



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 Stan L. Hasteley, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

January 19, 1979

79-09

Pastor's Conference
Vows Encouragement

HOUSTON (BP)--The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, criticized last year as "negative," promises to "encourage the pastor" when it meets at the Houston Coliseum June 10-11.

The conference is among a number of pre and post convention meetings surrounding the annual Southern Baptist Convention national sessions at a separate location in Houston, the Summit, June 12-14.

Musical highlights include a concert by the popular Bill and Gloria Gaither, Alexandria, Ind., and specials by the Cruse Family, Jacksonville, Texas; Jeanne Rogers, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.; and gospel singer Jack Price, Garland, Texas, who also will lead the congregational singing; and the 190-member orchestra and choir of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Sermons by Adrian Rogers, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis; W. A. Criswell, First Baptist Church, Dallas; and James Robison, evangelist, Hurst, anchor the opening session June 10.

Pastors' Conference President Homer G. Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., says the messages and meeting are designed to be "encouraging to the pastor."

Last year's conference drew a rash of negative comments from readers of state Baptist newspapers who said pastors were unduly criticized by preachers at the sessions and not uplifted.

Messages during three Monday sessions will be brought by James Ponder, head of the Florida Baptist Convention evangelism department; Ralph Stone, pastor, North Jacksonville Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Richard Jackson, pastor, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Jim Henry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Bobby Welch, pastor, First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla.; William H. Ricketts, pastor, Prince Avenue Baptist Church, Athens, Ga.; Clark Hutchinson, pastor, Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.; Eddie Martin, evangelist, Lancaster, Penn.; Jimmy Jackson, pastor, Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; Charles F. Stanley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.; and Jerry Vines, pastor, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., will conclude the conference with a message Monday night.

Other music includes the choir from First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Lonnie Parsons, a layman from San Antonio, Texas; Claude Rhea, head of the Samford University music department, Birmingham, Ala.; and "Sonshine," from the First Baptist Church youth choir, Jacksonville, Fla.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTORS' CONFERENCE

Houston Coliseum, Houston, Texas

June 10-11, 1979

Sunday Evening, June 10

Homer G. Lindsay Jr., Jacksonville, Fla., presiding

- 6:30 Welcome--Homer G. Lindsay Jr., Pastors' Conference president, and pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 6:35 Music--Orchestra and Choir, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 6:45 Prayer--Homer G. Lindsay Sr., pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 6:50 Message--Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
- 7:20 Congregational Singing--Jack Price, gospel singer, Garland, Texas, director
- 7:25 Special Music--Orchestra and Choir, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 7:30 Solo--Jack Price
- 7:35 Message--W. A. Criswell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas
- 8:05 Congregational Singing--Jack Price, director
- 8:10 Offering
- 8:15 Special Music--Orchestra and Choir, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 8:20 Solo--Jeanne Rogers, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- 8:25 Message--James Robison, evangelist, Hurst, Texas
- 9:00 Benediction--Bailey E. Smith, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.

Monday Morning, June 11

Cecil J. Chambers, Pastors' Conference vice president, pastor, Centerville Baptist Church, Anderson, S.C., presiding

- 9:00 Special Music--First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
- 9:10 Prayer--James T. Draper Jr., pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas
- 9:15 Message--James A. Ponder, director of evangelism, Florida Baptist Convention
- 9:45 Congregational Singing--Jack Price
- 9:50 Special Music--Cruse Family, Jacksonville, Texas
- 10:00 Message--Ralph W. Stone, pastor, North Jacksonville Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 10:30 Congregational Singing--Jack Price
- 10:35 Offering
- 10:40 Special Music--First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
- 10:45 Message--Richard Jackson, pastor, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.
- 11:15 Congregational Singing--Jack Price
- 11:20 Special Music--First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
- 11:30 Message--Jim Henry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
- 12:00 Benediction

Monday Afternoon, June 11

Homer G. Lindsay Jr., presiding

- 1:00 Special Music--First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 1:10 Prayer--Fred A. McCormick, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 1:15 Message--Bobby Welch, pastor, First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 1:45 Congregational Singing--Jack Price
- 1:50 Solo--Lonnie Parsons, San Antonio, Texas
- 1:55 Message--William H. Ricketts, pastor, Prince Avenue Baptist Church, Athens, Ga.
- 2:25 Congregational Singing--Jack Price
- 2:30 Offering
- 2:35 Solo--Claude Rhea, chairman, Samford University music department, Birmingham, Ala.
- 2:40 Message--Clark Hutchinson, pastor, Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.
- 3:10 Election of Officers

Monday Afternoon Continued

- 3:20 Congregational Singing--Jack Price
 3:25 Special Music--"Sonshine," youth choir from First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
 3:30 Message--Eddie Martin, evangelist, Lancaster, Penn.
 4:00 Congregational Singing--Jack Price
 4:05 Concert--Bill and Gloria Gaither, Alexandria, Ind.
 5:00 Benediction

