



--- FEATURES
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SBC Executive Committee
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March 10, 1977

77-45

Missionary Envisions
International Embassy

By Judy Touchton

NEW YORK (BP)--Elias Golonka dreams of the day when Southern Baptists will have an international embassy across the street from the United Nations.

"The mission could be an information and welcome center. There could be Bible studies and Bible distribution...maybe even church services," says Golonka who since 1974 has been conducting a pilot project for the Home Mission Board to explore the possibility of a ministry to the international community.

"Ninety percent of the diplomats I meet have never even seen a Bible," Golonka says.

Recently after a Syrian official spoke to an associational pastor's conference, Golonka explained, "We don't ordinarily pay an honorarium and I'm sure as a diplomat you couldn't accept it anyway, but we'd like to give you this Arabic Bible that all the pastors have signed."

The official paused and said, "I was born in Damascus, the city of Paul. I've traveled through London and Paris and other great cities. But no one has ever cared enough to give me a Bible."

Golonka's personal goal is to establish a contact with each United Nations delegation and share the scriptures with them.

"But in many cases, I must follow the steps of protocol: call for an appointment or write the ambassador...and wait," he explains. "It takes so much time."

Sometimes he can bypass the slowness of protocol by taking advantage of opportunities such as the opening of the Chinese embassy after the death of Chairman Mao.

"When I heard the Chinese mission was to be open to the public, I bought a Chinese New Testament and went to express my condolences," Golonka says. "I was taken to the highest ranking official to present the gift on the part of Southern Baptists."

Golonka, a Polish immigrant, feels a responsibility for sharing his "born again" experience and the Bible with the 2 million internationals in New York City. With some he speaks in English--"my foreign language"--with his light accent.

But to the 146 United Nations delegates and 87 consulars in the city along with the 5200 international civil servants working in the 39-story UN building, Golonka speaks fluently in 10 slavic languages, including Russian and German.

Golonka maintains, however, that the biggest influence on his success has been Jimmy Carter's election as U.S. President.

"A Communist diplomat in Washington asked me what it meant to be born again, and I had an opportunity to explain..." he says.

"Southern Baptists need to take advantage of this world-wide interest in Christianity," says Golonka who attributes much interest to President Carter's unabashed comments about his personal relationship with God. Carter is a Southern Baptist layman.

Golonka and the President have a friendship going back to the days when Carter participated in door-to-door visitation in a Springfield, Mass., evangelistic campaign supervised by Golonka.

If the money for a Southern Baptist embassy, perhaps \$3 million, could be secured, Golonka hopes he might convince President Carter to appear at the dedication.

"But this is only a dream," Golonka says, "unless I can somehow by the grace of God convince Southern Baptists of the need.

"If Carter would appear there would be a great opportunity for diplomats to come.

"If only Southern Baptists could have had a vision 20 years ago, we might have a mission to the United Nations already. We must hurry. Something like this is overdue."



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 10, 1977

77-46

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

June 12-13, 1977

Sheraton Royal Hotel

Kansas City, Missouri

Theme: "The Bold Mission of Religious Education"

Sunday Afternoon, June 12

2:30-5:00 Registration

Sunday Night, June 12

William E. Young, Nashville, Tenn., presiding

Theme: "Bold Bible Teaching"

7:00 Music--Festus Robertson, music promotion specialist, Broadman Sales Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., and Polly Riddle, director of keyboard instruction, William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.

7:10 Welcome to Kansas City--Cliff Ingle, professor of religious education and church administration, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Program Preview--

Appointment of Committees--

7:20 "Why We Teach the Bible"--William E. Hull, pastor, First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.

7:50 Testimonies: "Our Church on Mission . . ."--Charles P. Wood, minister of education, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.; Bill Taylor, minister of education/administration, First Baptist Church, Lafayette, La.; and Roye L. Blackmon, Jr., minister of education, Putnam City Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

8:30 Dialogue--

8:45 Fellowship-Refreshments

Displays-Consultation

Sunday School, Church Training, Church Administration, Church Library, Brotherhood Commission, Annuity Board, Church Architecture, Family Ministry, Foreign Mission Board, National Student Ministries, Conference Center Program and Promotion Section, Church Recreation

Monday Morning, June 13

Elmer F. Bailey, Memphis, Tenn., presiding

Theme: "Bold Education in Mission"

8:15 Displays and Consultation--

8:50 Music--Bill O'Brien, secretary, department of denominational coordination, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., and Polly Riddle, Liberty, Mo.

