

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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78-98

Mrs. Billy Graham
Has Mind Of Her Own

By Irma Duke

ATLANTA (BP)--Although she is married to "the Billy Graham," Ruth Graham says she's never had an identity crisis.

"I grew up as Nelson Bell's daughter and Rosa Bell's sister. Now I'm Billy Graham's wife and my children's mother."

But she has a mind of her own. While her husband was in a crusade in Toronto, Canada, she was a speaker at the closing session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

The ordination of women is one thing Mrs. Graham has a definite opinion about. She says if God had ordination of women in mind, "one of the disciples would have been a woman." She personally prefers to listen to a man preach although she has heard some good women preachers.

By and large, women are better followers than leaders, in Mrs. Graham's opinion. "Ours is a ministry of helping, whether we are single or married."

She does not consider this an inferior role. She says with the exception of her mother, the women that have influenced her life the most have been single women.

"I'm so sold on being a wife and mother that I tend to leave single women out," she confesses. "I don't mean to. I'm only expressing my own joy and satisfaction."

The evangelist's wife says she is for liberation for all people. Everyone should be liberated to become the person the Lord Jesus would have them become.

Mrs. Graham is one woman not threatened by her age. When replying to a question about her husband's age, she says, "He will be 60 in November, and for the record, I am 58." She looks much younger with her shoulder-length brown hair and dark tanned skin.

The Grahams have been married for almost 35 years. Their five children range in age from 20 to 33. With her husband gone much of the time, she had to do much of the rearing of them. She says it was a decided handicap but she did it "with the Lord's help." She believes that if God calls a man to a job, he will make up for the losses to his family.

She says she didn't travel much with Graham while the children were growing up because she wanted to stay with them. "I loved staying home with them."

Even though Graham's time at home has been limited, she says he's been a good husband and father because his time at home has been quality time. "Children don't want their father to be a playmate, they want a father, and he has been that," she explains.

Mrs. Graham has some thoughts about evangelism in China, her native land, too. She was born and grew up in China where her father was a medical missionary. She says if China is ever evangelized, she doesn't think it will be done by "foreign devils," as she was called when she was there. Asiatic Christians are preparing to go in when the doors open and they will be the ones to evangelize China, Mrs. Graham feels.

Even though Graham is 60, his wife says retirement is out of the question.

"He will retire six feet under, no sooner. There's too much to do," she said.

As for a successor, there are hundreds of superb evangelists all over the world, according to Mrs. Graham. "It's a tremendous relief to know that if God called him tomorrow, God's work would still go on.

"He started preaching on a street corner. He may wind up preaching on a street corner."

Family Emphasis Closes
121st Session of SBC

By Debbie Stewart

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists closed their annual meeting here Thursday night with a home-style production showing families with father-and-son law partners in Texas, a husband-and-wife chaplain team in Colorado, and a single adult woman who is a mission volunteer in Canada.

Amidst a cozy setting simulating a front-porch, Baptists talked with each other about working hard for "successful" families, not just dreaming unrealistically of perfect families.

Mrs. Ruth Graham, wife of Evangelist Billy Graham, and D. Elton Trueblood, Quaker philosopher and author, were there to talk about their families.

Mrs. Graham said that her childhood in China as the daughter of Presbyterian missionaries, taught her life-sustaining Christian values that still sustain her.

Anita and Roy Bass of Lubbock, Texas, hosted friendly front porch interviews with Baptist families--generating a family feeling among the 22,000 messengers in the Georgia World Congress Center.

Trueblood shifted the mood to a philosophical gear by directing Christians to be outspoken "nonconformists" to violation of morality. He told them to take a compassionate but firm stance against the practice of living together or "shacking up" without marriage.

Trueblood said he and his wife, Virginia, will devote every minute of several weeks this summer to fellowship with their six children and 15 grandchildren.

"The price of excellence in the making of families, like the price of excellence anywhere, is very high," Trueblood said.

Roy Bass, former mayor of Lubbock, added an amen to Trueblood's idea that a successful family is a life endeavor that is very hard work--but well worth the effort.

"Just because the cat has kittens in the oven doesn't mean that they're biscuits," Bass said. He interpreted that saying as meaning that a happy family doesn't come automatically for two Christians who marry.

Bass, whose son is his law partner, shared the host's role with his wife Anita, who chairs the deacons at Second Baptist Church in Lubbock.

