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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

**(BP)**

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**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

June 13, 1976

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Wrapup

Evangelists See  
Signs of 'New Era'

By W. Barry Garrett

NORFOLK (BP)--Signs of a new era for Southern Baptist vocational evangelists emerged at the third annual Conference for Vocational Evangelists at Indian River Baptist Church in nearby Chesapeake.

The 60 evangelists and singers at the conference heard the first public announcement by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention of a retirement program for evangelists, then studied the principles of evangelistic preaching and writing, how to grow an evangelistic church, and how to relate themselves to their denomination.

The conference, planned by Bobby M. Sunderland, director of the department of mass evangelism of the evangelism section of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was one of seven preceding the 119th session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Conference for Vocational Evangelists is separate from the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. The former is a service to the evangelists by the Home Mission Board. The latter is the organization of the evangelists themselves, which meets during the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sunderland said there are about 500 vocational evangelists among Southern Baptists. They include preachers and singers who devote full time to the evangelistic ministry, many of them with their own evangelistic associations, Sunderland added.

"In recent years these evangelists have suffered a poor image among Southern Baptists. This is evident from the fact that only about 30 per cent of the pastors have been willing to use the vocational evangelists in revivals. It resulted from a lack of communication between the evangelists and the denomination. The Home Mission Board is seeking to change this situation."

A major step toward the recognition of vocational evangelists as an integral part of the denomination has been taken by the Annuity Board.

Harold S. Bailey, vice president of the board, made the first public announcement of its new "Retirement Program for Southern Baptist Vocational Evangelists."

Many Baptist pastors who have gone into full-time evangelism have suddenly found themselves cut off from the retirement program of their denomination. Bailey explained that this was because they are no longer employed by a church or by a state convention or by a denominational agency.

To remedy this situation the Annuity Board has created a new program for the full-time evangelists. Under this program any Southern Baptist vocational evangelist affiliated with a Southern Baptist church cooperating with a state convention of Southern Baptist churches may be enrolled. Eligibility requires certification by the Southern Baptist church of which the evangelist is a member.

At the present time, Bailey pointed out, among the 33 Southern Baptist state conventions only the Louisiana convention contributes toward the annuity programs of vocational evangelists. For pastors and denominational employees, the retirement programs include contributions from the member, the church and/or the state convention.

Several evangelists at the conference suggested that the next step in their annuity program should be a concerted effort to present their cause to state Baptist convention officials. Their objective would be to become included in the state convention's contribution to the annuity programs of those engaged in the evangelistic ministry.

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Frank H. Crumpler, director of evangelism for the Baptist General Association of Virginia, told the evangelists that there must be a close working relationship between them, the churches, and the denomination. He warned them against the role of "a lone wolf. Don't be against everyone else who is not like you. The evangelist who seeks to get to the top on the backs of other people will find himself in difficulty."

Crumpler climaxed his message by saying that effective soul-winning efforts require the power of the Holy Spirit, the stability and backing of the churches, and mutual helpfulness among the evangelists.

In a major address, Larry Jones, evangelist from Oklahoma City, emphasized the "social action" aspects of evangelism. He said that "the social gospel" without genuine evangelism is powerless. Nevertheless, his message emphasized that an evangelism that does not affect human behavior is meaningless.

Jones charged television with a large part of the responsibility for the moral decline in America. He said that TV was not merely a "reflector" of life in America, but that it forms the moral thought and actions of the people. In addition, he strongly attacked pornographic publications and liquor advertising.

In an effort to introduce the vocational evangelists to the churches, Sunderland worked with a local committee in the Norfolk area to arrange for 50 one-day revivals after the two-day conference. Both evangelistic preachers and singers participated in these one-day revivals.

This was the first time that the Home Mission Board's conference for vocational evangelists met in connection with the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. The time and place of their next annual conference will be announced later, Sunderland said.

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Wrapup  
Baptist Review  
Religious Liberty

Baptist Press  
6/13/76

By Teresa Shields

RICHMOND (BP)--"We Baptists and Americans must be discontented with the progress made so far in the struggle for religious liberty," Brooks Hays, former Southern Baptist Convention president and former U.S. congressman, told the 1976 joint meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and Society here.

"We must not fall back on the progress we have made but look forward to achieve greater things," Hays declared.

Various speakers addressed the theme, "Baptists and the Struggle for Religious Liberty in Early America," during the two-day meeting held on the University of Richmond campus.

