



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355

W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041

DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996

MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461

NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461

RICHMOND Richard M. Styles, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151

WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

November 10, 1975

75-175

**Family Viewing Time
Concept said Inadequate**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Television's controversial "family viewing time" concept is not a solution to the problem of "unwholesome television programming," although it "appears to improve some programming for two hours," a staff member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission declared here.

"Before we allow the networks to lead us in songs of praise for the so-called family viewing time, let us look at what is really happening," said Harry N. Hollis Jr., director of family and special moral concerns for the commission. "We are still bombarded by abnormal presentations of sex, sadistic depictions of violence, dirty jokes and gross profanity.

"What we need from the networks is not the subterfuge of family viewing time; we need social responsibility time. The family viewing time appears to improve some programming for two hours, but it may be attempting to deceive us by drawing our attention from the frequently unhealthy programs during the other hours."

Earlier, both Paul M. Stevens, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, and a resolution of Southern Baptists in Illinois, endorsed the family viewing concept, which is not strong enough for some critics and attacked by others as censorship.

In October, Stevens acknowledged that present guidelines for family viewing time are "imperfect," but said, "let's accept the imperfections for now and begin thinking of immediate improvement all along the line."

The present improvement, Stevens noted, would allow families to watch television together, offering learning opportunities for both parents and children. He said he stands "squarely beside the National Association of Broadcasters and the networks and stations in supporting their family viewing prime time recommendations."

The family viewing time concept provides that the networks and stations involved will refrain from broadcasting programs "inappropriate for viewing by general family audiences" during the first two evening prime time hours. Occasional exceptions with warning advisory announcements are permitted.

Some, including writers and producers and actors, have condemned it as censorship and others say it is meaningless. Stevens criticized both extremes.

While recognizing the concept as a beginning, Hollis said it appears to be a "scheme . . . worked out behind closed doors by the Federal Communications Commission and network officials," with no public input, to take the minds of viewers off other unacceptable programming.

Hollis said the commission had questioned the motivation behind the family viewing time concept at a public hearing in May in Nashville, asking "if the family viewing time was an attempt to turn our attention from the other hours on television."

"According to news reports," Hollis added, "a recent Neilson poll shows that at 9:30 at night there are still 9.7 million children watching television. The family viewing time ends at 8:00 p.m. or 9:00 p.m., depending on where you are in the country-- a curious inconsistency in itself. What about the programming for these millions of children who are still watching television when family viewing time is past?"

"The air waves belong to the American people, and the networks must quit ignoring their moral responsibility to such a large audience of children," Hollis said.

Calling television a "wonderful technological development," Hollis urged, "Let us not be enticed . . . into apathy by the family viewing time scheme.

"The exploitation of sex and violence is worse than ever. It is increasing. The family viewing time is an inadequate solution to the serious problem of immoral television programming. We must have something far better," Hollis said.

-30-

Penn.-Jersey Baptists
Elect Dailey; Set Budget

CAMP HILL, Pa. (BP)--The Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey elected a pastor from Pittsburgh as president and set a 1976 annual budget of \$662,128 during the convention's annual session here.

The five-year-old body of Southern Baptists also recognized development of its fifth association of churches in the two-state area, the Northeast Pennsylvania Baptist Association, and heard reports of increases in baptisms and giving.

Calvin Dailey, pastor of Pittsburgh Baptist Church, was elected president, succeeding Frank E. Bowman of Camp Hill, Pa.

The convention set a goal of raising \$200,000 in Cooperative Program unified budget funds from churches in Pennsylvania and South New Jersey, with 25 percent of that amount to go to worldwide causes through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program. That's one percent higher than last year. The balance of the budget, up to the \$662,128 figure, will come from supplements from such agencies as the SBC Sunday School and Home Mission Board's.

The 1976 convention will meet at Carlisle, Pa., Nov. 5-6.

-30-

Physician Urges Bold
Commitment to Missions

Baptist Press
11/10/75

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--"Money, people and recommitment are the three essentials required if Southern Baptists are to implement a bold new strategy in overseas missions," said Dr. Tim Pennell told students and faculty at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Dr. Pennell, associate professor of surgery in the Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, for many years has acted as a consultant on call for the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a "Missionary Day" address at the seminary, he said that the changing conditions of the world require such a new strategy. The reality of a strong nationalism and the accompanying dominant role being played by the emerging nations in world politics and the rampant inflation are the main reasons for his concern.

