

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 15, 1978

78-76

**Plan Announced To Combat
Church Training Crisis**

By Bracey Campbell

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss. (BP)--The decline in church training involvement by Southern Baptists is producing a "generation of theological ignoramus," Baptist Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen told 50 church training leaders at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

"I've been at the Sunday School Board for four years, and I've seen and heard a great deal about new programs, but I've seen and heard nothing that can take the place of training at the local church level," Cothen told representatives of the state Baptist conventions and workers from the church training department at the Nashville-based board.

Roy Edgemon, named to head the board's church training department in December, told the leaders that Equipping Centers--a training concept to be introduced in 1979--will revitalize church training.

The board developed Equipping Centers because many Southern Baptist churches have dropped or greatly reduced their church training programs. The cutbacks have resulted in millions of Southern Baptists who are untrained in biblical doctrine, church operations, Christian ethics and other vital elements of church and Christian life.

"I believe Southern Baptists are getting the message that something is missing," Edgemon said. Cothen added that he has been encouraged over the last six months with the "surge I have seen in a number of churches, as pastors and lay persons realize that training is a must."

Regular study of systematic theology, Edgemon said, is one of the most important elements in the life of the local church. "One of our biggest problems is that we're not equipping people who are saved in the survival of their faith. We're saving people tonight," he said, "but not doing anything tomorrow to help them."

He said Southern Baptists must move to a climate of growth and training and that Equipping Centers will help churches reach that climate.

The Equipping Center is made up of a group of units or courses of study built around a basic subject area, utilizing a number of learning approaches, said Tommy Dixon, church training department staff member who helped develop the equipping concept.

The first six under preparation include Christian doctrine, family life, missions, evangelism, church growth, church and community leadership. The distinctives of the new approach are short-term training options, flexible schedules, a variety of resources, specialized training and minimal organization.

Dixon said testing for the concept took place over 200 churches in six conventions. Training in the use and understanding of the centers will begin in June and carry through the time of widespread implementation in October, 1979.

Cothen, alluding to "Hustler" publisher Larry Flynt, said the world was recently treated to the "spectacle of a man who had made his living selling pornography announcing that he had been born again... And then the same man said he would continue selling pornography in the name of Jesus. Why? Because he knows no better; he had no training," Cothen said.

DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY—more—
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Emphasis on spiritual and doctrinal education is imperative to the continuation of Southern Baptists, Cothen said. "There's a lack of balance when we have people singing like angels on Sunday and living like the devil for the remainder of the week. "

He told the training secretaries that they hold the key to successfully broadcasting the message of what is being done to revitalize training. "I have a major concern that many of you are assigned other tasks that take you away from this responsibility," he said, noting that he will continue talking to the state Baptist leaders about freeing church training personnel from other responsibilities.

"We have to get the message across that church training is more than a Sunday night organization," he said. "It has to be a consuming passion with all of us. The good news I have for you is that we have a leader in Roy Edgemon who is in touch with missions, people and the Lord."

Because of Edgemon, "I come to you with a renewed hope and commitment to the task," Cothen said. "The programs and plans they have for you will help all of us move back into a spirit of training."

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Routh Recovers After
Illness at Wake Forest

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5/15/78

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (BP)--Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, became ill while delivering the baccalaureate address at Wake Forest University but apparently suffered no ill effects.

Physicians reported that the dizziness resulted from dehydration from a virus and that Routh, 66, has no serious medical problem.

Routh, at the Baptist college to speak and receive an honorary doctorate, stopped about two-thirds through his speech and gripped the podium as faculty and some 950 graduates watched.

Dr. Richard Janeway, dean of the university's Bowman-Gray School of Medicine, seated on the platform, rushed to his assistance, administered aid and helped him walk off the stage. Routh was admitted to Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, but tests revealed no serious illness.

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SBC Bus Routes To Serve
Baptist Centers In Atlanta

Baptist Press
5/15/78

ATLANTA (BP)--Bus routes serving two major points of Baptist interest in Atlanta have been added for convenience of messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Georgia's capitol city, June 13-15.

