



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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August 2, 1974

SBC Mission Strategy Group
Named; Robinson, Chairman

74-24

NASHVILLE (BP)--A special 21-person committee requested by the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas in June to study overall mission strategy of the 12.3-million-member denomination has been named by the SBC's two mission boards and the immediate past president and vice presidents.

Immediate past president, Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., and two vice presidents, James Harris and Cliff Brannon, both of Texas, named seven members. Cooper was included on the study committee at the request of the convention. The SBC's Home and Foreign Mission Boards also named seven each.

The committee, which will be chaired by R. J. Robinson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Augusta, Ga., will present its findings on the denomination's mission strategy for the remainder of this century to the SBC Executive Committee in February, 1976, and then present to the convention "such recommendations as it deems advisable" by June, 1976. The committee's first meeting is set in Nashville, Sept. 18-19.

The SBC officers named Robinson; Mrs. Helen Fling, New York, vice chairperson; Mrs. James Landes, Texas; Maxey Jarman, Tennessee; J. D. Grey, Louisiana; Warren Hultgren, Oklahoma; and Cooper.

The Foreign Mission Board named W. O. Vaught, Arkansas; J. R. White, Alabama; Glen Brasw II, Colorado; Travis S. Berry, Texas; E. H. Westmoreland, Texas; M. Hunter Riggins Jr., Virginia; and Mrs. E. S. Stratton, Virginia.

The Home Mission Board named Russell H. Dilday Jr., Georgia; Carl E. Bates, North Carolina; Mrs. I. W. Bowen III, Georgia; M. Dale Allen, Missouri; Gene Garrison, Oklahoma; Grayson Glass, Texas; and Lewis I. Myers, Mississippi.

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Congress Includes 'Bypass' In
\$29.1 Billion for Education

8/2/74

By Stan L. Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--In spite of protests by Baptists and others, the House of Representatives passed and sent to the White House a major education bill which includes a provision to bypass state regulations prohibiting aid to children in nonpublic schools.

The bypass enables the U. S. commissioner of education to fund directly schools which have been denied public aid due to state laws forbidding such funding. Before invoking the bypass, the commissioner will be required to give 60 days' notice of his intent to fund directly nonpublic schools.

At its annual session in Dallas in June, the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a resolution opposing "any federal aid-to-education program which attempts to bypass state constitutions and school laws in educational matters." The resolution further expressed concern "over continuing pressures to make taxpayers equally responsible for educational services in public and nonpublic schools or to their students."

At the request of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs communicated the convention's action to Congress.

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The new measure extends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 for four more years, through fiscal 1978, and authorizes expenditures totaling \$29.1 billion. The historic 1965 bill was designed to provide public aid to educationally deprived school children.

Despite earlier predictions that the House vote would be close, the bill passed easily, 323-83. The Senate had already approved the measure 81-15.

By far, the most controversial portions of the bill deal with the busing of school children to achieve racial balance. As originally passed by the House, the bill would have prohibited busing children to any school beyond that next nearest their homes and would have allowed reopening any federal court order to desegregate which had required busing.

The full House instructed its conferees three separate times to insist on the House's anti-busing provisions in conference with Senate members. But in the end, the conference report included a compromise on the busing question.

The conferees adopted provisions in both the House and Senate bills forbidding federal courts to order children bused beyond the school next nearest to their homes. But they also adopted a Senate provision allowing the courts to ignore the ban on busing whenever they believe that children's constitutional rights would be violated unless busing were employed.

Nevertheless, Rep. Carl D. Perkins (D.-Ky.), chairman of the powerful House committee on education and labor, which drafted the House bill, said the new measure contains "more anti-busing provisions than we've ever had in the history of Congress."

The huge margin by which the bill was passed virtually insures that the House could override a presidential veto in the event President Nixon refuses to sign the bill into law. Throughout the lengthy debate on the measure, the President has insisted that any bill without strong anti-busing requirements would be unacceptable to him.

During final floor debate, Perkins and other members of the education and labor committee expressed regret that the busing issue had so dominated discussion of the bill. They pointed out that in their estimation, the education measure is one of the most important pieces of legislation faced by the present Congress.

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SBC Urged to Launch Task
Force to Study Women's Status

8/2/74

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--A special task force to study the status of women among Southern Baptists was called for here during a conference sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention on "Christian Liberation for Contemporary Women."

According to Sarah Francis Anders, one of the conference leaders, nearly every major denomination in the United States has had such a study. "It is now time for Southern Baptists to give serious study to the current and future status of women in the denomination," she said.

Miss Anders, who chairs the department of sociology at Louisiana College, a Baptist school in Pineville, La., told the conferees that the church lagged behind most institutions in freeing women from discrimination.

Outlining what she explained to be a "concise situation report," Miss Anders said, "Sexism is widespread in most Christian churches, if not in policy, surely in custom and practice. While a decided majority in most congregations in denominations, women are a decided and often solid minority in most levels of leadership and decision making," she said.

"Seminaries are a masculine sub-culture, with predominantly male professors, language, text, trustees and administration. Until this changes, women who train for the most professional church positions will be marginal people and, to a great extent, unemployable," explained the professor, who holds a Ph.D. in sociology.