Dr. Pennell in his visits to various Southern Baptist overseas mission stations has become convinced that the solution to our challenge lies in a re-emphasis on and expansion of indigenous work.

His concern is that "we shouldn't try to make Southern Baptists out of everyone but our efforts should be to help persons to maintain their own lifestyles and expressions of worship and prayer in the context of the Christian gospel."

The missionary of the future, he said, is one that must have "a plain old-fashioned call to overseas missions, a vibrant spirituality and a variety of professional capabilities."

-more-

He must be flexible, assuming a low profile and one who helps people to get the job done, Pennell said. While the pastoral role must be dominant in leading the work in a given location, the ministry must be on a broad front.

"You cannot tell sick, starving and hopeless people about the love of Jesus unless they have a demonstration of that love," said Dr. Pennell. That demonstration can be in the form of giving medical care, or assisting persons to establish a secure economy as was done in one town in Peru where the people were helped to produce wool rugs.

Dr. Pennell said that not until recently did he emphasize the need for money as much as he is now doing. Because of inflation, money has become a crucial factor, he said. In fact, he indicates that missionaries now on the scene often face a dilemma when new personnel arrive because existing programs are likely to suffer for lack of funds.

"Money," says Dr. Pennell, "is one of the top priority needs if Southern Baptists are going to accept the challenge of developing a bold new strategy for overseas missions."

The other two priority matters, he says, are the need for additional personnel with expertise in a variety of areas, and a strong reaffirmation and recommitment by church members to the missionary endeavor.

-30-

Violence in Portugal
Fails to Stop Crusade

Baptist Press
11/10/75

LISBON, Portugal (BP)--More than 400 decisions for Christ were made during recent evangelistic campaigns here, which were almost cancelled because of the tense political climate.

The Portuguese Baptist Convention voted to participate in the worldwide evangelistic effort promoted by the Baptist World Alliance before the military coup in March, 1974. They wanted outside speakers for the crusades, but arranging for visitors during the troubled times was not always successful.

However, when the annual convention of Portuguese Baptists met, they voted overwhelmingly to go ahead with the crusade.

"There were no real incidents as some had feared," said Southern Baptist Missionary John M. Herndon. "Posters were torn from the walls in one town as fast as they could be put up. A few threats were received, including one telephone call advising a pastor that Portugal had had enough of Christ and the revival should be called off. The church continued its services, even though strangers were at the door to see who entered. The church had 20 decisions.

"Many churches did not have a visiting preacher," reported Herndon. "There were not enough local pastors to go around during the planned two week period. Everyone was concerned just how successful these efforts would be."

Three pastors came from Brazil to assist during the effort. Irland Azevedo, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Sao Paulo, Brazil, preached at a new mission in Northern Portugal, which began its work with the campaigns. Although the mission is made up of just a pastor, his wife and five other members, the attendance at the crusade reached 65 there. Azevedo also preached at Third Baptist Church, Lisbon, the largest in the convention. Eighty-two decisions were reported.

Samuel Machado, from First Baptist Church, Victoria, Brazil, preached at the Matozinhos Church in Northern Portugal and in Quelez Church in Southern Portugal. Norton Lages of the First Baptist Church, Mananus, Brazil, preached in Vila Nova de Gaia, a church only four-years old, and in a new church in the Algarve area in the Southern-most part of the country.

Francisco de Sousa, missionary to the Azores from the Brazilian Baptist Foreign Mission Board, preached in three churches.

-more-

Many new ways to promote the revivals were used. Parades were held, and booths were set up on busy streets in downtown areas to pass out literature and to sell Bibles. Posters were put up, and more than 250,000 tracts and invitations were distributed.

The results are not complete. Among the 45 churches participating, 18 are yet to report results.

-30-

Furman Gets Grant to Develop Studies for Women

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--Furman University has received a \$100,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to fund a two and one-half year program designed to increase undergraduate women students' understanding of alternative career opportunities opening to them.

Gordon Blackwell, president of the Baptist school, said the Mellon grant will enable Furman faculty and staff to find effective ways to help women students prepare for careers not traditionally filled by women. Also the program will provide information on career opportunities now becoming available to women.

"Career options for women are opening in many new fields," Blackwell said. "This program is to help prepare women intellectually and psychologically to take advantage of these options. It is to encourage them to aspire to higher levels of management and professional responsibility."

-30-