9:00 "Living Out Bold Mission"--Albert McClellan, associate executive secretary and director of program planning, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.

Dialogue--

9:40 Break

10:00 "Trends...Products...Services"--Crawford Howell, manager, Broadman Sales Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

10:20 "The Church and the Challenge of Bold Mission"--W. Randall Lolley, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

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- 10:50 Testimonies: "Our Church on Mission..."--Peggy Latham, minister to internationals, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex.; David Roddy, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.; and Alan H. Runnels, pastor, Swope Park Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.
- 11:30 Dialogue--
- 11:45 Adjourn

Monday Luncheon, June 13

Ballroom South, Sheraton Royal

Charles M. Lowry, Alexandria, La., presiding

12:15 Luncheon

Music--Virginia Seelig, assistant professor of voice, Southernwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., and Polly Riddle, Liberty, Mo.

Tribute to Phillip B. Harris and A. V. Washburn--Melva Cook, program consultant, Family Ministry Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.; Joe Davis Heacock, retired dean, School of Religious Education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.; and Keener Pharr, director, church development division, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, Fla.

Monday Afternoon, June 13

James D. Williams, Fort Worth, Tex., presiding

Theme: "Bold Discipleship Development"

2:00 Displays and Consultation--

2:15 Music--Robert Snead, head of fine arts division, Truett-McConnell College, Cleveland, Ga., and Polly Riddle, Liberty, Mo.

2:25 "Equipping: Biblical Images and Current Structures"--Billie Pate, supervisor, pilot project section, Church Training Department, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.; John Hendrix, consultant, pilot project section, Church Training Department, Sunday School Board.

3:05 Dialogue--

3:20 "My Development as a Disciple"--Velma Rhea Torbett, assistant educational director, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

3:30 "The Church Ministering Through Family Counseling"--B. A. Clendinning, minister of consultation, Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.

4:00 "Leadership Requirements for Bold Mission"--Elaine Dickson, on special assignment to the Executive Office, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

4:20 Dialogue--

4:35 Adjourn

Monday Evening, June 13

William E. Young, Nashville, Tenn., presiding

Theme: "Bold Personal Involvement"

6:00 Displays and Consultation--

6:45 Music--Royce Dowell, consultant, Church Music Department, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, and Polly Riddle, Liberty, Mo.

6:55 "How the Bible Changes Lives"--William E. Hull, pastor, First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.

7:30 Music--Maxine Souther, Salt Lake City, Utah, and Polly Riddle, Liberty, Mo.

7:35 Committee Reports

Findings Committee--Gerald Dunlap, chairman, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Nominating Committee--Roy Lee Williams, chairman, church services director, Union Baptist Association, Houston, Tex.

Miscellaneous Business--Elmer F. Bailey, associate pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

7:50 "The Leader as a Trainer"--P. Kevin O'Sullivan, executive vice president, American Society for Training and Development, Madison, Wis.

- 8:30 Testimonies: "On Mission..Personal Growth and Development"--Mark Short, associate pastor, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex.; Truman Kerr, associate pastor, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.; Bruce Powers, church program training center coordinator, Conference Center Division, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., and Wilford E. Beal, consultant church staff section, Church Administration Department, Sunday School Board.
- 9:00 Dialogue--
- 9:15 Adjourn

Religious Education Association Officers

- William E. Young, president, supervisor of children's section, Church Training Department, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- Elmer F. Bailey, vice president and president-elect, associate pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
- James D. Williams, vice president, professor of adult education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.
- Charles M. Lowry, vice president, director of church services, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, La.
- Neta Stewart, secretary-treasurer, dean of women and director of student activities, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.
- Evelyn George, assistant secretary-treasurer, associate in Church Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, Miss.
- SBC Religious Educators # # # Baptist Press
Will Confront 'Bold Mission' 3/16/77

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Religious educators throughout the nation's largest Protestant denomination will gather for the 22nd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association (SBREA) here, June 12-13.

The meeting at the Sheraton Royal Hotel precedes the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), June 14-16, at H. Roe Bartle Convention Center.

Emphasizing the SBC's "bold mission" objective to evangelize the world by the close of the century, the SBREA meeting will confront "the bold mission of religious education" through Bible teaching, missions, discipleship development, and personal involvement.

Program personnel include P. Kevin O'Sullivan, executive vice president, American Society for Training and Development, Madison, Wis., speaking on "The Leader as a Trainer;" William E. Hull, pastor, First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., speaking on "Why We Teach the Bible" and "How the Bible Changes Lives."

