



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355

W. 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

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Hispanics Ask Carter For Government Help

WASHINGTON (BP)--Hispanic groups meeting in Washington adopted public policy priorities and called on President Carter to act immediately to defuse tensions in the Hispanic population.

Officials of the National Council of La Raza said federal help is needed soon to avoid violence. Raul Yzaguirre, president of NCLR, said that many Hispanics feel Carter has failed to respond to their needs.

NCLR stressed two areas where Carter could act immediately in its statement following a three-day conference. The NCLR board called for a White House Conference on Hispanics and accurate counting of Hispanics in the 1980 census.

Yzaguirre said that a White House conference should include discussions on fair immigration policies, bilingual/bicultural education, census counts, education for children of migrant farm workers, welfare reform, bilingual courts, comprehensive national health insurance, more federal support to finance Hispanic community development, and the impact of Carter's proposed urban policy on Hispanics.

Yzaguirre also said that inaccurate counting of Hispanics lessens their political impact and decreases their share of federal money. He said that an accurate census would show at least 18 million Hispanics, 50 percent more than the 12 million now counted.

The Washington meeting, the first national meeting for community-based Hispanic organizations, addressed a variety of needs in the Hispanic community. Seminars ranged from housing needs to programs for the elderly, education to the administration of justice and police/community relations. Heavy emphasis on how to get the most out of government programs was a natural topic given the location of the conference in the nation's capital.

Speakers stressed the plight of Hispanics in a predominantly Anglo society. Graciela Olivarez, director of the Community Services Administration, pointed out that the incidence of poverty for Hispanic-Americans is twice the national average.

Patricia Roberts Harris, secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, said, "Hispanics today, in far too many places, suffer from housing deprivation and discrimination that is unacceptable for residents of the United States." She also noted the trend in this nation toward urbanization and the deterioration of many cities. She said that over 80 percent of all Hispanics in the United States live in urban areas, often decayed areas.

Ms. Harris announced in her keynote address that HUD was giving three grants totaling over three-quarters of a million dollars for projects addressing the housing needs of Hispanics in this country.

A few days before the conference the Department of Labor announced a contract for over \$300,000 for employment and training services to Hispanic-oriented community-based groups.

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BWA Chief Denny Urges
World Mission Cooperation

By Rex Hammock

Baptist Press
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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, called for the pooling of mission resources by the world's Baptists during an address at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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"Because some things can be done better together than separately," he explained, "a voluntary (missions) association should be established between autonomous Baptist bodies."

Comparing his "dream" to Southern Baptists' missionary movement, Denny said, "As the Southern Baptist Convention formed convention-wide mission agencies without losing the autonomy of state conventions and the local church, there can also be an international 'pooling of resources.'"

Denny, a Southern Baptist, was in Louisville, Ky., to receive the E. Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award, the highest honor given by Southern Seminary's board of trustees. Denny also addressed the opening chapel of the seminary's fall semester.

In an interview, Denny indicated that presently, 67 of the 111 Baptist bodies, with more than 33 million members, in the BWA have mission agencies. He explained that he was not calling on these Baptist conventions to "rush into anything."

"But I recognize the groundswell among Baptists around the world to continue working together to extend the mission of Christ," he said.

Defending his plan, Denny said, "The dream of pooling the mission resources of the world's Baptists is no more daring than the dream of (Baptists' first missionary) William Carey to spread the Gospel to India."

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Dilday Urges Students
'Not to Forget God'

Baptist Press
9/5/78

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary heard their new president warn them "not to forget God" under pressures of study, and a professor of church history comment on the changing role of women in Baptist history.

Russell H. Dilday Jr., in his first appearance before the students since becoming seminary president Aug. 1, warned that "it is indeed possible to forget our God" in the rush and pressures of the days to come.

"There may well be times when we may lose our spirit of joy...and it is possible to forget God," he said.

Dilday noted in his address that Christians often fall into a spirit of "stubborn self-sufficiency" and that as students they would be particularly susceptible to this.

He also urged students not to develop a one-sided attitude in their studies, thereby neglecting one or more aspects all important to a well-rounded ministry.

"You should not wallow in aimless, unfulfilled potential," Dilday said. "You are here for a reason, and it is your task to find your place and fulfill it."

Harry Leon McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern, pointed out that women are emerging in Southern Baptist work not as women ministers, but simply as ministers.

"What we're seeing in Southern Baptist churches today is not the continuation of the 18th and 19th century deaconess role," McBeth said, "but the re-emergence of the 17th century woman deacon."

In pointing out the historic role of women in the Baptist church, McBeth said he believes that by looking at history Baptist men and women of today will be better able to understand what is happening today and "perhaps even what ought to happen."

McBeth said the most controversial role of women today is that of the ordained minister. "Most of the ordained women among us serve as chaplains and counselors, though several are in pastoral roles and at least two are seminary professors," he said.