Mrs. Bass interviewed Mrs. Ellen (John) McCall, of Memphis, a Southern Baptist who was chosen as national mother of the year.

Mrs. McCall had this message for Christian fathers: "The greatest work you will ever do is inside the walls of your homes."

Another family message came during the closing program at the Georgia World Congress Center via a long distance telephone call from Mexico. The audience got to listen in over the sound system to a conversation between Levi Price Jr., a missionary in Mexico, and his parents, as they sat with the Besses on stage.

The idea of the Christian family in the sense of a Christian home and in the broader context of the community of all Christians, came in an interview with Barbara Burkett, a single adult who is a Mission Service Corps volunteer in Canada. The 28-year-old seminary graduate already has worked with a Canadian Baptist church to start a single adult ministry.

The practical concept of missions as a shared family affair came in the Besses' interview with Lynne and Don Gurney, campus ministers at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. Their six children have grown up as participants in a Christian home open to cadets for talks about everything from grades to engagements.

"With six children, I learned to change diapers," said Gurney. "And I see my wife doing a lot of counseling."

The family--its struggles for the kind of success that forges individual Christians who make a difference in their society--laced the theme and every note of the SBC finale.

The night began with a family choir from First Baptist Church of Atlanta on stage, with fathers holding preschool sons and mothers singing alongside teenage girls.

And Leslie and Leland Allen, an eight and eleven-year-old sister and brother from Birmingham, Ala., read the Scripture for an audience of Baptists of all ages. One of their selections they read as they stood side by side was the I Corinthians 13 passage on love

The Thursday night program concluded with SBC President Jimmy Allen praying as messengers signed commitment cards for various avenues of missions and church work.

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Wrapup

Baptists in All Professions
Urged to Share Faith

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press
6/16/78

ATLANTA (BP)--Baptists from all walks of life told what Christ means to them and how they share their faith in their vocation during a series of breakfast meetings here.

The 15 breakfasts featuring leading Southern Baptists from a broad spectrum of vocational life, were attended by more than 3,000 participants.

The breakfasts, coupled with a rally at the Omni Coliseum with President Jimmy Carter as principal speaker, comprised the National Conference of Baptist Men sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission.

Speakers ranged from SBC President Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio, Tex., to Christian entertainers Jerry Clower and Grady Nutt, as well as specialists from various fields.

Nutt, who presided at a breakfast for Baptists in church related vocations, said: "The intention of this breakfast is that we have been called together to be aware of our roles in trying to be good ministering Christians."

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, described the breakfasts as explorations of the "myriad ways God can work through us to achieve His purposes for mankind."

Vocational breakfasts were for Baptists in agriculture, the arts, business and professions, church related vocations, communications, education, engineering and technical, government, health services, legal professions and the law, management, military, sales, retirement and young adults looking for a vocation.

Agriculture--"Jesus and our small church is our life and our love," said C. L. Bowe, a rancher from San Jon, N.M. "Cattle are just the way I make my living. The more than 100 farmers and ranchers also listened as James M. Blich, a farmer from Statesboro, Ga., described himself as "one of the Lord's sharecroppers," and say: "God is our silent partner in our businesses and our lives."

Arts--Performers ranging from country music to opera told participants that artistic vocation gives unique ways to express Christian witness.

Teddy Wilburn, country music recording artist, told of a personal experience with Jesus Christ that turned him from an alcoholic to a witness. "There's nowhere a door doesn't open up. There's more boldness in witnessing for Christ than there's ever been and we all ought to do it," he said.

Business and Professions--Business and professional leaders were challenged to consistent living as a testimony to fellow workers.

Jere Goldsmith, Atlanta vice president of Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, told the business crowd they are "the guts of the SBC. You make the denomination tick," as he challenged them to see their own businesses as arenas for Christian ministry "keeping lines open to friends and associates."

Church related vocations--Church leaders were urged to be "pacesetters" in their local churches and in the denomination by SBC President Allen.

"People move forward about the pace of their leaders. If Bold Mission Thrust is ever to be done, we must set the pace...if we are to do something about world hunger, we must set the pace...," he said.

Communications--Warning that "born again" has become a "pop phrase of the moment," Hal Wingo, news editor of "People" magazine urged Baptist lay people in communications to emphasize

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actions that speak louder than words. "For my own part, I want to hear about being 'born again' less and to see evidence of it more," he said.

