

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 10, 1975

75-88

Wrapup

Colson Tells SBC Pastors
About Conversion; Prison

By Dan Martin

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Convicted "White House hatchet man" Charles Colson told more than 13,000 Southern Baptists here how he found Jesus Christ.

Colson traced a life of ambition, of striving for attainment, of achievement and success, leading to his post as one of the top five advisers to President Richard M. Nixon.

The dark-haired man told of leaving the White House in the weeks before Watergate broke and of meeting an old friend who had become a Christian.

Colson said he did not accept Christ just then, but he began to see the temples he had built "slipping away."

It was on an August night in 1973, that Charles Colson wept as he sat parked in his friend's driveway in Washington. Soon, he "asked Jesus Christ to come into my life.

"It was as you all so well know not the end of anything except my old life. It was only the beginning--starting out on a long, hard journey."

The journey led through derision, laughter and "pooh-poohs."

It led through courts and grand juries and congressional testimony. It wound up with Colson stripped naked, a prisoner in Maxwell Federal Prison Camp in Montgomery, Ala., where he served seven months for disseminating derogatory information about Daniel Ellsberg.

Colson told of the degradation of prison; but also of the "wonderful joy of seeing Christ at work" in the lives and circumstances of the men imprisoned with him.

The former lawyer talked of his dream of working with people in prison.

"If I have anything that I can leave with you, it is the appeal, the crying I heard of hundreds of thousands of men and women who sit tonight frightened, forgotten and alone in the dark concrete holes of American prisons . . .

"I can only speak to you of the suffering of men's souls, of our less fortunate brothers who need us, who need God's work and Christ's love."

He added he counts it all loss--"the White House, the limousines, the yachts, the six figure income, all the temples of wealth and power, all of it loss compared with the joy of being able to walk this life with Christ Jesus and for this night that you have allowed me to be here with you to experience the joy and glory we share together in knowing his Life."

Colson, a key speaker in the two-day annual pastors' conference, drew a standing ovation when he completed his talk.

During the meeting, Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., was elected president, replacing James Pleitz, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pensacola, Fla.

Rogers is a director of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, a group dedicated to exposing "theological liberals" the denomination employs as staffers and teachers.

Joe Crumpler, pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio was elected vice president, and Andrew Hall, pastor of First Baptist Church of Delray Beach, Fla., was named secretary-treasurer.

A bevy of top speakers, including three former Southern Baptist Convention presidents, treated the pastors to sermons on the "High Calling of God."

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W. A. Criswell of Dallas, Carl Bates of Charlotte, N. C., and R. G. Lee of Memphis, Tenn., spoke on the various aspects of the pastor's life.

One speaker flailed the "pharisaical creedalists" of the SBC.

Russell Dilday, pastor of Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga., noted there is disagreement within the convention and said "inability to handle them in a Christian manner often threatens the fellowship of the convention and churches."

"I believe we have too many groups checking on the orthodoxy of other groups. I believe we have too many pastors lurking to catch their brother pastors in some error. I believe we have too many pharisaical creedalists wasting precious time in a 'ministry' of casting the mote from other people's eyes."

John Claypool, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, urged the ministers to get more actively involved in their communities. He called this activity essential for authentic ministry.

-30-

SBC Has Too Many "Pharisaical
Creedalists," Speaker Says

Baptist Press
6/10/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--There are "too many pharisaical creedalists" in the Southern Baptist Convention, some 6,000 pastors were told here.

Russell Dilday, pastor of Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga., told the annual Pastors' Conference that ministers should learn how to properly handle disagreements within the church and the denomination to prevent disruption.

"There is still disagreement among us--varying opinions, differing viewpoints. And our inability to handle disagreements in a Christian manner often threatens the fellowship of our convention and churches," Dilday said.

Dilday illustrated by telling of a church where a doctrinal dispute erupted into fistfights and "required the local police force to refereee."

"I believe we have too many groups checking on the orthodoxy of other groups. I believe we have too many pastors lurking to catch their brother pastors in some error.

"I believe we have too many pharisaical creedalists wasting precious time in a ministry of casting the mote from other people's eyes," he added.

He urged them not to jump to the defense of orthodoxy.

Heresies are not nearly so dangerous as are sensitive, touchy defenders who forget what the great doctrines mean to life and think of them only as proof texts to debate," he added.

Dilday advised pastors to avoid "stupid and senseless controversies," and to "not be abrasive and quarrelsome, walking around with a theological chip on our shoulders."

He also suggested they refrain from indulging in "sword-fighting with words . . . which is senseless, stupid, undefying . . .

