



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 8, 1976

WMU Sessions
Mark Bicentennial

NORFOLK (BP)--The national annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) will investigate the missions implications of the nation's Bicentennial at a two-day gathering at Scope Convention Center here, June 13-14.

The meeting, which precedes the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting, June 15-17 in the Scope Convention Center, will call participants to thanksgiving for their heritage and commitment to building a strong missions base in the American family, church and society. The meeting's theme is "Stand Up and Bless the Lord."

The WMU meeting will incorporate the first national conference for Baptist Young Women (BYW), which will meet, June 11-13, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center before merging with the WMU meeting.

Participants in the BYW meeting, which gets underway at 7:00 p.m., F day, June 11, must pre-register with the WMU office in Birmingham. BYW registrants will be transported by bus to the Scope Convention Center in Norfolk for the WMU meeting, beginning Sunday, June 13.

WMU sessions will feature a battery of religious and national leaders, including U. S. Rep. John Buchanan (R.-Ala.) and Mrs. Buchanan.

Two duplicate sessions, featuring a historical drama on the emergence of women's rights and addresses, will be staged by the WMU on Sunday. A 3:00 p.m. afternoon meeting will be held to accommodate Norfolk area Baptists in the 2,400-seat auditorium, and a 7:00 p.m. repeat of the program will accommodate out-of-towners arriving for the meeting.

The historical drama, written by Mrs. Lamar Jackson of Birmingham, will be directed by Ed Seabough of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, assisted by Sherry Fairchild, associate director of the Baptist Student Union at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

The major address will be on the European implications of the Bicentennial, as seen by C. Ronald Goulding, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and head of the BWA European office in London. His topic will be "Where Christians Stand Together."

The Virginia Baptist Male Chorale will perform selections from "The Testament of Freedom," and then the Sunday session will close with a meditation by Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, who will speak on "The Living Flame"

Cauthen will speak again to conclude the Monday evening session, using the same theme. Each time he will be backed with dramatic audio-visuals prepared by the Foreign Mission Board.

Because Monday, June 14, is Flag Day, the WMU audience will move outside on the flag-decked Scope Plaza to stage a noontime celebration of Flag Day amid the throng of Southern Baptists.

The program will be the national focal point of the "Day of Prayer, Fasting, and Humiliation," sponsored by WMU in Southern Baptist churches across the nation.

Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., will keynote the noon session, and special music, flag ceremonies, prayer, and an emphasis on fasting will suggest a Christian viewpoint of the Bicentennial.

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Other sessions Monday will be held at 9:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. in Chrysler Hall. Each session will feature historical recollections on the theme by a former WMU executive, a dialogue between an outstanding Baptist wife and husband, and other addresses.

In the morning session, Mrs. R. L. Mathis, Waco, Tex., president of WMU 1956-63 and 1969-75, will give the WMU historical feature; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Burnes, missionaries in Greece, will speak on the Christian life in a missionary family; Norman Lytle, a Southern Baptist fraternal representative in Israel, will speak on "Standing in Troubled Places;" and Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, Danville, Va., will deliver her first presidential address as head of the 1,133,000-member women's auxiliary to the SBC.

The afternoon session will begin with recollections on the theme by Mrs. Robert Fling, Pleasantville, N. Y., WMU president 1963-69. Congressman Buchanan and Mrs. Buchanan will discuss the Christian life in a political family. Mrs. Buchanan will also direct the choir of Riverside Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., in special music.

Carolyn Weatherford, WMU executive director, will present and speak to the report of the national WMU Executive Board. Other business besides the adoption of the report will include election of WMU officers.

Edward E. Plowman, news editor of Christianity Today, Washington, D. C., will give the major address of the session, entitled, "Let the Nation Stand Up."

In response to Plowman's address, Mrs. Gregory will conclude the session with plans to enable WMU members to exercise influence on governmental processes.

The evening session will challenge Southern Baptists to keep missions at the forefront in ways appropriate to the state of the nation. Alma Hunt, Richmond, Va., former executive secretary of WMU (1948-74) and now special consultant on women's work for the Foreign Mission Board, will give her recollections on the theme.

Dr. and Mrs. Don Wennerberg of DeFuniak, Fla., will discuss the Christian life in a professional family. Wennerberg is an optometrist and Mrs. Wennerberg is a WMU leader. Both assist missionaries through their interest in ham radio.