Education--The executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Wayne Brown of Nashville, told participants that a priority of education must be to instill discriminating self control and to help persons learn how to make wise choices. "We need to teach people the difference between thumping sacred documents and reading them," he said.

Robert Lynn, president of Louisiana Baptist College, Pineville, said each Christian must dedicate that which he influences to God. "My responsibility is to dedicate a college as fully as possible to our Lord," he said.

Engineering and Technology--"Southern Baptist pastors have failed to tap the resources available from lay persons," an engineering professor said. Robert D. Kersten, dean of the college of engineering at Florida Technological University in Orlando, said he does "not want to sound overly critical," but added he is "tired of the pastoral platitudes and slogans that are the same things we were hearing 10 years ago." He urged more special missions projects designed for lay persons.

Government--Liberian Ambassador Francis A. Dennis challenged Baptists in politics and government to dedicate themselves as servants to their people. "Politics provides the Christian with temporal powers to bring about social change and justice. Religion, on the other hand, provides politicians with the kind of spiritual motivation and conscience which can make the system moral and effective."

Health Services--Dr. Al Rowton, a volunteer dentist from Americus, Ga., and Dr. David Vanlandingham, an internist from Jackson, Miss., shared their belief that a physician has special possibilities for Christian witness.

"There are some people that preachers and staff members cannot reach," Vanlandingham said. "But in a doctor/patient relationship, a patient already has confidence in his doctor and will be more likely to accept whatever his doctor recommends--even Christ."

Law Enforcement and Legal Professions--"Brethren, rehabilitation is not the answer," said Austin Brown, a chaplain at Florida State Prison. "Regeneration is. Rehabilitation only follows regeneration." Brown gave testimony of his own conversion while he was serving time in prison. After his parole, he returned to prison first as a volunteer, and then as a full-time chaplain.

Management--Management people were called on to be ministers in the marketplace by Bobby G. Dollar, vice president of Days Inns of America, Inc. "People are hungry to be loved," Dollar said, urging the business leaders to "contact persons so God can love through us."

Military--A Navy Captain told 50 persons at the military breakfast that he found that "faith is power and that God's love sustains us" during six years of imprisonment in North Vietnam. Captain Eugene B. McDaniel, commander of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Lexington, said lay people must be witnesses in their places of work if millions of mobile, wandering Americans are to be reached for Christ.

Sales--Grand Old Opry comedian Jerry Clower--a former fertilizer salesman--told Baptists in sales: "Baptist laymen who claim to be Christian need to act like it. Just tell people what's happened to you. If it ain't happened, you can't tell it. The basics is that Jesus saves. Don't complicate it. Keep it simple," he added.

Retirees--"Life is real. Life is earnest. Invest your life in that which outlasts life," retired seminary professor Gaines S. Dobbins, 91, told retired Baptists. Dobbins told the retirees he is going to keep on working, as he urged them to be active in their witness. "I'm not going to let anybody take my place. If I can crawl for Jesus Christ, I'm going to be crawling for him."

Young Adults Searching For A Vocation--A Georgia educator told young adults she felt her search for a vocation after 10 years as a housewife stemmed from a need for an outlet for her creativity. Mary Jo Hannaford, director of counselors for the Dekalb County School System, said: "I always thought I would be in a church related vocation, but God kept throwing me back into the world. I'm primarily in the ministry, but I'm paid with public funds. My job is loving people."

Ed Seabough, a Home Mission Board staff member, urged the young adults to "be yourself. God's will for me is to be me and God's will for you is to be you."

Missionary Archie Dunaway
Stabbed To Death in Rhodesia

SANYATI, Rhodesia (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary Archie G. Dunaway Jr., 57, was stabbed to death June 15 on the Sanyati Baptist Hospital compound by an unknown assailant.

The time of death has been placed at about 6 p.m. June 15, Rhodesia time, but the body was not found until early June 16.

Local police are working with missionaries in the investigation but have not been able to confirm if the death was the result of a guerrilla attack similar to those which have occurred in recent months, general vandalism, or an attempted robbery.

Dunaway, hospital maintenance supervisor and area evangelist, is the first Southern Baptist missionary to die in service as the result of violence since Gladys Hopewell was found dead from strangulation in her Taiwan apartment in 1973. A year earlier missionary nurse Mavis Pate was killed in an ambush in Gaza in the Middle East.