Monday Evening, June 11

Homer G. Lindsay Jr., presiding

- 6:30 Special Music--Orchestra and Choir, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
 6:40 Prayer--William A. Long Jr., First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
 6:45 Message--Jimmy Jackson, pastor, Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.
 7:15 Congregational Singing--Jack Price
 7:20 Special Music--First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
 7:25 Message--Charles F. Stanley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.
 8:05 Congregational Singing--Jack Price
 8:10 Offering
 8:20 Special Music--First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
 8:30 Message--Jerry Vines, pastor, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.
 9:15 Benediction

Pastors' Conference Officers

President--Homer G. Lindsay Jr., pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
 Vice President--Cecil J. Chambers, pastor, Centerville Baptist Church, Anderson, S.C.
 Secretary-Treasurer--John Hatch, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lakewood, Tacoma, Wash.

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Carter Warns Against New
 Constitutional Convention

By Stan Haste

Baptist Press
 1/19/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Carter said that calling a constitutional convention into session for whatever reason would be "extremely dangerous" and would represent a "radical departure" from the process of amending the Constitution approved by the nation's founders.

The president's warning, made at a nationally televised news conference, came in response to a reporter's question concerning the possibility of a constitutional convention to force the federal government to balance the budget. A growing number of politicians, including potential 1980 challenger Gov. Jerry Brown of California, have approved the idea.

Carter said that the primary danger in calling such a convention, an action never taken in the nation's history since the adoption of the Constitution in 1789, lies in the fact that the Constitution itself places no limits on the agenda of a constitutional convention.

Many political scientists are convinced that if such a convention were convened, the delegates would be free to discard entirely the present Constitution in favor of a completely new document.

Church-state experts have long warned that a constitutional convention would provide the opportunity for those opposed to separation of church and state to dispose of the First Amendment's neutrality toward religion in favor of a state church or religion.

Carter also pointed out that from a practical standpoint, even a single constitutional amendment calling for balancing the federal budget would be unpractical and dangerous in view of constantly changing military, economic, and social factors.

Any effort to amend the Constitution, he continued, should be approached "very gingerly, very carefully."

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Carter Promises Subsidies,
Defends Anti-Smoking Report

WASHINGTON (BP)--Although promising continued price subsidies to tobacco growers, President Carter nevertheless commended the surgeon general's new report warning of the dangers of cigarette smoking.

Carter said on a nationally televised news conference that it's "completely logical" for government officials to warn of the harmful effects of smoking. He attributed the lower tar and nicotine content of many cigarettes currently on the market to the first anti-smoking report released by the surgeon general 15 years ago.

The new report, a massive document made public in early January, states unequivocally that lung cancer and numerous other diseases are directly caused by cigarette smoking.

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Sheen, Carter Highlight
National Prayer Breakfast

By Stan Haste

Baptist Press
1/19/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--More than 3,000 persons attending the annual National Prayer Breakfast heard Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen declare that Americans need to confess both personal and corporate sin.

Noting that "we Americans do not like to hear about sin," the famed Catholic preacher drew laughter when he said that whereas Catholics have long taught the immaculate conception of Mary, "now all Americans believe they are immaculately conceived."

Sheen paid tribute to Abraham Lincoln, saying that he was the only American president to acknowledge publicly the corporate sins of the nation.

He identified America's chief sin as that of being more concerned about nuclear arms than about life.

The archbishop, clearly a hit with the crowd, which stood to applaud when he finished his sermon with a dramatic, arms-uplifted gesture, began his remarks by addressing the audience as "my fellow sinners." Turning to President and Mrs. Carter, he said he was including them as well.

Carter paid tribute to Sheen during his remarks. Recalling having followed the Catholic prelate's television program years ago, he said, "it even boosts my spirits when he refers to me as 'fellow sinner'."

President Carter appealed for continued prayers for peace in the Middle East and elsewhere and recalled that the arduous 13-day negotiations at Camp David last fall were marked by sincere prayer on the part of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and himself.

"But peace is still elusive," the president declared. He asked the audience, comprised largely of influential politicians, diplomats, and church leaders, to use their influence for the cause of peace.

In his remarks, Carter reaffirmed his commitment to separation of church and state; said Christian churches remain the "last bastion" of racism and segregation; and declared that "one of the great problems of the modern church...is our timidity."

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Missionaries in Iran
Unaffected by Protests

Baptist Press
1/19/79

TEHRAN, Iran(BP)--Southern Baptist missionary Henry E. Turlington and his family and missionary journeyman Michael Joe Sowder remain in Tehran despite anti-American protests.

In a telephone report Jan. 19, Turlington said there would probably be more anti-American protests, but the missionaries have not been personally approached. "Many Iranians (Muslims and Christians) are very friendly to us," he said.

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