The Virginia Baptist Historical Society, celebrating its 100th anniversary, and the university jointly hosted the 25-year-old commission. More than 150 persons, comprising the largest group ever, attended the meeting.

The Norman W. Cox award, three history writing contest awards, and special recognition of the commission executive director's 20 years of service, were presented at the luncheon meeting where Hays was the principal speaker.

Speaking on the future of America, Hays said, "We need to be intensely devoted to ideas we know to be true. We must determine our convictions and spread them throughout the nation and the world."

The former Arkansas congressman continued by calling on those present to join with others in "cooperative Christianity and ecumenism. The evils in the world are too big for one denomination to handle, even Baptists."

In a manuscript prepared for the meeting, Robert Baker, church history professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., reminded Baptists that "without religious liberty, our American democracy would not be a democracy."

Harrison Daniel, professor of history at the University of Richmond, said the revolutionary experience and the ideology of freedom accompanying it produced an "increasing degree of religious toleration in America."

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It was toward that religious toleration that many Virginians worked, said John S. Moore, president of the society, in his address titled, "The Struggle for Religious Freedom in Virginia."

"This nation became the first in the world to insure religious freedom for all in its organic laws," Moore said. "The long struggle to achieve this required nearly two centuries. It involved much sacrifice and persecution. No small part of the credit must go to the tireless and persevering Baptists of Virginia."

The history writing contest, held in commemoration of the nation's Bicentennial, featured three categories, Best Book, Best Church History, and Best Manuscript. All finalists received plaques, while first place winners also received cash awards. The judges, selected by the commission, judged the works on the basis of originality, quality of research, and presentation of the material.

Alfred Sandlin Reid's book, Furman University: Toward A New Identity 1925-1975, won the first place award of \$175. It was entered by Joe M. King of Furman University on behalf of the deceased author. Second place went to Robert J. Hastings, editor of Illinois Baptist, and third place to Reuben Herring of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department.

The first place award of \$150 for church history went to Lawtonville (S. C.) Baptist Church for Two Centuries of Lawtonville Baptists written by Coy K. Johnson. Second place in that category went to Robert G. Gardner of Shorter College, Rome, Ga., and third place to Mrs. Mildred K. Bates of Rappahannock, Va.

The best manuscript was written by James Carter, pastor of First Baptist Church, Natchitoches, La., who was awarded \$100. The work is titled, "American Baptist Confessions of Faith: A Review of Confessions of Faith Adopted by Major Baptist Bodies in the United States." Second place went to William E. Ellis of Richmond, Ky., and third place to David Nelson Duke of Atlanta, Ga.

The Norman W. Cox award given for the best article published by the commission was awarded to James E. Tull for his article in the January, 1975 issue of Baptist History and Heritage.

Lynn E. May Jr., executive director of the commission, was given a plaque and gift for his 20 years of service to the 25-year-old commission.

In other business, the commission voted a \$278,161 budget for 1977, an increase of 29.7 percent over 1976. Included in the increase are funds to meet increased fixed costs, and to enlarge the commission's programs of service to the churches and denomination through regional workshops, oral history, and the computerized Baptist Information Retrieval System. The Commission reaffirmed its determination to expand both its materials and services to Baptists.

The commission also approved updating the charter to agree with convention standards and change of title for the executive secretary to executive director.

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Wrapup

Young Women Challenged to  
Look Beyond Themselves

Baptist Press  
6/13/76

By Mary Ann Ward

VIRGINIA BEACH (BP)--Almost 800 Southern Baptist young adult women were challenged at the three-day Kaleidoscope '76 here to look beyond themselves to find their personal missions in life and channel those missions in active involvement.

Kaleidoscope '76, the first national meeting for Baptist Young Women, a Woman's Missionary Union organization for women 18 to 29, explored options in missions in addresses by mission board executives, WMU leaders, and missionaries and in small group activities.

Responsible citizenship was stressed as one way to influence missions. Women wrote letters to their hometown newspapers expressing opinions on political issues in response to major addresses by mission board administrators on how missions is affected by politics. They were asked to mail the letters when they return home.

"Any foreign policy has an affect on foreign missions," said R. Keith Parks, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's mission support division. "A foreign missionary is apolitical. For a missionary who goes to a country not his own does not have the rights, responsibilities, and opportunities as a citizen of that country."

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He recalled that when he was a missionary to Indonesia, he spent much time convincing Indonesian people that he was not an agent of the American government. "They could not believe that an American would be in their country for religious reasons," Parks said.

