



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 12, 1979

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION THE SUMMIT June 12-14, 1979 Houston, Texas

Theme: "Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!"

Tuesday Morning, June 12 (The Summit)

- 9:00 Music for Inspiration--Sanctuary Choir, First Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX, Lanny Allen, minister of music
- 9:30 Call to Order
Congregational Singing--Sam Prestidge, Dallas, TX, director
Scripture--Charles J. Scalise, New Haven, CT
Prayer--T. B. Maston, Fort Worth, TX
- 9:45 Report of Registration and Constituting of Convention--Lee Porter, Nashville, TN
Report of Committee on Order of Business--James L. Pleitz, Dallas, TX
chairman
- 9:55 Welcome--Mayor Jim McConn, Houston, TX
- 10:00 Response--Dan Stringer, Portland, OR
- 10:10 Recognition of Fraternal Messengers from Other Baptist Bodies
- 10:20 Convention Photograph
- 10:25 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Committee on Resolutions,
Committee on Tellers
- 10:30 Report of Executive Committee (First Section)--Porter W. Routh, Nashville, TN
- 11:10 Business and Introduction of Resolutions
- 11:45 Congregational Singing--Sam Prestidge, Dallas, TX, director
- 11:50 Music--Sanctuary Choir, First Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX, Lanny Allen, minister of music
- 11:55 President's Address--Jimmy R. Allen, San Antonio, TX
- 12:30 Benediction--Mrs. Marion (Sally) Aldridge, Batesburg, SC
Adjourn

Tuesday Afternoon, June 12 (The Summit)

- 2:00 Music for Inspiration--Alabama Singing Men, Paul M. Hall, director
- 2:30 Congregational Singing--Paul H. Stewart, Montgomery, AL, director
Scripture--John T. Simmons, Brushton, NY
Prayer--Mrs. Betty Greenwood, Tulsa, OK
- 2:45 Election of Officers
- 3:05 Report of Executive Committee (Final Section)--Porter W. Routh, Nashville, TN
- 3:45 Southern Baptist Foundation Report--Hollis E. Johnson III, Nashville, TN
- 3:55 Congregational Singing--Paul H. Stewart, Montgomery, AL, director
- 4:00 Business and Election of Officers
- 4:45 Benediction--Paul Y. Wong, Memphis, TN
Adjourn

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Tuesday Evening, June 12 (The Summit)

- 7:00 Music for Inspiration--The Singing Men of Texas, Robert Burton, guest director
- 7:25 Congregational Singing--William J. Reynolds, Nashville, TN, director
- 7:35 Scripture--James L. Bunch, Mansfield, OH
Prayer--Miss Annie L. Ivey, Burlington, NC
- 7:45 Business and Election of Officers
- 8:00 Report of Six SBC Seminaries--William Pinson, Mill Valley, CA, presiding
- 8:20 Sunday School Board Report--Grady C. Cothen, Nashville, TN
- 8:40 Christian Life Commission Report--Foy Valentine, Nashville, TN
- 8:50 Congregational Singing--William J. Reynolds, Nashville, TN, director
- 8:55 Music--The Singing Men of Texas, Robert Burton, guest director
- 9:00 Speaker--Charles W. Colson, McLean, VA
- 9:30 Benediction--Benjamin Ortiz, Sr., Kansas City, KS
Adjourn

Wednesday Morning, June 13 (The Summit)

- 9:00 Music for Inspiration--Choir, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA
Harry Cowen, minister of music
- 9:30 Congregational Singing--Al Washburn, Mill Valley, CA, director
Scripture-- Mrs. J. W. (Nell T.) Bowen III, Forsyth, GA
Prayer--Byron Mathis, Pascagoula, MS
- 9:45 Committee on Committees Report
- 9:50 Committee on Boards Report
- 9:55 Miscellaneous Business Report
- 10:25 Brotherhood Commission Report--
- 10:35 Historical Commission Report--Lynn E. May Jr., Nashville, TN
- 10:45 Congregational Singing--Al Washburn, Mill Valley, CA, director
- 10:50 Music--Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA,
Harry Cowen, minister of music
- 10:55 Convention Sermon--William Hinson, New Orleans, LA
- 11:25 Business
Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
Miscellaneous Business
- 12:15 Benediction--Billy Whitt, Pontiac, MI
Adjourn