As a precautionary measure, all missionary personnel stationed at the Sanyati compound, except one missionary couple, were to be evacuated June 16 to Gwelo, Salisbury and Que Que, all in Rhodesia. Those being evacuated included four single missionary personnel, one couple and five children. Dr. and Mrs. Maurice L. Randall will stay at Sanyati at least for the time being to care for seriously ill patients but their children will accompany other missionaries to Gwelo.

Randall is considering moving to Gatooma, the nearest city of any size, about 60 miles from the hospital. He would commute to the hospital each day by Mission Aviation Fellowship airplane to continue medical care at Sanyati.

Mrs. Dunaway will bring her husband's body back to the United States for burial. Tentative plans are for a funeral service and burial in Nashville, Tenn. A summer missionary from Mississippi, Trudy Nash, will accompany Mrs. Dunaway back to the United States.

In addition to his wife, the former Margaret Lanier of Nashville, Tenn., survivors include four grown children: Mary Margaret (Mrs. Gerald) Dooley of Kingston Springs, Tenn., John A. and Martha Dunaway, both of Madison, Tenn., and Mark Dunaway, a student at Auburn (Ala.) University; one brother, Will Dunaway; and a sister, Margaret (Mrs. Elmo) Busby, both of McComb, Miss., and one granddaughter.

Political tensions have been evident in Rhodesia in recent months and several missionaries from other denominations have been killed in guerrilla attacks. Southern Baptist missionaries have limited their travel at night. Most are stationed in urban areas where there is less danger.

Appointed to Nigeria by the Foreign Mission Board in April 1947, the Dunaways worked with the Yoruba tribe until 1949, when they began the first Southern Baptist work with the Batonu tribe in Okuta, northern Nigeria. That work lasted 17 years.

Dunaway and his wife also had a one-year stay in Jos, Nigeria, as houseparents for missionary children attending an international Christian school.

After a two-year leave of absence, the Dunaways transferred to Rhodesia in 1971 and a year later went to work in Sanyati.

Dunaway, a native of McComb, Miss., was graduated from Southwest Mississippi Junior College, Summit; Mississippi College, Clinton; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Before his appointment by the Foreign Mission Board, he was pastor of churches in Elizabeth, Ind., and Taylors Chapel, Tenn., and Christiana, Tenn.

Mrs. Dunaway is a missionary nurse and has directed a school for midwives at the Sanyati hospital.

The hospital opened in 1953 and has an average of 3,000 inpatients and 40,000 outpatients per year. The compound has served as a hub for other kinds of missionary work including rural medical clinics, a school and several churches.

More than 20 white missionaries--the majority Catholics--have been killed in the six years of conflict between black nationalist guerrillas and the government forces of Prime Minister Ian D. Smith, according to a report from Religious News Service.

The most recent of these slayings include two Roman Catholic missionary brothers of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Marianhill, killed by nationalist guerrillas during a June 2 attack on the mission station near Rhodesia's southwestern border with Botswana; and two Salvation Army missionaries reported lined up and shot in the back by black nationalist guerrillas.

The shooting occurred at a school for black girls about 30 miles from the point where the Roman Catholic missionaries were slain. None of those four killed were from the U.S.

Missionary personnel being evacuated from Sanyati, Rhodesia: Cary Gaunt, journeyman, born in Missouri and lived in Minnesota; going to Salisbury; Mary Louise Clark, missionary nurse, born in North Carolina, also lived in Georgia; going to Que Que; Dr. John W. and Mary Monroe, missionaries from Texas; going to Gwelo with their child and the four Randall children; Trudy Nelson, medical receptor from Texas and Norfolk, Va.; going to Salisbury; Trudy Nash, summer missionary from Mississippi; coming to U.S. with Mrs. Dunaway.

Those staying at Sanyati: Dr. and Mrs. Maurice L. Randall, both of Georgia, who will remain at Sanyati for the present time.

Missionaries from Sanyati now on furlough in the U.S.: Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Parker Jr., furlough in S.C.; Dr. and Mrs. M. Giles Fort Jr., furlough in Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Hubert C. Edminster, on leave of absence in Texas.

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(BP) Photo of Dunaway and a map of Sanyati, Rhodesia, being mailed to state Baptist papers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

Carter Visit Has Pomp,
Ceremony and Reverence

By Charlie Warren

Baptist Press
6/16/78

ATLANTA (BP)--An unusual hush came over the crowd at the Omni Coliseum in Atlanta as the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra began to play a soft melody to open the rally of the National Conference of Baptist Men.

