

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 3, 1978

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**Directors of Missions Set
Conference in Decatur**

DECATUR, Ga. (BP)--Directors of missions from Baptist associations across the country will gather at Rainbow Park Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., June 11-12, for the 17th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions.

The meeting is one of a number of meetings surrounding the annual sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 13-15, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

Theme for the two-day conference, which convenes at 3:30 p.m., June 11, in this Atlanta suburb, is "Directors of Missions in Bold Mission." It relates to the Bold Mission Thrust goal of the Southern Baptist Convention to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world by the year 2000.

Program personnel include Russell Dilday, president-elect of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Loyd Corder, director of division of associational missions, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Russell Bennett, director of supervised ministry studies, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Glendon McCullough, executive director, Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tenn.; Harold Gregory, retired director of missions, Nashville, Tenn.

Also Cline Borders, superintendent of missions, Shelby, N. C.; Robert Dale, professor, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.; William Hale, professor, University of Georgia, Atlanta; Tom Roote, director of missions, Birmingham, Ala., and president of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions; Eddie Gilstrap, director of missions, Atlanta; George Bullard Jr., director of missions, Baltimore, Md.; Frank Boggs, concert artist, Westminster Schools, Atlanta; Betty Coble, author, Westminster, Calif.; and Charles McMillan, director of associational missions, Graham, N. C.

Rainbow Park Baptist Church is at 2941 Columbia Drive, Decatur. Gene Tyre is pastor.

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**Missouri Baptist
Leader Dies**Baptist Press
4/3/78

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Arthur R. Hicks, director of the Missouri Baptist Convention Sunday School Department for 24 years, died March 23 in Missouri Baptist Hospital after an extended illness. Hicks was 70 years old.

Hicks, who earned bachelor of divinity and master of religious education degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, came to the Sunday School department in 1950. He was pastor of churches in Illinois, Texas and Missouri.

He is survived by his wife, Marie; two sons, Darryl and Kent of Warrenton, Mo.; one grandson, Tad, also of Warrenton; and one brother of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

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S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

SBC Contributions Continue To Rise After 6 Months

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--National Southern Baptist Convention receipts total \$28,269,406 in Cooperative Program budget contributions and \$59,425,427 in total contributions after the first six months of the 1977-78 fiscal year.

Total contributions include the Cooperative Program figure, made up of undesignated contributions for world mission needs of SBC agencies, and another \$31,156,021 in designated contributions.

The Cooperative Program figure is running 9.34 percent ahead of the same period last year, and the total contributions show a 10.38 percent increase.

During March, the sixth month of the fiscal year, Cooperative Program contributions totaled \$4,740,260, or 15.26 percent ahead of March, 1977, and total gifts amounted to \$11,743,402, or 15.20 percent ahead of last March. The total gifts included \$7,003,142 in designated gifts, a 15.16 percent increase over last March.

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Carter Visit Points Up Role Of Baptists in West Africa

Baptist Press
4/3/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--President Jimmy Carter's visit with the heads of state of Nigeria and Liberia, both of whom are Baptists, points up the prominence of Baptists in these two West African nations, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board official believes.

John E. Mills, the board's area secretary for West Africa, said the visit of Carter, an active Southern Baptist, will give Baptists in West Africa a "new sense of pride and a new sense of prominence."

The president, who stopped in Nigeria and Liberia on the final swing of his seven-day tour of South America and Africa, attended church April 2 with the Nigerian head of state, Olusegun Obasanjo, at the First Baptist Church in Lagos.

The historic church building was completed in 1887 from materials which early-day Southern Baptist Missionary W. J. David of Mississippi took from America on a sailing vessel in 1885. Its tower is a Lagos landmark and can be seen several miles out to sea.

Obasanjo worships regularly in Baptist services, including the influential First Church of Lagos. His chaplain, Solomon Abegunde, was pastor of the Lagos church before he moved to Ogbomosho to do translation work. Abegunde travels to Lagos each weekend to hold services for Obasanjo and others at the military barracks where the Nigerian head of state has his headquarters.

Southern Baptist work in Nigeria dates back to 1850. At the end of 1977, the Nigerian Baptist Convention reported 780 churches, 1,620 mission points, and a membership of 200,000. That makes it one of the 10 leading Baptist populations in the world, according to Baptist World Alliance figures.

In Liberia, Carter met with President William R. Tolbert Jr., who also is a Baptist pastor, president of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Education Convention and a former president of the Baptist World Alliance. The Liberian convention has 160 churches, 34 mission points and a membership of 30,000.

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Christians Thrive Despite Persecution in Uganda

Baptist Press
4/3/78

DALLAS (BP)--Idi Amin will change his policies only when Americans and other concerned people back their high sounding statements with positive actions, a Ugandan refugee and church leader told the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

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Kefa Sempangi, pastor of the Redeemed Church of Uganda, who said he narrowly escaped death at the hands of assassins, addressed the commission and its board of consultants on human rights.