The SBC transportation committee has arranged for buses to pickup and deliver SBC messengers at the SBC Home Mission Board building, 1350 Spring St., N.W., in downtown Atlanta and the Georgia Baptist Center, 2930 Flowers Rd. S., in northeast Atlanta.

Tom Duvall, chairman of the SBC transportation committee, said, "So many messengers want to visit the Home Mission Board, and so many are booked in motels near the Georgia Baptist Center, we decided to schedule regular bus stops at both places."

Both Baptist agencies have open houses planned for Wednesday afternoon, when no SBC sessions are scheduled. Buses will leave the Georgia World Congress Center, where the SBC meets, going to and from the Home Mission Board and Georgia Baptist Center between 1:30 and 5:30 Wednesday afternoon.

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Duvall repeated an earlier appeal for SBC messengers to use charter buses going from major downtown hotels to the World Congress Center. Fare will be 35 cents each way.

"Many parking places exist around the World Congress Center," Duvall explained. "But people who work every day in downtown Atlanta use them. We urge SBC messengers to ride buses going from their hotels to the center."

Four major bus routes have been established, serving 28 hotels where SBC messengers are registered in significant numbers. Other routes may be added at the last minute. Routes will be dropped if usage is too limited.

Duvall urged SBC messengers not staying in close-in motels to park cars in the Atlanta Civic Center parking lot (\$1 per day) and ride SBC shuttle buses to the World Congress Center. The civic center is at the corner of Piedmont and Forrest avenues.

Bus service will start one hour before each SBC session and continue for 30 minutes after each session closes.

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'Brush Arbor' Expresses
Guatemalan Bold Missions

By A. Clark Scanlon

Baptist Press
5/15/78

SEBOL, Guatemala (BP)--Most Americans of current generations have heard their grandparents tell about the old-time brush arbor meetings.

The phenomenon of families traveling in wagons from miles around to meet with friends and join in several days of fellowship, dinner on the grounds and gospel preaching went out in most parts with the turn of the century, the coming of the automobile and the advent of radio.

Not so in Guatemala. One recent Saturday evening more than 950 Kekchi Baptists and friends crowded under a palm branch arbor to kick off a spiritual emphasis initiating a movement to win 100,000 Kekchi Indians to Christ in the next 10 years. Southern Baptist missionaries Richard R. Greenwood and Wendall and Jane Parker helped Kekchi Baptists organize the conference.

The arbor, made of palm branches, spread over ropes that extended from poles set in the soil. By day, the leaves provided protection against hot tropical sun and by night, gave hanging space to about 30 light bulbs. The arbor was constructed in a single day. Complete families of men, women, young people and children came on foot, by dugout canoes and by bus.

The conference, largely directed and paid for by the Kekchi Christians, included a musical group of third generation Christians from San Pedro la Laguna, an Indian village of the Tzutuhil Tribe, where the Guatemalan Baptist Convention was organized in 1946.

Missionary Donnell N. Courtney translated the message of new Southern Baptist missionary doctor Charles G. Norwood who was making a get-acquainted visit. He is seeking permission to practice rural, itinerant medicine in Guatemala, where he will train pastors and lay leaders in paramedical techniques. Norwood's ministry will add another dimension to the active program of family evangelism that is bringing hundreds into the Christian life and church membership each year.

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A. Clark Scanlon is Southern Baptist field representative for Middle America.

(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state newspapers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

Transplanted Texas Baptists
Launch Illinois Church

WOODBIDGE, Ill. (BP)--Two years ago, a handful of Southern Baptists from Texas, led by their pastor, formed Berea Baptist Church in this community on the southwest fringe of Greater Chicago.

During that time Frank Radcliff and a team of laymen, who quit their jobs and sold their homes in Amarillo, Texas, to follow their pastor to Woodbridge, Ill., have also formed the nucleus of two area other Baptist churches.

In May, the Berea congregation marked its second anniversary with an attendance of 880--"the highest attendance of any Southern Baptist church in the state on that particular Sunday," said Robert J. Hastings, editor of the "Illinois Baptist." Some 420 of the total rode the church's 10 buses and vans. The crowd was so large that the church rented a high school in the neighboring community of Downer's Grove for the day.

