August 23, 1974

Weber Outlines His SBC Goal:
"Win America to Christ"   74-34

MEMPHIS   (BP)--Outlining his goals as president of the nation's largest Protestant-
evangelical denomination, Southern Baptist Convention President Jaroy Weber issued a challenge
here for Southern Baptists to observe the nation's 200th anniversary by "seeking to win
America to Christ in our lifetime."

Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., made the statements in a major
address to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. It was one
of his first major speeches following his election in June as SBC president.

Pointing out that the denomination's theme for the fiscal year 1975-76 is "Let Christ's
Freedom Ring," Weber urged Baptists to celebrate the nation's bicentennial with the
"proclamation of true freedom in Jesus Christ.

"We must unite the birth of a nation to the need of a new birth in Christ," Weber declared.

He cautioned Baptists against letting civic organizations take over the community
celebrations "of our beginning as a Christian nation while we remain silent on the sidelines.

"Let's get ahead of the crowd-- lead the way in proclaiming that America was born in the
fire of revival, has been sustained by revival and has as her only moral and spiritual hop
the revivals which come from above," Weber declared.

"Our purpose, as the greatest denomination in the world," he said, should be "to win
America to Christ in our lifetime."

Weber called for a renewed emphasis in the SBC on evangelism as he begins his term of
office as convention president.

"It is high time that we refine our priorities," he said. "For one full year I'd like
everything we do to revolve around the question, 'How is this going to result in direct
evangelism?'"

He said he has been convinced for a long time "that every need of our fellowship is
met within the incoming tide of evangelism."

He suggested each of the 34,500 churches in the convention re-evaluate every
calendar event, each program and every project in the light of whether it meets the evangelistic
task of the church.

"I would like for my church to be one of the first to say in 1976, 'Nothing is permitted
in programming or budgeting that does not directly relate to the task of bringing men to God
through Jesus Christ.'"

The task of the church, he said, is not political, not social and not educational. "It
is to bring men to God through Jesus Christ and to make them more Christ-like."

The ministry of the church must include "social outreach," for without a social ministry,
the church is neglecting a part of the whole gospel, Weber said.

"But that social outreach is a means to an end, and that purpose is evangelism," he
declared.

Weber said that Southern Baptists have the resources and people to accomplish the task
of "winning America to Christ in our lifetime," adding that if he did not really believe it were
possible he would feel "defeated   before we even start   the task."

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The key question is, "Do we really care?" he observed. Calling for "a deep concern for America," Weber said, "If we get that caring spirit, we can win America to Christ."

Weber, pastor of the second largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention, was the major speaker for the annual meeting of trustees for the denomination's Brotherhood Commission, the national agency based in Memphis which involves men and boys in missions.

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Louisville Layman Heads   8/23/74
Brotherhood's Trustees

MEMPHIS (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission approved a 1974-75 budget of $1,430,338, elected a Louisville layman as the new chairman, agreed to help missionary families in two areas and drafted a response to a denominational study committee.

The directors also pledged strong support to associational missions, but declined to sponsor a formal day of prayer for associational missions because of possible conflicts with Baptist polity.

The new budget, which includes $85,000 in capital needs for building improvements, represents an increase in operating funds of $17,540 over the 1973-74 budget.

P.A. Stevens, president of Fire Protection of Louisville, Inc., was chosen chairman to replace Hovie Revis of Greenwood, S.C., pastor of South Main Baptist Church.

Harold Becton, pastor of First Baptist Church of McAlester, Okla., was elected vice-chairman. Re-elected were William Hardy, educational director for First Baptist Church, Columbus, Miss., recording secretary; and Brotherhood Commission Executive Secretary Glendon McCullough of Memphis, treasurer.

Three new members were elected to the 10-men executive committee-Revis, Glenn Rainey of Jackson, Tenn.; and Eddie Scroggins of Grand Junction, Colo.

The trustees voted to publish a directory of automobile dealers who will agree to sell cars at r duced prices to furloughing missionaries and to buy them back, when the missionaries return to their field of service. They also agreed to help children of missionaries in college find summer jobs.

An eight-point report by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Committee of Fifteen (now defunct) about the work of the Brotherhood Commission prompted adoption of a four-page reply to the committee study.

The directors agreed with the concerns of the committee about enrolment of men and boys in Brotherhood work and revealed projected programs of lay renewal, lay witnessing and comprehensive mission education plans through publicizing and promoting the Cooperative Program.

Acknowledging the worth of reliable and measurable data on which work can be evaluated, the trustees asked the SBC Executive Committee to put more value in the future on needs, rather than enrolment increases when making budget allocations.

The trustees said a report by a commission-sponsored long range study committee scheduled in 1975 should speak to the Committee of Fifteen request for long range objectiv s, organizational and enrolment goals and measurable goals in such non-organizational areas as mission action and the use of retired laymen in missions.

In his annual report, McCullough outlined an 11-point plan for the future, including "a new partnership between the pulpit and the pew.

"The minister in the pew (the layman) must develop a better understanding of the minister in the pulpit (the pastor) and find ways to undergird his efforts and supplement his work," McCullough declared.

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In other actions, the trustees:

--voted to stand behind U.S. President Gerald Ford in his recent plea for prayer for the nation.

--elected Frank Black, a Royal Ambassador consultant, as director of the Crusader department; and granted a one-year leave of absence to Steve Wall, associate in the communications department.

--requested its executive committee to follow up on a study to place Brotherhood periodicals on the Baptist Sunday School Board's literature order form.

--honored Miss Alma Hunt, outgoing executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC auxiliary.

--set the dates for the next annual trustees meeting, Aug. 21-23, 1975.

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(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state papers.

CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 8-22-74, entitled "Mission Weeks Draw Nearly 7,000 People," change graph 2, line 3 to read: in 81 countries around the world (instead of 77 countries). Thanks.

--Baptist Press