"It doesn't feed men's souls; it feeds on them--eating away like a cancer the health of the church," Dilday further noted.

Dilday, who is chairman of the SBC Home Mission Board, told pastors they must have "more than a master of arts degree; we must master the arts of humanity, gentleness, patience and love."

Another Pastors' Conference speaker was Mrs. Norman Vincent Peale, wife of the pastor of New York's Marble Collegiate Church. Mrs. Peale, co-editor of Guideposts magazine, sprinkled her address with anecdotes about sports figures, preachers, theologians and her own family.

One of her anecdotes regarded the theologian who was asked to sum up Christianity in one sentence. The sentence he gave in answer was: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so," she quoted.

She offered salient bits of advice for the pastors as a husband and as a father.

"In preparing for this address, I surveyed some ministers. They thought of themselves as pastor, father and husband. I do not agree with that at all," she said.

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"I would emphasize the husband part should come first."

"I think a woman's greatest calling is to be a wife. The second is to be a mother. Then, if she has time, she can have a career," Mrs. Peale said.

To be a good husband, she said, the pastor should study his wife to determine her strengths and weaknesses, and he should make his wife his partner.

As a father, the pastor should be concerned not only about the amount of time he spends with his children, but also about the quality of that time.

"You should also teach your children about the quality of your time away from them...to communicate the real essence of your task that takes you away from them..."

She encouraged the pastors to teach their children "a lesson by your love...a lesson about the value of life..."

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Adrian Rogers--A "Biblical
Conservative"--Elected by Pastors

Baptist Press
6/10/75

By Dan Martin

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Adrian Rogers, a "Biblical conservative," was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference here.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., succeeds James L. Pleitz, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pensacola, Fla.

The Tennessee pastor is a member of the conservative Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, which states it is "opposed to theological liberalism of Bible doubting teachers."

Rogers views his election as showing "continued interest in Biblical conservatism in our convention. I try to take a firm stand on the authority of the Scriptures and I think most people know where I stand."

The BFMF grew out of the Broadman Commentary controversy in 1970, and many of its members participated in the battle to have Volume One of the commentary withdrawn.

It also has a publication, Southern Baptist Journal, edited by William A. Powell, which has as a stated purpose the exposure of theological liberalism within the convention.

A two-day meeting of the BFMF scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at Northwest Baptist Church was called off.

Rogers has been called the pulpit leader of the fellowship, but he says he "does not like to be considered that. I have many friends in the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship and I love them dearly. I also have many friends who are not, who believe the Bible as much as I do."

He continued: "I think the support I received was not so much from people who are in sympathy with the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, but from people who are in sympathy with the views I hold as a pastor. "I think the people who voted for me voted because I am a pastor with a pastor's heart."

Rogers added he believes the fact he is part of the BFMF "is not the significant aspect. I think it is bigger than that. Before they (the organization) were ever heard of, I tried to be a soul-winning, evangelistic pastor who put a great deal of emphasis on soul-winning, evangelism and Bible teaching..."

He compared his election with that of Jaroy Weber (elected last year as president of the SBC).

"I think Dr. Weber's election was the same thing. I think Dr. Weber is a virile pastor with a pastor's heart, hot for missions and evangelism who believes in the local church, who is not mad at anybody but the devil and who is for Christ and the Bible..."

Rogers was nominated for the presidency by Charles F. Stanley, pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church. Stanley is identified in the Southern Baptist Journal as a director of BFMF, as is Rogers.

Elected vice president was Joe Crumpler, pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Secretary-treasurer is Andrew Hall, pastor of First Baptist Church of Delray Beach, Fla.

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In the afternoon session of the pastor's conference, A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, sounded the note of Biblical authenticity and noted: "If a man does not believe the Bible is the Word of God, he ought to get out of the ministry."

Criswell was given a standing ovation as he stood to speak.

Carl Bates, another former president of the SBC, told pastors the "moral sensitivity of our nation is frighteningly low...the darkness deepens...the foundation is eroding."

Bates, pastor of First Baptist Church of Charlotte, N.C., added: "I do not see any hope on the horizon to turn it around unless we can recapture some of the commitment of those who created it and preserved it...."

Others who spoke were Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Tex., and University of Oklahoma quarterback Steve Davis.

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Vietnamese Refugee Family
Adapts to Western Culture

Baptist Press
June 10, 1975

By Lawrence Webb

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--"I like my American name of 'Tom' because I was like Doubting Thomas in the Bible when Southern Baptist missionaries in Saigon told me about Jesus."

