



BAPTIST PRESS

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April 8, 1974

Gerald Ford Scheduled for Brotherhood Meet in Dallas

MEMPHIS (BP)--Vice President Gerald R. Ford has accepted an invitation of the Brotherhood Commission to speak at a breakfast June 14 for 1,500 Southern Baptist lay people and their ministers at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Dallas.

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention agency here, said the vice president agreed to launch a workshop on "The Challenge of Christian Involvement" with a breakfast address.

The workshop, sponsored by the commission, mission education agency for 461,080 Baptist men and boys, will cap a week-long series of related Southern Baptist meetings in Dallas.

The main meeting, the 117th session of the Southern Baptist Convention, is expected to attract 20,000 messengers from 50 states to Dallas June 10-13.

Emphasizing the address will be non-political, McCullough said he invited the vice president because "I believe he is a leader who can challenge Christian men to become involved in the great issues of life.

"The people who seem to know him best--his family and political leaders of both parties in Congress where he served 25 years--attest to his keen desire to support truth and individual integrity.

"Even his political opponents in Congress have repeatedly expressed their admiration for his honesty and candor," McCullough continued.

"At this time in history, I believe this Episcopal layman has something to say to Baptist laymen who want to get involved and still maintain high standards of honesty and integrity."

McCullough said the workshop will include two-hour conferences in at least 10 different areas, such as lay renewal, opportunities for lay people in the denomination, work with aging, short-term mission opportunities in the United States and overseas, involvement in mission action, involvement of lay people in government and financial involvement in the denomination.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$5.00 each. They are available from the commission's Memphis office and will also be sold at the commission's booth in Dallas Convention Center during the SBC meetings, McCullough said.

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(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist paper editors.

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Newton and World Mission
Journal Pace RPRC Awards

4/8/74

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist representatives won more awards than any other denomination here in the annual Paul M. Hinkhouse Awards competition of the national, interfaith Religious Public Relations Council (RPRC).

Paced by Jim Newton of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission with four individual awards, including two of four \$125 grand prizes presented, Southern Baptists collected 13 of 48 awards. Representatives of United Methodists, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Lutherans and Catholics were runnersup with nine, six, five and five awards respectively.

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The Brotherhood Commission's World Mission Journal, published in Memphis and edited by Newton, won the newspaper category in the print class and then took the grand prize in the print class in competition with winners of six other categories in the class. Larry Jerden and Steve Wall are associate editors of the publication.

A news story by Newton, "An Astronaut in the Holy Land," won the news story category in the writing class and collected the grand prize in that class.

The other Southern Baptist multiple winner was Ed Malone of the Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, who won the first place award of excellence in the radio series category with "Sousearchers" and collected a runnerup certificate of special merit in the radio spot category.

Southern Baptists swept the poster and flyer category, with first place going to Don Hepburn of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and the runnerup award going to Robert L. Chaudoin of the Broadman Division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Another sweep in the advertising category gave first place to Rosann Reuther, a former Sunday School Board employee now with Holder-Kennedy Co., Nashville, and second to Theo Sommerkamp of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, Dallas.

Certificates of special merit went to Robert O'Brien of Baptist Press, the SBC news service, Nashville, for feature writing; to John Seelig of Southwestern Seminary in the booklet category; and jointly to Charles Willis and James Lowry, both of the Sunday School Board, in the audio tape category.

Earlier in the RPRC's three-day annual meeting the council recognized secular newspaper and broadcast representatives with annual national Merit Awards.

Three daily newspapers received RPRC Merit Awards and their religion editors named Fellows of the RPRC.

Those awards went to William Wineke and the Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, Wisc.; Tom Harpur and the Toronto Star; and Kay Longcope and the Boston Globe.

A previous RPRC winner, Louis Cassels, late senior editor and religion writer of Unit d Press International, was posthumously named a Fellow of the organization for "his many years of faithful and incisive reporting of religion news and for writing about religion intelligently and comprehensively."