The predominantly Baptist crowd of about 8,500 awaited the arrival of their fellow Southern Baptist, President Jimmy Carter.

The orchestra's melody began to build in volume and tone along with the expectancy of the crowd. People continued to enter quietly with almost the reverence they enter their churches on Sunday mornings.

The reverence was dramatically interrupted by pomp and ceremony as Southern Baptist representatives of all 50 states and 40 ethnic groups entered bearing the flags of the states and nations of the world. The orchestra struck up "Stars and Stripes Forever."

The coliseum quieted again as secret service agents took their posts around the arena and began staring into the crowd with serious, deadpan faces.

Carter entered to a standing ovation as the orchestra played "Hail to the Chief." He warmly hugged Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, sponsor of the rally.

The president shook the hands of the front row program personalities and placed his second embrace on Liberian Ambassador to the United States and Canada, Francis A. Dennis, who had earlier led a prayer for all the nations of the world.

During his address, Carter never broke his pace, even when four young adults entered with a banner, chanting, "From Africa to Panama--U.S. Out."

The demonstrators who claimed they represented the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade were protesting U.S. involvement in Africa, Panama, and the Middle East. They said the United States had no business intervening in the affairs of any other nation of the world.

Before his address, Carter adapted to the reverent mood of the audience as he silently mouthed the words of the hymns as Metropolitan Opera singer Irene Jordan and Grand Ole Opry singer Teddy Wilburn performed a medley of hymns written by Baptists--ranging from "Near the Cross" to "Blest be the Tie That Binds" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

The president presented citations to two individuals, a boy and a man, representing the work of Southern Baptist men and boys throughout the United States.

Curtis Hickman, a Baptist Royal Ambassador from Dublin (N.C.) Baptist Church was recognized for his involvement in the missions organization for boys. Hickman represents boys who have earned RA Service Aide Awards for at least 750 hours of service to their churches and communities.

William White of Morrisville (N.C.) Baptist Church represented volunteer laymen who have been involved in disaster relief work in places such as Guatemala, devastated by an earthquake in 1976.

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Earlier the same morning, several thousand Baptists attended 15 breakfasts held in various Atlanta hotels. Each breakfast represented a specific vocational group.

A representative from each breakfast reported to the audience at the rally. The reports were as varied as the individuals who presented them, ranging from Grand Ole Opry Comedian Jerry Clower, representing sales, to Alabama Congressman John H. Buchanan and Ambassador Francis Dennis of Liberia, representing Baptists in government.

Dressed in a fire engine red suit and ruffled shirt, Clower said, "I'm proud to have a Bible-reading president." He said he's been asked what percentage of "fine Christian folk" are in the entertainment field.

"The same percentage as I saw in the fertilizer business," Clower quipped. "There's no difference--if you are Christian, you are Christian."

Commenting about government, Buchanan called for people in government who are "new and made over through Jesus Christ. "Our country is as good as we are good. It's as strong as we are strong," he said.

A 500-voice choir of Baptist men from Southern Baptist churches, mainly in Georgia, sang "Rise up O Men of God" just before Carter addressed his fellow Baptists.

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Handful of Demonstrators

Mar Carter's Visit

By Stan Hastey and Carol Franklin

Baptist Press

6/16/78

ATLANTA (BP)--President Carter's visit to Atlanta to address a rally sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission was marred by a small group of demonstrators who stood to chant anti-U.S. slogans during his speech.

One of the four demonstrators, Liz Francis, a part-time student at Georgia State University, identified the group as part of the "Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade."

Outside the Omni Coliseum, where the President addressed some 8,000 Southern Baptists at a missions rally, about three dozen demonstrators, including the four who had appeared inside the arena, demonstrated with signs condemning the U.S. and the Shah of Iran.

Inside, the three men and one woman sat in the rear of the hall until the president began to speak. They then arose and unfurled a banner reading: "Down with U.S. and Soviet War Moves! From Palestine to Africa to Panama--U.S. Imperialists Out! Support the Just Struggles of Peoples of the World!"

About five minutes into the president's speech, the four began chanting, "From Africa to Panama, U.S. Out." A handful of Baptists seated behind them shouted at them, demanding that they leave.