Also, Albert McClellan, director of program planning and associate executive secretary, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, speaking on "Living Out Bold Mission;" Billie Pate, supervisor, and John Hendrix, consultant, pilot project section, church training department, SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville, with a presentation on "Equipping: Biblical Images and Current Structures;" Elaine Dickson of the Sunday School Board, speaking on "Leadership Requirements for Bold Mission;" and W. Randall Lolley, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., speaking on "The Church and the Challenge of Bold Mission"

The conference gets underway at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 12. Monday's program includes sessions at 8:15 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6:45 p.m., and a 12:15 p.m. luncheon in tribute to two long-time denominational leaders.

The luncheon will honor Phillip B. Harris and A.V. Washburn, who are retiring this year after long service as secretaries respectively of the church training and Sunday School departments at the Sunday School Board.

The tribute will feature comments by Joe Davis Heacock, retired dean of religious education Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and Keener Pharr, church development division director for the Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, and a skit by Melva Cook, program consultant, family ministry department, Sunday School Board.

Other program personnel for the two-day meeting include William E. Young, SBREA president, supervisor, children's section, church training department, Sunday School Board, and other Sunday School Board staffers including Crawford Howell, manager Broadman sales department, Bruce Powers, church program center coordinator, and Wilford E. Beal, consultant, church training department.

Also, Peggy Latham, minister to internationals, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex.; David Roddy, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.; Alan H. Runnels, pastor, Swope Park Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.; Velma Rhea Torbett, assistant educational director, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis; B.A. Clendinning, minister of consultation, Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.; Mark Short, associate pastor, South Main Baptist Church, Houston; and Truman Kerr, associate pastor, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.

Also, Elmer Bailey, SBREA vice president and president-elect, associate pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.; Charles P. Wood, minister of education, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.; Bill Taylor, minister of education/administration, First Baptist Church, Lafayette, La.; Roye L. Blackmon Jr., minister of education, Putnam City Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

A feature of the conference includes displays and consultations throughout the two days by various Baptist agencies, departments and programs.

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Russians Cancel Invitation
To Western Journalists

Baptist Press
3/10/77

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--An invitation to a West German and two American Baptist journalists for a tour of Russia has been withdrawn "due to the alteration of circumstances," according to a cablegram from Alexei Bichkov, general secretary of the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (AUCECB), and A. Stoyan, director of the international department of the AUCECB.

Announcement was made at the Southern Baptist Press Association, Charleston, S.C., in February that Russian Baptists had invited six Baptist journalists for a tour of their country in June.

But invitations were withdrawn for three of these--Stan L. Hasteley of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, Cyril E. Bryant of the Baptist World Alliance, Washington, and Wolfgang Muller of West Germany.

No explanation of the withdrawal of the invitation from the Americans and the West German was given by the Bichkov-Stoyan cablegram other than that the action is "due to the alteration of circumstances."

Speculation in Washington circles is that the Russian Baptists were caught in the cross fire between President Carter and the Soviet government on the problem of human rights and dissenters in the USSR and that they were ordered to cancel the three invitations. Whether or not American protests of the imprisonment of the Russian Baptist dissenter, Georgi Vins, was a factor is uncertain.

The other invitees are Alan C. Prior of Sydney, Australia, Sven Svenson of Stockholm, Sweden, and John Wilkes of Ruschlikon, Switzerland. Although Wilkes is an American and a Southern Baptist missionary, he heads European Baptist Press Service for the European Baptist Federation of which Bichkov is president.

The three remaining journalists are invited to attend the world conference of "Religious Workers for Lasting Peace, Disarmament and Just Relations Among Nations," which meets in Moscow, June 6-10. Following this meeting, the three journalists are invited to remain in Russia for several days as guests of the AUCECB.

Discussions of a possible trip through Russia by Baptists journalists were initiated by Bichkov in April of 1976 and by November 1976 the six names had been agreed upon. The journalists were to provide their own transportation to Russia, but after arriving there all of their expenses, including transportation, board and lodging, were to be paid by the AUCECB.

Committee Commends Carter,
Opposes IRS Ruling

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs commended President Carter for his emphasis on human rights and commitment to nuclear disarmament during its semiannual meeting here.

Representatives from eight national Baptist conventions and conferences, including the Southern Baptist Convention, also laid the groundwork for action seeking reversal of a controversial regulation by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on its definition of an "integrated auxiliary" of a church, formally protested a decision by the Tennessee Supreme Court upholding that state's prohibition against ministers seeking public office, and attended a congressional fellowship breakfast in the U.S. Capitol.

