



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 6, 1977

77-84

**Black-White Lay Renewal
Effort Cracks Barriers**

By Oscar Hoffmeyer

MINDEN, La. (BP)--The spirit of Christian sharing came only after some mountains of apprehension had been overcome during the first Louisiana black-white lay renewal weekend here.

The event conducted by the Saint Rest Baptist Church, a black Baptist church in Minden, resulted from pastor B. F. Martin's attendance at the National Renewal Conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board in Georgia last October.

"My wife and I were the only blacks there," Martin said. "But I realized this type of program would be good for my church. Later I asked Calvin Cantrell (associate director of evangelism for the Louisiana Baptist Convention) to help us since he had directed a number of renewal weekend programs."

Martin, also president of the Union Baptist Theological Seminary in Monroe, La., said one of his members remarked: "We saw Christian love bubbling over as the result of this meeting. We'll have more members at Saint Rest willing to work."

Mrs. Annie Jones, a widow and member of Saint Rest Baptist Church, said, "I was apprehensive about white people living in my home for the weekend because I had been taught to distrust them.

"I could not imagine that they came here just because they cared. But I soon realized they wanted nothing more than to share their Christian faith that all of us would be more deeply committed as Christians."

R. T. Tobin, a deacon, said during an evening share time, "Sports have done more to foster friendship among different cultures than the church has. The church is behind but it's catching up."

Martin said the renewal experience went beyond his expectations for the church. The pastor said his members reported the home meetings were exceptionally good because they reached a large number of persons who many times would not come to a church. "Even non-church members attended these group meetings," he said.

Attendance increased from approximately 100 participating in group meetings to more than 700 for the Sunday morning worship service that lasted until 1:30 p.m.

Immediate results of the effort were seen following a Sunday morning prayer breakfast to which men from off the streets were invited. One of the men made a profession of faith during the morning worship service and was baptized that night.

"This was a significant spiritual victory," Martin said.

While the purpose of the joint effort was not to unite the National and Southern Baptist congregations, Martin said one of the significant things was that the two races came to learn how to accept each other as persons.

Some 26 Southern Baptists from two states other than Louisiana served as team members. They were house guests of Saint Rest Baptist church members.

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One of the church members said, "My home will never be the same because of the Christian love I saw in the lives of my guests."

Cantrell said the weekend program was conducted exactly as he conducts renewal in all Louisiana Baptist churches.

"The only thing different I ran into was the feeling some blacks have of accepting whites. This delayed the flow of the meeting for a short time. When true Christian love surfaced, the real depth of expressing the Christian faith emerged and we had an exceptional experience."

Martin said he believes other National Baptist churches will want to offer such programs. "We plan to continue with the entire program of prayer and Bible study groups at Saint Rest and have the second weekend program in eight months just as the plan calls for."

Austin Brown, a former prison inmate and now chaplain at the Florida State Prison, served as general coordinator for the weekend.

He told the congregation during the catacomb service, "One of the greatest hinderances to Christian witnessing is that we do not accept others as they are. People reaching out to one another is witness."

Some of the meaningful responses Martin noted following the Sunday night worship service, when no Southern Baptist team members were present, included:

--"I've become more spiritually alive."

--"Christ's love can abide in all people regardless of race, color or creed."

Following the radio broadcast of the evening service, Martin said a number of listeners called him to say they felt the power of God present as they heard the testimonies from those who participated in the worship service.

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Missionaries Continue Work In Spite of Border Closing

Baptist Press
5/6/77

TUKUYU, Tanzania (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in Kenya and Tanzania are continuing their work despite the inconvenience of a closed border between the two countries.

The border was closed in a dispute over the bankrupt East Africa Airline, which subsequently folded.

Evelyn (Mrs. Douglas M.) Knapp, Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Tanzania, reports that some plans for visitors coming to Tanzania to help with mission work have had to be canceled.

Children of Tanzania missionaries attending school in Kenya return home by taking a bus to the Kenya border, walking across the border and joining their parents on the other side.

Tanzania missionaries going to Kenya on business must first obtain a special permit from Tanzania officials.

"The missionaries of the Baptist Mission of East Africa (missionaries in Kenya and Tanzania) are praying for a restoration of friendly relations between the two countries," Mrs. Knapp said.