Parks reported that the recent revelation of the Central Intelligence Agency using American missionaries has affected work in some countries.

"Even the very fact that our government positionizes itself drastically affects our missionaries who go as American citizens," Parks explained.

Overseas missionaries have to explain United States laws that protect the American standard of living, he said, calling for women to support legislation that uplifts people "as worthwhile human beings."

Wendell Belew of Atlanta, director of the Home Mission Board's division of mission ministries, told registrants that Baptists tend to restrict political involvement to a few issues that they traditionally have been keen on, citing gambling and local liquor laws. He urged women to expand their political interests.

"It was a political action when Jesus was crucified," he said. "People thought he was an insurrectionist who wanted a kingdom on earth."

"Many issues need to be dealt with," Belew said, citing child-beating, wife-beating, Sunday closing laws, rights for women, and world hunger.

Regarding Sunday closing, he asked, "Is it really right that we as the largest Protestant denomination in America impose our views on the Jewish people, Muslims, and Seventh-Day Adventists just because we are the majority?"

He explained that the Home Mission Board is concerned about providing equal job opportunities for women and men.

"Why can't women serve in places where God has called them to serve," he questioned.

The board appoints missionaries while cooperating with states, associations and churches, Belew said, and these groups must also come to believe in equal rights.

Belew challenged the women to do what they could to support poverty and hunger legislation.

"It is easy to get up a basket of food while tolerating laws permitting hunger and poverty," he said.

Following Belew's address women divided into small groups to devise ways they could inform their churches of the gravity of the hunger problem.

Suggestions included conducting information campaigns in churches, participating in church-wide meals with meager menus and inviting speakers to a local church who are knowledgeable about the hunger problem in that community.

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., president of the Baptist woman's auxiliary, urged women to let the God-given gifts within them come to the surface.

"There is not a problem in our country that cannot be solved if we are involved in missions," she said. "We hold in our hands the courage to go out in the world and make a difference."

Participants also explored how their marital status touches their effectiveness in carrying out God's plan for their lives.

Ann Daniel, a social work missionary at Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center, New Orleans, spoke from the stance of a single person.

"As I was struggling to discover what my ministry was to be, I found that others were questioning what I had as a single woman to offer to the ministry," she said. "As I have developed in my ministry, I have found that people are willing to accept what I have as a person."

Jack and Phyllis Merritt, however, said, "We decided that we could do more together than apart." The two Christian social ministry missionaries in Albuquerque emphasized that they each have specialties.

"Jack can do some things that I can't, and I can do some things that he can't," Mrs. Merritt said.

David and Susie Lockard, who head the Foreign Mission Board missionary orientation center at Calloway Gardens in Georgia, brought in the dimension of God's will to all decisions, whether marriage or career choices.

"God will put it all together as a package deal," Lockard said.

Throughout the meeting, women were divided into groups by their life situations--single, married employed or married unemployed. Following a discussion by the Merritts, Lockards and Ann Daniel, they told how their marital status affected their mission opportunities.

The groundwork for exploring missions options was laid in an emphasis on self-awareness. Mrs. Bryan Brasington, former missionary and the wife of a Foreign Mission Board administrator, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, and Beverly Hammock, a Christian social ministries administrator at the Home Mission Board, gave personal testimonies on how they have become more aware of themselves.

C. Anne David, faculty member at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., also speaking on self-awareness, encouraged women to not be afraid of a little privacy in their lives. "Even with all this self-awareness, there will still be a part of you that is mystery, because we need something to give to God that is ours," she explained.

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Pastors' Conference Opens  
Amidst Expectancy

Baptist Press  
6/13/76

Dan Martin

NORFOLK (BP)--Purposes, personalities and politics were brought into focus here as the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference opened amidst an air of expectancy.

The conference for preachers and its president, Adrian Rogers, under fire in the denominational and secular press in recent weeks, moved through a series of prayers, music, and sermons without a hitch.

Only Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., alluded to the controversy when he posed a rhetorical question to the 6,000 persons who turned out at the Scope Convention Center here.

"I have been asked what the motive of the pastors' conference is."

Then, he answered his own question: "I want to have to scrape people off the ceiling because of the fine sermons...because we are glorifying Jesus Christ (in this meeting)."