In its commendation of the President, the Baptist Joint Committee quoted from his inaugural address on human rights and disarmament: "Our commitment to human rights must be absolute...and we will move this year a step toward our ultimate goal--the elimination of all nuclear weapons from this earth."

According to the Baptist body's statement, the President "has clearly sought to protect and to defend human rights at home and abroad. He has also initiated talks and has undertaken actions which could halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons so as to bring about worldwide arms limitations."

Noting these efforts, the statement commended the President and pledged "prayerful support of continued efforts to achieve a world of freedom, justice and peace."

G. Hugh Wamble, professor of church history at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., was appointed to chair a committee which will recommend strategy to combat IRS regulations on "integrated auxiliaries" of a church, which attempt to define the ministries of a church.

Also appointed to the committee were Hollis W. Barber, professor of political science at the University of Chicago, Melvin G. Cooper, executive director, State Ethics Commission of Alabama; Earl Trent, house counsel, Board of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. and James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The committee will work in close consultation with the Baptist Joint Committee.

The recent ruling of the Tennessee Supreme Court upheld a state constitutional ban on ministers, priests and rabbis serving in the state legislature or the upcoming state constitutional convention.

The Baptist Joint Committee adopted a resolution which expresses "the conviction that, in keeping with Article VI of the U.S. Constitution and the free exercise clause of the First Amendment, there should be no government-imposed religious test for public office."

The resolution also authorizes the Baptist Joint Committee staff to file an "amicus curiae" (friend of the court) brief if the Tennessee ruling, or similar rulings are appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Such a brief would be a joint effort with other interested denominations.

U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph (D-W. Va.), the only Seventh Day Baptist serving in Congress, hosted a breakfast in the U.S. Capitol for the Baptist Joint Committee. He was joined by six members of the House of Representatives, all of them Baptists.

Randolph, who was celebrating his 75th birthday and is the senior legislator on capitol hill in years of service, appealed to the group to keep the faith in these "troubled times."

Congressman John H. Buchanan (R-Ala.), an ordained Southern Baptist minister, said, "The hard thing in this job is not deciding to do right but to decide what is right." Buchanan, who left the pastorate to run for public office, said that his decision was deliberate and honorable. "I turned to a new kind of mission and ministry," he added.

Rep. Charles Diggs Jr. (D-Mich.) challenged committee members to an accelerated "level of activity." He also credited President Carter with bringing the nation together. Diggs is a member of the Hartford Avenue Baptist Church in Detroit, where Charles G. Adams, Baptist Joint Committee chairman, serves as pastor.

During the two-day meeting, Baptist Joint Committee members also heard reports from Executive Director Wood and three other staff members.

Wood reported that he will be a delegate to next month's biennial meeting of the United National Associates at UN headquarters in New York. He also announced publication of a new staff report, written by associate director John W. Baker, entitled "nontheistic Religions and the First Amendment."

Baker previewed the 95th Congress and associate directors W. Barry Garrett and Stan L. Hastey briefed committee members on the first six weeks of the Carter administration and the current U.S. Supreme Court term.

The Baptist Joint Committee also adopted a record budget of more than \$268,000 for the 1977-78 fiscal year.

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High Court Accepts PEARL
'Friend-of-Court' Brief

Baptist Press
3/10/77

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court announced here that it will give consideration to an "amicus curiae" (friend-of-the court) brief submitted by a national coalition, which includes the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The Baptist Joint Committee, which represents eight national Baptist bodies, joined numerous other groups belonging to the National Coalition for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) in urging the high court to strike down an Ohio law which provides so-called "auxiliary services" to nonpublic school children.

The challenged statute would make payments to parents instead of paying the parochial schools directly for the cost of a wide range of services. Ohio's law is similar to a Pennsylvania plan struck down two years ago by the Supreme Court. The principal differences between the two is Ohio's indirect method of providing aid.

Ohio has tried a number of methods to aid parochial schools during the past nine years, but each time federal courts have declared the plans unconstitutional. Nevertheless, funding of nonpublic schools has continued there while the laws have been taken to court one by one.

The Supreme Court is expected to review the case later this year, with a final decision coming perhaps no earlier than the spring of 1978.

National PEARL has taken an active role in fighting plans such as Ohio's. Besides the Baptist Joint Committee, other member organizations include the American Association of School Administrators, American Civil Liberties Union, American Jewish Congress, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, National Education Association, and others.

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