

August 22, 1974

Celtic's Father Praises
New Thinking of SBC

By Les Rodney

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LONG BEACH, Calif. (BP)--As the congregation was leaving Antioch Baptist Church here, young Wayne Chaney, who had slipped away from his Sunday School class to a TV set, ran in and breathlessly informed his father, pastor Joe Chaney Jr., "They won, they won!"

"They" are the Boston Celtics, and Wayne had skipped Sunday School to watch them overcome the favored Milwaukee Bucks to win the National Basketball Association (NBA) championship, with considerable help from Wayne's big brother Don Chaney, a 6' 5" regular guard with the Celtics.

Joe Chaney, pastor of the Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated Antioch church, which he founded in 1961, talked about his son Don, who at 26 is the oldest of five children.

"Don is a good Christian person in every way. He grew up close to the church. When he comes to visit with us here he always attends church," his father said.

The Chaney's grew up in Baton Rouge, La., where Don was a three-sport star at an all black high school. He received 15 or 16 college scholarship offers, the pastor recalls, and opted for the University of Houston where he starred in basketball.

Don carries his Christian consciousness beyond church going, adds his father. "He's just a real good character. He loves people and people mostly reciprocate. He's level-headed and can work with all people, and especially with kids. I think he'll make a fine coach when he's through playing. He can communicate.

"I think this feeling about all people is one reason why my ministry has had some success. The thing that interests me is the character of the individual." Chaney feels that there is no room for hatred and racial generalizations of any sort in the real Christian.

"Yes, I am realistic and know the problems, and I deal with them. A minister of God has to be above the bitterness but to understand it and the reasons for it--and to know that Christianity can be of help. I strongly believe that the changes for the better in the South are through Christianity."

Because of this feeling, Chaney led his church into affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the largest Protestant-evangelical denomination in the United States, which he feels has quite a different attitude toward blacks than it once did.

"Southern Baptists have changed," he says. "In this Long Beach-Harbor area there are now seven black churches belonging to the convention. They help us in so many ways--expertise in every department. They are well organized, the greatest Christian organization I've ever seen. We have leadership workshops on education, training of leaders, missions. It's a strong program."

Chaney is chairman of the Long Beach-Harbor Baptist Association credentials committee which passes on those seeking affiliation with the local association (black or white).

Antioch Baptist, which took over the property of a Free Methodist congregation, began with five members and now has more than 600, with a youth representation the pastor thinks might be second to none proportionately in the area. Antioch's youth choir features 81 voices.

And what do his people think about being affiliated with the SBC? "They think it's fantastic. They understand that the old thinking is outdated."

Antioch Baptist shares Southern Baptist worship practices and theology with its emphasis on mission work and evangelism, Chaney says, "and accepting Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and being born again thereby.

"Oh," he adds with a smile, "we may be a little more emotional in our services than the white churches, let's say a little looser. They (white Baptists) tell me they'd like to have more of that themselves."

In regard to things traditionally frowned upon by Baptists, like dancing and drinking, Chaney says, "We don't endorse or promote it, but I feel we can't condemn people. Only the Lord can do that. We are all sinners. We have to always leave the door open to repentance and change."

And, yes, he says with a twinkle, people at Antioch Baptist root for the Boston Celtics team, "I'd say about 75 per cent of them. But I'm not sure how some of our young people feel when Boston plays the Los Angeles Lakers."

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Les Rodney is religion editor of the Long Beach Independent Press-Telegram. Reprinted from the California Southern Baptist.

(BP) Photo to Baptist state papers.

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SBC Preliminary Plans
Announced in Miami Beach

8/22/74

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--"Let Christ's Freedom Ring" will be the theme for the 118th annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting slated for June 10-12, 1975 here, according to Searcy S. Garrison, chairman of the SBC's Committee on Order of Business.

The six-member committee, which plans the annual meeting subject to approval of the convention in its first session, met in Miami Beach to take the first steps toward planning the 1975 meeting.

"I want us to have a convention in 1975 that people will go away from talking about the things that unite us rather than divide us," said Jaroy Weber, president of the 12.3-million member SBC.

Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., was elected the highest office of America's largest evangelical group in Dallas in June.

"Every effort should be made in 1975 to focus attention on what made us the great convention we are," Weber said. "We need to emphasize evangelism, and missions, and the needs in America. Why, other countries are sending missionaries to us," he observed.

"We expect excellent attendance in Miami Beach in 1975, perhaps second only to Dallas in 1974 where we registered a record 18,190 messengers," said Garrison, executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia.

"We will launch the bicentennial celebration for our nation in 1975 and we will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, the financial base for our world-mission program," the Georgia executive said.