That was the testimony of Trinh Ngoc Thanh, a Vietnamese refugee, who spoke at the annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union here.

Now living with his wife and children near Orlando, Fla., Thanh first heard of Jesus Christ in an English class which used the Gospel of John as the textbook. Like his biblical namesake, he resisted the testimony of others and had to become convinced for himself.

Thanh said he had a deep personal struggle as he weighed turning to Christianity which he thought of as the religion of Western culture. Since ancestor worship had been his religion, faith in Christ also seemed to be a rejection of his family, he explained.

The Vietnamese man became a Christian at Christmastime in 1963. The following Easter, his wife, Le This Ngoc Lang, accepted Christ. A few months later their son, Vi, followed their example.

Mr. and Mrs. Thanh distinguished themselves as Baptist leaders in South Vietnam after their conversion.

"Tom" became the manager of the printing department for Baptist publications in Saigon. "Lana," as Mrs. Thanh is known in America is current vice president of the Asian Baptist Women's Union in addition to being president of the WMU in the Grace Baptist Church in Saigon.

The Thanh family left their homeland with an hour's notice on a flight arranged by Walter Routh, an independent Foreign Mission Board missionary who formerly served with the Southern Baptists.

As provinces began to fall to the communists, the Thanh family knew the end was near and had expected to leave South Vietnam by ship. With their change of plans, the family of four left carrying only two suitcases.

They have heard nothing from the 87 relatives they left behind. But they fear for the safety of these family members.

The Thanh family were warned not to associate with American missionaries. The Viet Cong considered missionaries part of the CIA operation, with Christianity as a front for American propaganda, Thanh said.

"Tom" is using his printing skills now with a printing company in Orlando.

"Lana" is continuing her association with world Baptist women. Mrs. R. L. Mathis, immediate past national president of the SBC's WMU, and leader in the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), is working to complete arrangements for Mrs. Thanh to attend the BWA women's meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, next month.

The son, Vi, renamed "Victor," studied drama and motion picture production in Saigon. He hopes to enroll in Stetson University (Baptist) in DeLand, Fla., this fall.

Phoung, the Thanh's 10-year-old daughter, who speaks very little English, has the American name, "Faith," a reminder of how Doubting Thomas laid aside his doubts and asserted his faith in Jesus Christ.

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SBC Adopts \$51 Million
Cooperative Program Budget

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Without a dissenting vote, messengers to the 118th annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted the largest budget in its history: \$51-million.

The budget, accepted during the first business session of the annual meeting here, is more than 25 percent above the 1974-75 budget of \$40 million.

The mellow tones of a replica of the Liberty Bell opened the session, echoing across the Convention Hall, hailing the theme, "Let Christ's Freedom Ring."

The big bell had traveled to Miami Beach from the Mississippi Capitol in Jackson, under the sponsorship of the SBC Historical Commission, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board.

Much of the budget increase is reflected in the "challenge portion" of the budget, which is \$8,920,000 for 1975-76, as compared with \$3 million last year.

The challenge phase of the budget is in addition to the operating budget and provides extra funds for agencies, institutions and commissions.

Under the budget--which will go into effect October 1--the basic operational expenditures will be \$41 million; capital needs, \$1,080,000; and the challenge budget \$8,920,000.

It compares with last year's operational budget of \$36 million; capital needs of \$1 million and the challenge budget of \$3 million.

The new budget will coincide with the bicentennial year of the United States and the 50th anniversary year of the national Cooperative Program unified budget, the Baptist method of supporting its work.

Prior to its adoption, messengers were given a visual presentation of the institutions to which the funds will go.

Thomas Downing of Baltimore, Md., a member of the Executive Committee which made the presentation, said the organizations "represent missions, education and benevolent work done on behalf of your church."

The budget provides:

Foreign Mission Board, \$20,480,400; Home Mission Board, \$7,680,150; Annuity Board, \$250,000; Southwestern Seminary, \$2,379,827; Southern Seminary, \$1,884,198; New Orleans Seminary, \$1,499,187; Southeastern Seminary, \$1,265,651; Midwestern Seminary, \$790,494; Golden Gate Seminary, \$782,323;

Southern Baptist Foundation, \$108,091; American Seminary, \$113,780; Brotherhood Commission, \$409,608; Christian Life Commission, \$278,781; Education Commission, \$187,737; Historical Commission, \$159,292;

Radio-Television Commission, \$1,934,260; Stewardship Commission, \$201,000; Baptist Joint Committee, \$171,241, and SBC Operating Budget, \$424,000.