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SBC Messengers Urged To 'Move Fast' To Reserve Rooms

Baptist Press
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KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Housing Bureau here will assist persons seeking rooms to make direct contact with Kansas City hotels and motels after May 15.

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By then according to a stipulation of the hotels and motels, all rooms specifically blocked for the SBC annual meeting, June 14-16, will have been returned to the hotels and motels.

"Persons who want rooms should move fast in contacting the Housing Bureau at 1221 Baltimore, Kansas City, Mo. 64105," said Billy D. Malesovas of the SBC Executive Committee, who serves as convention manager.

"Return of the rooms to the hotels and motels doesn't mean the rooms won't be available," Malesovas explained. "It just means they will be available to other people, too."

Before June 1, he said, the Housing Bureau will take telephone reservations at (816) 221-5242 for only two hotels--the Hilton Airport Plaza Inn and the Marriott Hotel, KCI Airport--and all other reservations in writing only.

After June 1, all reservations may be made by phone --"but that's cutting it very close," Malesovas said.

Although he urged persons attending the SBC not to wait, Malesovas said a hotline will be established at the SBC registration desk, which opens about 9 a.m., June 13, at H. Roe Bartle Hall in the Kansas City convention center, to assist in finding rooms. It will go direct to the Hotel and Motel Association of Greater Kansas City.

As of May 5, ten days before the block rooms were to be returned to hotels, 6,002 rooms had been assigned to SBC attenders out of 6,649 rooms available, Malesovas said.

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Baptist Camp Ministers To
Organize in Kansas City

Baptist Press
5/6/77

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers (ASBCM) will formally organize, adopt a constitution and bylaws, elect officers, and hold its first annual meeting here, June 12-13.

The meeting at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will precede the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), June 14-16, at H. Roe Bartle Hall in the Kansas City convention center complex.

The organization has been in the process of forming over the past two years and already has 100 dues paying members consisting of campus and state directors of Baptist student ministries and others interested in student work.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, June 12, and continue on Monday with sessions at 9 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

R. Lofton Hudson, a Christian psychologist from Kansas City, will be the main speaker in sessions on Monday morning and afternoon, with presentations designed to help campus ministers know how to deal with marital and family problems of students and how to cope with the effect on students of such phenomena as Transactional Analysis (TA) and Transcendental Meditation (TM).

Speakers also include Paul Larsen, director of Baptist student ministries at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, who will lead a worship and celebration session on Sunday afternoon, and Dick Bumpass, Baptist campus minister serving students at the U. S. Naval Academy and St. Johns College, who will speak at the closing banquet session on Monday night.

Other program features include business, fellowship and sharing sessions and musical presentations, according to Don Gurney, temporary ASBCM chairman and Baptist campus minister at the U. S. Air Force Academy.

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Gurney said the purpose of the new organization is to increase fellowship, awareness of mutual needs and sharing of ideas among Baptist campus ministers and to raise the visibility and vitality of student ministries in the eyes of the denomination and of campus ministers.

Southern Baptist student ministries are conducted on some 1,071 college and university campuses throughout the nation.

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Baptist Conference Slated
On Churches and Taxation

Baptist Press
5/6/77

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Nationally known religious and political leaders are slated to address a national Baptist Conference on the Churches and Taxation here, October 3-5, according to James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Among those invited to address the conference are Vice President Walter F. Mondale, former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, and William P. Thompson, stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and president of the National Council of Churches.

Leo Pfeffer, a distinguished author and nationally known constitutional church-state lawyer and a member of the Jewish faith, has been asked to speak on "The Special Constitutional Status of Religion."

Charles M. Whalen, S. J., professor in Fordham University Law School, has been asked to talk on "Definitional Problems with Respect to 'Church' and Religious Organization in the Internal Revenue Code." This is a subject of intense concern to the churches because of the recent ruling on "integrated auxiliaries" of churches, Wood said.

In announcing the conference on taxation, Wood said, "Today a crisis is emerging in the United States with regard to tax exemption and religion."