The primary factors in the controversy have been Rogers' possible candidacy for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention, the traditional role of the conference presidency as a springboard to the SBC helm, and Rogers' position as a member of the directors of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship (BFMF).

In an interview following the opening session, Rogers said: "Many people have prejudged the Pastors' Conference to be a political caucus. That is simply not true."

"It is amazing to me that those who have castigated the Pastors' Conference in their editorials for attempting to influence the convention prior to the convention seem to be moving heaven and earth to do the same thing..."

Previously, in a meeting for Memphis area pastors, Rogers chided state editors for their "silly talk" about the pastors' conference being a political vehicle to the SBC presidency.

One editor--John J. Hurt of the Baptist Standard in Texas--editorially urged Rogers not to run.

"I was shocked...surprised (by the editorial)," Rogers said in the interview. "The reasoning is amazing. If I could not be elected (president) it would be academic whether I was nominated or not. But if I could be elected, one man would seem to be saying that he rather than the majority of Baptists should decide who will be president."

Some persons have decried Rogers' "candidacy" because of his identification with the BFMF, which has been described as "ultra-conservative."

"I wish somebody would define ultra-conservative for me," Rogers said wryly as he sat on the speakers' platform after the conference session.

Rogers has been criticized for "loading" the pastors' conference program with BFMF members. "There are a number of inaccuracies. Only one speaker is a member of Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship. The Pastors' Conference is oriented toward revival and preaching. I have selected two former presidents of the SBC, the president of the Arizona Baptist Convention, the president of the Alabama Pastors' Conference, the pastor of the largest Southern Baptist church in Atlanta....

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"I have selected these men because all are leaders in the field of deeper life, revival, or evangelism."

Rogers said he will not make any announcement concerning the controversy from the platform at the conference.

"I have never been a candidate, I see no need to be a non-candidate," he said. He told Memphis pastors he is not a candidate, and that he won't accept the position if he is nominated and elected.

"A lot of people have written that I was running for the presidency of the SBC. It is absolutely false. I would defy anyone to find anyone whom I have asked to support me for the presidency.

"I do not feel it is the Lord's will for me (to be president) at this time. I have never aspired to be. I have never said I wanted to be."

He has not said "absolutely not--because God may make me eat my words," he says. "And I am not trying to leave a little escape clause for some cute escapade on my part."

As for the convention, Rogers says he sees no "great issues" facing messengers "except the issue that I will be president and I think that is a fictitious issue created by some of the state editors."

He called the whole thing a "tempest in a teapot," and said it is "not in the highest standards of journalism."

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Deans Search For  
Educational Solutions

Baptist Press  
6/13/76

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (BP)--Deans and faculty members of Baptist institutions, gathered at a breakfast meeting here, were asked to form an organization designed to help each other find solutions to problems that could threaten to force them out of business.

Mrs. Dorothy K. Routh, an educational consultant from Atlanta, Ga., addressed the breakfast which was part of the Baptist-sponsored National Colloquium on Christian Education held here.

Mrs. Routh said she was optimistic about the future of Baptist sponsored schools, but cautioned the educators about some problem trends they will have to face in the future.

She mentioned the rapidly rising cost of providing a college education, the declining economic advantage currently facing college graduates as compared to non-college graduates and the projected decline in enrollments.

These and other common problems could be overcome by collaboration and mutual sharing, according to Mrs. Routh. By working together, the various educators could lend assistance to each other and discover many innovations which would strengthen Baptist educational institutions.

About nine small groups, assigned to discuss the possibility of collaboration, all agreed that such a collective effort should be initiated. It was suggested that a task force be assigned to explore options for such collaboration.

The dean's group also elected new officers for the next year. Jerry L. Surratt of Wingate College, Wingate, N. C., was elected president. Vice-president will be Jim E. Tanner of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex. Charles Martin of Mississippi College, Clinton, is the new secretary.

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Heilman Named  
ASBCS President

Baptist Press  
6/13/76

WILLIAMSBURG (BP)--President E. Bruce Heilman of the University of Richmond has been elected president of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools (ASBCS), an organization of 71 Baptist institutions ranging from Florida to California.

The election took place at an association business meeting at the first National Colloquium on Christian Education which concluded a three day meeting in Phi Beta Kappa Hall at the College of William and Mary. More than 900 Baptist educators attended the conference prior to going to Norfolk Sunday for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Heilman, 49, succeeded President John A. Fincher of Carson-Newman College at Jefferson City, Tenn. President Milton Ferguson of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., was elected vice president of the association. Heilman also serves as president of the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia.