"We're part of the (Southern Baptist Convention's) Bold Mission Thrust" (to evangelize the world in this century), pastor Frank Radcliff told his growing congregation. "Two years ago, God spoke to our hearts about starting a church in this area. We wanted to minister to everyone--the deaf, the lame, the educably slow, the aged, the alcoholics, the red, the white, the black, the yellow, the brown, the rich, and the poor."

Radcliff, who moved to northern Illinois three years ago from the pastorate of the Hillcrest Baptist Church in Amarillo, was joined by five families and three other persons. The Texans quickly found jobs in the Chicago area and helped form the nucleus of the three new churches in which Radcliff pioneered.

At the anniversary service, the Berea Baptist Church burned a \$70,000 note, erasing all indebtedness on the first unit of their own building--a "gymatorium" which doubles for worship and activities.

How the church found its eight-acre site is a story in itself.

In the summer of 1976, members distributed 10,000 New Testaments, door to door, within a five-mile radius. One large home they visited was located on a spacious, eight-acre estate. The woman who lived there was so impressed that she not only joined Berea Church, but later sold them her property, well below appraised cost, as a building site.

The 5,000 square-foot home in which she lived served as their first meeting place. And a large barn has been completely renovated for a Christian day school, which offers classes from kindergarten through high school.

Just a few days before the second anniversary service, local authorities inspected and approved the renovated barn, as meeting all safety and building codes.

As a climax of their second anniversary, Berea Baptist Church began a Sunday night television program over Channel 38, a Christian station in Chicago. The \$400 an hour cost of the program doesn't seem to bother this church. They've sort of gotten used to miracles.

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Pastor's Porn Fight
Ends With Victory

Baptist Press
5/15/78

PISMO BEACH, Calif. (BP)--With the passage of an "emergency ordinance" that has effectively stopped the showing of "XXX" movies in Pismo Beach, Larry Lorenz' 10-month battle has ended.

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Lorenz, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in neighboring Arroyo Grande, has been spit on, kicked, verbally abused and assaulted with a crowbar since he began a concentrated effort against pornography in Pismo Beach.

He has most recently been threaten with a libel suit by Joe Songer, owner of the Central Coast Theater which showed "PG" movies during the day but "XXX" movies on weekend nights. Lorenz called the threat "just another of one of Songer's scare tactics."

Threat of a libel suit is not likely to scare off Lorenz whose church was shot at and who was assaulted in a picket line by an escaped convicted murderer with a crowbar. Picketers, who walked in front of the theater every weekend from Oct. 22, 1977 until the ordinance was passed at the end of April, were threatened and were the targets of indecent exposure.

Criticism of their efforts also came from some church members in the coastal area, including pastors who have not seen eye-to-eye with the public protest. There have been suggestions that "the reverend stay inside his church and preach the word of God instead of getting involved with community problems."

Lorenz attributes the passage of the ordinance to three new city council members who ran with pornography as a major platform issue. The ordinance banned the triple-X films from Pismo Beach effective May 25 but the pornographic shows stopped immediately after passage, according to Lorenz, who said the Central Coast Theater was the only one in town showing the films and that there are no adult book stores there.

Lorenz is now turning his efforts toward the adult magazines displayed in and sold in local supermarkets and liquor stores.

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"Liberated" Baptist Woman
Named Mother of the Year

Baptist Press
5/15/78

DES MOINES, Iowa (BP)--Mrs. John McCall, a 56-year-old Memphis, Tenn., mother who said she considers herself "liberated through Jesus," has been named American mother of the year by the American Mothers Committee.

Mrs. McCall, member of a prominent Baptist family, said her faith was put to test seven months ago when she discovered she had an ovarian carcinoma, a form of cancer, which had spread throughout her abdomen. But she has learned to cope with her problem through faith in God and Christ.

Mrs. McCall was selected to receive the award during the national convention of the American Mother's Committee which made the selection from a field of 50 state winners in the "senior" division--women whose children are 15 or older.

The mother of three is married to Dr. John W. McCall Jr., medical director of health services for Memphis State University. Both are active members of First Baptist Church, Memphis. McCall's brother, Duke K. McCall is president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

They have two sons and one daughter--John McCall III, is acting director of research and grants at North Texas State University, Denton, Texas; Dr. Tim McCall, is a surgical resident at Campbell Clinic in Memphis; and Mrs. Carol Richardson is a speech pathologist.