Paul M. Stevens, president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, will speak on "Let the Church Stand Up," following a performance by the Centurymen, directed by Buryl Red of N. Y. City. F. J. Redford, director of the church extension department of the SBC Home Mission Board, will direct a multi-media presentation entitled, "Standing Boldly in Church Extension."

WMU will honor Arthur B. Rutledge as the out-going executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board. Rutledge will deliver the concluding theme address, "Stand Up and Bless the Lord."

Pianist for the WMU meeting will be Americo Caramuta, New Egypt, N. J., a concert pianist; and organist, Ronald Cockrill, minister of music at the Franklin (Va.) Baptist Church. Other musicians will include Mrs. Camilla Woodward, soloist, from the Fourth Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Va.; the Hatcher Memorial Chorale directed by Rudy Faas, music director at Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church, Richmond; and the Liberty Bell Ringers of Liberty Baptist Church, Hampton, Va., directed by John Perry, minister of music at the church.

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Kaleidoscope '76 Set
For Baptist Young Women

Baptist Press
3/8/76

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (BP)--The first national gathering of Baptist Young Women (BYW), which meets at the Virginia Beach Convention Center here, June 11-13, will offer a kaleidoscopic view of options for young women to be involved in missions.

The meeting, called Kaleidoscope '76, will actually continue through June 14, merging with the national annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), which meets June 13-14 in the Scope Convention Center, Norfolk. BYW's will be transported by bus to the WMU sessions.

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Both meetings precede the annual sessions of the SBC, June 15-17, in the Scope Convention Center.

WMU is sponsoring Kaleidoscope for Baptist Young Women, ages 18-29, to appeal to college students, young homemakers, young career women and those who combine these roles, according to Jane Hix, BYW consultant at the WMU national office, Birmingham.

Miss Hix, who suggested that pastors' wives in the 18-29 age bracket might attend Kaleidoscope as part of the travels to the SBC meeting, said BYW's should pre-register by sending a \$5.00 fee to the WMU office in Birmingham.

Each session will begin with a theme interpretation designed by two BYW members, Judy Abercrombie of Irving, Tex., and Janis Pulis of Dallas, both members of Cliff Temple Baptist Church.

A major address or panel presentation in each segment of the program will be followed by small discussion groups with trained leaders. Every participant will have a chance to respond with ideas on how young women today can express their missions concern.

On Friday evening, C. Anne Davis, assistant professor of social work education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will speak on "The Inward Turn."

Saturday morning's first major presentation is trilogy on "Views that are Unique" between Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union; Beverly Hammack, assistant director of Christian social ministries department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta; and Vickey Brasington, who served as a missionary in South America and now lives in Richmond, Va., where her husband is secretary for Western South America at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

A second presentation Saturday morning will be a panel discussion, "Adding Color and Love," featuring Ann Daniel, maternity services director, Sellers Home, New Orleans, and Jack and Phyllis Merritt, home missionaries in Albuquerque, New Mex.

Families are invited to join the BYWs in a Virginia coast style fish fry in Red Wing Park Saturday afternoon.

"Fabric of Freedom," Bicentennial musical drama of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will be performed Saturday at 8:00 p.m., in a session open to the public. Lyrics and direction are by Ed Seabough and music by Bill Cates, both of the Home Mission Board staff.

On Sunday morning, Keith Parks, director of the mission support division of the Foreign Mission Board, and Wendell Belew, director of the missions division of the Home Mission Board, will present a symposium of missions service opportunities entitled "The Outward Turn."

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., president of Woman's Missionary Union, will deliver the closing address, "I Draw Courage for My Own," assisted by Ms. Abercrombie.

Music director for the BYW meeting will be Betsy Orr Price, a BYW in Abilene, Tex., who formerly sang with Spring Street Singers. Pianist will be Mrs. Jasper Morris, Norfolk.

BYWs will be featured in the WMU annual meeting sessions which follow Sunday afternoon through Monday evening.



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Programs for
WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU)

Scope Convention Center

June 13-14, 1976

Norfolk, Virginia

and

KALEIDOSCOPE '76*

National WMU Meeting for Baptist Young Women (BYW)

June 11-13

Virginia Beach Convention Center and

June 13-14

Norfolk Scope Convention Center

*(Kaleidoscope '76, which requires advance registration for the Virginia Beach portion through WMU, Birmingham, will merge with the WMU annual meeting, June 13-14 in Norfolk.)