"We want to focus attention on patriotism, Bible preaching and missions. Southern Baptists are the largest evangelical group in America. We want to do our part in helping our country celebrate its 200th birthday and also emphasize our world-wide responsibilities for Christ."

Preliminary plans call for an emphasis on the Cooperative Program in the Tuesday evening session, an emphasis on America and national mission needs in the Wednesday night session and a focus, on Thursday night, on winning the world for Christ through foreign missions.

Preacher of the annual sermon, determined by the 1974 convention in Dallas, will be Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex.

President Weber will deliver his presidential address on Tuesday morning.

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William J. Reynolds, secretary of the church music department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, will serve as music director for the convention.

The three-day, seven-session convention will be meeting in the enlarged and improved Convention Center on Miami Beach. Seating capacity in the main hall is approximately 16,000.

The Committee on Order of Business hopes to complete its planning by December 1.

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Doctor of Pharmacy Degrees
Go to First Georgia Women

8/22/74

MACON, Ga. (BP)--Mercer University here awarded the first doctor of pharmacy degrees ever earned by women in Georgia during summer graduation exercises.

The degrees went to Phyllis Marcus Parks of Athens, Ga., and Peggy Leigh Sudderth of Buford, Ga.

The doctor of pharmacy program, begun in 1972 at the Baptist school, requires six and one-third years of study.

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Mission Weeks Draw
Nearly 7,000 People

8/22/74

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Nearly 7,000 people congregated at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center here during three Southern Baptist missions weeks--Woman's Missionary Union Conference, Home Missions Conference and Foreign Missions Conference.

Conference participants, a Glorieta spokesman said, expressed amazement at the extent of Southern Baptists' world-wide, multi-million dollar mission program which has over 5,000 missionaries throughout the United States and in 77 countries around the world.

The conferences zeroed in on the spiritual challenge to project worldwide ministries in the name of Jesus Christ.

Women from all parts of the United States heard Alma Hunt, executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, tell them, "The world is waiting for us. We must meet the challenge. If we don't reach out, we can't expect anyone else to either." Conference theme was "The World Within Our Reach."

Hundreds of home missionaries and US 2 short-term missionaries from throughout the United States gathered during the Home Missions Conference to "equip to reconcile." This theme was carried throughout the week as participants were challenged to equip themselves to reconcile through chaplaincy ministries, associational services, language missions, Christian social ministries and church extension.

Emmanuel McCall, associate director of the department of cooperative ministries with National (black) Baptists for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said, "God intends for us to be agents of his redeeming grace, his instruments of reconciliation. Reconciliation is continuing to be difficult in our day because there are uncertain sounds about what the church is and what the Christian faith is all about.

"Number one priority with God is reconciling this world unto himself. If you want to see how seriously God takes reconciliation, look at Calvary--the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. That's how serious God considers his relationship with human beings. Now he is giving us that ministry of reconciliation."

The Foreign Missions Conference confronted participants with the complexities and challenges of the missions outreach of the nation's largest Protestant-evangelical denomination in other countries.

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Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, said, "Many people came to Glorieta seeking the will of Christ in regard to their lives. Our prayer is that Christ was glorified in our decisions here and our actions later."

Conference participants heard presentations on foreign mission efforts in such areas as South America, Africa, India, Europe and the Middle East.

The missions weeks at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center in 1975 will include Woman's Missionary Union Conference, July 19-25; Home Missions Conference July 26-August 1; Foreign Missions Conference August 2-8.

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R. J. Robinson Resigns
Pastorate Because of Health

8/22/74

AUGUSTA, Ga. (BP)--R. J. (Jack) Robinson, suffering from a bleeding ulcer which will not heal, has resigned his 21-year pastorate at First Baptist Church here under doctor's orders to relieve himself of the responsibility of a pastorate.

The congregation, in accepting his resignation, voted to continue his salary until December 31.

Robinson, who preached the convention sermon at the 1974 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas in June, was recently named chairman of a special 21-person committee requested by the SBC in Dallas to study the overall mission strategy for the SBC for the remainder of this century.

A former All-American basketball player at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Olympic performer, Robinson is immediate past president of the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia and has been active in Southern Baptist and civic affairs.

He is president-elect of the alumni association of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., has served on the SBC Executive Committee and is former president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth.

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Bryson Joins South
Carolina Baptist Convention

8/22/74

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--Larry Bryson, director of Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's program of rural-urban missions, has been elected director of the missions department of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

He succeeds E. C. Watson, now director of the South Carolina convention's missions division.

Before joining the Home Mission Board's Atlanta-based staff in 1970, Bryson, a native of Trion, Ga., was associational consultant for the SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn., for three years.

A graduate of Furman University, Greenville, S.C. and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., Bryson has also served as a pastor and church staff worker, superintendent of missions and Southern Baptist home missionary to the Cherokee Indians, Cherokee, N.C.

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