

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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77-173

**Churches Challenged To
Match Words With Deeds**

DALLAS (BP)--Speakers at what may be Southern Baptists' first workshop on church ministries agreed that too many congregations aren't validating their evangelistic message with ministries to the poor and hurting.

The conference, sponsored by the missions support section, Baptist General Convention of Texas, drew about 700 people to hear speakers and participate in a smorgasbord of conferences ranging from literacy to disaster relief to prisoner rehabilitation.

Francis DuBose, professor of urban and world missions at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, California, said, "Our Lord identified very clearly with the poor" but "one of the greatest indictments of institutional Christianity today and especially Protestantism is that it is basically a middle class affair."

"We know how to reach neither the poor nor the wealthy," he charged.

Texas Baptists' executive director James H. Landes said, "There have been many types of evangelism, but all were made possible in part by ministry."

"Throughout history," he said, "great spiritual awakenings have been led by people such as Francis of Assisi, early versions of the Salvation Army, Wesley, Whitfield, Finney and others, each of whose preaching was validated by ministries to the poor and hurting."

Marshall Edwards, pastor of Columbus Avenue Baptist Church, Waco, said, "The world is no longer willing to settle for our air-conditioned auditoriums. The world is ready to settle for the church which meets the needs of the community around it."

Noting that Christ continually interrupted his schedule to minister to needy and hurting people, Edwards said, "Empathy demands willingness to have our plans interrupted."

Joel Gregory, pastor of Gambrell Street Baptist Church, Fort Worth, said, "It is time for conservative evangelicals (and I consider myself one) to say that any theology which doesn't view man as a whole is part of the oldest heresy in the church, gnosticism."

He said the emphasis of the New Testament is not upon the preservations of the spirit, but upon the resurrection of the whole man at the last day.

A Home Missions Board and California Baptist black leader, Sid Smith, who serves in the Watts area of Los Angeles, said multi-ethnicity is the wave of the future and emphasized the need for "building healthy multi-ethnic churches."

The primary question for people of ethnic groups, he said, is 'does this church really accept me.' "The healthy church," he said, "removes barriers to growth and creates opportunities for growth--freedom to love my brother, to respond to the Lord."

Smith said, "Racism comes in all colors and speaks all languages." He said the church which led California Baptists in baptisms last year at first tried to reject non-Blacks but has now developed a healthy multi-ethnic ministry to all races.

"Skeptics sneer and say Southern Baptists will never change," said Smith, "but in California the multi-ethnic church is the thing now. I thank God you can no longer tell a Southern Baptist by the color of his skin."

Gerald Tidwell, pastor of First church, Seminole, Texas, described the church's ministry to Mennonites who have migrated to West Texas from Mexico and Canada. The Seminole church is conducting English language and citizenship classes for the Mennonites, most of whom speak only Spanish or German.

DuBose summed up the conference when he said, "Our mission is both to bear witness to the redemptive nature of God through ministry and to the redemptive work of God through evangelism."

"I pray for the day to come when we can see, both theoretically and practically, the unity of evangelism and ministry in mission and witness."

-30-

\$250,000 Given To
Southwestern Seminary

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FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has received a \$250,000 contribution to its "Eight by Eighty" campaign from the Brown Foundation, Inc., Houston.

The Brown grant brings the total in the Houston phase of "Eight by Eighty" to over a million dollars and the total campaign to \$4.3 million.

The grant is to be used for "such project or facility as determined by the president of the seminary." Announcement was made by George R. Brown, president of the foundation and W. Marvin Watson, national chairman of the "Eight by Eighty" campaign. Watson is from Daingerfield, Texas, and served as postmaster general in the cabinet of President Lyndon Johnson.

The "Eight by Eighty" campaign is an effort by the Fort Worth seminary to raise \$8 million by 1980, \$5 million for endowment and \$3 million for capital improvements. The campaign began in FortWorth where almost \$2 million was pledged. Campaigns are currently in progress in Houston and Dallas.

Seminary president Robert E. Naylor, in accepting the grant, stated, "Because of our phenomenal growth (107% enrollment increase in 10 years), the seminary faces an unprecedented privilege, opportunity and responsibility," he commented. "Never before has a seminary anywhere in the world been given the challenge of training almost 4000 men and women for Christian ministry in a single year."

Two years ago the seminary established Southwestern Seminary in Southeast Texas (S.E.T. on the campus of Houston Baptist University. S.E.T. brings fully accredited theological training to pastors and church staff persons serving in the region, with 110 enrolled this fall.

In its seventieth year of operation, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was chartered on March 14, 1908. The school functioned on the campus of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, until 1910 when a new campus was provided on Seminary Hill in Fort Worth, Tex. The seminary is owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Convention.

-30-

Baptist Institutions Advised
To Protest IRS Ruling

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9/29/77

DALLAS (BP)--Presidents of 20 Texas Baptist institutions were advised here to file the required information returns with Internal Revenue Service "under protest."

James E. Wood, Jr., Washington, D. C., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs made the recommendation at a meeting of the Texas Baptist Interagency Council at Dallas-Fort Worth airport. The council consists of executives of eight Texas Baptist hospitals, eight colleges and universities, and four children's homes plus convention leaders.

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Recently, the 192-member Texas Baptist Executive Board had recommended a similar plan of action as had Texas Baptist Executive Director James H. Landes in a letter to the administrators.

Wood said recent rulings of the IRS requiring church-related agencies to file informational returns with the federal government are in "clear violation of the U. S. Constitution and of the intent of congress" when it revised the Internal Revenue Code in 1969.