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Baptist Press  
6/13/76

Schools Need Strong  
Distinctives to Survive

WILLIAMSBURG (BP)--A blunt assertion that private schools which maintain a strong Christian distinctive will survive financially in the modern world was made by a leader of one of the nation's largest endowment funds here.

Earl J. McGrath of Indianapolis, senior educational advisor for Lilly Endowment, said: "It is my conviction that to the extent that the church-related college stands firm on its dedication to its religious commitment, it will remain financially sound.

"More importantly, it will restore order to our society laboring under a confusion of purposes and regain for this generation of youth an appreciation of those transcendent eternal values which give enduring meaning to the human enterprise," McGrath added.

The Lilly Endowment leader spoke to about 900 persons attending a National Colloquium on Christian Education at Williamsburg, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Education Commission in Nashville.

McGrath quoted a major recent study which concluded that "on the average, the colleges with a religious commitment were in a healthier financial condition than those which had either completely severed their relationship with a church group or kept it only nominally for public relations purposes."

He said financial problems harassing most private institutions stem "from the obscurity of their goals and the evaporation of the spiritual atmosphere that characterized most private campuses before World War II."

He said, "It is through these aspects of institutional lifestyle that I believe the church-related institution can regain the place of eminence, dignity and public service which it dominantly occupied from Harvard's founding in 1636 to the mid-point of this century."

He said it can thus "improve its financial status by attracting more students and donors who value its unique type of education."

McGrath cited several factors to prove that private schools are not in the dire straits which many have described for them in recent years.

"I believe we have made a serious mistake in talking constantly to the media and prospective donors about the dismal prospect for private institutions. People will not be inspired to support institutions whose future is depicted as uncertain."

He had warm praise for Southern Baptist educational institutions, saying: "Administrators and faculty members as a whole have a system of values that have their intellectual, emotional and spiritual roots in the Judeo-Christian religious tradition. These dynamic institutions have joined reason and faith in the creation of a way of life that offers self-fulfillment and social regeneration."

McGrath added: "It is not surprising, therefore, that many of your colleges and universities are flourishing while others struggle day-by-day to survive . . . Yours have overall increased your attendance by 28 percent."

He urged Baptist schools to stand by these religious distinctives, while at the same time seeking new revenues from two major sources.

These sources McGrath identified as state and/or federal scholarships paid directly to students and "massive financial aid from individuals and organizations."

He said big foundations and corporations will give to only small numbers of schools. He urged schools to find new ways to solicit donations from alumni, other individuals and churches.

McGrath also made a strong appeal for Baptist schools to recruit more and more students from lower achievement levels.

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"Colleges which try in their selection of students to identify those of modest academic records but with other admirable qualities of mind, heart and spirit will not only graduate creditable citizens and productive human beings," he said. They will also gain a substantial economic advantage."

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Christian Educators  
Vital Boren Says

Baptist Press  
6/13/76

WILLIAMSBURG (BP)--Moral corruption in our political system can be erased only by individuals putting aside their own self interest to make decisions for the common good, the governor of Oklahoma told Baptist educators here.

Gov. David L. Boren, speaking to an audience of more than 900 at the first National Colloquium on Christian Education at the College of William and Mary, said the Christian educators have a vital role in saving the American political system, asserting the colleges must have a responsibility not only to teach the student about the problems of the world, but of teaching them "that their own involvement can make a difference."

The governor listed the problems of American political leadership: moral corruption, government red tape, lies and falsehoods by political leaders.

"I wish I could tell you differently," he said, adding that corruption "is not the rule, not the majority," but asserting that it is too common.

He said the problem of self-interest on the part of all in the political system poses a problem which "shakes at the very roots of our political system."

He suggested the American political system is based on two seemingly inconsistent factors. "First," he said, "every human being is endowed by his Creator with his individual rights," and second is that the will of the majority must rule.

He charged that "more and more citizens are perceiving themselves as particular interest groups, rather than Americans, and are beginning to protect their own self-interest" rather than that of the common good.

"When a society becomes like that, then that society faces grave danger," Gov. Boren said. "It's not surprising that we see people going into public office who treat it as something for private gain rather than public trust," he added.

Gov. Boren told the educators the initiative for changing the future of the political system lies with the "basic groups of Christian faith."

"Christian colleges and universities," he asserted, "must turn out that kind of citizen who will bring selflessness back to the political scene."

