

February 8, 1974

Baptist Minister Says

'Pastor's Role Change Agent  
No Matter Who Pays Salary'

By Tim Nicholas

ATLANTA (BP)--Though a pastor is called to serve that group which pays his salary, he still must be a change agent in the community, Roy Godwin, feature speaker at an Atlanta conference-workshop on crisis community churches, said here.

Salary, housing, and fees for special services rendered, all combine to make strictures on a pastoral ministry, according to Godwin, who is pastor-director of the "white ghetto" Frankfort Avenue Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

The conference, sponsored by the Atlanta Baptist Association in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's division of associational services was attended by 50 Atlanta pastors and religious workers.

About 40 Southern Baptist churches in Atlanta have disbanded or merged in the past few years leaving about 120, a recent survey noted. The study indicated that at least 62 per cent of those remaining are in crisis, with most having level or declining enrolments, hence the conference.

Salary allegiance is only one of the conflicts a pastor faces in a crisis community (usually one involved in racial or economic change), Godwin told the group. Other conflicts include that of an identity crisis--both in the role of the church and in the role of the pastor, he said.

Continuing, Godwin said, "We need to rework our theology in light of the world today. We must see how God and the world are related because the church stands between the two."

Part of the ministry of a pastor and church "is to be a disturbing factor in the community because the church is both a social and a religious institution. The church is a curious blend of divine and human elements," he added.

Influenced by a dynamic society, he said, the church must be sensitive to the changing needs of people. "Another of the conflicts we must remember is that some people don't want to be saved," Godwin said.

According to Godwin, the proper way to change society is to change individuals, "...if enough people are Christians. But first we need to begin changing environments."

Godwin directed a study of Southern Baptist pastors in 11 southern states whose churches were facing or had faced social change crises. For those churches that tried to take an active role, Godwin said, the study revealed that most of the negative pressure the pastor received came from the congregation, but the violent reaction came from the community.

Pressure from the congregation came subtly, such as withdrawal of financial support and falling attendance. He cited an example of community pressure where a white pastor was beaten for walking black children to Sunday School.

In his study, Godwin concluded that pastors can best effect change through small group interplay with deacons or other church or community leaders.

He said a typical reaction to a crisis situation is to fire the pastor.

Congregations are often surprised that the situation continues to get worse under a new pastor, he noted.

Godwin said he has tried his theories in his present ministry. He works with two hats, both as a church pastor and as director of Philadelphia City Ministries for the Home Mission Board.

Programs at Frankfort Avenue Baptist Church include "regular Baptist events--preaching, teaching and healing"--plus home Bible fellowships. Sometimes the fellowships are held across the street from the church building because everyone won't come inside the building," he says.

There's a weekday ministry including a "Sesame Street" program, afternoon clubs for elementary school children, and a coffeehouse on Thursday evenings for teens, and several mothers' clubs.

The church is moving into a daytime coffeehouse ministry and a ministry to two halfway houses related to mental hospitals. The members are also building a workshop in the church basement for teenage boys.

"We see the need to train indigenous community leadership," Godwin said, but "the salvation of the inner city will be the suburban churches." This will happen, he said, "when they begin to see the whole city as a mission field."

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Cincinnati, Buffalo  
Broadcasters Honored

2/8/74

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP)--Charles K. Murdock of Cincinnati's WLW Radio and Leslie G. Arries Jr. of WBEN AM-FM-TV in Buffalo, N.Y., have each received a 1974 Abe Lincoln Award from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

For the first time, this year the top award was presented to two men, one in radio, the other in television.

The award is given annually to a broadcaster who has made a paramount contribution, both as a private citizen and as a professional newsman, to the quality of life in America.

The Baptist Radio and Television Commission is the world's largest producer of religious programming for public service broadcasting, according to commission spokesmen.

Frank Stanton of New York was keynote speaker. Stanton, now president of The American National Red Cross, was president of Columbia Broadcasting System for 25 years and was vice chairman of its board of directors when he retired in March, 1973.

He was presented the Radio and Television Commission's Distinguished Communications Medal, which carries a \$1,000 college scholarship to a Baptist student interested in a radio or television career.

Receiving Distinguished Recognition Awards at the ceremonies were Lee Rich, president of Lorimar Productions, which produces "The Waltons," television award-winning series, and Earl Hamner, story editor for the series. "The Waltons" is based on stories of Hamner's Virginia childhood.

Other broadcasting notables on hand for the event included Benjamin L. Hooks, Federal Communications Commissioner; Sol Taishoff, editor, Broadcasting Magazine; Vincent Wasilewski, president of the National Association of Broadcasters, and Andrew M. Ockerhausen of Washington, chairman of the joint board of directors, NAB.