The only recommendation from the Executive Committee--which operates the convention between annual sessions--to draw fire was a proposal concerning composition of boards of trustees for boards, agencies and commissions.

The recommendation related to so-called "local boards" of SBC institutions and agencies. The local board arrangement allows a portion of the trustees or directors to be from the city or state in which the organization is located.

Last year, the Executive Committee was instructed to study the local board arrangement. Its recommendation, made in response to that motion, reduced the number of local members on boards, but did not eliminate them.

Kenneth Barnett, a pastor from El Reno, Okla., challenged the recommendation, charging that the "stage coach, covered wagon and railroad train have gone, but the SBC is not sensitive to change in the space age...."

Barnett charged the agencies "do not want the changes...are resisting these changes...."

"Under this plan, one church in the Southern Baptist Convention can have more representation on a Southern Baptist board or agency than the combined conventions of Alabama and Florida together," he charged.

Barnett, who said he is a trustee of the Oklahoma Baptist University, has appeared several times in the past to challenge the local board arrangement.

Presiding officer Stewart B. Simms of Greer, S.C., first vice president of the convention, called for a voice vote on Barnett's motion to send the recommendation back to committee. When it appeared evenly divided, he called for a standing ballot.

Simms declared the motion lost, but was drowned out by a host of calls for a ballot.

The messengers supported Barnett's motion to "refer this amendment back to the Executive Committee, asking them to bring back to this convention an amendment that will assure equitable representation on boards and agencies."

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Weber Urges Response to
Spiritual and Social Problems

Baptist Press
6/10/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--The president of the Southern Baptist Convention called on messengers here to speak to the spiritual and social problems of the world through greater lay involvement, special days of praying and fasting, an emphasis upon new church growth, and expressions of compassion.

America is living in an integrity and belief crisis, said Jaroy Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lubbock, Tex., in laying the groundwork for his proposals.

"We are seeing a culture developing which accepts lying, cheating and stealing as an acceptable practice in life to accomplish human goals," the Baptist preacher charged.

"Watergate, pardon my mentioning it, has underscored the importance of honesty. I feel that we are becoming a nation of dishonest people."

Weber said the American people also have lost their ability to believe or have faith in anything.

"Never have we been told so much and offered so little," said Weber. He cited a poll which, he said, questioned the Biblical view of marriage, showed a general distrust of businessmen, reflected little or no confidence in the presidency and Congress, and indicated at least 63 percent didn't believe what they heard or read through mass media.

"To regain our Christian hope demands more than a renewed patriotism to a troubled nation. It demands a dynamic encounter with a transcendent God who is alive in history and awaits his wandering children to come home."

Weber said Southern Baptists need to have a new world vision.

"Christians cannot be isolationists, comfortably speaking religious terms to each other at eleven o'clock Sunday morning. The whole church of God must go with the whole gospel to the whole world."

The Baptist leader likened the whole gospel to a coin with two sides--personal faith and social action, which "must go together like faith and work in the New Testament.

"We used to be told it was no use preaching the gospel to men with empty stomachs. It is now found that men with full stomachs do not even bother to listen.

"We must speak to the social problems of the world but our speaking must be in the context of Biblical revelation and not from the lips of liberal sociologists, philosophers or theologians."

Weber said all Southern Baptists must get involved in the effort.

"We can no longer wait for a specialized task force of professional missionaries to win this world to Christ. Some practical plan must be adopted and propagated by the Foreign and Home Mission Boards to involve lay persons in our direct mission task.

"Lay persons are ready and willing to become a part if we are willing to innovate our strategy to include them."

The denominational leader said he was advocating a cooperation of spirit which would send Baptist messengers home with "a tear of compassion rather than a trauma of tension."

Weber also asked the messengers to do something positive.

"I would like for the convention's resolutions committee to bring a resolution asking our people to set aside at least one day a month for fasting and praying for our nation and for the starving multitudes of the world.

"I would also challenge every church to have at least one church-wide offering to feed the hungry of the world, and help develop to a greater degree the self-reliance of people on their own resources."

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In a plea to build churches, the Texas preacher said Southern Baptists need to rethink their priorities, redesign some of their strategy, call upon the divine power of God, and move forward.

At the same time Southern Baptists need to be as concerned about living the Bible as well as defending it, Weber said. He expressed particular concern about a report that 1,000 Baptist preachers are leaving the ministry each year.

"I call upon our convention to be understanding, forgiving, redemptive, rather than critical and derogatory. If they (preachers) are to be restored, they must have a helping hand.