Lowell Thomas, internationally known radio newsman and world traveler, was named a Fellow of RPRC and cited for "his many years of communicating the need for people to have human concern for each other regardless of race or creed."

Merit Awards also went to KRLD Radio, a Columbia Broadcasting Company affiliate in Dallas, for "Love Words," a series of 30-second spots on the religious and social scene; and to WCVB-TV, an American Broadcasting Company affiliate in Boston, for a weekly series, "New Heaven, New Earth." Hubert Jessup of the WCVB staff was cited as a Fellow of the RPRC.

Paula Becker of Nashville, a Seventh-day Adventist, was elected to a second one-year term as RPRC's national president.

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(BP) PHOTO mailed to state Baptist paper editors.

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Brown Steps Down as Dean
Of Southeastern Seminary

4/8/74

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Raymond Brown, academic dean at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here since 1966, has resigned to return to fulltime faculty status as professor of New Testament interpretation at the seminary.

Brown, who first joined the Southeastern faculty in 1964, said in a letter to O. T.

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Binkley, seminary president, that his resignation would become effective no later than July 31, 1974.

That date coincides with Binkley's retirement as president of the Southern Baptist seminary.

"I told Dr. Binkley in October, 1973, I did not intend to remain in the dean's office past his retirement," Brown told Baptist Press. He said Binkley had assured him in a letter in 1969 that his election as dean did not interrupt his tenure as professor of New Testament interpretation.

"I have always felt I would return to fulltime teaching, which is my first love," said Brown, who has carried a halftime teaching load at Southeastern during his tenure as dean. "Dr. Binkley said he hoped I would carry the responsibility of the deanship as long as he was in office and that is what I have done."

"Dr. Brown has done excellent work as academic dean and as professor of New Testament interpretation," Binkley said. "I hold him in high regard."

Brown, 50, spent some four years on the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., before joining Southeastern. He is a former professor of Bible and religion at the University of Richmond, Richmond, Va. and has held two pastorates in Virginia.

A native of Baker, La., Brown is a graduate of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and earned bachelor of divinity and master of New Testament degrees from Yale Divinity School and a doctorate in New Testament from Southern Seminary. He has also done post doctoral studies at the University of Tuebingen in Germany.

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Senator Hughes Discusses
His "Higher Calling" on ABC

4/8/74

FORT WORTH (BP)--Iowa Senator Harold E. Hughes, who announced recently that he is retiring from politics in favor of a religious career, discussed his reasons for answering "a higher calling" recently in taped a conversation to be aired April 28 on the American Broadcasting Company's "Directions" program.

The half-hour segment of ABC's public service presentation was produced in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. ABC newsman Frank Reynolds was moderator.

Senator Hughes, who served as governor of Iowa from 1963-68 before moving to the Senate in 1969, said he had attempted to use his political career as a ministry to people.

"But I have come to believe, through the direction of the Holy Spirit and prayer that I can have a greater effect on the well-being of the human family in the spiritual sense than I can in the political sense."

He said the differences in the human family on the face of the earth "are going to have to be resolved in the unity of one God, in prayer and seeking in that relationship."

Hughes emphasized that he is not leaving politics because of Watergate. "I believe that Watergate, as difficult and as traumatic as it is, is going to be a catharsis for this country. I think God is going to use Watergate in this nation to cleanse our political structure and our minds and thoughts in relationship to politics."

He said he encourages young people interested in politics to enter the field. "God could well be leading me out of the political structure at the same time He's leading someone else in.

"My decision to leave politics was based on the fact that there's something more important in this world, eternal life. I don't believe there is any death. I think man survives death and what we do here is the investment that counts then."

A former truck driver, Hughes is not a rich man. He says his future is uncertain but "my basic needs are not what I'm planning for the future. My retirement is eternity. God will

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provide for my family and me. I believe that all men and women can, and should, live by faith in these directions."