"My husband and I have had different roads," she said. "I have always had my own path in life. My husband has had his. He is a surgeon and has had to make his decisions and I have made mine in the home. I consider being a mother a vocation.

"I have always said, 'as go the homes, so goes the nation.' Now I believe, 'as go the mothers, so goes the nation.' I think motherhood and the family will remain important and necessary no matter what the social mores are."

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She was selected on the basis of community involvement, achievement of her children, embodiment of traits, such as courage, cheerfulness, patience, homemaking ability, letters of recommendation, and a three-minute speech entitled "The Highlights of My Career as a Mother."

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Registration Requires
Messenger Credentials

Baptist Press
5/15/78

NASHVILLE(BP)--Messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 13-15, at the Georgia World Congress Center, must have proper credentials for registration, which begins at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 11.

Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, urged churches to elect messengers in business meetings and to see that they come with proper credentials.

"Registration cards are available from the executive secretary of each state Baptist convention," Porter said. "Each messenger should fill it out in detail, be sure it is signed by the pastor or the church clerk, and present it to a registration clerk at a registration booth in order to receive a copy of the convention program, a messenger identification badge and computer-card ballots for voting.

"A messenger who comes to the convention without proper credentials must apply to the credentials committee for registration," Porter said.

He said each church is entitled to a minimum of one messenger and a maximum of 10 under the SBC constitution. Every cooperating and contributing SBC church may send one messenger and one additional one--up to the maximum--for every 250 members or \$250 in contributions to the work of the convention during the fiscal year preceding the meeting.

Messengers who lose identification badges or ballots will not have them replaced, Porter said, to protect the integrity of the voting process during the convention. He said copies of the SBC "Book of Reports," which contains important information on convention business, will be available for \$1 each at the time of registration.

He urged messengers to give hotel, motel or other local address on the bottom of registration cards, to be used in case of emergencies, and to register as soon as they arrive in Atlanta.

"Due to the anticipated large number of messengers, we decided to begin registration Sunday, rather than Monday, at the Georgia World Congress Center," he explained. Registration will be open through evening sessions of the SBC Pastors' Conference on Sunday and continue until the last day of the convention.

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Hepburn Named PR
Director in California

Baptist Press
5/15/78

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--Donald S. Hepburn, director of communications at Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, has been named to direct the new office of communications and public relations for the Baptist General Convention of California, effective June 1.

Hepburn, 30, joined the Southwestern Seminary staff in 1970 as a student public relations assistant and became director of communications in 1972. Before coming to Southwestern, he held positions, while a student, as public relations assistant, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.; news director, Hancock County (Tenn.) Drama Association; public affairs specialist for a radio station; and minister of youth at Greenwich (Conn.) Baptist Church.

He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and holds the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary. He is accredited by the Public Relations Society of America and currently serves as treasurer of the Baptist Public Relations Association.

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Allen Sets Prayer Day
For Bold Mission Thrust

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy R. Allen has proclaimed Sunday, June 11, 1978, as a Day of Prayer for Spiritual Awakening and has urged SBC churches to hold special prayer sessions.

Allen's proclamation came in response to a motion at the 1977 SBC meeting in Kansas City, Mo., calling for a day of prayer for Bold Mission Thrust during the 1978 and 1979 SBC meetings. Bold Mission Thrust is the SBC plan to evangelize the world in this century.

The Kansas City motion also urged the SBC Committee on Order of Business to hold prayer meetings for Bold Mission Thrust sometime during the 1978 and 1979 meetings and asked appropriate SBC agencies to develop guidelines for the day of prayer in local churches.

Forrest Feezor of Shelby, N. C., retired executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will conduct a Prayer Service for Spiritual Awakening at 3:45 p.m., Thursday, June 15, during the 1978 convention. It will follow an address by Martin Luther King Sr. of Atlanta on "America's Need for Spiritual Awakening."

Allen's proclamation requests "our more than 35,000 churches to have special sessions of prayer on that day (June 11) for our nation, for the peoples of the world, and for messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in annual sessions that week (June 13-15) in Atlanta."

