



# BAPTIST PRESS

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79-55

### Pastors' Conference VP Will Urge Changes

ANDERSON, S. C. (BP)--A South Carolina pastor who is vice president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference said he plans to recommend two changes in Pastors' Conference procedures when the pastors meet June 10-11 at the Houston Coliseum.

"I recommend that a program committee be established annually, composed of the president and two additional pastors appointed by the vice president and the treasurer," Cecil Chambers, pastor of Centerville Baptist Church, Anderson, S. C., told the Baptist Courier, South Carolina state Baptist newspaper.

He also said he recommends "full disclosure of financial expenditures to state Baptist papers and the Southern Baptist Executive Committee by the Pastors' Conference as a preventative step to keep persons from falsely accusing leaders of the misuse of funds or of secrecy."

"These are men of integrity," he said of the conference officers, "who will welcome the opportunity of displaying openly the way Baptists conduct their business."

On the matter of program selection, Chambers said, "The idea behind this is to give balance. I don't believe that any one man has the breadth to feel the pulse of all Southern Baptists, and I think the committee format is preferred to the current practice of the president taking exclusive responsibility for the entire program."

Chambers, who said he "anticipates an outstanding program this year," added, "I am not crusading, I just think we should examine our procedures. The Southern Baptist Convention has a committee on order of business which works out program details, with the president having major input, and it makes full disclosure of money spent. I think the Pastors' Conference should do no less."

The 1979 Pastors' Conference precedes the annual meeting of the SBC, June 12-14, at the Summit. Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., is president.

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Thou Shouldst Not Add Ten  
Commandments, Baptists Vow

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Two Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission executives said that an action by Tennessee state senators to add the Ten Commandments and Matthew 22:37-39 to their code of ethics "violates the spirit of the First Amendment to the Constitution."

The action came when State Sen. Halbert Harvill of Clarksville, 85-year-old dean of the Senate, successfully moved to amend the two-year-old code of ethics during re-adoption procedure to add the Ten Commandments. That prompted State Sen. Avon Williams of Nashville to successfully urge addition of the Matthew verses: "...Thy shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind...Thy shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

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While Foy D. Valentine and Bill Elder of the commission opposed the state "expounding a religious position" by tacking the Bible onto a state document, they expressed hope that the senators would live by the precepts of the passages they endorsed.

"Saying that the Tennessee Senate should not have added the biblical documents in their legislation does not mean that we think the senators should not apply the principles of biblical ethics, beautifully and clearly seen in the Ten Commandments and Jesus' commandments to love," said Valentine, commission chief executive.

"On the contrary, we want to urge the Tennessee Senate and office holders everywhere to incorporate these ethical principles in their personal behavior and in their legislative decision making."

"Christian people must vigorously resist the state when it begins to expound any religious position," declared Elder, the commission's director of Christian citizenship development. "Sometimes we might be able to agree with the religion that comes out of the state, but what happens when office holders come along proposing a religion which runs counter to the Christian faith? It's far safer and more just to abide by the time-honored church-state separation principle that government must not propagate any given religious position but that all people may practice and promote their faith freely."

"Southern Baptists have throughout their history championed the doctrine of separation of church and state," Elder said, "even when the state seemed to be propagating a religious perspective totally acceptable to Baptists."

"The First Amendment clearly says, 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,'" he said. "While this code of ethics is not a law, it comes too close to having the gears of church engage the cogs of government."

When the code passed two years ago, Tennessee attracted national publicity by adding the Ten Commandments at Harvill's urging. The Ethics Committee decided to resubmit the code to the Senate this year without the biblical language.

But they reckoned without Harvill. His proposal drew strong opposition, even from Williams, who declared, "If you love God, you don't want to play lightly with his Bible." But when the motion passed, Williams said the senators might as well add the New Testament, too. They did.

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Canadian Baptists Begin  
Coast to Coast Evangelism

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TORONTO, Canada (BP)--Canadian Baptists have launched a series of simultaneous evangelistic crusades that will stretch from ocean to ocean during the next year, culminating at the Baptist World Congress in Toronto, July 8-13, 1980.

The crusades are a joint venture of the Task Force of Evangelism of the Baptist Federation of Canada and the Division of Evangelism and Education of the Baptist World Alliance.

C. Ronald Goulding, evangelism coordinator for BWA, will be the speaker at a series of week-long preparatory rallies in each of five regional centers.

The preparatory work begin with rallies in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, March 18-26, arranged by Roy D. Campbell, director of the evangelism commission of the United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces.

Other regional preparatory meetings are slated in western Canada April 4-9; in Ontario and Quebec, April 27-May 7; in Montreal, June 7-11; and at the Baptist Federation of Canada's triennial convention at Regina, Saskatchewan, July 12-16.