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Fundamentalists Attack
Holcomb as FCC Member

4/8/74

WASHINGTON (BP)--Seven fundamentalist preachers, a representative of the Women's Lib Movement and a spokesman for Spanish surnamed Americans attacked the confirmation of a Southern Baptist minister to the Federal Communications Commission at a hearing here before a Senate subcommittee on communications.

President Nixon nominated Luther Holcomb, current vice chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, to fill an unexpired term on the FCC. Confirmation by the Senate is required.

Holcomb, a former pastor of the Lakewood Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., and a former executive secretary of the Dallas Council of Churches, was supported for confirmation by Sen. John Tower (R. - Tex.), Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D.-Tex.) and Rep. Barbara Jordan (D.-Tex.).

The fundamentalist clergymen opposed Holcomb's confirmation largely on two grounds: (1) he is an ordained Baptist minister, and (2) he has had too close connections with the ecumenical movement.

Another Baptist minister, Benjamin Hooks, affiliated with the Progressive National Baptist Convention, already serves as a commissioner on the FCC.

Carl McIntire, president of the International Council of Christian Churches, charged that to place Holcomb on the FCC would mean that two of the seven commissioners would represent a religious movement which, he said, in the past has opposed the interests of fundamentalist broadcasters.

Both McIntire and the other fundamentalist clergymen charged that the National Council of Churches has actively opposed religious broadcasting by anti-National Council of Churches ministers. By identifying Holcomb with the NCC, the fundamentalists said that they might continue to be discriminated against in religious broadcasting by the FCC if he is confirmed.

In addition, McIntire charged that Holcomb's confirmation would be a violation of the First Amendment, which says, "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion. . ." He interpreted this to mean "that all religious bodies and religious opinions are to be treated the same, without preference, discrimination or special recognition or use by the federal government."

Holcomb, the fundamentalists claimed, would be unable to exercise "neutrality" toward non-ecumenical churches because of his Baptist ordination and his close association with the ecumenical movement.

Holcomb's reply to such charges was that he has not functioned as a Baptist minister for 15 years and for the past eight years he has devoted his entire time to public service.

He further denied that he had ever been a member of the National Council of Churches, since membership in that body is not by local churches or councils of churches but by denominations.

Ms. Janice Blue, representing the National Organization of Women of Houston, Tex., opposed Holcomb's confirmation because, she claimed, he was not sensitive enough to discrimination because of sex.

Another lady, who accompanied Ms. Blue to the witness table, did not want to be identified with the fundamentalist clergymen. She observed that all of them were "white" and "male." She commented that they might be surprised sometime to learn that God might be "black" and a "she."

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Manuel D. Fierro, executive director of RAZA Association of Spanish surnamed Americans, Washington, D.C., charged that Holcomb in his work with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission lacked sensitivity to the Spanish-speaking community in this country. He stated that RAZA could not support Holcomb's nomination until a full investigation is conducted and all the facts about him are known.

On the second day of the hearing, Holcomb said that his background as a Baptist minister, his devotion to the principle of separation of church and state and his record on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission were assurances that he could and would exercise unbiased, unprejudiced and fair judgments as a member of the FCC.

The fundamentalists, nevertheless, persisted in their attack on Holcomb. McIntire sought, among other things, to tie Holcomb to the ecumenical movement by linking him with the Baptist World Alliance.

The charge went like this: McIntire produced a 1973 Southern Baptist Convention annual in which Holcomb is listed as an ordained minister. He then produced a National Council of Churches book in which the Baptist World Alliance is listed as a para-ecumenical body.

Since the Southern Baptist Convention is a chief supporter of the Baptist World Alliance, McIntire reasoned, and since Holcomb is listed as an ordained Southern Baptist minister, and since the Baptist World Alliance is listed in a National Council of Churches publication, therefore, Holcomb is undoubtedly affiliated with the ecumenical movement, a fact which McIntire believes should disqualify him from membership on the FCC.

The attack on Holcomb, apparently, did not sway leading members of the Senate Subcommittee on Communications. A high ranking minority member, Sen. Howard Baker (R.-Tenn.), said at the hearing that he hoped Holcomb would be confirmed. The chairman of the committee, Sen. John Pastore (D.-R.I.), indicated that Holcomb's credentials as a Democrat would be in his favor as far as he was concerned.

