



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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78-124

Christianity No Guarantee  
Of Success, Pastor Tells Youth

By Linda Lawson

MANILA, Philippines (BP)--Christianity is not success cult, a Baptist pastor told more than 2,500 participants at the Baptist Youth World Conference.

Peter McLeod, pastor of First Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, criticized persons who say that when a person becomes a Christian everything in his life will suddenly become wonderful.

"Overlooked in this rape of the gospel is the fact that Jesus died when he was 33, that he never was wealthy and that during his lifetime his own disciples never fully understood what he was trying to do," McLeod said.

McLeod said that while some Christians are rich, many more are poor. While some are healthy and successful, many are ill and unsuccessful.

Another pastor, Paul Nichols of Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., told the conference closing assembly that Christians on mission in today's world are not called to create light "but to bear witness that the light is already there."

"Mission is not merely grabbing people by the collar and saying, 'Brother, are you saved?'" Nichols said. "Mission is moving every barrier and every obstacle to let the light shine through."

He said the light of Jesus Christ is to shine on the social and political conditions of people around the world. "The difference that ought to make has something to do with our responsibility," Nichols said.

An offering to relieve hunger in the Philippines was taken as a result of a request from an evening discussion group on world hunger, and \$1,000 was collected to help youth attend the 1983 congress in South America.

In a message frequently punctuated by "amens" and applause by the youth from 35 nations, McLeod said the focus of Christianity should be on commitment to God rather than desire for success or even commitment to nation or denomination.

"We are called to be all one in Jesus Christ," he said. "Only as we catch that vision can we rise above national, denominational and personal interests."

However, McLeod said it is not wrong for persons to approach Christianity on the basis of side benefits. He said two "authentic rewards of faith" were an assurance that a person is loved and knowledge that he is part of a cause that cannot fail.

"When deep down in your soul you know you are loved by God and that you are part of a cause that cannot fail, you know you can face whatever the world brings," he said.

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Christians Must 'Put Up  
Or Shut Up' On TV Protest

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press  
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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--It is time for Christians to "put up or shut up about the television industry," asserted a Southern Baptist leader at a seminar on Television and Morality at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

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"The Christian community has done a lot of complaining about television's immoral programming, but we have done very little in effecting positive change in the industry and in changing our personal viewing habits," charged Charles V. Petty, director of the Christian Life and Public Affairs Council for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Too many Christians have been "hypocritical" in their approach to television, and TV industry executives are capitalizing upon that hypocrisy, Petty said at the week-long seminar sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"I think a lot of the complaining," he said, "is simply an attempt to resolve our guilt because actually we enjoy watching those programs we are griping about. Our consciences or our fear of detection won't allow us to go to the X-rated theaters, but we enjoy television because it often provides a window on the risqué world."

Such dishonesty, Petty explained, gives legitimacy to the television industry's argument that people continue to watch television, even though they complain about excessive or irresponsible treatment of sex and violence.

"If you really think it's bad, then don't watch it," Petty challenged. "Then be sure to communicate the fact that you are not watching to the network and local stations' officials."

The TV reform movement has reached a critical stage, Petty believes, and the response of Christians will determine the movement's success or failure. "Religious communities, led by such organizations as the Christian Life Commission, have geared up as never before in the area of television awareness and action," Petty said.

"But I really believe if we don't see some positive results and broad grassroots participation in the near future, then we'll have to conclude that television morality is not a real issue among our people or that it's a hopeless cause and we might as well quit beating our heads against the wall and go back to speculating about the Second Coming."

Petty encouraged Southern Baptists to work collectively, as well as individually, by aligning themselves with responsible organizations involved in the effort to improve television. "If we don't work collectively," he explained, "I'm afraid we'll fragment into little splinter groups and then we'll have little effect."

He warned, however, that concerned persons should make certain an organization is responsible and provides reliable information before they choose to support it.

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BJCPA Petitions Court  
On Behalf of Catholics

Baptist Press  
7/31/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the U. S. Supreme Court on behalf of the Catholic bishop of Chicago and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, in their dispute with the National Labor Relations Board.

In June of 1977, the NLRB ordered the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese to refrain from anti-union activities and reinstate two teachers fired illegally for union activities.

A federal court of appeals overturned the NLRB ruling in August on the grounds the order would violate First Amendment guarantees of freedom of religion. The NLRB has appealed the lower court decision to the Supreme Court.

The Baptist Joint Committee brief, written by Leo Pfeffer, special counsel for the American Jewish Congress, agrees with the decision of the federal court. "The same constitutional principles under the establishment clause (of the First Amendment), which this court has held in many cases to bar governmental financing of the operations of religious schools beyond narrowly prescribed limits, bars equally governmental exercise of jurisdiction under the National Labor Relations Act," Pfeffer wrote.

Pfeffer asserted that enforcement of the NLRB ruling would inhibit the free exercise of religion and "result in unavoidable governmental entanglement with religion. Enactment of the National Labor Relations Act was not indispensable for the survival of the national

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government or of the United States," Pfeffer stated. "No one can contend that our nation would not survive and flourish if collective bargaining on the part of religious schools remained voluntary rather than governmentally mandated."