He explained that there is no crisis "over any possible sweeping removal of tax exemption of religion as such," but that two major questions are emerging:

1. Should religion that attempts to influence public policy be taxed; and
2. Does the state or any of its agencies have the competence to define the nature of religion as the basis for determining eligibility for tax exemption?

The First Religious Liberty Conference on Taxation sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee was in 1960 on "The churches and American Tax Policy." Wood said that there have been so many developments in the 17 years since that first conference that it is time to take a new look at the problems.

For instance, in 1960 there was no such thing as churches paying taxes to the federal government, he said. "Now, as of Jan. 1, 1976, the churches started paying taxes on their unrelated activities."

"In 1960," he continued, "integrated auxiliaries of churches was not even heard of and anything related to the churches was accepted by the government as religious. Now that is not true, and the government through the Internal Revenue Service has sought to define what is and what is not a religious activity."

"In 1969, the questions related to the obligations of churches as tax exempt organizations but now the questions revolve around protection of the churches from government," he concluded

These problems gave rise to the theme of the conference in October, "Taxation and the Free Exercise of Religion," Wood said.

The following speakers have accepted assignments at the conference. Dean Kelley, the executive for religious and civil liberty in the division of church and society of the National Council of Churches, will speak on, "Why the Churches should Not Be Taxed." He is the author of a new book by that title.

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Rep. James C. Corman (D.-Cal.), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and an expert on church-state relations, will be the speaker at the Tuesday (Oct. 4) luncheon.

Hon. Laurence N. Woodworth, assistant secretary of the treasury for tax policy, will address the conference. He is the former chief of staff of the Congressional Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation and is a highly-rated economist.

Rep. Barber B. Conable Jr. (R.-N.Y.) is the ranking minority member of the House Committee on Ways and Means and is the author of bills on lobbying activities of nonprofit organizations. He will address the conference on "Attempts to Influence Legislation and the Loss of Tax Exemption."

Also invited to address the conference are Jerome Kurtz, the new commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, and a speaker from the Guild of St. Ives, an organization of Episcopal lawyers in New York who specialize in taxation and the churches.

The Sixteenth Religious Liberty Conference by the Baptist Joint Committee will be held in the Quality Inn, Pentagon City, Arlington, Va., across the Potomac River overlooking Washington, D. C.

Invitations to the conference have been sent to a large number of Baptist leaders, but attendance is open to anyone concerned about the problems of churches and taxation. Inquiries about the conference may be addressed to Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, 200 Maryland Avenue, N. E., Washington, D. C. 20002.

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Calvin Craig Named
General Baptist Head

Baptist Press
5/6/77

RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)--Calvin C. Craig, field worker for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's department of cooperative ministries with national Baptists for 15 years, has been named executive secretary of the General Baptist Convention of North Carolina during a special called meeting of their executive committee here.

Craig will take office September 1, following the August 31 retirement of O. L. Sherrill, who served as executive secretary for 30 years of the black Baptist group.

Emmanuel McCall, director of the cooperative ministries department at the HMB, expects Craig's prior relationship with the HMB to be an asset to both the board and the General Baptist Convention over the next few years.

During his term in North Carolina, Craig has also served as assistant to the executive secretary for the General Convention.

Prior to appointment by the Home Mission Board in 1962, he was pastor of churches in North Carolina.

Craig, a North Carolina native, is a graduate of Shaw University in Raleigh, N. C., and received a bachelor of divinity degree from Shaw Divinity School. In 1971, he was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Friendship College in Rock Hill, S. C.

Craig is married to Viola Little Craig. They have two children. The Craigs will continue to live in Raleigh.

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Godwin, McDonough Promoted
By Sunday School Board

Baptist Press
5/6/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--Johnnie C. Godwin and Reginald M. McDonough, both section supervisors at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here, received promotions as a result of the agency's reorganization.

Godwin, supervisor of the Broadman Books and Music section, was elected manager of the Broadman products department.

McDonough, a supervisor in the church administration department at the board the past 13 years, was elected head of that department.

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Godwin, 40, a native of Texas, has been at the board since 1970 when he became editor of youth materials in the Sunday School department. He served three years as coordinating editor of youth materials in the youth section of the Sunday School department before moving to the Broadman division in 1975.

