



BAPTIST PRESS

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June 7, 1978

78-91

2,100 Attend Opening
Youth Week At Glorieta

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Church training director Roy Edgemon compared the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" with the Christian experience when he opened "Youth Week, the first full session of the summer program at the Glorieta Baptist Conference Center for 2,100 young people from around the country.

Edgemon said there are parallels between the popular science fiction movie where people are drawn strangely and surely to a mountain, and in the Christian experience where people are drawn to the cross.

"Intensity and quality in living, not piling up years is what makes a life worthwhile," he told the crowd, which was slightly larger than for the same conference last year.

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N.C. General Board
Approves Compromise

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6/7/78

MURFREESBORO, N.C. (BP)--The general board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has approved the "compromise decision" reached by its executive committee and trustees of Wake Forest University March 10.

An authority crises between Wake Forest trustees and Baptist state convention leadership erupted last Dec. 9 when a majority of trustees voted to accept without restriction a \$299,600 grant from the National Science Foundation. Messengers of the state convention had requested in November that Wake Forest not spend a designated \$85,000 of the grant on an animal care-green house facility.

Wake Forest trustees however voted to use the entire grant, including the \$85,000 for the biology department facility.

General board members okayed the compromise between their executive committee and Wake Forest trustees in which WFU agreed to spend \$85,000 from university funds to symbolically replace the money spent for the animal care facility. They also agreed to lengthen by one year the research program financed by the rest of the National Science Foundation grant. The chairman of the Wake Forest-Convention relationship committee, Tom Dorman, told the general board that attitudes seem improved between the university and Baptists in the state since the grant issue. "The event tested our ties and found them stronger than many believed them to be," he said.

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Deeper Commitment Goal
For Convention Participants

By Bracey Campbell

Baptist Press
6/7/78

ATLANTA (BP)--If messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention leave with a deeper commitment and a feeling that the convention was not staged only for and by preachers, a little lady in North Carolina will be happy.

Mrs. Marian Grant has worked for a year at the helm of the order of business committee. And--as the first woman to hold the strategic post--she has made it her business to take the June 13-15 convention to the grassroots level of the Southern Baptist world.

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"We want to show messengers the type of Baptist who normally do not get displayed-- the type that is all over this world working for our Lord," she said. "And, we want the people who will be heard in person and on film to inspire all who see them to go home and make the goal of Bold Mission Thrust (SBC goal to win the world to Christ by the year 2000) a reality."

Mrs. Grant set her sights on the "grassroots format" when the major response to a request she made through state Baptist newspapers for program suggestions was a call to involve lay persons.

She said messengers will see a program that has moved away from the tradition of spotlighting one agency during a session to creating a mix, "so that parts of the entire Baptist picture can be seen at every session."

Mrs. Grant, in attempting to work out every detail of the meeting, went so far as to tell the 12 former convention presidents that their greetings to the messengers would be limited to one minute each.

"She told them to hold a watch on one another, to avoid cutting into each other's time," laughed Marse Grant, Marian's husband and editor of the "Biblical Recorder" in North Carolina.

Mrs. Grant said Baptists are facing a greater challenge than ever before, particularly in the homes with "women trying to find themselves and men attempting to adjust to that search."

"When you couple that revolution with the problems of alcohol and the decline in moral values of our young people, then you see why so many marriages are going by the wayside."

"But," the energetic grandmother continued, "I also sense a deeper commitment among Southern Baptists than at any other time in my memory. I think President Carter (a Southern Baptist) and Jimmy Allen (SBC president) have had a lot to do with helping us pull together over the last two years."

Mrs. Grant said organizing the convention had been a joint effort on the part of many persons.

"It would be impossible to name them all, but if we are successful it will be because of the efforts on the part of persons who didn't want a lot of credit...just to be involved."

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Ordained Couple
Shares Pulpit

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WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Preaching was a family affair at the Lilesville Baptist Church revival recently. Michael and Arlene Macon, both ordained ministers, led the services.

"We each preached two sermons," Arlene explains, "as well as doing a dialogue-type presentation together. The people responded well and the dialogue sermon especially captured the attention of the youth."

The Macons have shared the pulpit on other occasions in North and South Carolina, and have always found people to be receptive and supportive of Arlene's role as a woman in ministry. She holds the doctor of ministry degree and he the master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"My style is not to push women's lib," she says. "I'm not into that. I'm a person who has a message, rather than a female who's out to prove something. God created me as a woman and has given me the same gospel available to anyone else."

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Macon said that he's enjoyed sharing the pulpit with Arlene. "I've learned that a woman's view adds new insight to a gospel that calls for both masculine and feminine interpretations."