"Equal opportunity for employment," charged Miss Anders, "is not present in most ecclesiastical structures. Not only is the percentage of women personnel low compared to the secular labor force, women seldom rise above clerical, editing and associate administrative positions to the highest executive positions."

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In another address, Miss Anders reported the woman's movement in the political arena has also been slow, but there are indications that the winds are shifting. "It is estimated during 1974 that 3,000 women will seek city, state or national office during the year, three times the number who ran two years ago." She continued, "108 will run for congress, almost 700 for state legislature, 12 for lieutenant governor and 10 for governor."

Even though this is encouraging it should be remembered that "women have been in low estate in federal civil service positions, with 77 percent of them in GS-1 to GS-6 ratings, which are the lowest ratings, with only 10 percent of women in the GS-14 and 15 positions," said Miss Anders.

"Institutional discrimination of women," said Miss Anders, "remains widespread in spite of legal provisos for correcting the situation and many successful accomplishments of women in business, government, education, the media and the churches."

Miss Anders continued, "Churches, conventions and denominational colleges will do well to take note of the increasing possibility for such legal action in terms not only of minimum but equal wages for women in their employ. They may also have to show cause why church staffs, denominational personnel, faculties and administrations have not actively recruited and employed women," she said.

"Denominations may yet see the time when the government will cite cases of discrimination in their recruitment of faculty, admissions of students and salary schedules, which could conceivably affect their tax-free and tax-deductible statuses--I think this is coming very soon," cautioned Miss Anders.

She challenged the conference that the "church and the denomination must recruit, employ, imburse and appoint women to serve without consideration of factors other than ability and call."

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Commitment Determines
Youth Meet's Success

8/2/74

By Larry C. Baker

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--Why did they come, and what did they hope to accomplish?

They came from around the world, from different backgrounds, cultures and languages, these more than 5,000 delegates to the 8th Baptist Youth World Conference, which met at Memorial Coliseum here.

"One major success of the conference," according to Karl-Heinz Walter of Hamburg, West Germany, chairman of the world youth committee of the BWA, "was registering the strongest black delegation ever in a BWA meeting. "I think this is due to the inclusion of blacks on the planning team." About 20 percent of the delegates were black, including those from America as well as Africa.

"International understanding is needed more now than ever before," Walter said. "Nationalistic feeling and economic conditions foster disunity. This conference was an excellent opportunity to encourage international unity."

The president of the Missouri State Congress of National Baptists, Inc., Daniel Hughes, a black, was excited about the youth of the world coming together with the theme, "Christ--Our Challenge to Live." Hughes said, "Love is the one hope for the settlement of world issues. This conference provided a means of a diffusion of love among races."

Albert Koloboe, 20-year-old from Dahomey, West Africa, shared ideas about how to reach others for Christ with participants from more than 50 countries of the world.

John Hewes, 15, came from Salt Lake City, Utah, to "learn more about Christ so I could tell others about him. We are meeting here to learn to love each other and to love Christ more."

Judith Sullivan, 21, of Melbourne, Australia, hoped that meeting with other Christian young people, even though their ideas and backgrounds are different, would help her and them have a deeper commitment to Christ.

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The conference director, Theo Patnaik of Washington, D. C., secretary for youth for the sponsoring Baptist World Alliance (BWA), said the success of the conference rested on over 600 specially trained youth leaders. "Some 27 Baptist conventions put their resources at our disposal," Patnaik said.

Charles Dinkins, director of development for LeMoyne-Owen College, Memphis, Tenn., and communications chairman for the conference, felt numbers are important, but not totally important in judging success. "The real success will be the young people going back to their churches, carrying the message of Baptist fellowship," he said.

A musical feature of the conference on opening night was the premier of "The Common Cup," a musical by Ed Seabough and Bill Cates, both from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Portland's mayor, Neil Goldschmidt, told the delegates on opening night, "I am rather honored to have been invited into this family gathering. I was reminded, having been on vacation away from the newspapers for several days and returning to reality, that everything in the world is not yet peace. More than ever it is the individual effort that must make the difference.

"You have come here from so many different places with so many different personal backgrounds, so much aspiration. You are so willing to commit yourselves to ideals to which all of us can subscribe, that I have to be optimistic. But I have to also be very honest, because, while I am of a different faith than each of you, all of us must finally meet the same test."

A message was also received by delegates from U. S. President Richard Nixon, who wrote: "As you come together to share your experiences as members of a great world religion and as Christians in an era that greatly needs the kind of spiritual and moral strength which resides in your membership, I hope that your sessions will be enjoyable and that they will sustain you in your religious faith and in the bonds of friendship that unite you at this meeting."

Seabough, who was instrumental in carrying out the plenary session programs, said the most important thing about the youth conference was that "young people from around the world could communicate their differences and their oneness in Christ. This conference helped them find new ways of sharing the gospel throughout the world."

A BWA spokesman said at least one young person, participating in small group meetings at the conference, was known to have made a profession of faith in Christ at the midway point of the five-day gathering.

Perhaps Lydia May Girgis, 19, from Cairo, Egypt, expressed the attitude of most of the delegates when she said, "If there were any here who have not surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ, and if they committed themselves to Christ here, the conference became a success."

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Larry Baker, public relations associate at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., is serving on the newsroom staff of the 8th Baptist World Youth Conference.