Pfeffer cited the response of Bishop William McManus of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese urging Catholic school administrators and teachers to "get busy" with contract negotiations. "It is not collective bargaining to which the religious schools object but rather to compulsion by law to participate in it," Pfeffer asserted.

The brief noted that the establishment and free exercise clauses of the First Amendment stand on a different footing than the National Labor Relations Act. "Without denigrating in the slightest the importance of collective bargaining in our society, it is clearly not on par with the free exercise of religion," Pfeffer said. "We can envision an America without compulsory collective bargaining, but not one without the free exercise of religion."

"Imposing upon church schools the mandate of collective bargaining would obviously result in higher salaries for employees, else what is bargaining for," Pfeffer argued. "Unlike public schools, the establishment clause forbids the state to help religious schools meet the added financial burden of increased salaries for teachers. Hence, the only alternative for financially burdened church schools is to sacrifice their religious teachings at least in part. Can it be doubted then that the effect of compulsory collective bargaining would be an inhibition of religion?"

Pfeffer also pointed out that church schools are concerned with the personal religious commitment of their teachers. Dismissal of a teacher for doubts about that commitment could lead to investigation by the NLRB or the courts. "In many cases, the financial and administrative burden of justification would impel continuance of employment as the lesser of evils. The inevitable result thus would be a substantial inhibitory effect upon religion," Pfeffer argued.

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Two Faculty Members  
Elected At New Orleans

Baptist Press  
7/31/78

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Two men have been appointed to fill vacancies on the faculty of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Waylon Bailey, pastor of the Superior Avenue Baptist Church, Bogalusa, La., will teach Old Testament and Hebrew as an assistant professor. Bailey, 30, is a graduate of Samford University and received the master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from the New Orleans Baptist Seminary. He was pastor of several churches in Alabama and Louisiana.

C. Ferris Jordan, associate pastor of the Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., has been elected as associate professor of adult education. He is 44. He has served as Adult Sunday School Consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville and has been a regular contributor of Convention Sunday School and leadership training materials.

Jordan is a graduate of Louisiana College, and received the bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from NOBTS.

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(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist newspapers by New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

Baptists In Alaska Ready  
For Capital City Move

Baptist Press  
7/31/78

ANCHORAGE (BP)--When Alaska's capital moves from Juneau to Willow in 1980, Southern Baptists already will be there with 4.1 acres of land across the highway from the capital site.

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Last spring, the land in the sparsely populated area of the future capital was purchased for \$35,000 through the Chugach Baptist Association and the Home Mission Board's Bold Mission Thrust funds.

While Willow itself consists of miles and miles of untouched land inhabited by nothing but bears and beavers, signs of growth appear along parks highway leading north to the capital site.

"We anticipate a tremendous influx of people here. The nearby valleys have been growing 10 to 15 percent each year," said Ed Wolfe, director of the association.

In January, in anticipation of the capital move, a handful of Alaskans formed First Baptist Church, Willow. They began meeting in an old homestead, a tiny, rough log building.

Members pored over plans for a new building. Depending on the plan chosen, the facility will seat either 60 or 80 persons. Members lean toward the larger space. "The way we feel, we should build what we want to begin with...we're growing," reasoned a charter member.

And while the church is still very small, members express confidence for the future.

"We have six members--no seven--a little girl joined the church and we have 12 people every Sunday. Christ started out with 12--and one of them wasn't any good," a member said. "We'll do all right."

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Colorado Baptists Buy  
Retirement Highrise

Baptist Press  
7/31/78

DENVER (BP)--A 100 apartment, 10-story highrise building for older-retired adults has been purchased for \$1,235,000 by the newly formed Colorado Baptist Manor, Inc., a non-profit subsidiary of the Baptist Foundation of Colorado.

William H. Landers, president of the board of directors for the foundation said the 12-year-old building was purchased because of its potential for ministry to older adults--"including retired ministers and their spouses, and laypersons.

Landers said he expects the apartment building to become a "retirement ministry center for Colorado Southern Baptists." In fact, he noted, "A regular program of ministry is already in the works for older adults, which will be open to building residents and persons from the metro area."

He stressed, "This is not a nursing home and will not have a nursing home or hospital capability. There are nursing homes nearby, but these are not related to the Manor or Foundation."

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Mercer Law School  
Gets \$150,000 Gift

Baptist Press  
7/31/78

MACON, Ga. (BP)--The Walter F. George School of Law of Mercer University has received a gift of \$150,000 from Mr. and Mrs. John B. Amos of Columbus for its new Moot Court room.

Amos is chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer of American Family Corporation and American Family Life Assurance.

Located on the first floor of the new home of the Baptist university's law school on Coleman Hill, the Moot Court room is equipped with a closed circuit television system, making it possible for hearings to be viewed in other parts of the building.

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