



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
480 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
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

April 1, 1974

Baptists Ordain Woman In Ecumenical Service

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Takoma Park Baptist Church of Washington, D.C., ordained Mary Anne Forehand to the pastoral ministry in a special interdenominational service featuring participation by a Roman Catholic nun and several Protestant ministers.

Ms. Forehand, an associate pastor of the interracial church, previously served as a field worker for the Woman's Missionary Union of Kentucky Southern Baptists, as an editor for the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham and as a Southern Baptist missionary in Spain.

She was ordained upon the recommendation of the council on ordinations of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, which is dually aligned with the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. and the Southern Baptist Convention.

A graduate of Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Ms. Forehand is not the first Southern Baptist woman ordained to the ministry. She is believed to be the twelfth.

James A. Langley, executive secretary-treasurer of the D.C. convention, speaking on behalf of the larger Baptist community, addressed himself to "the cynics and critics" who would claim that her ordination does not conform to New Testament teachings. Langley called for more openness in interpreting scripture. He challenged the candidate to be both a priestly and prophetic minister.

Paul G. Gillespie, pastor of the Takoma Park congregation, in his charge to the candidate, alluded to an ambivalence about ordination among many young people in the contemporary church, male and female. The real issue, he stated, is not the changing forms of ministry but ministry as a reflection of the unchanging nature of God.

Ms. Forehand, a native of Burnet, Tex., reported that a request for ordination was rejected by her home church in Texas, by a church in Alabama where she had been a member and by one in Kentucky where she had been a staff member.

In her remarks during the service, Ms. Forehand said her initial disappointment changed as she became aware of the covenant relationship she had established with the Takoma Park congregation she serves.

She also pledged loyalty to the concept of individual interpretation of the scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to the church in its local and ecumenical expressions and to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

At the conclusion of the service, she led the congregation in partaking of the Lord's Supper.

Also participating in the service from the Washington area were Sister Denise Curry of the Academy of Notre Dame; three United Methodist ministers; a minister of the Christian Reformed Church; Paul C. Tomlinson, another associate pastor of the Takoma Park Baptist Church and several leaders of the Takoma Park congregation.

-30-

Nader Shows Human Side,
Wins Baptists' Applause

4/1/74

By H len Parmley

HOUSTON (BP)--Not even Ralph Nader's sleuthing Raiders could have anticipated the turn

-more-

of events here that caused the consumer advocate to depart from his usual role and engage in a folksy rapport with an apprehensive audience of more than 300 Southern Baptists.

In Houston to speak at a national Christian Life Commission seminar on the economic crisis, Nader fielded with his usual ease and confidence questions about big business, consumer problems, the energy crisis and the church's lack of action in dealing with these many concerns.

This was expected. But suddenly, commission staffer Elmer West, who was presiding at the session, turned to Nader and asked his own question.

"Mr. Nader," said West, "I hope you don't mind, but I would like to get a little personal with you. I'm sure everyone in this room would like to know more about you. What is it, sir, that turns you on?"

Caught off guard, Nader hesitated, flashed a momentary embarrassed grin and replied, "I'm really not very good or experienced in introspection."

Then, looking out to an expectant audience, the usually poised attorney dropped his stance as the watchdog from Washington and for a few moments bared his innermost thoughts on what has motivated his life.

"The shaping forces of my life," said Nader, "began with a great choice of parents (Lebanese emigrants Nadra and Rose Nader).

"I decided when I was four years old that I wanted to be a lawyer. I went to Harvard Law School where they only prepared students to practice law in the service of a bank or corporation. As often happens, this worked in reverse and turned me toward a desire to help people."

Later, Nader continued, he began to notice a gap between wealth and intelligence in this country and was challenged by the lack of attempts to tap this potential.

By now, Nader was sounding more comfortable in his unaccustomed role and he reflected, "But I guess one of the strongest influences in my life was my experience as a youth in New England where I attended the weekly town meetings.

"There were always five or six outspoken citizens who stood up to ask questions, demand action or request accountings. They were always the same people and even though they were performing good citizenship for the rest of the town, other residents poked fun at them.

"They pointed their fingers at them when they walked down the street. It was like we had a town drunk, a town fool and a town citizen.

"But I began to realize the worth of the thankless roles these people played and the impact that kind of citizenship can make in improving life for all people."

Earlier, Nader, who said his church affiliation is Methodist, had taken the church to task for its poor track record in consumer protection. He urged church people to organize and become an effective voice in demanding ethical and moral standards from power organizations.

"The church has been reluctant," he said, "to involve itself in the struggle. Look what a few have done for the civil rights causes and the anti-war movement.

"Then imagine what could be accomplished if the church as a whole set its mind to the task of imposing religious ethics to corrupted secular powers."

He also cited an apathy among students in church-related colleges and called for their mobilization to join the national crusade against corruption in government and industry.

That the controversial Nader might have been considered an unlikely choice of speakers for a meeting of conservative Southern Baptists was diminished by warm appreciative applause following his remarks.

At Nader's invitation, seminar participants swarmed around the speaker's platform to talk informally, to sign up to receive his organization's newsletter, to inform him of problems in their areas or to merely chat and listen.