NO SESSIONS WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Wednesday Evening, June 13 (Astrodome)

- 6:30 Pre-service Music--Texas Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Band, Lloyd Hawthorne and Greg Berry, directors
- 7:00 Bold Mission Thrust Rally
Music--8,000-Voice Choir, Cliff Barrows, Greenville, SC, director
Procession of Flags of Nations and States
Scripture
Prayer
Home Mission Board Report--William G. Tanner, Atlanta, GA, and testimonies from home missions personnel
Congregational Singing--Cliff Barrows, Greenville, SC, director
Foreign Mission Board Report--Baker James Cauthen, Richmond, VA, and testimonies on evangelism and world hunger from Ronnie Boswell, Brazil, and John Cheyne, Richmond, VA
Missionary Dedication Service--Jimmy R. Allen, San Antonio, TX, and Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham, AL

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Wednesday Evening, June 13 (Astrodome)

7:00 continued

Special Music--8,000-Voice Choir, Cliff Barrows, Greenville, SC, director
 Message on Bold Mission Thrust--Billy Graham, Montreat, NC

9:00 Invitation to Missionary Service--Billy Graham
 Adjourn

Thursday Morning, June 14 (The Summit)

9:00 Music for Inspiration--First Baptist Church Choirs, Bowling Green, KY,
 Carl Moman, minister of music

9:30 Congregational Singing--Frank Gonzalez, Houston, TX, director
 Scripture--Jose Sanchez, Las Cruces, NM
 Prayer--Mrs. Aurelia R. Downey, Washington, DC

9:45 Radio and Television Commission Report--Harold E. Martin, Fort Worth, TX

10:00 Annuity Board Report--Darold H. Morgan, Dallas, TX

10:10 Woman's Missionary Union Report--Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham, AL

10:20 Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Seminary Report--
 Arthur L. Walker, Jr., Nashville, TN

10:25 Education Commission Report--Arthur L. Walker, Jr., Nashville, TN

10:35 Stewardship Commission Report--A. R. Fagan, Nashville, TN

10:45 Congregational Singing

10:50 Business
 Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
 Miscellaneous Business

11:45 Address: Baker James Cauthen, Richmond, VA

12:15 Benediction--Glen Cantrell, Jefferson City, MO

Thursday Afternoon, June 14 (The Summit)

1:30 Music for Inspiration--Evangelistic Singers

2:30 Congregational Singing--Leon Westerhouse, Birmingham, AL, director
 Scripture--Jerry Ritchie, Monroe, LA
 Prayer--B. B. McGee, Ackerman, MO

2:45 Baptist World Alliance Report--Robert S. Denny, Washington, DC

2:55 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report--James E. Wood, Jr.,
 Washington, DC

3:05 Address: Porter W. Routh, Nashville, TN

3:30 Miscellaneous Business and Reports
 Committee On Baptist State Papers
 Denominational Calendar Committee

4:30 Benediction--John H. Chafin, Sr., Dothan, AL
 Adjourn

Thursday Evening, June 14 (The Summit)

7:00 Music for Inspiration--Baylor University Choir, Euell Porter, director

7:25 Congregational Singing--Lanny Allen, San Antonio, TX, director

7:35 Speaker--Jerry Clower, Yazoo City, MS

8:00 Congregational Singing--

8:15 Music--Baylor University Choir, Euell Porter, director

8:25 Speaker--Emmanuel Scott, Los Angeles, CA

9:00 Benediction--
 Adjourn

Convention Officers

Jimmy R. Allen, SBC president; pastor, First Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX
 A. Douglas Watterson, Jr., SBC first vice president; pastor, First Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN
 William L. Self, SBC second vice president; pastor, Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Convention Officers (Continued)

Martin Bradley, SBC recording secretary; manager, research services department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary; consultant, Sunday School department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

Porter W. Routh, SBC treasurer; executive secretary-treasurer, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.

W. C. Fields, SBC press representative; assistant to the executive secretary and director of public relations, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.

William J. Reynolds, SBC music director; church music secretary, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

Annual Meeting To Feature
Bold Mission Rally, Election

Baptist Press
3/12/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Southern Baptists will dedicate more than 1,000 missionaries in a service broadcast by satellite and elect a new president when they convene in Houston for the 122nd annual session of the 134-year old Southern Baptist Convention.