The committee will now decide whether or not to recommend Holcomb to the Senate. If the recommendation is favorable, the Senate then will vote to confirm or reject the president's nominee.

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Tornadoes Leave "Footprints"
On Southern Baptists, Too

4/8/74

By Baptist Press

Multiple tornadoes, which left their devastating "footprints" in 11 Southern and Midwestern states, also ripped through Baptist churches and homes, leaving death, injury and destruction in their wake.

But, according to early reports compiled by Baptist Press, the tornadoes capriciously destroyed churches in some areas and miraculously spared others. Overall, damage to Southern Baptist facilities was minimal compared to widespread destruction of other property.

Fragmentary reports indicate 19 Southern Baptists, out of more than 302 deaths nationally as of April 8, were killed by the tornadoes--eight in Kentucky, five in Georgia, four in Tennessee and two in Alabama.

In Louisville, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary "was miraculously spared serious damage in the midst of devastation all around it," a seminary spokesman said.

Of some 1,500 faculty, administration and students, only eight suffered minor injuries--the most serious to Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Oyekan, students from Nigeria, who suffered a dislocated shoulder and broken ribs respectively.

Although buildings on the campus suffered no major structural damage, three buildings lost roofs, the wind snatched cupolas and ornamental columns from two buildings, falling trees damaged or destroyed about 50 faculty and student automobiles and a number of faculty homes were damaged, including the complete destruction of the home of Marvin Tate, associate professor of Old Testament. The campus also lost about 75 trees and several hundred window panes.

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Local Civil Defense spokesmen termed efforts by seminary students, faculty and staff as "the backbone of relief efforts" in the Crescent Hills area of Louisville.

Students, in the midst of missions emphasis week, put missions into action by activating WMU Hall on the seminary campus as a relief center several hours before the Red Cross arrived. The Red Cross, observing the operation, eventually designated it as an official Red Cross disaster center.

Teams coordinated by two students, Jim Doss of Charlotte, N.C., and Robert Rainwater of Shreveport, La., got assignments from a central area and combed the disaster area, bringing in victims to sleeping quarters set up in WMU Hall or for medical treatment in the seminary infirmary.

Faculty, staff and students attracted local praise for community-wide cleanup operations which they launched the day after the tornadoes hit and for feeding operations for tornado victims in cooperation with local churches.

Elsewhere in Kentucky, the winds completely destroyed Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, Brandenburg, and the homes of the pastor and minister of music.

Billy Marcum, the Phillips Memorial pastor, said no one was in the church or the parsonage when the twister struck because he had gone to pick up his wife.

"I left at 4:05 and at 4:10 the house left," Marcum said.

Evergreen Baptist Church, near Frankfort, Ky., was levelled, along with the pastor's home and at least two members of the congregation died of injuries.

Winds practically obliterated the small, historic village of Stamping Ground, Ky., destroying the Baptist church, which was constituted in 1795, and gutting the parsonage. The pastor's study, occupied at the time of the tornado by Don Crawley, interim pastor, was the only part of the church left standing. Crawley saved his life by diving under the desk.

Although no Baptist churches were known to be damaged in Pulaski County, Ky., four members of the Pine Grove Baptist Church, Nancy, and two members of Cedar Point Baptist Church, Ingle, were reported among the dead.

Reports from Louisville indicate the storm spared most Baptist facilities, despite the fact that many were in its direct path.

Broadway Baptist Church in the Indian Hills section of Louisville missed extensive damage but the home of the pastor, Edwin Perry, was totally destroyed. Mrs. Perry, now listed in satisfactory condition, was severely injured in the collapsing home and underwent surgery.

Perry and his two sons set up a relief operation in the church.

The Long Run Baptist Association, made up of some 100 churches in the Louisville area, has laid plans for relief for tornado-stricken Kentuckians.