John I. Smith, pastor of the New Testament Baptist Church just outside Atlanta, jumped across three or four rows of seats to confront the demonstrators, demanding that they leave. He also pointed at a Baptist Press reporter seated in the area, shouting, "I pay for the Baptist Press and I don't want it (report on the demonstrators) there!"

Within two or three minutes of the chanting, a handful of Atlanta police officers arrived. One of them, a young blonde policewoman, quietly asked the demonstrators to leave, saying, "Sir, this is a worship service." The demonstrators left without further incident.

Miss Francis told Baptist Press that while the group has no connection with the international Communist party, they consider themselves Communists whose goal is "to expose the system of imperialism of which the president is the spokesperson." She admitted that the group advocates revolution--and violent revolution "unless you hand over the keys to us."

Smith, who was seated with his two young children near the demonstrators, criticized Omni officials for allowing them to display their banner and chant. But he objected just as strenuously to the presence of two Baptist Press reporters in the area, saying that no coverage should be given to such demonstrations.

Outside, nearly 40 persons from the same organization demonstrated peacefully at the corner of International Boulevard and Marietta St., carrying signs and shouting anti-U.S. slogans. A few others handed out literature from the Iranian Students Association. Some Baptists leaving the meeting stopped to talk and debate with them, but most simply walked by.

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Nearly all the demonstrators were Iranian students, representing a group noted around the country for their public demonstrations against U.S. friendship to the Shah of Iran, whom they label as a "fascist." The group's home base is in Berkeley, Calif.

Three other, smaller groups handed out literature outside the hall. All three represented organizations of Christians with Jewish concerns.

A number of participants at the missions rally told Baptist Press that they were glad for the president's visit and saw no real church-state problem in his addressing the crowd on behalf of missions.

Gary Cook, pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, said he was "very glad" at the presidential visit but disappointed in the size of the crowd. Only about 8,500 persons were in attendance in the arena which seats 16,500.

Asked if he thought it proper for a sitting president to address a missions rally, he said, "I don't see any problem with this particular meeting." He did acknowledge that the church-state implications of the president's high degree of visibility in the Southern Baptist missionary cause "probably needs to be explored." Cook went on to say that he felt Southern Baptists would have reacted negatively had President Kennedy done the same kind of thing among Catholics.

In spite of such misgivings, Cook went on to express his view that "men in public life should be able to share their faith" and that Carter was "well within the bounds of propriety" in addressing the rally.

Although most of the crowd was white, a few blacks were sprinkled throughout the arena. The Rev. and Mrs. Addison Smith of Atlanta praised the President, saying that he has a "heartfelt compassion" for people.

Another black couple, the Chester Coopers of Atlanta, identified themselves as federal employees working for the Atlanta Social Security office. Mrs. Cooper said she was glad to have a president who is religious. Carter "has set the tone" for several of her friends "to be closer to God," she said.

In answer to a question about how blacks perceive the president after a year and a half in office, Mr. Cooper said that there is "some disappointment but not enough to give up on him yet."

Another participant at the meeting, Frank Timmerman, a sales representative for the Atlanta Braves and Atlanta Hawks, said that many Georgians have negative feelings about Carter. He was a "very strong governor," he said, but "Georgia has a very conservative population who look at Jimmy Carter as a liberal," Timmerman said.

A member of First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., Timmerman said that the decision to invite the president was a "ticklish" one. "I have some mixed feelings," he said, but went on to add that as a Baptist "I am glad to see the president is a committed Christian."

Another young man, Charlie Johnson, from Ovido, Fla., said that listening to the president was a "once in a lifetime chance for a boy from a tiny little town."

Paul Davis, 9, a Royal Ambassador boy from Savannah, Ga., said he had seen the president on television "lots of times." Asked if he was excited about seeing Carter in person, he replied, "not that much." He seemed more impressed that last year the president had answered a personal letter from a little classmate back in Savannah.

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, national president of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, commended the Brotherhood Commission and its executive director, Glendon McCullough, for creativity in programming the missions rally.

She expressed the hope the Brotherhood Commission would not be discouraged by the low attendance at the rally, saying that the denomination needs more of the kind of programs planned by the organization of SBC men. She indicated that the cost of an extra day in Atlanta doubtless caused many pastors and their families who wanted to attend the rally to leave and start home instead.

