special Music--The Centurymen
Special Prayer Time--"One on One"

- 8:15 "Moved with Compassion"--Home Mission Board
9:15 Benediction --Robert Lee Estes, Triangle, Virginia

Wednesday Morning, June 12

- 9:15 Music for Inspiration--Southwestern Men's Chorus, Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary, James C. McKinney, Director
9:30 Congregational Singing--Directed by Richard Baker, Denton, Texas
Special Music--Joe Carrell, Austin, Texas
Theme Interpretation: H. Franklin Paschall, First Baptist Church,
Nashville, Tennessee, "Share His Love Now by Serving People"
9:50 Election of Officers
10:10 Committee on Resolutions (first report)
10:30 Committee on Committees Report
Committee on Boards Report
10:35 "Open Doors to the World"--Baptist World Alliance
10:45 Congregational Singing
10:55 Convention Sermon--R. J. Robinson, First Baptist Church, Augusta, Georgia
Alternate: James L. Pleitz, First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida
11:30 Election of Officers
11:40 Miscellaneous Business (consideration of constitutional changes and other matters)
12:15 Election of Officers
12:30 Benediction --Howard Cobble, Carrollton, Georgia

NO AFTERNOON SESSION

Wednesday Evening, June 12

- 6:45 Music for Inspiration--Youth and Adult Choirs, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas,
Gary Moore, Minister of Music
7:00 Congregational Singing--Directed by William J. Reynolds
Special Music--Russell Newport, Springfield, Missouri
Scripture: Brooks Hays, Washington, D. C.
Prayer: J. D. Grey, New Orleans, Louisiana
7:15 "The Voice of Thanksgiving"--Baptist Sunday School Board
8:00 Special Music--June Hunt, Dallas, Texas
8:05 Youth and Adult Choirs, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas
8:15 "A Prayer for Sight"--Foreign Mission Board
9:15 Benediction--Robert J. Utley, Fort Worth, Texas

Thursday Morning, June 13

- 9:15 Music for Inspiration--United Baptist Choir, Nassau, Bahamas
9:30 Congregational Singing--Directed by Donald Brown, Liberty, Missouri
Special Music--Joe Ann Shelton, Fort Worth, Texas
Theme Interpretation: Wayne Dehoney, Walnut Street Baptist Church,
Louisville, Kentucky, "Share His Love Now by Faithful Giving"
9:50 Committee on Resolutions Report (final)
10:20 Denominational Calendar Report
10:25 "Sharing His Love for the Pastor"--Comm. on the American Bapt. Theological Sem.
10:30 "Sharing His Love for Eternal Truth"--Education Commission
10:40 Special Music--United Baptist Choir, Nassau, Bahamas
10:55 Recognition of Fraternal Messengers
11:00 Southern Baptist Convention Seminaries Report
11:30 Miscellaneous Business
12:15 Benediction--Robert F. Bradley, Hampton, Virginia

Thursday Afternoon, June 13

- 2:15 Music for Inspiration--Evangelistic Singers
2:30 Congregational Singing--Directed by James C. McKinney, Fort Worth, Texas
Special Music--Martha Branham, Dallas, Texas

Theme Interpretation: K. Owen White, Phoenix, Arizona

"Share His Love Now by Personal Witness"

- 2:50 "The Southern Baptist Convention and Her People"--Historical Commission
- 3:00 "Dedicated Financial Resources"--Southern Baptist Foundation
- 3:10 "Our Baptist Witness in Public Affairs"--Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs
- 3:25 "The State of Retirement"--Annuity Board
- 3:55 Special Music--Evangelistic Singers Chorus
- 4:00 Glenn Archer, retiring executive director, Americans United, Washington, D. C.
- 4:30 Benediction--James Waters, Macon, Georgia

Thursday Evening, June 13

- 6:45 Music for Inspiration--United Baptist Choir, Nassau, Bahamas
- 7:00 Congregational Singing--Directed by Cliff Barrows, Greenville, South Carolina
Scripture: R. G. Lee, Memphis, Tennessee
Prayer: Louie D. Newton, Atlanta, Georgia
- 7:10 Presentation of Officers
- 7:15 "The Whole Church for the Whole World"--Woman's Missionary Union
- 7:35 "What's in a Name!"--Brotherhood Commission
- 7:55 "A People on Mission for God"--Stewardship Commission
- 8:10 Special Music--United Baptist Choir, Nassau, Bahamas
- 8:25 Congregational Singing
- 8:30 Billy Graham, Montreat, North Carolina
- 9:30 Benediction --Ed Brooks Bowles, Beaumont, Texas

Convention Officers

Owen Cooper, president, layman, Yazoo City, Miss.
James G. Harris, first vice president, pastor, Fort Worth
Clifford Brannon, second vice president, evangelist, Longview, Tex.
Clifton J. Allen, recording secretary, Winston-Salem, N.C.
W. Fred Kendall, registration secretary, Brentwood, Tenn.
Porter W. Routh, treasurer, Nashville
W.C. Fields, press representative, Nashville
William J. Reynolds, music director, Nashville

INSERT: Please add the name of Clark Hutchinson, Marietta, Georgia, on page one of the SBC program for Tuesday morning benediction and the name of Dan A. McKeever of Houston, Texas, for the Tuesday afternoon benediction.