Relief plans, a spokesman said, will put special emphasis on cash relief, instead of such items as food and clothing, because they are available through other channels.

Some churches in the association took an offering April 7, but most will take a relief offering on Easter Sunday to provide financial assistance.

Meanwhile, in Alabama, state Baptist leaders there have also called for an Easter Sunday offering to assist tornado victims and have already made \$26,000 available to aid victims in devastated areas of north Alabama.

The Alabama Baptist State Convention's disaster relief committee, which coordinated allocation of \$82,000 last May when tornadoes also hit the state, has been reactivated.

Four distribution, aid and collection centers--three in churches and one in the Alabama executive board's offices in Montgomery--have provided a wide range of assistance to tornado victims, a spokesman said.

A retired Southern Baptist minister, Houston Brand, and his wife were both killed in Alta, Ala., near Berry, while attending a Wednesday evening prayer service at Alta Missionary Baptist Church. Twenty-six of some 30-40 people at the service, including the pastor, Johnny Bozeman, were injured.

Tanner Baptist Church, near Athens, Ala., was demolished and Guin Baptist Church, Guin, Ala., suffered extensive damage to its new educational building. The town of Guin, the most severely damaged in Alabama, a spokesman said, "looked as though someone had run a crushing machine through it, leaving everything flat."

Pastoriums severely damaged or levelled in Alabama include those of Cold Spring Baptist Church, near Cullman; Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Cullman; Westside Baptist Church, Jasper; and Guin Baptist Church, Guin.

Reportedly, only one Southern Baptist church in Georgia, Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Holcombe, was damaged. It was completely destroyed. Local observers expressed amazement at the fact so little damage was done to churches in the state.

But deaths in the state included Harry Roper of Holcombe, treasurer of the Yellow Creek Church, and Mr. and Mrs. Trammel Goble and their two daughters, members of Halls Memorial Baptist Church, near Resaca. The Goble's 12-year-old son was hospitalized.

In Tennessee, most Baptist church damage seemed to center in Nashville, where at least four churches received extensive damage--Crieewood Baptist Church, Una Baptist Church, Two Rivers Baptist Church and Berean Baptist Chapel.

Baptists killed, according to latest tabulations in Tennessee, were Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bohannon of Cookeville and their four-year-old granddaughter, Theresa Bohannon. Theresa's two-year-old brother is in serious condition at Vanderbilt Hospital, Nashville. Mrs. Bohannon was the niece of Johnny Lee, missions superintendent of the Stone Baptist Association.

In Indiana, Calvary Baptist Church, Madison, Ind., was completely demolished, along with the home of the pastor, Tom Raisor, and the homes of at least four other families in the church.

Although Baptist families were numbered among those left homeless by the tornadoes, a spokesman said, no other damage has been reported to Indiana Baptist churches.

Hard-hit Xenia, Ohio, reports no damage to its two Baptist churches, Dayton Avenue Baptist Church and its missions, Arrowbrook Baptist Church.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's department of Christian social ministries, which has been in touch with all disaster areas, has dispatched \$3,000 to Ohio for emergency relief. The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and the Dayton Baptist Association were raising another \$2,000 for the two Baptist churches in Xenia to use for relief efforts.

Statewide missions organizations for men and women, Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union, are working with the Dayton Association to mount a disaster relief program, a spokesman said.

Baptists across the state have donated four truckful of relief supplies Xenia and Cincinnati.

J. C. Rakes, retired pastor of Dayton Avenue Baptist Church, is perhaps the most fortunate man in Xenia. Every house in his neighborhood was levelled but Rakes' home, a spokesman said.

Preliminary reports from Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina indicate no serious damage to Baptist property and the same is believed to be true of Michigan and Illinois.

Perhaps one of the most unusual twists produced by the tornadoes, which struck about two weeks before Easter, occurred in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the home of Mrs. William Rohe.

There, according to wire service reports, the wind drove a one-half-inch plank, four feet long and four inches wide, through a picture of Jesus Christ. A two-inch nail was driven through His uplifted hand.