Kaleidoscope '76

Theme: Kaleidoscope of Options in Missions

Friday Evening, June 11

7:00 p.m.

Theme Interpretation--Judy Abercrombie, Irving, Tex., and Janis Pulis, Dallas, Tex.

Music

Address: "The Inward Turn"--C. Anne Davis, assistant professor of social work education, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Small Group Response

Saturday Morning, June 12

9:00 a.m.

Theme Interpretation--Judy Abercrombie, Janis Pulis

Music

Trilogue: "Views That Are Unique" --Carolyn Weatherford, SBC WMU executive director, Birmingham; Beverly Hammack, assistant director, Christian Social Ministries, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Vickey Brasington, former foreign missionary, Richmond, Va.

Break

11:00 a.m.

Music

Theme Interpretation--Judy Abercrombie, Janis Pulis

Panel: "Adding Color and Love"--Ann Daniel, Sellers Home, New Orleans, La.; Jack and Phyllis Merritt, home missionaries, Albuquerque, New Mex.

Small Group Response

Saturday Afternoon, June 12

3:00 p.m., Red Wing Park

Fish Fry for BYW registrants

Saturday Evening, June 12, 8:00 p.m.

Session open to families and guests

Bicentennial Musical Drama: Fabric of Freedom, lyrics and director, Ed Seabough, associate director, missionary personnel, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta; music by Bill Cates, field representative, department of special mission ministries, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.

Sunday Morning, June 13

9:00 a.m.

Theme Interpretation--Judy Abercrombie, Janis Pulis
Music

Symposium: "The Outward Turn"--Keith Parks, director, mission support division, SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond; Wendell Belew, director of the missions division, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta

Small Group Response

Break

11:00 a.m.

Music

Theme Interpretation--Judy Abercrombie, Janis Pulis

Music

Address: "I Draw Courage for My Own"--Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, Danville, Va., president of Woman's Missionary Union, with Judy Abercrombie, Irving, Tex. (Virginia Beach portion of Kaleidoscope '76 ends here; merges with WMU meeting, Norfolk, June 13-14)

WMU Annual Meeting
Chrysler Hall, Scope Convention Center
June 13-14, 1976
Norfolk, Virginia
Theme: Stand Up and Bless the Lord

Sunday Afternoon and Evening, June 13

3:00 p.m. (Session repeated at 7:00 p.m.)

Hymn: "Stand Up and Bless the Lord"

Prayer--June Whitlow, assistant to the executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham

Bicentennial Drama, by Mrs. Lamar Jackson, Birmingham; directed by Ed Seabough, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, assisted by Sherry Fairchild, associate Baptist Student Union director, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond

Hymn

Address: "Where Christians Stand Together"--C. Ronald Goulding, associate secretary, Baptist World Alliance, London, England

Special Music: "Testament of Freedom"--Virginia Baptist Male Chorale, directed by Allen R. Brown

Dramatic Meditation: "The Living Flame"--Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary, SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond

Monday Morning, June 14

9:30 a.m.

Hymn: "Glorious Is Thy Name"

Prayer--Jane Hix, Baptist Young Women consultant, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham
Recollections on the Theme--Mrs. R. L. Mathis, Waco, Tex., former president of Woman's Missionary Union (1956-63, 1969-75)

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Monday Morning June 14 cont'd

Dialogue: "The Christian Life in the Missionary Family"--Mr. and Mrs. Norman Burnes, missionaries in Greece

Hymn

Address: "Standing in Troubled Places"--Norman Lytle, missionary in Israel

Solo: Mrs. Camilla Woodward, Fourth Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Va.

President's Address--Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, WMU national president, Danville, Va.

Closing Meditation--Liberty Bell Ringers, Liberty Baptist Church, Hampton, Va., directed by John Perry, minister of music

12:00 Noon, Scope Plaza

Public Observance of Day of Prayer, Fasting, and Humiliation

Hymn

Pledge of Allegiance to National Flag

"The Star Spangled Banner"--Mrs. Camilla Woodward

Flag Day Observance led by Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex.

Monday Afternoon, June 14

2:00 p.m.

Hymn: "We Lift Our Hearts in Songs of Praise"

Prayer--Robert Heard, pastor, First Baptist Church, Danville, Va.