The sessions will run June 12-14 at The Summit and the Astrodome but activities and meetings related to it will get underway Sunday afternoon, June 10.

After sessions all day Tuesday, June 12, and Wednesday morning, June 13, in The Summit, the SBC session will move to the Astrodome for the Wednesday evening session for a massive Bold Mission Thrust Rally.

The rally, featuring a closing address by Evangelist Billy Graham, will highlight the convention. It is expected to draw about 50,000 people to the Astrodome and an estimated 200,000 persons to rallies in some 10 cities around the nation where the televised service will be broadcast by satellite, according to SBC President Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio.

Allen and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., will lead the dedication service for 1,000 volunteers who have signed up for one or more years mission service. Graham will preach a sermon on Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC plan to present the gospel of Jesus to the world by the year 2000, and will lead an invitation for additional persons in attendance to respond publicly to the call of missionary service.

The Bold Mission Thrust Rally will also include music by an 8,000-voice choir under the direction of Cliff Barrows of the Graham team, a procession of flags of nations and states where Southern Baptists have missionaries. The rally will likewise include reports of the SBC Home and Foreign Mission Board by executive directors William G. Tanner and Baker J. Cauthen, along with testimonies of missions personnel.

More than 18,000 persons from around the nation are expected to register for the convention, which last year in Atlanta registered an all-time record of 22,872.

Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, who will step down after two years in the office, will deliver the annual president's address at the opening session, June 12, and will preside.

Other program features include Jim McConn, mayor of Houston, who will welcome messengers; the convention sermon by William Hinson, pastor of First Baptist Church, New Orleans, La.; and addresses by Charles Colson, former White House staff assistant who now runs a Christian ministry for prisoners; Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.; Jerry Clower, country humorist from Yazoo City, Miss.; Emmanuel Scott, a black Baptist pastor from Los Angeles, Calif.; and Cauthen.

Routh, who will retire after 28 years as both executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee and treasurer of the SBC, will make his last appearance in these capacities. Besides his address, he will also present the annual report of the Executive Committee.

The convention's theme, said James L. Pleitz, chairman of the committee on order of business, is "Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!" Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, said, "The aim of this year's convention is to encourage persons to carry through on Bold Mission Thrust. The time has come when we must implement what we have talked about. The business of the convention is to do something about Bold Mission Thrust."

Besides the business of Bold Mission Thrust, the convention will feature the usual sessions for conducting the business of the SBC, including presentation of a proposed \$83 million Cooperative Program unified budget and a host of other business items and resolutions.

Convention music, directed by William J. Reynolds, church music secretary, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, will include a variety of musical groups. They include the choir of First Baptist Church, San Antonio; The Alabama Singing Men; The Singing Men of Texas; the choir and orchestra of First Baptist Church, New Orleans; the choir of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky.; the Baylor University Choir and several evangelistic singers.

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Brazil Flood Toll At 500,
Baptists Continue Response

By Jennifer Hall

Baptist Press
3/12/79

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--What may be the worst flood in Brazilian history has now claimed 500 lives--four of them Baptists--and devastated at least six Brazilian states. Southern Baptists continue to respond, but more help will be needed.

"The situation is not as bleak as I had feared, but it's worse than I had hoped," said Fred L. Hawkins Jr., Southern Baptist missionary in Brazil and coordinator of Baptist relief efforts there. Hawkins toured part of the area stricken by 47 days of persistent rain, that left 300,000 homeless and damaged 100 Baptist churches. No details were given on the four Baptists reported dead.

"Government and religious agencies have responded well with food, medicine and used clothing, but nobody has much hope for funds to help the families resettle," said Hawkins. After an appeal through the Texas Baptist newspaper, the Baptist Standard, two teams of Texas Baptist men are being mobilized to help in reconstruction.

One team of up to six volunteers will repair a church and pastor's home in Governador Valadares. Another six-man team will completely rebuild a church in Aimores, both in the hardest hit state of Minas Gerais.

"Texas Baptists were given gifts of \$10,000 and \$5,000 from two individuals, enabling the teams to get on their way, but some team members are going at their own expense," said John R. Cheyne, SBC Foreign Mission Board associate consultant for relief ministries. Texas Baptists have a special interest because of their involvement in a 1980 evangelistic project with Brazil.