He told the educators that in order to change the political situation individuals must begin with themselves, and urged them to get involved in community efforts. "Be honest about what is happening in our political system," Gov. Boren said. "We must take individual responsibility for our own society."

He concluded with a prediction that the spirit of individual responsibility would be injected again into the political life of the nation, and that the nation has a bright future.

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Baptists Urged to Rally  
Around Sources of Unity

Baptist Press  
6/13/76

By Charlie Warren

WILLIAMSBURG (BP)--A fervent appeal for Baptist colleges to rally around three basic "sources of Baptist unity," was sounded here.

James H. Landes, executive director of Texas Baptists, spoke to about 900 persons attending the National Colloquium on Christian Education sponsored by the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

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"We find our basic unity in our shared heritage, our commitment to a common body of doctrine and church polity and in our response to challenges," Landes said.

He spoke of the national heritage all Americans share and then focused on how Baptist heritage has paralleled and influenced that of America.

"That which gave the American Revolution its lasting distinctiveness, religious liberty and the ultimate separation of church and state was to a considerable degree the result of Baptists' involvement in that epochal struggle," Landes said. "Baptists were aggressive agitators on behalf of religious liberty and staunch advocates of the revolutionary cause which they considered two aspects of the same struggle."

While admitting it is difficult to pull together any kind of a confessional consensus upon which Baptists would agree, he maintained that such a tie binds Baptists in unity.

"Baptists universally reject creeds since they can so easily approximate an object of faith compelling mental assent too often at the expense of a personal faith in Jesus Christ," Landes stated.

He said when other ties in Baptist life have been weak, the cause of missions has united Baptists. He challenged Baptist educators to keep missionary-mindedness at the forefront of their purpose.

"We've lost the concept of 'every Baptist is a missionary,'" Landes said. "We leave the work of evangelism to specialists."

Baptists, he said, must always "replenish church membership not through the birth rate, but through evangelism."

Another source of unity, according to Landes, is their response to challenge as they face "forces that would destroy them along with every other expression of the Christian faith."

"It would be a serious mistake to assume that Baptist schools are immune to the contemporary tug of war for the minds and hearts of men," he continued. "To varying degrees, various expressions of secularism, Marxism and a wide variety of non-Christian cults and superstitions are attempting to displace Christianity as a bewildered student generation searches for a faith that provides purpose and meaning to life."

Landes also reaffirmed the importance of separation of church and state, a concept Baptists have strongly supported throughout history.

"We should render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's," Landes said, "but we should not allow Caesar to determine what is his and what is God's."

Concluding, Landes told of his optimism about the future of Baptist higher education: "Because we believe strongly that our institutional witness is in the will of God, we have no doubts about the future, however thorny the path may be."

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Christian Colleges Still  
Viable, Trueblood Says

Baptist Press  
6/13/76

By Mark Smith

WILLIAMSBURG (BP)--"I am among those who believe that the fair dream which we call the Christian college is still a live option for modern men and women," Elton Trueblood told more than 900 participants at a National Colloquium on Christian Education here.

A professor-at-large of Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., Trueblood traced the idea, decline, and regrowth of the Christian college in history, during his speech at the three-day meeting sponsored by the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

"The Christian college as it grew to maturity in American culture, was something markedly different from either the secularized university or the institution for vocational religious training," the noted educator, lecturer and writer said.

The function of the Christian faith, according to the Quaker, in such an educational pattern determined the mood in which students were taught and provided them with a powerful motivation for learning.

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"The Christian College is a place of general education where everything is taught with a special point of view, he said, completing the idea. "It is one of our greatest assets and if we lose it we will have lost a great deal. It represents a solid place to stand."

Warning participants meeting on the College of William and Mary campus, Trueblood said, "I can see in many places the complete eclipse of the Christian college. Many of our colleges are more immoral than the world around us and the great majority are not Christian colleges any more. You are in the minority."

Trueblood outlined a four point "concrete plan of action" to redeem the Christian college: "We must accept our weakness. We cannot survive unless we recognize that we are doing something different from the rest of the world.

"Secondly, we must once again accept the principle of requirement. There has been a general lowering of standards in effort to maintain a supposedly desirable level of enrollment. We need to know that permissiveness is destructive."

"Thirdly, we must accept the requirement of excellence, because we have to do better, not less, than the world. We must resist mediocrity.