Recollections on the Theme--Mrs. Robert Fling, Pleasantville, N.Y., former president, Woman's Missionary Union (1963-69)

Dialogue: "The Christian Life in the Political Family"--U.S. Rep. John Buchanan (R.-Ala.) and Mrs. Buchanan

Music by Choir of Riverside Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., directed by Mrs. John Buchanan

Business

Report of the WMU Executive Director--Carolyn Weatherford

Music by Hatcher Memorial Chorale, directed by Rudy Faas, music director, Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

Address: "Let the Nation Stand Up"--Edward E. Plowman, news editor, Christianity Today, Washington, D. C.

Response: "Let Christians Stand Up in Action" led by Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, Danville, Va., WMU president

Monday Evening, June 14

7:00 p.m.

Hymn: "To Worship, Work, and Witness"

Prayer--Mrs. Lee N. Allen, assistant to the executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham

Recollections on the Theme--Alma Hunt, Richmond, Va., former executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union (1948-74) and now special consultant on women's work, SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

Dialogue: "The Christian Life in a Professional Family"--Dr. Don Wennerberg, optometrist, DeFuniak Springs, Fla., and Mrs. Wennerberg

Music--The Centurymen, directed by Buryl Red, N. Y. City

Address--"Let the Church Stand Up," Paul M. Stevens, president, SBC Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Tex.

Hymn

Multi-Media Presentation: "Standing Boldly in Church Extension"--led by F. J. Redford, director church extension, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta

Address: "Stand Up and Bless the Lord"--Arthur B. Rutledge, executive director-treasurer, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta

Hymn: "Stand Up and Bless the Lord"

Dramatic Meditation: "The Living Flame"--Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary, SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond

Officers

President--Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, Danville, Va.
 Vice Presidents--The State WMU Presidents
 Recording Secretary-- Mrs. William Ellis, Shelbyville, Ky.
 Executive Director--Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham, Ala.

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Baptists Blitz Brazil
 Via Operation Transtotal

Baptist Press
 3/8/76

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP)--The first two phases of "Operation Transtotal," an intensive evangelistic effort concentrated along 625 miles of the Trans-Amazon Highway, has resulted in at least 1,700 decisions for Christ since December 1974.

Over 900 people made decisions last year and nearly 800 so far this year, according to Roberta Hampton, Southern Baptist missionary. Another 800 are reported "on the verge of making a decision."

During Transtotal II, almost 150 people divided into 36 teams. Together the teams traveled over 7,800 miles; made almost 7,000 visits; preached over 1,100 sermons; held about 875 Bible studies and led over 50 Vacation Bible Schools.

The Trans-Amazon Highway is a major road which runs east-west across Brazil's Amazon region. Its construction last year was part of a government effort to move people to Brazil's interior.

Among those accepting Christ during the project last year was Antonio Alencar, who lives on the highway. This year when the teams revisited this former drug addict, he had secured land on the highway, built a house and started holding church services.

Another congregation has been started in the home of Joaquim Gomes de Silva. When the Transtotal teams visited him last year he had won 32 people to Christ. This year the teams found a congregation of 60 people meeting with Silva. The congregation has started to construct a church building near Silva's home.

"This second Operation Transtotal was more intensive and prolonged than the first one held last year," said Miss Hampton. "The main objective this year was to consolidate the work already done and extend into new areas."

Samuel Mitt, executive secretary of the Brazilian Baptist Home Mission Board, explained the reasons behind Transtotal. "God placed in our hearts the conviction this is the time of direct evangelism. We are convinced we should invest the major part of our material resources in this program of action."

According to Miss Hampton, Operation Transtotal has been transformed into an ongoing project. Baptist seminary students in Brazil will be used to continue the work.

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(BP) Photos will be mailed to Baptist state papers.



--- FEATURES

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Abidjan--5 Try to Win
Jet Set City of 1 Million

By Larry Jerden
Adapted for Baptist Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (BP)--This capital of the Ivory Coast has long passed Hollywood's "darkest Africa" image. Abidjan now challenges Las Vegas and the Riviera as a luxurious resort for the world's millionaire jet set.

For five American Christians seeking to win a city of one million to Christ, the city is proving to be a very expensive mission field.

"Prices are high in this city," said Ed Pinkston, one of five Southern Baptist missionaries serving in the Ivorian capital. "Housing rents run from \$500 to \$900 per month. A number two can of tomatoes is \$2.28 and a gallon of ice cream is about \$18, he said.