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Country Music Talent  
Used in Church, Too

By Charles Willis

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Jeanine and Bill Walker work day-to-day in country music, but when the opportunity comes to witness for Christ, they eagerly turn their talents in that direction.

As guests on four upcoming segments of "At Home with the Bible," a national television program produced jointly by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Radio and Television Commission, the Walkers share their faith in the way they find most comfortable.

"I feel very blessed to have a voice that I can use to sing God's praise," says Jeanine, who sings with the Nashville Sounds Quartet.

Bill, an arranger and conductor for Johnny Cash and other well-known personalities, adds: "Christians can perform in the secular world very effectively. Just as the apostle Paul preached to Christians and non-Christians, we can bring an effective witness to all persons."

"In Christian music, we perform classical music such as works from 'The Messiah,' moderate works like 'The Lord's Prayer' and pop-flavored gospel music," he said. "We don't aim our music to only one segment of the audience."

Jeanine's musical career got its serious start at the encouragement of entertainer Bob Hope, and the circumstances that led to that encounter, Jeanine terms "a fluke." She was a last minute substitute to appear with Hope when Miss Mississippi's decision to marry terminated her reign.

Jeanine then appeared on several other shows with Hope, who was impressed with the voice of then Miss Jeanine Ogletree. Later, Hope's agent asked her to go to California to appear with a touring variety group called "The Kids Next Door."

Today she sings with the quartet to "back up" other Nashville music artists, does commercial "jingle" work and sings background for many network television shows produced in Nashville. A recent Tennessee Ernie Ford television special featured Jeanine as a soloist.

And every week, she can be found working as director of the Sunday School department for second grade children at First Baptist Church, Nashville.

Bill, a native Australian, played the organ and piano in church as a child. Later, as a graduate of the Sydney Conservatory of music, he worked in Greece, Switzerland, England and Africa.

As musical director for RCA's International division in the early 1960s, Walker met noted singer Jim Reeves and produced for him what was to be a gold record. At Reeves' invitation, Walker came to the United States to pursue directing work.

Now an arranger, conductor, composer, record producer and instrumental performer, Walker directs the music for all of Johnny Cash's television specials. He has worked on George Beverly Shea's albums for RCA and served as musical director for the Country Music Association Awards Show.

A deacon at First Baptist Church, Walker, along with his wife, is currently involved in the music industry committee for Billy Graham's Nashville Crusade, scheduled for June.

Jeanine and Bill Walker say that it isn't difficult to be a Christian in Nashville's country music community, because there are many Christian people working in country music.

"You don't have to be dogmatic or belligerent to live your Christianity," says Bill. "Just let them know you are a believer."

"At Home with the Bible" is broadcast nationally on 20 television stations, 14 radio stations, approximately 1,350 cable television systems and by satellite on the PTL Network, CBN Network and Home Box Office.

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(BP) photo mailed to Baptist state newspapers by Sunday School Board Bureau of Baptist Press.

Houston Delegates Will  
Ride Shuttle System

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HOUSTON (BP)--Parking will not exist during daytime sessions when thousands of delegates converge on the Summit in Houston for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 12-14.

Commuter automobiles fill the acres of parking around the Summit during the day. Only after 6 p.m. will those spaces be available for the cars of messengers.

Therefore, a massive transport system involving up to 100 buses gathered from around Texas will shuttle messengers between their hotels and meeting places, primarily the Summit. Buses also will run to the Astrodome for the Wednesday night session.

Convention manager Tim Hedquist says buses will run continuously from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and will be numbered and color-coded for easy identification.

Parking will be available at nearby Rice Stadium which will be a transfer point. Those who drive from their hotel will park at the stadium for one dollar, then catch a shuttle to the Summit for a dollar per person.

Messengers who do not have cars will catch a bus at their hotel for one dollar, ride to Rice Stadium where they will catch a shuttle for another dollar. Some routes will run directly from the hotels to the Summit for two dollars, depending on the location of the hotel. Return trips cost an additional two dollars.

On paper, the shuttle system is "quick, but expensive," Hedquist says. Most of the rides will be only 10 minutes and he says the cost of a taxi from downtown to the Summit approaches six dollars.

Hedquist cautions that Houston prides itself on having the best towing service in the country and officials there don't hesitate to tow unauthorized cars from parking spaces. "There is absolutely no parking at the Summit during the day," he says. "At night, parking is free and there's plenty of it."

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Houston Housing  
82 Percent Full

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4/3/79

HOUSTON (BP)--Elected delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 12-14 have already laid claim to 82 percent of the available rooms, according to convention manager Tim Hedquist.

Hedquist said most remaining rooms are in the larger downtown hotels and will cost about \$50 nightly. There are a few rooms in the \$30-\$40 range remaining.

Hedquist, who gets updated reports weekly from the convention bureau, says he will tell messengers where rooms are available if they call him at 615-244-2355.

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