

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor**BUREAUS****ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Richard T. McCartney, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) L. Bracey Campbell III, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2798
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

September 1, 1978

78-143

Chester Swor, 71, Maintains
Student Contact Continually

By Jim Lowry

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--After 35 years of lecturing on approximately 500 college campuses around the country, Chester Swor has become a veritable institution as friend, counselor and guide to college students.

He began developing a rapport with college students during the 14 years he served as an English teacher and dean of men at Mississippi College.

Swor, 71, a religious lecturer-counselor from Jackson, Miss., presented nearly 11 hours of Bible study and lectures to 1,900 participants attending the Student Conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. It was the 50th anniversary of Swor's first visit to Ridgecrest.

"I enjoyed the students so much as a teacher-counselor at Mississippi College," Swor explained, "that by maintaining such a perennial contact the rapport has transferred through the years."

Swor has scheduled visits to 15 college and university campuses this fall. Last spring he spent nine weeks lecturing, and before his 70th birthday, Swor averaged 30 weeks annually.

"Basically, I'm a teacher," Swor said. "I'm so eager that everyone derive an individual benefit when I speak. I've been fortunate to maintain contact with student," he commented. "Everywhere I go I take a very real respect of their right to listen or not listen. Therefore, I'm challenged to bring a message relevant to their needs."

Swor said that in the years he has traveled to college campuses, students have changed, but the changes have been gradual, except for the unsettled years of the late 1960's.

Continual contact with students makes the changes appear gradual to him as opposed to someone who has been away from the college campus for several years.

In building relationships with college students, Swor said he does not place heavy emphasis on dress.

"If there's nothing morally wrong with what they're doing, such as the way they're dressing or the length of their hair, I just don't bother with it," he commented. "If the student is really decent in heart, I think that what he wears is incidental."

Swor revealed that one of his favorite hobbies is reading college catalogs to keep pace with requirements and specialties of different colleges. He also stops by colleges he sees while traveling from one engagement to another.

"More than anything else in the world, I wish to help students establish a complete relationship with God," he emphasized, "so they will let him invade every aspect of their lives with a transforming power."

In one of his messages to the students, Swor asserted that there are "millions of people in America who are non-practicing Christians. We should be willing to carry Christ's cross every day, no matter what the cost."

"If he is Lord of our daily lives," Swor added, "it does things not only to us but through us. We should be willing to make him Lord of our lives every day."

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(BP) Photo mailed 8/30/78 to Baptist state papers by Sunday School Board Bureau of Baptist Press.

S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

**Martin Joins Radio-TV
Commission As Exec. VP**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Harold E. Martin, a Pulitzer Prize winning newsman from Montgomery, Ala., will become executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Oct. 23.

Martin will succeed Alvin (Bo) Huffman, who will resign Sept. 31 but remain as a consultant to the commission for several months before retirement.

Before taking early retirement, Martin, 55, served for 15 years as publisher, editor and president of the "Montgomery Advertiser" and "Alabama Journal" and president of the newspaper division of Multi-Media, Inc. He retained membership on the board of directors of Multi-Media, which owns newspapers, radio and television stations and television production companies.

He has served as trustee of the Radio and Television Commission since 1974 and had just been elected as trustee chairman. He is expected to resign as a trustee after joining the commission.

Before coming to Montgomery, Martin, winner of numerous journalism awards besides the Pulitzer, served as a newspaper executive in Syracuse, N. Y., St. Louis, Mo., and Birmingham, Ala., and co-owned newspapers in Tennessee, Arkansas and North Carolina with his wife.

He won the Pulitzer Prize for local reporting in 1970 and served as a Pulitzer Prize juror in 1971 and 1972.

"Mr. Martin, with his many skills, both in newspaper management and with Multi Media, Inc., will provide a valuable link between the Radio and Television Commission and the radio and television industry," said Paul M. Stevens, commission president.

"The Radio and Television Commission has always been composed chiefly of laymen--the staff as well as the commission," Stevens said. "We do this because we work in a layman's world of radio and television and it is essential that we understand laymen and be able to speak their language."

Martin, an active member and Sunday School teacher at Heritage Baptist Church, Montgomery, is a honor graduate of Samford University (formerly Howard College), a Baptist school in Birmingham. He was named alumnus of the year in 1970.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers by the Radio and Television Commission.

Students Think Alike
On ERA, Other Issues

Baptist Press
9/1/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Student opinion polls conducted on consecutive weeks 2,000 miles apart revealed an amazing similarity in beliefs of college students concerning current issues.

Students voted down ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by identical percentages at both Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers during annual Student Conferences. A total of 68 percent voted no, 21 percent yes and 11 percent were undecided.

Students at both conference centers said following Jesus Christ was the most important factor in having a meaningful life. The same was true in the second and third choices, positive self image and service to persons.

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Applying the gospel was chosen by the students in both polls as the most crucial issue facing the SBC. Bold missions, church participation and gay rights were considered the next most important issues.

Students indicated their top personal problem was having enough time. Dealing with temptation and career indecision ranked second at Glorieta and Ridgecrest respectively. Other personal problems receiving substantial numbers of votes were lack of money, dating relationships, personal insecurity and meaningful church involvement.

Milt Hughes, campus evangelism consultant in National Student Ministries at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, conducted the polls at the conference centers as an example of an evangelism outreach project for Baptist Student Unions to use this year on campus.

"I think the amazing similarity of percentages here shows students are basically the same across the country," Hughes said.