Sempangi said the most immediate action Christians can take concerning Uganda is to support legislation in Congress supporting a boycott of Ugandan coffee, which 32 U. S. companies distribute.

U. S. Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., R., Conn., introduced three bills, S2414 urging boycott of coffee, S2413 which would prohibit export of U. S. goods to Uganda, and S2412 which would prohibit all imports from Uganda. Similar legislation was introduced in the House by U. S. Rep. Donald J. Pease, D., Ohio.--H.R. 9522(exports), H.R. 9524 (imports) and H. R. 9526 (coffee).

"The government takes the money from the sale of coffee and gives the people empty vouchers," said Sempangi. "If the growers complain, they will be beaten or killed."

The Ugandan pastor said he was marked for assassination after he started an orphanage for children of people murdered by Ugandan mercenaries.

The first effort to kill him came as he prepared to preach to thousands of people gathered for an Easter service in 1972. Five assassins surrounded him with their guns, told him they had come to kill him and asked if he had any last words.

"I'm already dead," he replied, "dead and buried in Jesus, but I would like to pray for you. Bow your heads."

The men lowered their guns and he prayed for their souls.

"God intervened," said Sempangi, and the would be assassins were converted. They became counter agents and were responsible for helping to save more than 1,000 marked people, including Sempangi and his family.

Instead of obliterating Christians in Uganda, said Sempangi, persecution has caused their numbers to increase from 52 percent before the persecution to 65 percent.

"There's something about persecution that's essential to the Christian life," said Sempangi. "People flocked to the church, though they knew the price of commitment was death."

Sempangi, who challenged Christians to show willingness to go personally as missionaries to help suffering people, said he hopes to build medical clinics and other facilities for use by the hundreds of doctors and other professional people among the 30,000 Ugandan refugees living in Kenya.

"This will provide a means for them to serve until things change in Uganda and they can return home," he said.

He outlined some inconsistencies in world response to Amin, noting that Great Britain withdrew diplomatic relations with Uganda but still continues regular shipments of whiskey.

He said "Amin's pilots were being trained in Texas," while President Carter was declaring that the murder last year in Uganda of Archbishop Luwum disgusted the entire civilized world.

Addressing himself to Amin's religion, Sempangi said the Ugandan president-for-life professes to be a Moslem because he needs the support of the Arabs but that he actually practices witchcraft.

NAACP Leader Claims
Civil Rights Regressing

DALLAS (BP)--The civil rights climate in America has regressed, according to NAACP leader Richard Dockery.

Dockery told the Christian Life Commission of the Texas Baptist Convention that "institutional racism" has replaced the individual racism apparent in America before the civil rights movement began nearly three decades ago.

He said the unemployment rate for blacks is more than double the national average, and many blacks are fired from their jobs for flimsy reasons. He claimed the quality of education has diminished and millions of black Americans can't afford the health care they need.

Dockery charged that jobs for teen-agers through federal work projects are given to the "banker's kids." "We have the black kids there, but they never get any of the jobs," said the NAACP regional director.

At the beginning of the civil rights movement, said Dockery, people wanted to show their hearts were right. The media gave the problems a high visibility.

"But the pendulum has swung back and hearts have gone back to being cold and hard. It's national sickness and the only cure is the medicine invoked through spiritual compassion."

He said the involvement of churches in the racial problems must go beyond the exchange of pulpits and called for holding inter-group services as often as possible, and for Southern Baptist churches to support programs of black Baptists in their areas.

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Florida Stops
Bond Sales

Baptist Press
4/3/78

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)--Cease and desist orders have been issued by the state of Florida against three organizations to stop the sale of religious securities.

The Michigan Baptist Foundation, a Florida corporation with offices in Fort Myers; University Prep, Inc., of Orlando; and the Oxford Foundation of Leesburg sold bonds under an exemption from Florida security registration and disclosure laws accorded religious and non-profit groups without disclosing required data to investors, according to a report in Religious News Service.

Two civil suits also were filed against the Michigan Baptist Foundation, associated with the American Baptist Church, claiming it had issued an estimated \$9.1 million in bonds to finance construction of a retirement center in west Florida.

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At 113, She's
Still Active

Baptist Press

COLLINSVILLE, Ill. (BP)--Helen Rushing, 113 on April 20, may be the oldest Southern Baptist active in church.

Mrs. Rushing, a member of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Collinsville, Ill., transferred her letter of membership there when she was 105. Mrs. Ralph Dollar, the pastor's wife, brings her to Sunday School and church "nearly every Sunday" from the Colonial Nursing Home. Mrs. Rushing is also active in church training and evening services.

Mrs. Dollar usually plans a birthday party for Mrs. Rushing, whose husband and four children died about 75 years ago.

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