

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 2, 1975

75-01

Episcopal Women Ordination
 Ranked First By Writers

JAN 3 1975

CHICAGO (BP)--The ordination--outside of "regular" Episcopal Church channels--of 11 women deacons as priests drew the number one spot in the 1974 top 10 balloting of the Religion Newswriters Association (RNA), made up of religion newswriters on the nation's secular newspapers.

In comparison, an earlier poll, conducted by Baptist Press (BP), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), among Southern Baptist newspaper editors and BP bureau personnel around the nation, gave a number five ranking to SBC developments involving rights and ordination of women.

The number two RNA ranking went to the continuing controversy over the doctrinal split in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, involving the firing of John Tietjen, president of Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, and the forming of Seminex, the so-called "seminary-in-exile" by the majority of Concordia's faculty and students.

Other rankings by the religion newswriters follow:

3. Watergate and its far-reaching controversy, effects and moral implications. (That story gained first place in the BP poll.)
4. Response of the world's religious leaders to the world hunger crisis (second in the BP poll).
5. The "Exorcist" phenomenon.
6. The school textbook controversy in West Virginia, involving religious figures.
7. The International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland (18th in the BP poll).
8. Expanded interest of Protestant evangelicals in social concern.
9. The persistence of the charismatic movement, involving tongues-speaking and other manifestations of Holy Spirit gifts (sixth in the BP poll).
10. The role of church leaders in sanctioning or fighting "repressive" regimes, in such places as South Korea, the Philippines, Brazil, Chile and the Union of South Africa.

A third poll, released earlier by the Religious News Service out of New York City, ranked many of the same stories.

The international, interfaith news service gave first place to the moral challenge to religion to respond to the needs of humanity in a world of crisis brought on by food and energy shortages, population growth. (The BP poll, dividing those issues, gave a second to disaster response--including hunger--and a seventh to Southern Baptist increases in the face of inflation.)

Remaining spots in the Religious News Service poll follow:

2. Ordination of the 11 Episcopalian women;
3. Evangelization (including Lausanne, the 1974 Synod of Roman Catholic Bishops in Rome, the World Methodist Council and numerous locally based groups);
4. Acceleration of Middle East tensions and all of its implications;
5. A tie: Religious protests to human rights violations in the Philippines, Chile, Brazil and the

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Soviet Union; the coup in Portugal, leading to freeing of colonies in Africa and start of dramatic shifts in white-ruled South Africa; 6. A combined category on diverse religious concern over the patriotic spiritual tone of the U. S., including morality issues of Watergate, West Virginia textbook conflict, Wounded Knee trials, abortion, and amnesty/clemency for draft resisters.

Also, 7. Mother Elizabeth Seton designated first U. S. Catholic saint; 8. Dissension intensified in Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; 9. Installation of Donald Coggan as Archbishop of Canterbury, head of world Anglican communion; and 10. Lutheran-Catholic theologian agreement on papal primacy.

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Southern Baptist Evangelists
Shedding 'Step Child' Image

Baptist Press

By Tim Nicholas

BOLIVAR, Mo. (BP)--Some 50 Southern Baptist evangelists, meeting here, moved a step closer to shedding their "step child" status and becoming more of an integral part of the denomination.

The evangelists met at Southwest Baptist College at the invitation of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's division of evangelism for inspiration and instruction for more effective ministry.

Sam Cathey, president of the 400-member Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, lauded the meeting, saying, "I'm glad to see our evangelists become something more than the step child of the denomination--especially now that the flim-flam of some of our contemporaries is dying out."

Bill Hogue, director of the Home Mission Board's evangelism division, pointed out common grounds between pastors and denominational workers and the evangelists. "We're all called by the Lord to his churches to proclaim the Good News," Hogue said.

"Most of us were saved through the witness of a Baptist, went to Baptist schools and depend on Baptist churches to support our work," he continued. "This makes us a team. We need to pray for each other. When was the last time you prayed for me?"

Hogue also suggested, "You need to encourage us through our denominational offices. We don't always have the money to send people into pioneer areas. Maybe you could give a week of your time to go into 'Podunk Holler' to minister.

"The denomination has a lot to offer you," he went on. "We can have trained personnel sent in ahead of a revival meeting to train laypersons in lay evangelism schools and with renewal experiences."