"The polls were gratifying to me," he added, "particularly in dealing with the SBC issues, where the students looked beneath the picky issues that normally divide churches, and went to the real issue of how does it apply to their lives."

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Cooperative Program Enters
Final Month of 1977-78

Baptist Press
9/1/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--With one month to go in the 1977-78 fiscal year, the contributions to national Cooperative Program unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention are running 10.43 percent ahead of the same point last year.

Projections indicate contributions at the end of the fiscal year will exceed the denomination's basic and capital needs budget of \$55,080,000 by over \$2 million but fall about \$6 million short of the overall Bold Missions challenge budget of \$63,400,000.

Through the first 11 months of the fiscal year the undesignated Cooperative Program amounts to \$52,404,369 or \$4,951,551 more than the same point last year.

"We thank God for the significant 10.43 percent increase during the first 11 months," said Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, "but we still need to be concerned about the Bold Missions advance budget. We pray that each individual and each church will respond to the Bold Missions challenge in September, the final month of the fiscal year."

Total contributions for the first 11 months, including the \$52,404,369 Cooperative Program figure and another \$47,136,797 in designated contributions, totals \$99,541,166. That amounts to an 11.29 percent increase over \$89,441,104 in total contributions at the same point in the 1976-77 fiscal year.

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Once Radical Communist,
Now Radically Different

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press
9/1/78

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--As a leader of the Communist Youth Party in Colombia, Jose Morelos once plotted with others to bomb the Baptist clinic in Barranquilla, Colombia.

Today, however, he is a committed Christian who says his life has changed "100 percent."

A member of the International Share Team selected by Southern Baptist National Student Ministries for a summer of missions involvement, Jose had dinner in Memphis recently with the Southern Baptist missionary who founded the clinic in Barranquilla he once planned to destroy.

"If you'd told me five years ago that I would be here sharing my faith in Christ, I would not have believed you," Morelos said.

From 1970 through 1973, Morelos was one of the top leaders in the Rebels United Movement, a powerful underground Youth Communist Party in Colombia involved in violent demonstrations.

"Primarily, we wanted better living conditions for the people," Morelos said, "lower bus fares, lower cost of living, land reform, lower student fees, and better conditions for the poor people--(campesenos) of the farms and barrios."

When Morelos' name was seen on an alleged government list of subversives and revolutionaries, his father, an influential businessman, suggested that Jose go to the United States to study for one semester until the situation cooled down.

In September, 1973, Jose enrolled in Montclair State College, in Patterson, N. J. Unable to speak and understand English, he hated it. His grades were bad. He was homesick and lonely.

Then winter came. Jose had never experienced winter before. He had lived all his life on the hot, humid northern coast of Colombia.

In February of 1974, he was waiting for a bus, shivering in the snow and wishing for the warm weather in Colombia, when a car pulled up to the bus stop and a young Latin American asked him if he wanted a ride.

Cosme Orve, a native of Ecuador who was working in an industry job at Patterson, told Jose that he drove the same route to work each day and would be glad to take him to classes daily and pick him up after work.

After several days of riding together, Cosme invited Jose to go to the worship services at Central Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist congregation in Patterson, N. J. Cosme also told Jose how he became a Christian through the influence of Southern Baptist missionaries in Ecuador.

Jose didn't want to go to church with Cosme, but he was afraid if he refused, he would lose his free rides to school and he would be out in the cold again. So he went, hating every moment of it.

"I didn't believe in God or Christ--only in materialistic society," he recalled.

But on the fourth Sunday he attended, "something happened that I can't explain. The chapel was the same, the people were the same, I saw no angels or felt no earthquakes, but I suddenly realized I was lost and needed a savior. I didn't want to go to hell, and I knew that Christ was the only way to heaven."

Since then, Jose's life has been radically different. "I've decided to give everything I have to the Lord, and plan to enter Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary next January" after graduating from Montclair State College.

Now, he is convinced that communism is not the way to change the world. "To change the world, you have to change people, and to change their hearts first," he declared. "I now believe there are better ways to solve problems in the world than through communism."

LYNN MAY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE NO
NASHVILLE TN 37203

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460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

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**Baptist Press Schedule Of
Possible News-Making Events**

September, 1978

- Sept. 1-4 Single Adult Conference, Glorieta and Ridgcrest Baptist Conference Centers
- 5-8 Week of Preaching, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 6 President's Convocation, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- 7 Academic Convocation, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- 8-9 Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey State Men's Retreat, Hartman Center, Milroy, Penn.
- 11-12 Foreign Mission Board meeting
- 11-13 Christian Life Commission annual meeting
- 12 Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board meeting-- discussion of church-state study
- 15-16 Pennsylvania-South Jersey State WMU Retreat, Hartman Center, Milroy, Penn.
- 18-20 Texas State Sunday School Convention, Fort Worth
- 18-22 Southern Baptist Executive Committee and related meetings, Nashville, Tenn.
- 19 Tennessee Baptist Executive Board meeting, Brentwood
- 20-22 Stewardship Secretaries' Conference following the Executive Committee meeting, Nashville, Tenn.
- 20-22 Consultation on Women in Church-Related Vocations, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- 21-23 Church Growth Dynamics Institute, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- 24-26 Texas Baptist Student Convention, Fort Worth
- 29-30 Family Enrichment Conference, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- 30 Ben C. Fisher retirement as Executive Director-Treasurer of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

The Radio and Television Commission plans to distribute nationally Stan Freberg spots for radio either in September or October.