"Some agency of our convention ought to develop a redemption center, a restoration clinic, and a rehabilitation clinic for those in true repentance. If what we preach about God's forgiveness is true, let us practice it."

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Political Turmoil Affects
Missionaries in Angola

Baptist Press
6/10/75

LUANDA, Angola, (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to politically troubled Angola, have experienced limited movement here as military activity between the central African country's three political parties has nearly isolated the capital city.

A cable from missionary Harrison H. Pike stationed here reported that the Curtis Dixons have moved from Luanda to Nova Lisboa due to the tense and uncertain political situation. Dixon will fly to Luanda weekly to continue a broadcast ministry.

Meanwhile Pike, traveling with a convoy of trucks loaded with Baptist-provided supplies for refugee relief work, was stopped by soldiers and turned around on the road north of the city, according to Davis Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Saunders reports that Pike and the other missionaries are safe and have not been mistreated. Pike will remain in Luanda where he will continue relief work as well as normal missionary activity.

Saunders will fly to Angola in mid-June for the regularly-scheduled annual meeting of the mission. The meeting will be held in Nova Lisboa.

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"Lack of Interest" Cancels
Faith and Message Conclave

Baptist Press
6/10/75

By Dan Martin

MIAMI BEACH (BP) The Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship (BFMF), a biblically conservative group, cancelled a pre-Southern Baptist Convention rally here for "apparent lack of interest."

The meeting would have been the first large rally for the organization.

William A. Powell, editor of the group's publication, Southern Baptist Journal, said: "We had planned a large meeting, but there was a difference among us as to whether it was the thing to do. We went ahead and decided to give it a try, though."

The meeting was to be in Northwest Baptist Church in Miami Saturday and Sunday afternoon, June 7-8, just before the SBC and its auxiliary meetings, June 8-12.

"But a couple of months before (the meeting) it was called off. So many of the people we were asking as speakers weren't coming, and so many of our people would not be leaving home until after church on Sunday night," he said.

Two other meetings--one in Jacksonville and the other in Titusville--also were scheduled. They would have involved many BFMF members.

"The one at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville was cancelled for the same reason we did: an apparent lack of interest," Powell said.

He said he was told by the host pastor, William Chapman, that "between 50 and 100 people showed up out there Saturday."

"That leads me to believe we may have done the wrong thing by cancelling," Powell added.

He said he believes the group will "try again next year," to hold a pre-convention rally.

The group is, according to the statement in its newspaper, opposed to "theological liberalism of Bible doubting teachers...and using Cooperative Program funds for teachers who do not

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believe that the entire Bible is the infallible Word of God."

It has a stated purpose of exposing the "theological liberals" working in any capacity for the SBC.

At a meeting of fellowship directors, June 9, Powell said the "matter of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship producing some literature" was discussed.

He said the literature would have been produced through an arrangement with Scripture Press, but "with our own editors, inserts and covers."

"After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by our vice chairman, LaVerne Butler of Louisville, Ky., that the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship have nothing to do with producing literature," Powell said.

As to the cancelled meeting, Powell was asked if a low turnout would have been interpreted as a lack of strength.

"I am not sure how it would be interpreted, but it could very easily have been interpreted that way.

"Of course," he added, "we have never said much about strength and numbers because we don't have that much strength and we have never claimed that many numbers.

"We have been operating in the red from the beginning, but nobody's hounding us for the money. It is owed to me, our printer and two other employees."

The Journal distributes 31,000 copies, but Powell says he does not know how many are paid.

"The fellowship has about 1,200 or 1,300 paid members," he added.

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WMU Elects New President
Spotlights SBC Missions

Baptist Press
6/10/75

By Mary Ann Ward

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Motivated by a Cooperative Program drama, a foreign missionary commissioning service, a home missions spotlight on Christian social ministries and other testimonies, Southern Baptist women elected new leaders and set "bold goals" for special missions offerings for 1978-79.

Elected president of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) was Mrs. A. Harrison (Christine) Gregory of Danville, current president of the Virginia WMU. She replaced Mrs. R. L. Mathis of Waco, Tex. who had served 12 years.

In keeping with its emphasis on missions, WMU set goals of \$30 million for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions by 1978 and \$15 million for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions by 1979.

In the home missions focus, Mrs. R. L. Mathis received a service plaque from the Christian social ministries department at the Home Mission Board for her 12 years as president of WMU.

Paul Adkins of the mission board reported more than 5,000 persons made professions of faith last year because of the 300 Christian social ministry missionaries.