Missionary Jim Darnell elaborated, "We work under a budget, and when the money is gone, we have to stop. We got 20 per cent fewer CFAs (African francs) per dollar last year than we did four years ago. At one time, we got 278 CFA per dollar, not it's about 207. And it has fallen as low as 195."

There are thousands among the city's million or so inhabitants for whom each minute increase in price is a catastrophe.

"One area where we have work, Abobo-gare, was taken in by the city and has grown from 3,000 to 130,000 in 12 years," Darnell said. "There has been a tremendous influx from the country and from other countries."

In addition to the 60 tribal groups native to Ivory Coast, at least 25 other groups are represented in the city. For example, there are actually more French living in Abidjan now than in 1960 when the country gained its independence from France.

The 50,000 Europeans in the city have been joined by an estimated 30,000 Lebanese. There has also been an immigration from other African countries.

"Things got tough in Mali and Upper Volta during the Sahel drought, so thousands came to the 'land of plenty,'" Darnell said. "But they didn't find it."

A decade after missionary John Mills opened work in the Ivory Coast, Baptist strategy and witness is now directed at this "other" Abidjan rather than at the jet set in the Hotel d'Ivoire.

"First of all, we and all the other missionaries in the francophone countries join in the cry that we are spread too thin...and hampered by inflation, but we have a strategy..."

The strategy begins by working with promising new converts in evangelism and preaching, forming preaching points and eventually churches, and points toward a mass evangelistic campaign in 1979.

But any strategy to Abidjan must take language barriers into account. The country's official language is French, but only about 23 per cent of the population speaks it--mainly the better educated.

"When you go to a village, you have to use a tribal language," Darnell explained. "We work in five or six languages right now. But I had a car full of Africans who could handle 15 languages between us and when we stopped at a village just outside Abidjan, we couldn't find anyone who could communicate with us.

In spite of this barrier, the strategy continues--and with help from some friends. Like most of the other West African countries, Southern Baptist missionaries were preceded by the Nigerian Yoruba Baptists. In fact, it was at the invitation of Yoruba Baptists that Mills opened work in Ivory Coast in 1966.

"They had established about 20 churches before we came," Pinkston explained. "Now there are about 25 Yoruba churches, five others and three preaching stations."

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But even with the base of Yoruba work for a beginning, work with the Ivoirian tribes had to begin with the basics.

"In 1971 we had one French church and the Yorubas," Darnell said. "That year we had 11 young men in a 'tent-maker' program. Eventually we asked each one if they would like to preach in church.

"Once they began, they were hooked. And they developed real fast. Now they are pastors in our churches and "really came through."

Even as new churches are organized, the same training procedure is followed. Needs are apparent in every direction.

"There is one area, around a strong Yoruba church that even has its own elementary school with 500 students, that doesn't have a French-speaking church," Pinkston said. "That area has 250,000 people in it.

"In another area we were able to rent two adjacent flats for \$180 per month and tear out the wall between them. The pastor will live in one end and the church will meet in the other. The area will soon have 100,000 people in it."

Buying land is difficult as well as expensive.

"We paid \$30,000 for one church site," Pinkston said. "The government doesn't want to sell land to Europeans--they want the Africans to buy it, build on it and rent it to the Europeans for \$ 500 per month."

The mission was able to buy another site, he said, because the vice-president of the country, a friend of President Tolbert of Liberia, a Baptist, took the application through the government process for them.

"So while the prices seem high for sites, we can buy one and it will pay for itself in two to three years compared to rent," Pinkston noted.

There is not only a strategy for beginning new churches but one for those already established.

"Our strategy is to begin two new churches per year for the next 10 years," Pinkson said. "It is also for each church to start an average of one mission every four years. And we hope for each church to grow 18 per cent each year, and baptize a minimum of seven per year through 1978 and 10 each year after that.

"Now seven baptisms a year doesn't seem like a lot--it's low--but we have Yoruba churches who are a minority group and couldn't find seven Yorubas. That means the other churches will baptize more."

The plan will give Baptists a church in every cartier of the city of 1980.

The plans seem ambitious for five missionaries--the Pinkstons, Darnells and Estelle Freeland. But there are already 26 self supporting churches in the Ivory Coast and there are other missionaries on the way.

"But there are not enough evangelists coming," mentioned Pinkston. "We can get others, but not evangelists. It's not our fault or the (Southern Baptist) Foreign Mission Board's." More volunteers are needed, he said.