"Lastly, we must reinstate the vision of wholeness, because as Christian educators, we affirm the necessity of a number of values and we believe that they can be nourished together better than in separation.

"The dream which possesses us is truly a noble one. There is nothing wrong with the dream. The question is whether we have that devotion sufficient to give embodiment."

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Wrapup

SBC Leaders Take Hard  
Look at Christian Education

Baptist Press

6/13/76

By Dan Martin

WILLIAMSBURG (BP)--Southern Baptist educators and denominational and church leaders took a long hard look at the "purpose, processes and potential" of Christian education here.

More than 900 persons attended the first National Colloquium on Christian Education, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's Education Commission in cooperation with the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

"We addressed ourselves to the serious questions concerning the purpose of a Baptist school," said Ben C. Fisher of Nashville, executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission.

Theme of the three day meeting on the campus of the College of William and Mary was "Looking to the Third Century with Confidence."

In a keynote address at the conference, Abner V. McCall, president of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., said: "We must totally reject the false idea that there is any conflict between the Christian community and the academic community.

"In this bicentennial year, we are here to examine what Baptist higher education has been doing during the last 200 years in America and what should be our future course of action."

McCall pointed out that "many church-related colleges and seminaries have suffered declines in student enrollment because of lack of support by the members of the sponsoring churches," and added that in the past five years Southern Baptist colleges and universities increased their enrollment 33 percent and seminaries increased enrollment 55 percent.

Another educational leader, Earl J. McGrath of Indianapolis, Ind., told participants that private schools which maintain a strong Christian distinctive will survive financially in the modern world.

McGrath, senior educational advisor for the Lilly Endowment, said such institutions will, "more importantly, restore order to our society laboring under a confusion of purpose and regain for this generation of youth an appreciation of those transcendent eternal values which give enduring meaning to the human enterprise."

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The colloquium was the start of an intensive three-year study of the Baptist perspective on Christian education.

George Capps, director of denominational relations for the Education Commission said: "For the next three years we will be talking together about our opportunities in Christian education. . . studying ways of improving what we are doing . . . seeking to implement the challenge developed at the colloquium."

A number of conferences are planned to involve faculty and staff of the institutions, trustees, pastors, church and denominational leaders across the nation.

Representatives from each of the 71 Southern Baptist colleges, universities, Bible schools and academies as well as from the seven seminaries were present for the colloquium, Fisher said.

Drawing the most attention was a series of "reaffirmations" on the "great Biblical and doctrinal themes." At each session, participants made a renewed commitment to the areas they touched.

"These reaffirmations are offered only to serve as guidelines for individuals and institutions who wish to re-examine seriously the Christian basis for education and who wish to engage in a renewed commitment to the great biblical and doctrinal themes which have guided in centuries past," Fisher said.

"We also believe that these truths are a summons to all Baptists to enter into the third century in the life of this republic, in obedience to the Great Commission, firmly committed to an undiminished support of our historic emphasis on missions, evangelism and education," he added.

One Southern Baptist editor, Jack Harwell of the Georgia Christian Index in Atlanta, called the reaffirmations "one of the most significant actions taken by Southern Baptists in many years."

He added: "If fully carried out, these reaffirmations pledge to the world in unmistakable terms that Baptist educational leaders intend to make their schools as distinctively Christian as they are academically superior."

Fisher called the truths represented by the reaffirmations "the cornerstone of our institutional witness through Christian education."

The reaffirmations touched on the covenant relationship between schools and the denomination, unity in diversity, the Christian witness in a secular culture, the Christian idea of a liberal education, finance, Christian absolutes, the Great Commission, student-teacher relationships, management and Christian citizenship.

Addresses paralleled the reaffirmations.

Speakers included Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee; Kenneth Chafin, pastor of Houston's South Main Baptist Church; James H. Landes, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

John Newport, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; D. Elton Trueblood, author, lecturer and professor at Earlham College, McGrath; Daniel R. Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University;

Also Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board; Arthur B. Rutledge, executive director of the Home Mission Board; Fred Harris, associate general secretary of the United Methodist Church Board of Higher Education and Ministry; F. Bruce Heilman, president of the University of Richmond; David L. Boren, Governor of Oklahoma, and William G. Tanner, president of Oklahoma Baptist University.

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Wrapup  
Directors of Missions  
Explore Identity Problems

Baptist Press  
6/13/76

By Charlie Warren

NORFOLK (BP)--The Southern Baptist Conference of directors of associational missions elected officers at its annual meeting here and heard several speakers suggest ways to deal with identity problems facing associations of Baptist churches.