Receiving the only standing ovation of the meeting was Mary Edwards Renaker, 87, of Louisville, Ky., who read poetry she had written and gave her testimony. She started writing poetry at 75. She appeared in a presentation of ministries to the aging.

A highlight of the foreign missions thrust were testimonies by a Vietnamese refugee family and a Southern Baptist missionary to Vietnam.

Mrs. Le This Ngoc Lang, who now lives with her husband and two children in Orlando, Fla., said, "We had to escape because Christianity under the Communist regime was a luxury."

Mrs. Ngoc, president of the WMU at Grace Baptist Church in Saigon, and vice president of the Asian Baptist Women's Union, said she and her family were blessed to be in the United States. She expressed concern for her 87 relatives and Christian friends they had to leave behind. Her husband managed the printing department of Baptist publications in Saigon.

Missionary Lewis Myers asked the women to continue among refugees the ministry and witness foreign missionaries started in Vietnam.

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"Who would have ever thought that in mission efforts we could have brought to us the very people for whom we have prayed and sent missionaries?"

"Before the missionaries fled Vietnam, there was one missionary family for every one million people. Now in the United States there are five Christian families who can witness to every one Vietnamese person," said Myers, a missionary to South Vietnam who was on furlough when the country fell to the communists.

After commissioning 18 new foreign missionaries, Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, told an overflow crowd of almost 10,000, that "surely as these lay their lives on the altar, it's a moment for us to commit ourselves afresh to God. How do you know that Christ isn't saying to you, I want you too? The answer might be to be a more faithful pastor or worker wherever you are."

Other foreign missionary speakers were Dr. and Mrs. August Lovegren of Jordan and Dorine Hawkins of Brazil. In talking about their war-torn country, Mrs. Lovegren said, "When there are military confrontations, we find fear, separations, death, sadness, curfews and very real dangers which prevent church meetings, setting the churches back, delaying programs."

The 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program was celebrated by the WMU with a pageant and testimonies by people who are directly affected by Cooperative Program funds.

Porter Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, cited Florida as the state convention that gives the largest percentage of its funds to the Cooperative Program.

James Landes of Dallas, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, told how Texas is increasing its Cooperative Program gifts. It has already more than reached a \$20 million dollar goal, a 15 percent increase. They have a goal of 15 percent more in 1976.

"I believe you are telling me that Jesus is the only solution for the world when you give to the Cooperative Program," said Nilson Fanini, pastor of First Baptist Church, Niteroi, Brazil. He gave a first-hand account of how Cooperative Program funds are used overseas and urged this support to continue.

"When I see Russia, China, and many countries of South America, I see more missionaries of Communism that I see of Christianity."

Also speaking were Eugene Hill of the SBC Foreign Mission Board staff who told about being at the Southern Baptist Convention in Memphis when the Cooperative Program was established and four ministers in the Miami area who use Cooperative Program funds in their work with ethnic groups.

In her first report as executive secretary of WMU, Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham expressed hope WMU would be stronger to meet the needs of women as well as the need for more missionary education in churches.

"In 1975, in the Southern Baptist Convention, the feminine segment of our denomination remains one of the great untapped resources," she said.

"Woman's Missionary Union can offer women today an avenue through which they can give expression to their love for Christ and their concern for his people," she continued.

Opening the annual meeting was Florida Governor Reubin Askew who urged the crowd to take more initiative in expressing their faith.

"Time and time again we call upon ministers and missionaries to do our job," he said.

He said Christians are willing to sell almost anything--automobiles, washing machines--"but sometimes we're too reluctant to share the greatest thing that ever happened to us."

While acknowledging his strong belief in the separation of church and state, Askew reminded that "citizenship cannot be separated from Christianity. What may be wrong with this nation is the sum total of what's wrong with us as individuals."

Baptist young women were represented on the program by Diana Moore of Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. Everett Diffine, Baptist Young Women director of Arizona WMU; and Kitty Blissit, a Home Mission Board US-2 missionary in Waterbury, Conn.

Mrs. Gregory, in accepting the WMU presidency, said, I want to say I am following a pro (Mrs. Mathis), but you will have to accept me for what I am: plain, earthy, but loving missions with all my heart.

"I want you to join me in a recommitment of your love for missions and to a fulfillment not to a program but to letting the world around us know, beginning exactly where we are, that God does love his children."

Also elected were Mrs. William W. Ellis of Shelbyville, Ky., recording secretary; and Mrs. Edward Byrd of Florence, S. C., and Mrs. Huber Drumwright of Fort Worth, Tex., members-at large of the WMU executive board.