"Our world is going to be in the same ball park," he continued, "and we have a feeling that we've been put together for a purpose. Before we were married we discussed the idea of two ordained persons in the same family. I've had no difficulty in accepting Arlene as a professional."

"Because of her training and our husband-wife relationship, I value Arlene's insights into my sermons. It's especially helpful to me for her to sense the feeling of the people in the pew. Also, her natural ability in counseling will complement my own ministry. Ours is a shared marriage and I don't see any reason why our ministries should be dominated by either of us."

The Macons just joined the staff of Winter Park Baptist Church in Wilmington, N.C. He will be minister of Christian activities, working with the youth and senior adults. Arlene will be minister of education.

Salaries at the Wilmington church will be on an equal basis. They both are grateful that the church "didn't try to get 'two for the price of one'. We'll even get separate pay checks!" Arlene said.

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Church Behind Jesus
In Treatment of Women

By Nancy McGough

Baptist Press
6/7/78

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Following the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Christian church took a giant step backward in its treatment of women, and it still has not come up to his ideal, believes Frank and Evelyn Stagg, whose book, "Woman in the World of Jesus," was published this spring.

Stagg, senior professor at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and his wife noted that Jesus treated women disciples as equal with men disciples--and in fact treated all people as equals--but that the church has never been comfortable with this equality.

"The church never kept pace with Jesus," says Stagg, pointing out that Mary Magdalen was commissioned by the risen Christ to "proclaim to the disciples the basic tenets of the Christian faith, that he is not dead but alive."

In addition, Stagg noted, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to realize the liberty there is in Christ, and led him to write in Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female..." thus showing that, in Christ, sexual distinction is as irrelevant as racial differences or legal status.

However, Stagg noted that later in Paul's ministry, when the church in Corinth began experiencing difficulties with people who saw themselves as spiritual but were actually damaging the structure of the church, he changed his emphasis.

"Paul began to resort to structure and rules to safeguard the church. As structure began to develop, women were ruled out of more and more positions," added Mrs. Stagg.

Despite the church's retreat from Jesus' ideal for women, it still rose ahead of some of the practices of contemporary Judaism, Stagg noted. Although a few women in Jewish history were prophetesses (preachers), judges, hymnwriters and rulers, most were in the background of Jewish life. They were not allowed to touch the scriptures, and they were not customarily allowed to talk with men in public.

"It would have been amazing if Jesus, who came out of this background, had brought forward the place of women even a little. But to be so different, for him to be so natural in his treatment of women--it's breathtaking, it's overwhelming," said Mrs. Stagg.

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"In so many areas we affirm Jesus ideally, but practically we fall short," observed Stagg. "In race relations, in our treatment of women in the church, in the matter of money--we struggle between the example of Jesus and our own human frailty."

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SBC Signees Oppose
Nuclear Proliferation

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6/7/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Five Southern Baptists are among the signers of "A Call to Faith" opposing the "research, development, testing, production, deployment and actual use of nuclear weapons."

The statement, using strong biblical terminology, calls America's security systems "demonic" and says the nation is "possessed" by the spiralling momentum of nuclear weapons production.

"Most Christians have ignored the strong biblical warnings against placing our trust in weapons of war," the statement admonishes. It says many leading scientists and arms control experts now call nuclear war "probable" by the end of the century.

The signees call upon those who preach the gospel to "make it clear that to turn to Christ will lead us to turn from the acceptance of nuclear weapons, so that converts become known as peacemakers."

The statement indicates America should have absolutely nothing to do with nuclear weapons of any kind and should take the initiative to eliminate them from the earth.

Among the signers was Bob Adams, professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; John R. Claypool, pastor of Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss.; James M. Dunn, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission; D. Glen Saul, professor of Christian ethics at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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Students Get
CP 'Check'

Baptist Press
6/7/78

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C. looked twice recently when they got a "check" for \$1,763.80. Although the "check" couldn't be cashed, it did tell the story of how much money the Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists had put into their seminary education this year.

The "check" from the Cooperative Program represented the difference between the academic and administrative costs of \$2,317.80 at Southeastern for the 1977-78 year and the amount paid by the students and received by the seminary from investments and other income.

In a message which accompanied the "check," President W. Randall Lolley told the students that Southern Baptists in 1977-78 channelled more than \$12,000,000 into the training of ministers.

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CORRECTION:

In (BP) story mailed June 5 under headline "Final Lottie Moon Total Just Under \$32 Million" please change figure in paragraph one to read \$31,938,553 instead of the \$32,938,553 indicated.

Thanks, Baptist Press