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The two-day conference, held at the Quality Inn-Lake Wright just prior to the three-day annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, also honored Arthur B. Rutledge, retiring executive director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, for his contribution to associational missions.

President for 1976-77 will be John A. Brown, director of missions of the Norfolk Baptist Association. Other officers will be Tom S. Roote Jr. of Birmingham, president-elect; George E. Arthur of Dexter, Mo., secretary; Robert C. Helmich of Muskogee, Okla., treasurer; and D. E. Strahan of Madison, Wis., newsletter editor.

Speaking to the directors of missions, William G. Tanner, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, predicted that associations would grow in importance as the Southern Baptist Convention continues to grow.

"The association is the only major channel through which most Southern Baptists see the denomination at close range and in which they participate directly," Tanner said. "The times and your position will not allow either low aims or minimal use of one's life and commitment. We've got to take a stand."

Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., advised the group about the pastors with whom they work:

"I hope you can get over the idea that you should gather around you only pastors that you are comfortable with. There aren't any pastors you don't need.

"Go for the pastor who wants all the churches to be strengthened," he continued. "A weakening of one church weakens all the churches."

David Haney, director of lay ministries for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, suggested they "share the Good News through evangelism" and "be the Good News through ministry.

"If the church is going to be renewed, it will be through a renewed laity who become life style evangelists--on the job, in the marketplace, the bowling alleys, the service stations and across the back fences," he said.

The group also heard addresses by Russell Bennett, director of field education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Frederick E. Roach, president of Centennial Homes, Inc., of Dallas; and Richard G. Bryant of Miami, immediate past president of the directors of missions.

"The distinguishing characteristic of an association ought not to be its polished administrative structure but its keen sense of the likeness of our redeemer," Bennett said. "God help us not to define our association as an organization but as a fellowship of churches in the name of Jesus Christ."

In his presidential address to his colleagues, Bryant challenged them to recommit themselves first to the local pastors and secondly to the deacons in the churches.

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Wrapup  
Pastor Cites Importance  
of Church Musicians

Baptist Press  
6/13/76

By Stan Hastey

NORFOLK (BP)--A Virginia pastor told Southern Baptist church musicians here that all ministers are equally important, "the Pastors' Conference notwithstanding."

Citing the apostle Paul's comments in Ephesians on the variety of the gifts of ministry, Richard E. Myers, pastor of the University Baptist Church of Charlottesville, Va., noted that while "thousands of Southern Baptist ministers have flooded this area for our annual camp meeting under concrete tents . . . there is not any one group of us that outranks the other."

Myers, who spoke on "The Church Musician as Minister," defined ministry as "the divine-human summarization of life as a symphony of redemption." Christians, he said, are called to "incarnational discipleship."

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He told the musicians that their ministry should be rendered with personal integrity, as a Christian example, and "without regard for acclaim."

The annual Church Music Conference, held at Norfolk's First Baptist Church, also heard an original musical drama reviewing highlights of sacred music among Baptists during the nation's two centuries of history.

Produced by Thad Roberts, minister of music at South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., "Singing Baptists" was premiered before a packed house which witnessed a wide variety of musical expression, ranging from Negro spirituals to gospel rock. Also featured was a congregational exercise in "lining out" a Psalm tune, a method of singing responsively in the seventeenth century before musical scores were published.

In another session, the musicians heard an hour-long concert by The Centurymen, conducted by New York composer Buryl Red and featuring soloist Carmela Scott.

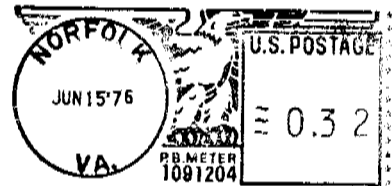
In business actions, the 300 registrants were introduced to three vice presidents previously chosen by mail ballot. The Church Music Conference is divided into three divisions, each entitled to a vice president. They are: Education Division--Max Lyall, professor of music, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., Local Church Division--Jim Ashworth, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Ponca City, Okla., and Denominational Division--Allen R. Brown, state music secretary, Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Serving his second year of a two-year term as president of the group is Paul Bobbitt of Jacksonville, who heads the church music department of the Florida Baptist Convention. President-elect is James C. McKinney, dean of the school of church music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.



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**460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219**



LYNN MAY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 9TH AVE NO  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