He said the nation needs spiritual awakening "as evidenced in the moral chaos of our people," and that "spiritual awakening does not come by the machinations of men but by the movements of the spirit of God." He urged prayer "that Bold Mission Thrust might become an avenue" for spiritual awakening.

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Californians Counter 1981
SBC Cancellation Proposal

Baptist Press
5/15/78

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of California has countered a proposal from an Alabama Baptist leader who urged cancellation of the 1981 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Los Angeles.

George Bagley, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist Convention, urged recently that the convention be cancelled and "the millions of dollars" spent on it be used in establishing churches in the west and northwest as part of the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust.

While commending Bagley for his concern for mission work in the west, the California executive board expressed doubt that the idea would be approved. It asked, instead, that Southern Baptists coming to the convention plan to share with western Southern Baptists in Bold Mission Thrust in every way possible during the time they spend in the area.

Bold Mission Thrust is the SBC plan to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by the year 2000.

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On-The-Spot Sears Commercial
Puts Couple Through Seminary

By Nancy McGough

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Appearing in a television commercial is not the usual way students work their way through seminary.

But for John and Patty Brantley, a one-minute on-the-spot commercial made by Sears has helped them do just that.

The Georgia natives were interviewed while shopping in a Sears store in Atlanta, Ga., two years ago, and their "spot" has since been shown around the country. Checks sent to them each time their commercial is used have helped them get through two years at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where Brantley is a theology student.

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The young couple had been married just five months when they went to Sears in March, 1976, to make a payment on a sewing machine. A woman stopped them at the top of an escalator and asked if they generally shop at Sears, and if so why.

When they said yes, she had them talk to her supervisor, who was part of an advertising team making television commercials.

"We were filmed that afternoon," John said. "They paid us \$20, and we signed some release papers. We didn't expect to hear anything else. We just thought it was a fun experience, and we went out to dinner with the money we made."

Two months later they learned their film had been chosen to appear on television. Soon they began receiving checks in the mail, and the money helped them move to Southern Seminary that fall.

Besides the financial help, Brantley noted another benefit of the commercial is the people he's met through it.

"I've gotten to know a lot of people who've stopped me and said, 'Haven't I seen you on TV?'"

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Senior Adults Deliver Own
Missions Gifts To Bahamas

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
5/15/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Bold Mission came alive recently for 174 senior adults participating in a cruise to the Bahamas.

Missions gifts took the form of trumpets, trombones, clarinets, flutes, one accordion and tamborine--in all, 41 band instruments that the senior adults from 18 states gave to the Bahamas National Baptist and Missionary Education Convention.

The instruments will be used to start two bands--one for Baptist church members and one for inmates in the Bahamas prison.

Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department, the cruise was designed primarily to provide fellowship, Bible study and opportunities for senior adults to meet Southern Baptist missionaries.

For this year's third annual cruise, Director Adelle Carlson decided to let participants experience missions first hand. She received a long list of needs from the Foreign Mission Board and decided band instruments for the Bahamas seemed the right request to fill because the senior adults could personally deliver their gifts.

Each cruise registrant was asked to search their attics, make announcements in their churches, collect used instruments and bring them along as baggage. Thirteen senior adults from First Baptist Church, Rome, Ga., made collecting band instruments a group project. Kenneth Moyers, minister of music at the church and worship leader for the cruise, purchased used cases for some of the instruments.

While docked in Nassau on the second night of the cruise, the senior adults presented their gift following a concert by the Bahamian United Baptist Choir.

The 41 instruments were carried in and laid on the ballroom stage which temporarily became an altar. Horace Kerr, senior adult section supervisor at the Sunday School Board, formally presented the instruments to R. E. Cooper and Michael C. Symonette, president emeritus and executive secretary of the Baptist Convention. The local Baptist prison chaplain also was present.

"I've never seen a group more appreciative. There was an electric atmosphere. It was also exciting for our people to see the impact of their gift," Kerr said.

"I think the tangible evidence of caring meant everything," Miss Carlson said. "We feel these senior adults practiced what we're preaching on Bold Mission Thrust." (SBC goal to present the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000)



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