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McBeth added that he believes Baptists are moving forward in a direction of greater opportunities for Baptist women. "There are sharp differences on this topic, but we are moving, I think," he said.

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Duduit To Direct PR
At Palm Beach Atlantic

Baptist Press
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WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (BP)--Michael Duduit has been named Director of Public Relations at Palm Beach Atlantic College, a Baptist college in West Palm Beach.

Duduit, who will join the college staff September 15, has been on the staff of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., since August 1975. He served as news director part-time during seminary studies, and has served full-time as director of communications since October 1977.

A native of Jacksonville, Fla., Duduit is a graduate of Stetson University and a candidate for the Master of Divinity degree at Southern Seminary.

While at seminary Duduit received the Clyde T. Francisco Preaching Award in 1977. He served as pastor of an Indiana Baptist church for two years.

Churches Urged to Reach
Out to Single Persons

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Baptist Press
9/5/78

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Southern Baptist churches must reach out to the single adult segment of the population or lose it.

That's the appraisal of Tom Lee, adult consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department, which will launch a special emphasis on single adults in 1978-79.

Single adults, he said, include never-married, divorced, and widowed persons. They span the age ranges of young median and senior adults.

"This generation of young people has a viable option of whether to marry or not," Lee continued. "Churches must become aware of singleness as a positive lifestyle in which a person can be satisfied and fulfilled."

He said 40 percent of the adult population is made up of single adults and that the total is growing. "The Sunday School department believes that churches must reach out to these people or lose them to other groups," he declared.

The Sunday School department's emphasis on the single adult consists of three general facets: awareness, distinctives and community.

"Distinctiveness" includes identifying and implementing programs to meet the needs of single adults. "Community" will draw singles into the caring fellowship of the church body, Lee added.

"Single adults have the same basic needs of married adults such as needing relationships, seeking self worth, attaining direction and meaning in life, and the need to be wanted," Lee said. "Married couples often have these needs met through their mate or children whereas a single adult turns elsewhere for his or her life support, and the church can be that support."

Lee noted that single adults attend churches which welcome them and provide for them through facilities and workers. This places the responsibility on the church to organize single adult classes and draw them into the church's fellowship, he said.

The Sunday School department is asking churches to survey their organizational structure and the single adults in their church and then determine if a class should be started or new units added.

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The department also encourages churches to train single workers in planning and conducting events to meet the needs of single adults. Finally, an attempt is being made to lead single adults into becoming involved in ministering to other persons and taking leadership roles in the church.

"Churches are usually family-oriented and tend to make the single adult feel left out," Lee said. "Southern Baptists are now beginning to realize that there is not only a ministry to and for singles, but that singles are an untapped resource for ministering to the church."

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Pastor Returns To Faith,
Warns About Drug Abuse

By Charles Richardson

DURHAM, N.C. (BP)--"I feel like I will always be paying the price for what I've done."

Ted Gerald Stone, a former North Carolina Baptist pastor, once dreamed of a political career but became addicted to amphetamines and served four years and three months of a 15-25 year prison term for seven armed robberies.

Stone, 44, who was released on parole more than two years ago, now spends his life with churches, civic organizations and schools warning people about the problems of drug abuse.

"I feel like my relating the story of my own mistakes...may be able to help one person here and one person there...from making the same mistake I made," said Stone, a graduate of Wake Forest and North Carolina Central University.

"What I do realize is, that it is possible for it to happen to anybody and it happens to respectable people. I was brought up with the idea that nobody becomes an alcoholic, nobody has problems except people who live across the tracks, people who live down the street, people who are outside the church. But that's not true."

"I have yet to find a church in North Carolina in which some young people did not admit they were trying drugs," Stone said. "Most Baptist pastors welcome me because they realize that they've had no personal experience with drugs and they feel like it's good to have someone who has been there himself."

Stone was in private business after failing in a bid for the state legislature when a friend offered him two capsules that would keep him alert and more efficient at his job. He took the capsules with some hesitation.

The capsules, he later discovered, were amphetamines, called "speed" on the streets. Within 14 months, Stone was taking 15 tablets a day. Soon his personality changed to that of a violent man obsessed with a dream of power. He bought a hand gun and plotted the robberies that led him to prison.

Stone, who also attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Duke University, returned to his faith in God while in prison. He was exposed to some volunteer prison work and lauded efforts like that of Durham Memorial Baptist Church.

"The ladies of the church would bake all kinds of various cakes, bring cokes...it wasn't just a devotional," he said. "They brought guitars and sang music and usually had about a five or ten minute devotional period. It really worked miracles, I think, for these guys because I heard so many of them express dislike of church groups coming because they tried to emphasize just the preaching or something like this."

Stone said that prisoners need to feel a "warmth as if the person or group" accepts them. "They need acceptance. I feel that the Durham Memorial Church granted to them this feeling of acceptance. They mingled with them, they sat at the table with them, talked to them while this thing was going on, while they ate cakes that they had baked and it meant a lot to those men."

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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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