The revision exempts churches, associations of churches and the integrated auxiliaries of churches from filing returns. The problems arose, Wood explained, when the IRS attempted to define "integrated auxiliaries."

"Churches cannot accept that any outside group can define its mission and determine who it may serve in carrying out that mission," Wood stated. The IRS rules have attempted to define what it means for an agency to be affiliated with a church, and this, Wood declared, can only be done by churches themselves. He said this principle was first established in an opinion written by Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes: "The state may not define religion, for to define is to limit and this violates the first amendment."

Wood expressed fear that, if the present regulations are allowed to stand, the IRS would be placed in the position of examining church books and accounting and monitoring their activities. Because the information returns become a matter of public record, the financial activities of church institutions would be open to the public and subject to misinterpretation and misuse, according to Wood.

Citing the apparent inconsistencies of the regulations, Wood pointed out that the IRS has declared that only those agencies or institutions of the denomination whose "principle activity is exclusively religious" are exempt from filing. Educational, charitable and medical agencies are not considered to be "integrated auxiliaries" even though their reason for being is religious and even though they may be owned and controlled by the church and even though the officers and trustees are elected by the church. He pointed out that both elementary and secondary parochial schools may be exempt at the discretion of the IRS and theological seminaries are specifically exempted from filing, while colleges are said not to be "integrated auxiliaries." Wood labelled this discrepancy as "purely political" in nature.

Speaking of his own agency, Wood declared, "We will not open our books to the IRS. We are prepared to take the matter to the Supreme Court, if necessary." He advised the college, hospital, child care and homes for aging executives to consult a competent tax attorney, "to determine how best to deal with the complexity of the regulations. If you file form 990, do it under protest," Wood advised.

1978 SBC Program To
Include Respondents Views

-30-

Baptist Press
9/29/77

RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)--The rank and file of 12.9 million Southern Baptists are offering suggestions for the June 13-15, 1978 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

The first woman to chair the SBC order of business committee, Marian Grant of Raleigh, reported in her column in The Biblical Recorder, "Nearly every state paper ran my request (for program suggestions) and I've had excellent suggestions in letters from most of the states," Mrs. Grant stated.

Program ideas include more time for business, more women participants, more involvement for the laity, and a split opinion on more or less preaching.

"Some assistance for lay people through the church budgets would encourage attendance just as it does for pastors and in many cases, their wives," she stated.

Registration for the Atlanta meeting is expected to be around 18,000.

Round The World, Round
The Clock Prayers Set

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptist women in more than a hundred countries will pray around the clock on Monday, November 7.

Mrs. Marie Mathis, president of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance, said that many thousands of women's groups, some in community-wide congregations and some "by ones and twos", are expected to participate in the 30th annual observance of the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer.

Prayers will begin in the islands of the Southwest Pacific as the sun crosses the international date line for the beginning of a new day, and will continue through Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas before the sun sets 35 hours later west of Hawaii.

The annual observance was started in 1948 when European women suggested a day of prayer to help bind up the wounds of World War II. Mrs. Kerstin Ruden of Sweden who attended the original planning session in London, is author of this year's Day of Prayer program, "A Future and a Hope," based on Jeremiah 29:1-14.

Mrs. Mathis said that the program has been translated into a hundred languages, and more than 100,000 copies have been distributed.

"Observance of the day was never more important than this year," Mrs. Mathis said. "We need the spirit of togetherness that we find in a day of universal prayer. And we need also the collection of offerings which will enable the Women's department to carry on its work of spiritual fellowship in remote areas of the world. Last year's offerings have enabled us to bring large numbers of women from Eastern Europe and from all of Africa together in continental meetings during 1977. Other continental meetings are slated in Asia, Latin America, and the Southwest Pacific in 1978."

The North American Baptist Women's Union is to meet October 12-15, 1977, at Freeport, Bahamas.

Three Texas Editors Ask
ABC To Scrub "Soap"

-30-

Baptist Press
9/29/77

DALLAS (BP)--The editors of three Texas religious newsweeklies temporarily laid aside their theological differences in Dallas this week to jointly urge a speedy death for "Soap," ABC Television's new sex-oriented comedy series.

Presnall H. Wood of the Baptist Standard, Spurgeon M. Dunnam, III of The Texas Methodist and Steve Landregan of The Texas Catholic, issued a statement predicting other similar "spin-offs" and "Soap imitations" should the show prove to be a success.

They asked their subscribers--more than 800,000 weekly in combined circulation--to refuse to watch such programs, to write letters to sponsors and boycott their products and to write letters of protest to local television stations.

Prompt action is imperative, they said, to curb "an obvious trend toward...programs which exploit sexual themes."

"'Soap' has become more than a single television program. It has become a symbol of the type of television program we may expect to be offered in large doses in the future," the editors stated.

"It is increasingly evident," they continued, "that the television networks will not alter their basic approach to television programming--an approach which presents a shallow and distorted picture of life--so long as viewer and commercial sponsors continue to tolerate the present menu. The networks do listen to the opinions of their commercial sponsors. It is therefore essential that sponsors accept responsibility for the content of programs where their commercial messages are placed.

The editors called on their readers to (1) refuse to watch programs whose content is morally objectionable; (2) write letters to the commercial sponsors expressing your intention not to buy their products so long as they continue to sponsor such programs; and (3) write letters to local television stations telling why such programs are objectionable and should not be shown.