Mrs. Gregory said that her "real concern" is that people, including those of other denominations, realize that the SBC plan to evangelize the world by the year 2000 "does not hang on the President" but on ordinary Southern Baptists.

Carter Urges Baptist
Involvement in Issues

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP)--President Jimmy Carter challenged fellow Southern Baptists to get involved in the issues of human rights, peace, freedom, nuclear arms proliferation and the sale of armaments, terrorism, and rapidly expanding population, and world hunger.

"These are not political problems," the president declared. "They are moral problems that violate the very precepts of God in which we believe."

President Carter addressed a half-filled 16,000-seat Omni Coliseum during a Bold Mission rally as a part of the National Conference of Baptist men sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

He quipped that perhaps if Singer Anita Bryant had been invited, the Coliseum might have been filled. She had spoken to a packed crowd of more than 20,000 attending the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference the preceding Sunday.

Addressing the Baptist group, the nation's most prominent Southern Baptist layman said he had never detected any conflict with doing "God's will and my political duty" as president.

"When I violate one, I violate the other," President Carter said.

He was interrupted a half-dozen times with applause, given a three-minute standing ovation at the end, and interrupted for three minutes by shouts from four hecklers, who identified themselves with the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade.

The president hardly missed a word, continuing to speak while security guards quickly moved the hecklers out of the coliseum.

Although he commended the Southern Baptist Convention for earlier adopting a "beautiful" statement on human rights, President Carter drew applause when he declared that "passage of a resolution is not enough unless we as Americans and as Christians really reach out in our community, nation and world to defeat and destroy those denials of rights that affect people."

He cautioned his audience against turning their backs on the suffering and the denial of human rights as Americans did on the Jews when millions lost their lives in the Nazi holocaust.

He said his own goals as a person, and those of the Southern Baptist denomination as well as those of the country, merge into a common ground on several fronts.

He expressed a "desire for peace, the need for humility, a commitment to human rights and the alleviation of suffering because of hatred or hunger or physical affliction."

Cautioning the Baptist audience about being "too timid," the President warned against allowing controversy to "scare us."

He applied his principle to both the presidency and to the Southern Baptist program of Bold Mission Thrust, a Baptist plan to proclaim the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000.

"There is no doubt that adopting the Bold Mission program is fraught with problems and dangers of failure," he said. "There is danger of bringing upon yourself embarrassment if you fail, and you may be tempted not to try hard enough."

He chided Southern Baptists because "you and I were not in the forefront of those dedicated to eliminating segregation and racism, especially in the United States." He also noted that "our forefathers were at the forefront of the protection of slavery.

"Baptists have been inclined to turn inward and stay that way," he observed.

The president challenged Baptists to be willing to take the risks, even as did such leaders as Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr., who lost their lives, in order to use their influence for good.

"Too many of us are derelict in our duty to use our influence, wealth, and power to deal with the moral issues that face us," he said.

The Baptists applauded an apparent reference to criticism of his administration, when President Carter stated that "a person who knows he is strong does not have to prove it, but can be patient and fair and gentle."

He pointed out that immediately after the rally, he and the diplomatic corps present were going to Panama for ceremonies concerning the Panama Canal treaties. "This has been a difficult issue, but our nation has spoken. We are strong and powerful, but also generous and fair." He added that security of the canal is good, and that it depends not only on the U.S. but on others, rather than on a position of isolation or dominant military force.

Although the character of American life has been tested by the Vietnam war, Watergate and the CIA disclosures, the country is stronger than ever, he said to applause. The country is now seeking to serve others, and not to dominate others, he contended. "A nation without morality will soon lose its influence around the world."

Calling for more emphasis on personhood in a dehumanized society, the President said, "We shape what our country is and hopes to be, therefore influencing people and nations throughout the world."

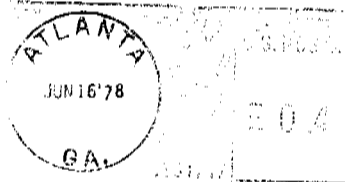
Persons, as well as nations, cannot succeed without both an inward journey discovering an awareness of the needs of people, and an outward journey seeking to alleviate suffering wherever it is found, he said.

With that, the Atlanta Symphony played the President's favorite hymn, "Amazing Grace," and the rally concluded with prayer led by William Hardy of Columbus, Miss., chairman of the Brotherhood Commission.



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