Barry St. Clair and Bob Saul, also of the board's evangelism division, explained how they could help the evangelists. St. Clair told of high school ministries and Saul described a variety of evangelists who use different techniques for raising finances. "First, there's the whistler, who's passive about finances; the shouter, who proclaims his ministry and its success to get support; the whiner, who tells the sad story like how his tent burned down; the diner, who takes everybody who's rich out to lunch; the miner, who thinks the church is a gold mine and asks for the mailing list."

"Then there's the laborer," said Saul, "who gets paid for the work he does."

Saul, who has helped mold the financial operations of 22 evangelistic associations, suggested that a strong financial base should be built on a partnership--financially and spiritually--with a local church.

Evangelist Billie Hanks Jr., president of the Fort Worth-based International Evangelism Association, reminded the evangelists that Paul went after disciples, not just converts.

"We need to teach new believers to have an effective daily prayer life, Bible study, scripture memorization and personal witness," said Hanks, who conducts widespread Christian

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discipleship training seminars, as well as crusades, in the U. S. and abroad. He operates a Christian discipleship training center at West Texas Ranch for Christ near Blackwell, Tex.

Hyman Appelman, veteran evangelist, told the group they needed to maintain a right relationship with their families--especially since their line of work often necessitates long absences from home. "It would be a sad thing to win the world and have your children go to Hell," he said.

He urged them to be men of integrity, both in finances and in reporting results of work. "I keep hearing evangelists saying, in effect, 'I preached to 5,000 people last night till some fool counted them.'"

Cathey, in a session for suggesting what the evangelists could do in the Southern Baptist Convention, asked, "Where are we during denominational or associational meetings? When we're not on the program, we're not there."

"This is how we'll get rid of the stepchild relationship--when we support it with our love and occasional presence," he said. "Don't run up flags or write letters, just show up."

In sessions designed to help evangelists increase exposure of their ministries, W. C. Woody of TimeRite, Inc., a subsidiary of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, and R. T. McCartney, president of Arthur Davenport Associates, Oklahoma City, led sessions on effective use of radio and television and getting out the gospel through attractive publicity. Felix Snipes, a music evangelist, gave pointers on how an evangelist can effectively use evangelism in a crusade.

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FCC Chairman to Keynote
1975 Abe Lincoln Awards

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH (BP)--Richard E. Wiley of Washington, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, will keynote the sixth annual Abe Lincoln Awards, sponsored here by the Southern Baptist Convention's Radio and Television Commission, Feb. 13.

The Abe Lincoln Awards, which pay tribute to outstanding broadcasters from across the nation, will be filmed this year by the American Broadcasting Company and will air a week later on ABC's national network "Dimensions" program.

Charles H. Crutchfield, president of Jefferson-Pilot Broadcasting Co., Charlotte, N. C., will receive the first Abe Lincoln Railsplitter Award for his pioneer work "in breaking new ground in the industry . . . when it was in its infancy." It is one of 11 honors scheduled for outstanding broadcasters during awards ceremonies.

The top Abe Lincoln Award will be presented to an as yet unnamed broadcaster who has made a "paramount contribution" in radio or television.

"Having the Abe Lincoln Awards on ABC's national network," says Stevens, "is another step toward our goal of having the industry recognize the awards as equivalent to the movie industry's Oscar and television's Emmy."

All of the Abe Lincoln awards, Stevens says, represent the belief that broadcasters can best be encouraged to further advance the moral and spiritual welfare of the nation if they are given deserved recognition for the positive role they have already played in this regard.

Broadcast notables scheduled to attend the 1975 event include Elmer W. Lower of New York, vice president, corporate affairs, ABC, who received the Radio and Television Commission's Distinguished Communications Medal in 1972, and Vincent T. Wasilewski of Washington, president of the National Association of Broadcasters.

The entertainment portion of the program will be under the musical direction of Buryl Red of New York and will feature the Buryl Red Singers. Comedian Grady Nutt of Louisville, Ky., will be master of ceremonies.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: No (BP) Photo will be mailed to accompany story of 12-30-74 entitled "Weber Says SBC Has Elasticity to Deal With Charismatics" as previously indicated. However, a (BP) Photo has been mailed to accompany story of 12-30-74 entitled "Baptists Urged to Lead in Combatting Liberalism."

Thanks,

Baptist Press



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