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Wrapup

SBC Music Conference Covers
Versatility of Music

Baptist Press
6/10/75

By Charles Warren

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--More than 250 participants listened, discussed, sang and worshipped for two days at the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference here.

The conference, which preceded the Southern Baptist Convention meeting, included concerts, a "service of praise," special interest discussion sessions, a business session and addresses by Roy T. Scoggins Jr., music therapist, and Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston.

Referring to music therapy as "music ministry in the highest sense," Scoggins, principal of education therapy for the Coastal Center of the South Carolina department of mental retardation in Ladson, S. C., suggested placing emphasis on "what music can do in the lives of people, not what people will do in music."

He told the church musicians not to ignore the therapeutic effects of music, a form of "human behavior unique and powerful in its influence.

"A person may come to discover who he really is through music," Scoggins said. "Many socially acceptable ways of expressing negative feelings, energetic behavior or closeness can be provided through music and can therefore reduce the need for expression in less appropriate ways."

Speaking on "New Winds Blowing," Chafin named several positive influences he felt in today's church music. Among these "breezes," he mentioned the adaptation of secular trends in music, more professionalism in church music and a new interest in lyrics.

Chafin expressed the need for composers and writers who understand both modern man and the Christian faith.

"We need to learn to articulate the gospel of Jesus Christ," he said. "I don't think you have valid church music unless it contains the flavor of the era in which you're living."

During the business session, lifetime honorary memberships were awarded to two Southern Baptist church musicians for their contributions to Baptist music. Honored were Mrs. Martha Settle, retired associate secretary of the church music department of the Georgia Baptist Convention, and Lowell C. Alexander, retired secretary for the Louisiana Baptist church music department.

Newly-elected officers who were recognized included Paul Bobbit, director of the Florida Baptist church music department, president; and James McKinney, dean of Southwestern Seminary's school of church music, president elect. Outgoing president Don C. Brown of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., was awarded a plaque in appreciation for his service.

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Educators Urged to Examine
Themselves; Role of Women

Baptist Press
6/10/75

By Bonita Sparrow

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Southern Baptist religious educators were challenged here at a two-day meeting to take another look at themselves, their level of professionalism, the future of their organization and the role of women in the denomination.

The series of addresses were broken by a business session when members of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association (SBREA) chose Robert O. Feather, minister of education at Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, as their president.

Offering the advice in the wide variety of areas were Jack D. Terry, President Charles A. Tidwell, and Cliff Elkins, all of Fort Worth; Russell Noel of Tulsa; and Ralph Atkinson Jr. of Louisville.

Terry, dean of the school of religious education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, told the group that seminaries have committed themselves to educating ministers but that the Christian educators must serve as living models to teach the average Baptist what is expected of a religious education minister.

"And if you are fortunate enough to serve in a college church, you must also serve as models for young people considering entering this field as a vocation," he said.

He reminded his audience that the majority of students coming to the seminary are from single staff-member churches and don't know of many other ministries except pastor or missionary.

"It is at this point, as an association, that you can help us help you in our commitment to educate the educators," he declared. "You have the same burden as seminaries in this area. As you work, minister, and educate, ask yourselves if you are demonstrating a model that is attractive to church young people who are looking to this ministry as a vocation."

Urging the educators to face up to change, Noel also told the group to guard against the cult of mediocrity, snobism, drop-out conformity and copping out.

He said past successes and present failures require admittance that time brings change and changes demand new strategies.

"The Christian educator must maintain a proper balance in order to cope with himself and with people and their emerging lifestyles," he said.

Some of the changes cited by Noel include the woman's liberation movement, the migration from rural to urban centers and the rise of apartment house cultures, the decline of authority figures in family life, the swinging singles, the senior citizen syndromes, Watergate, the energy crisis and the devaluation of the dollar.

"Today's materialistic society needs a caring Christian witness expressed in a more relevant church program and a radical commitment by those of us who would try to implement such a program," he said.

Educators were told to "cultivate your own curiosity, keep up your own search and give some significant part of your life to joyous continuing education.

"Learn how to succeed, at something, and how to accept success," Noel stressed. "The cult of traditional success has been rightly down-graded and debunked. But there also is the danger of creating other equally malicious cults.

"The end result of such cults," he warned, "is the denigration of the individual and the repudiation of selfhood. We need to work at the kind of achievement and success that supports our own inner sense of rightness and worthiness."

Along with success, he urged Christian educators to learn to live with and to accept failure with the realization that "no failure is final. It is through making mistakes and facing up to the full reality of them, that we learn to do better," he said.