The Foreign Mission Board gave \$95,000 in hunger funds to meet emergency needs. Missionaries requested \$285,000 for disaster relief in south Brazil, but the board could only grant \$120,836 in general relief. The board also granted a separate allocation of \$20,000 for flood relief in north Brazil. The requests virtually depleted the general relief account.

"While funds were depleted, we were able to meet the bulk of the demand for the crisis of hunger and disaster relief," said Cheyne. "This situation emphasizes the critical need for general relief funds."

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Following his visit to the stricken area, Hawkins said it was "ripe for disaster." Farmers denuded the once semi-tropical forest land to use it as crop or cattle farms. Urbanization and strip mining also affected the area.

Rivers rose as much as 30 inches in a few hours and left water marks six feet above street level. While many were able to evacuate, thousands were trapped in homes or businesses. Communications, highways, utilities and railroads were washed out. In one normally dry region, adobe houses were no more than piles of sludge.

In northern Goias, the area most recently hit, a Baptist orphanage collapsed after its 65 children were evacuated. Supplies were lost. For several days the children were without food, and were forced to kill and eat a milk cow. As waters receded, 30 of the children contracted fevers and other ailments.

In Cristalia, 44 church families were left homeless, cut off from outside help. Prices for existing food skyrocketed.

A family of 31 was saved by the determination of a 72-year-old man, said Southern Baptist missionary Cathryn L. Smith in Belo Horizonte. When the rains began, the man was away from home. It took six days by bus, truck, jeep and foot before he reached home, only to find the city flooded. His relatives were missing.

But with two soldiers, he left in a motorboat to search the waters. He couldn't locate the family farm, but with a megaphone, he cried out all night. He finally heard an answer from an "island," the highest point of the farm where the 31 family members had taken refuge 12 days earlier.

They had little to eat; their bodies were red from insect bites; but they were alive.

-30-

Lindsey Preaches to Carter;
Prays For Peace Agreement

By Elizabeth (Mrs. James W.) Smith

Baptist Press
3/12/79

JERUSALEM (BP)--Robert L. Lindsey, veteran Southern Baptist representative to Israel, preached to President Jimmy Carter and others who worshiped in the St. Andrew's Church of Scotland March 11.

The service included a prayer for peace in the Middle East and particularly for Carter's work in the peace talks, the reason for his presence in Jerusalem.

"I wanted very much to be here today," Carter told those who greeted him upon his arrival at St. Andrew's on his second day in Israel.

Tom C. Houston, pastor of the Presbyterian church, and Lindsey, pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Congregation in west Jerusalem, combined their congregations for this Sunday morning worship service.

Just before the guests entered the sanctuary, Lindsey's wife, Margaret, presented Rosalynn Carter with a Bible inscribed with the best wishes of Baptists in Israel. She told the American first lady that Baptists were praying for them and for the success of their peace mission. Mrs. Carter thanked her and exclaimed over the "lovely" olive wood cover on the Bible.

Houston began the service with a brief welcome to the president and other guests and assured the Carters of the love and prayers of all those present. The pastor then proceeded with a regular order of service, including announcements about choir practice and women's meetings.

In preparation for the president's visit, White House officials had investigated three sites for the service--the YMCA across the street from the King David Hotel where the

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presidential party was staying, the Baptist church on Narkiss Street in central Jerusalem, and St. Andrew's. "For security reasons" the Scottish church was selected.

Also taken into consideration, probably, was the fact that the Presbyterians regularly worship on Sunday morning while the Baptists in west Jerusalem usually worship on Saturday, the Sabbath when everyone is free from work and school.

According to Rizek Abusharr, clerk of the Presbyterian session and main elder in the congregation, every effort was made to make the service "as normal as possible for a man who said he needs to worship."

The service began with a hymn in Hebrew melody, "The God of Abraham Praise," a poetic rendition of the 13 articles of faith as taught by the 12th century Jewish sage, Maimonides.

Bible readings included Psalm 2 from the Old Testament and Luke 22: 24-30 from the New Testament. The worshippers also sang a metric version of Psalm 122 which included the words, "pray for the peace of Jerusalem...peace be within thy walls."

In his sermon, Lindsey pointed out that in Christian thought, Jerusalem is often visualized in spiritual terms. But, he stressed, the prayer for peace in Jerusalem was for the physical city, with its 360,000 souls.

"Mr. Carter would have been more successful in his mission if we had been more faithful in our prayers," Lindsey said, referring to negotiation difficulties experienced up to that point.