McDonough, 40, is a native of Texas who came to the board in 1964 as a church administration consultant. Since that time, he has served as supervisor of the church administration department's editorial, church administrative services, and church staff sections, respectively.

In his new position, Godwin replaces Robert G. Fulbright, who was elected in February as director of the board's new Bible teaching division. McDonough succeeds Howard B. Foshee, who became director of the board's newly created Christian development division last February.

Godwin is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., and holds the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He is the author of "A Security Blanket Called Home," and "What It Means to Be Born Again."

McDonough is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College, in Marshall, and holds the master of religious education and doctor of education degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He served in staff positions in three Texas and Louisiana churches before joining the Sunday School Board and was an instructor of religious education at East Texas Baptist College for one year.

McDonough is the author of "Leading Your Church in Long-Range Planning" and "Working with Volunteer Leaders in the Church," plus numerous articles for church administration periodicals.

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(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state papers.

Southern Names Professor,
Communications Director

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--Carol A. Weaver of Athens, Ga., was named director of communications and Robin Kent Rogers of Montgomery, Ala., as assistant professor church social work at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

A native of Piedmont, Ala., Weaver has been on the public relations staff of the University of Georgia, Athens, since 1974. She is former editor of the university's weekly faculty-staff publication, Columns, and most recently was news services and alumni affairs director for the university's school of veterinary medicine.

Rogers, currently employed by the Kentucky Department of Human Resources in Frankfort, will join the seminary faculty July 1, 1977, while Weaver has begun her duties at Southern.

A journalism graduate of the University of Georgia, Weaver is former copy editor and women's editor of the Athens Banner-Herald, former program guide editor at WGTA-TV (educational television station) and promotion specialist for WAGA-TV, a CBS affiliate in Atlanta.

Rogers, who will work under the seminary's school of religious education, is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., of Southern, and of the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville. His professional experience includes work at Jefferson Street Baptist Chapel in Louisville and service with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Long Island, N. Y.

Weaver has won several professional honors and awards, including Georgia Associated Press Superior Award for Women's News, the American Newspaper Association Award for Women's News, the Georgia Association of Broadcasters first-place award for television station promotion, and a joint award from the Georgia Associated Press and the American Cancer Society for best series on cancer education and treatment.

She was named as one out of 10 outstanding young women of the year in Georgia in 1974 and has been involved in many civic activities and organizations. She is a member of Sigma Delta Chi, society for professional journalists.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers. (Photo only of Carol Weaver.)

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Ex-wrestler Found Christ
And Changed Opponents

By Janis Britton

AMARILLO, Tex. (BP)--Once a professional wrestler, Tommy Phelps has changed opponents.

In 1962, Phelps entered the arena of Christian ministry after 18 years in professional wrestling.

"I still wrestle with the old Devil," said Phelps. "The Christian life is not easy. It's one continuous battle," said the Southern Baptist evangelist.

As a professional wrestler, Phelps was known as "Nature Boy." His naturally dark hair was bleached blonde and he wore fancy robes and capes.

Phelps, converted to Christianity because of the concern of a deacon and pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Amarillo, was wrestling in the city in 1962:

"I was a drunk. He (the deacon) felt a concern for me, came into my home, witnessed to me and I accepted Christ as my Savior. I've never touched a drink since.

"Jesus was my toughest opponent," he said. "He defeated me, but in defeat I won the greatest victory."

After his conversion, Phelps said, he was considered a religious fanatic by the wrestling profession. He left the profession seven weeks later to enter the Christian ministry full-time.

He attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and was pastor of Inspiration Point Baptist Church in Fort Worth and Temple Baptist Church in Hereford, Tex.

He became a full-time evangelist in 1967 and has since preached 1,461 revivals, 51 in the Amarillo Baptist Association. He averages 40 revivals a year in churches of all sizes and has preached in 40 states.

Phelps was born and raised in Dallas and entered the wrestling profession there. After his conversion, he "came to love the pastors here" and made Amarillo his home.

"Wrestling is a great sport," said the evangelist. "It's one of the best body building sports, and it's probably one of the toughest sports. It treated me well for 18 years but now I'm sold out to the Lord."

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Janis Britton is religion writer for the Amarillo (Tex.) Globe-News.

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