As a solution to problems, Tidwell, the outgoing president, urged religious educators to emphasize a professional quality of ministry "without the undesirable qualities of professionalism."

He said religious educators must "learn the techniques and technology of the time without becoming mere educational technicians, and without failing to be developers of Christ-like character."

To do this, he charged religious educators to discover, develop and project a more realistic image of the religious education role.

Tidwell urged religious educators to become professional--defining professional as "those people who accept and respect the responsibility placed on them by a public that recognizes them as being qualified functionally, ethically and through knowledge and experience."

Atkinson, professor of religious education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, reminded the group that only one-fourth of the people working in religious education are members of the SBREA.

Tracing a history of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, Atkinson said the organization needed to look at ways of cooperating with other organizations within the denomination, seek ways of organizational growth, and establish standards of professional ethics. He also urged the group to seek ways of disseminating information about religious education methods and to establish a structure adequate for future needs.

Elkins, minister of education at University Baptist Church, encouraged the educators to re-think the role of women in their field and in the denomination.

"When we speak of women in religious education in the broadest sense, we must recognize the tremendous contribution women have made to the cause of Christ throughout the history of Southern Baptists.

"Can you imagine our mission work without the contribution of women? Can you imagine what the educational organizations in our church would be like without women?

"We preach that God is no respecter of persons, we preach that all our talents belong to God, we preach that all should respond to the call of God to make the best use of our talents--yet we then put limitations as to how far a person can go in leadership in our churches, in our institutions, agencies and boards--based to a great degree on the sex of the person."

Elkins suggested ways the local church could improve the status of women. He said it should:

- (1) Examine its staff structure to encourage women to participate in the decision making process at a staff level;
- (2) Correct present inequalities where men and women are being paid different salaries for substantially the same type work;
- (3) See that all administrative staff members--male or female--have the same access to secretarial work;
- (4) When an opening occurs, look for the best qualified person, regardless of age or sex;
- (5) Become familiar with the government's laws and regulations in the area of women's rights and respond, not because of the law of the land, but because of the love of God.

Other new officers of the association include William E. Young, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, president-elect; Bernie M. Spooner, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth; Atkinson; and Ellis Bush, Alabama Baptist Convention, Montgomery, all vice-presidents; Ms. Neta Stewart, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, secretary-treasurer; and Ms. Peggy Merritt, Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Greenville, Tex., assistant secretary-treasurer.

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SBC Re-Elects Weber; Picks Riggins and Monroe as VP's

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Jaroy Weber, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lubbock, Tex., was elected without opposition to a second one-year term as president of the 12.5 million member Southern Baptist Convention here.

The convention also elected Hunter Riggins, a layman from Poquoson, Va., as first vice president and James L. Monroe, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., as second vice president.

Weber was nominated for the post by Woodrow Fuller of Jacksonville, director of missions for the Florida Baptist Convention. In his brief nominating speech, Fuller hailed Weber's efforts as Convention president during the past year. He was particularly impressed with the fact that Weber has been absent from his pulpit only one Sunday during the year. That came last Sunday, when Weber was here making preparations for the annual SBC meeting.

Riggins, an automobile dealer, was elected on the first ballot from among three candidates. He has served as a member of the committee on order of business for the Convention and has been president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia and chairman of that body's general board. On the associational level, he has served as moderator of the Peninsula Baptist Association. He has also been chairman of his church's board of deacons.

For the past 10 years, Riggins has received the distinguished service award from the Ford Motor Co. He has held a Ford dealership for 35 years.

Monroe, who has served as president of the Florida Baptist Convention, was elected on the first ballot in a three-way contest which also included Billy Weber, pastor of the North Way Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex. and John F. Gibson, pastor of the Wesleyan Drive Baptist Church Macon, Ga. Weber is the son of SBC president Jaroy Weber.

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6/10/75*

Page 13

Baptist Press

Monroe lost in a similar three-way vote for convention first vice-president earlier with Riggins and James L. Sells, president of Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.

In other elections, the messengers routinely re-elected three other officers. Clifton J. Allen of Winston-Salem, N. C., was elected recording secretary for the tenth consecutive year. W. Fred Kendall of Nashville, Tenn., was elected registration secretary for the eleventh straight one-year term. Porter W. Routh of Nashville was elected treasurer of the Convention, a position he has held since 1952. He is also the executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee.

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CORRECTION:

In paragraph one of Baptist Press story of 6/9/75, (page 7) entitled "Charles Colson Says God, Not Men, Prevents Immorality," change the word morality to immorality in last line.

Thanks

Baptist Press