After the offering and doxology, the service ended with the Baptist minister reciting the three-fold priestly blessing in Hebrew. The congregation remained standing while the Carters left. The president smiled as he passed the worshippers and said, "Thank you for praying for me. Please continue to pray."

Mrs. Carter had asked Lindsey to pray for the president the evening before at the official welcoming ceremony at the entrance to Jerusalem. Lindsey, along with the heads of the various religious communities in the capital city, had been invited by Mayor Teddy Kollek to witness the special blessing of bread and wine offered by Rabbi Moshe Porush. The basis for this ceremony is found in Genesis 14 when Melchizedek blessed Abram and the Most High God.

As they left the church building together, Lindsey told Carter, "I am sorry that we couldn't work it out for you to worship at our Baptist church." Carter remarked that he was sorry also, but that those decisions he had to leave to others. He then asked about the Baptist congregation. The pastor told him that about 300 people attend weekly but there are 60 to 65 actual members. The president laughingly responded, "That's about the opposite of what it is in our country."

Earlier, in his sermon, Lindsey had jested that perhaps the U.S. president could come every week to boost church attendance.

Outside the church, President and Mrs. Carter paused briefly in the church yard to pose for dozens of photographers against the background of the walls of the old city. Carter then kissed his wife goodbye as they separated to different locations--he to official talks with the Israeli Prime Minister and she to visit an absorption center for new Jewish immigrants.

Interviewed on the radio later on Sunday, Lindsey said that Carter seemed to enjoy the service. "He was a good listener to the sermon and he took part in the prayer for peace that began the service."

Other reactions from Baptists present in the service include a simple, "praise the Lord" from Fahad Karmout, pastor of the Arab Baptist congregation in east Jerusalem.

Dale G. Thorne, administrator of Baptist mission in Israel, felt that all the features of the service were "appropriate" for the time and total purpose of the president's visit. "I felt that we really did worship together," he said.

A Jewish believer who regularly attends services at the Baptist chapel on Narkiss Street said he was happy that the service was "very close to Jewish sources" in the use of Psalms and Hebrew blessings.

Another Baptist said that the parts of the service were "beautifully interlocked around the theme of the solidarity for Jerusalem."

An English clergyman, a long-time friend of Baptists, told Mrs. Lindsey "the Lord helped Bob today." At that moment a prominent Jewish official hugged the Baptist pastor and said that he was pleased to be in the service.

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Mrs. James W. Smith is the Southern Baptist press representative in Israel. She was incorrectly identified as Mrs. Charles W. Smith in the Baptist Press release on March 8.

SBC Christian Life Head
Supports Arms Agreement

Baptist Press
3/12/79

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--The head of the Southern Baptist Convention's national social action agency said he supports a strategic arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union as an alternative to continuing to "spend ourselves into inflationary ruin and to run toward mass destruction in a nuclear holocaust."

Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said at a lecture-dialogue at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary that he believes SALT II is "an instrument that is morally justifiable."

"I think SALT II is in humanity's best interests, and I am convinced that it is in this nation's best interests," Valentine told students and faculty members, following his address on Southern Baptists and social concern. "We ought not to reject it just because it is also in the best interest of the U.S.S.R."

Valentine's remarks came on the heels of a special briefing at the state department in Washington, D.C. for Americans for SALT, a citizens' coalition which supports a new strategic arms limitation treaty with the Soviets and is pressing for prompt Senate ratification. Valentine said the group met with Paul Warnke, chief negotiator for the U.S. on the SALT II treaty, and other state department officials to discuss ways to support the 75 to 80 percent of Americans who, according to recent Gallup and Harris polls, want a limitation of nuclear arms proliferation.

Other participants in the high-level sessions included former Ambassadors to the United Nations Henry Cabot Lodge and Charles Yost, United Methodist Church Bishop James K. Mathews, former Secretary of the Air Force Stuart Symington, and lawyer and financier Najeeb Halaby.

SALT II, Valentine claimed, will help "preserve the current balance of terrors, which is not ideal and is not even healthy, but which is still better than nuclear war."

"It is the only practical step currently on the political drawing boards," he said, "and it is better to take this single, faltering step than to continue like lemmings bent on mass self destruction to rush headlong toward nuclear war in which there can be no victors, only victims."

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