Murdock was cited by Paul M. Stevens, president of the Radio and Television Commission, for his station's "conscientious documentaries and a courageous editorial policy that have alerted and charged the citizenry with its proper responsibilities in solving the problems and in improving the conditions of its locale.

Arries was lauded for what was described as "an exciting collection of forceful public affairs programs."

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The Abe Lincoln Awards began in 1970 to honor broadcasters and pay tribute to an industry that yearly gives millions of dollars of public service time to Radio and Television Commission programs.

In 1973, the industry gave the Baptist Radio and Television Commission programs \$7,903,225 worth of free public service air time.

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Day Camp Planned  
During SBC Sessions

2/8/74

DALLAS (BP)--A missions day camp for children of messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention will be held here June 4-6, 1974.

The camp, open to children 6-11, will be conducted at White Rock City Park under the auspices of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Texas Baptist Men.

Youngsters attending the camp will take part in mission games, sports and crafts and meet Southern Baptist missionaries.

Registration fee for the mission day camp will be \$2.50 per day or \$5.00 for all three days. The fee includes bus transportation from the Dallas Convention Center, insurance, supplies and lunch.

Jerry Bob Taylor, Royal Ambassador consultant for Texas Baptist Men, will direct the camp. W.L. Colquitt of Dallas is the local coordinator and Jay Chance of Memphis, director of the commission's Royal Ambassador division, the SBC coordinator.

"Children will enjoy an unusual mission experience under trained leadership while their parents are free to take an active part in convention sessions," Chance said in explaining day camp benefits.

"We also hope the presence of the camp will encourage parents who normally stay at home with their children to bring the youngsters and attend the convention."

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W. Va. Elects Editor,  
Changes Name of Paper

2/8/74

ST. ALBANS, W. Va. (BP)--Thomas F. Lang, 44, has been named editor of the West Virginia Southern Baptist, formerly the Southern Baptists in West Virginia, news publication of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists.

He will continue duties as director of religious education for the convention, a post he assumed on April 1, 1973.

A native of Athens, Ga., Lang became interim editor of the paper in August, 1973, following a heart attack suffered by John I. Snedden, executive secretary-treasurer of the Virginia convention. Snedden served as "acting editor," following the resignation of Francis R. Tallant in February, 1973.

Lang is the former pastor of Fairlawn Baptist Church in Parkersburg, and previously served First Baptist Church, Fairlea, both in West Virginia.

He was graduated from the University of Georgia and earned the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Prior to moving to West Virginia, Lang served eight years in three pastorates in Georgia and Texas.

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BP PHOTO mailed to state Baptist paper editors

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Baptists Involved In  
Dramatic Rescue Effort

BONASIKA CREEK, Guyana (BP)--A Baptist pastor and several church members rescued 12 of 24 passengers from the water after a 35-foot riverboat capsized on the Essequibo River recently.

The other 12 passengers drowned, including seven children from one family, according to Mrs. John I. Jacobs, Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Guyana.

Soon after a large wave swept the craft under the water, the pastor, Thakur Singh, arrived in the river launch "Crusader," operated by the Guyana Baptist Mission and the Bonasika Baptist Church here, Mrs. Jacobs said.

The pastor and crew members arrived in time to pull 12 of the passengers from the river, including the parents of the seven children who drowned, she said.

News reports indicated that the incident was one of the worst river disasters in Guyana's history.

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N.C. Baptists Dedicate  
New \$600,000 Wing

2/8/74

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--A new \$600,000 wing to the Baptist Building of the North Carolina State Convention of Baptists has been dedicated here. The additional 13,000 square feet brings total space in the facility to nearly 40,000 square feet. The present building was dedicated in 1957.

In other action at a meeting of the convention's general board, a motion was approved asking the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville to consider establishing a book store to serve the Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem and Asheville areas.

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Record Number Turn Out  
For Utah-Idaho Conference

2/8/74

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah--Southern Baptists from Utah and Idaho turned out 2,000 strong for a pre-session meeting to begin the convention's annual evangelism conference here.

Attendance for this year's conference was up almost 400--a record for the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, according to Darwin E. Welsh, executive secretary for the convention.

A highlight of the pre-session meeting was a performance of the musical, "Joy," by more than 250 teenagers, some of whom traveled more than 400 miles to attend the conference. The words for "Joy" were written by Ed Seabough, with musical score by Bill Cates.

Principal speaker for the pre-session meeting and a key speaker for the regular conference sessions was Grady Wilson, of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

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