

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Memorial Day Proclamation
Stresses Prayer for Peace

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Jimmy Carter's annual Memorial Day proclamation for 1979 places heavy emphasis on the subject of peace and calls on the nation to set aside the hour of 11 a.m. on Monday, May 28 to pray for peace.

Carter's designation of this year's Memorial Day as "A Day of Prayer for Permanent Peace" also acknowledges the nation's debt to its war dead.

"They have given us a gift too valuable ever to repay, save by preserving that peace, that liberty, that America" they fought to secure, the president declared.

Noting that Memorial Day was set aside as a national holiday more than a century ago to honor the dead on both sides of the Civil War, Carter said that "each generation is called upon to preserve and defend our liberties anew, often with their lives."

"The fact that their suffering has not yet bought a permanent peace does not make their sacrifice in vain," he went on. "They preserved that which we hold most dear so that we might strive again for what they sought--a just and honorable peace in which all people settle their differences without bloodshed or oppression."

The president also called on "all the people of the world" to "join us in our struggle, so that one day all the earth may share the blessings of liberty, justice and peace."

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Directors of Missions
To Meet in HoustonBaptist Press
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HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Southern Baptist directors of missions will hear addresses by a seminary president, marriage enrichment experts and a social services director at their annual meeting, June 10-11.

The 18th annual Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions at the Ramada Inn West, 7787 Katy Freeway, is one of several satellite events around the Southern Baptist Convention sessions in Houston June 12-14 at the Summit.

Directors may select two of four special interest conferences during the two-day meeting. Conferences will feature rural-urban ministries, by James Nelson, social services director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Christian social ministries, Ed Onley, director of church and community ministries, Capital Baptist Association of Oklahoma City; pioneer ministries, Bill Peters, director of missions, Northwest Baptist Convention, Portland, Ore.; communications/news media, John Earl Seelig, vice president for administrative affairs, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Other program features include a closing address by William Pinson, president of the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and presentations by Dr. and Mrs. John Drakeford on their ministry in marriage enrichment seminars. He is professor of psychology of religion and counseling at Southwestern Seminary.

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J. Thurman George, pastor of Foxworthy Baptist Church, San Jose, Calif., will bring an inspirational message at the close of the first day's session, and Mrs. Len Sehested of Fort Worth, Texas, will lead a conference for women during the special conferences on June 11.

Directors of Missions officers include Herman E. Wooten, Orange, Calif., president; and Eddie Gilstrap, Atlanta, Ga., president-elect. Wilson Brumley, Houston, is the host director.

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Floods Hit
Houston Area

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
4/20/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--While Texas Baptist volunteers were helping victims in the tornado-devastated Wichita Falls area, others rushed to aid flood victims in the Conroe-New Caney area.

At the crest of the flood, April 18, 34 people, cut off from their homes, spent the night in the activities building of First Baptist Church, Conroe, near Houston.

Bethel Baptist Church, New Caney, housed 24. Mims Memorial Baptist Church, Conroe, sheltered a number of flood victims from their own neighborhood. Plans to shelter people at Southside Baptist Church, Conroe, were changed when the church's basement flooded.

To the south of Conroe at Spring, Texas, the Oak Ridge Baptist Church was flooded with about two inches of water in the auditorium and an inch in the education buildings. The homes of about 50 of the church's families were flooded.

The church would have been a shelter for flood victims had it not been flooded itself, said pastor Harvey Kneisel. Members of the church served on disaster relief crews helping flood victims.

More than 2,000 people were left homeless in the Conroe area when up to a foot of rain fell in 24 hours.

Besides the people housed in churches and other storm shelters, 500 children were forced to spend the night in schools.

Cliff Herrington, pastor of First Baptist Church, Conroe, said he's never seen anything to compare with the flood in 15 years as pastor. "We opened the church pantry and fed the people what we had--sloppy joe mix and buns," he said.

Along with flood damage, said Herrington, fire destroyed two homes in a large housing addition. High water created electrical shorts and then prevented firemen from fighting the resulting blazes.

The quick response of the churches has opened doors for new ministries, said Herrington. "One of the most heartwarming responses by people sheltered at the church," he said, "came from a Mexican-American family who said they were new in town and had no friends."

Since the Texas Baptist disaster relief mobile unit was in use in Wichita Falls, a similar unit owned by Oklahoma Baptists was on standby to move into the Conroe area.

An apparent tornado unroofed the education building of First Baptist Church, Channelview, said pastor Robert Cupps. With the roof gone, further damage was inflicted to the building by the heavy rains.

Taylor Pendley, chairman of the Texas Baptist church recovery task force and coordinator of the church extension section, is assisting the church in determining the extent of loss and needs. He indicated assistance could be directed from existing convention programs.

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The disaster was the church's second in a year. While the roof was being overhauled last summer, a heavy rain flooded the building and ruined the ceiling and floor.

The torrential rains also caused problems in the Beaumont area. High water forced seven church workers who had been to an associational meeting in Jasper to spend the night in the building of First Baptist Church, Beaumont. No water was in the church building.

Calvary Baptist Church, Beaumont, had two inches of water in its west location. Two nursery workers had to spend the night in the building on a stage until they were rescued the next day.

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North Central Thrust
Reports Large Results

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4/20/79

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--More than 1,400 churches and missions in seven north central states reported 5,327 professions of faith in Christ during a week of simultaneous revivals in April. There were also estimated 10,500 persons rededicating their lives in Christian commitment.

Evangelism directors in the four state Baptist conventions and two fellowships made the report at a steering committee meeting of the North Central Mission Thrust held in Indianapolis. The simultaneous revivals were held in churches and missions in the state conventions of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio and the two Baptist fellowships in Iowa and Minnesota-Wisconsin.

The revival week was a highlight of 1979 which has been designated for special evangelistic emphasis in the seven north central states.

The North Central Mission Thrust is the regional emphasis under which the seven states are taking part in the nationwide Bold Mission Thrust of the Southern Baptist Convention which seeks to give everyone in the U.S. a chance to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus by 1982.

More than 400 pastors in the southeast and southwest came to the north central states to preach revivals in the 1,400 churches. These included 115 pastors from Kentucky in Ohio, 110 from Arkansas in Indiana, 84 from Tennessee in Illinois, 40 from Texas in Minnesota-Wisconsin and 30 from Missouri in Iowa. In Michigan, 36 vocational evangelists led revivals.

The revival week was promoted and publicized through hundreds of highway billboards in key locations in the state and through bumper stickers proclaiming "Good News" for the state. More than 250,000 Luke-Acts scripture portions were distributed in pre-revival visitation.

The SBC Radio and Television Commission sent a camera crew to Columbus, Ohio, in January to film highlights of the North Central Thrust Evangelism Conference in which all seven states took part.

These highlights were condensed into a 30-minute videotape which was shown on several commercial TV stations and dozens of cable channels throughout the area just before the revival.

"This is probably the first time this many Southern Baptist congregations in a single region have joined together in such a bold mission adventure in evangelism for one week," said Ray E. Roberts, Columbus, executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and chairman of North Central Mission Thrust steering committee in 1979.

The seven-state effort is to bring the gospel to 32 million people living there who do not profess faith in Christ, Roberts added. The states have a combined goal of winning 32,000 persons to Christ during 1979.

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"This is truly a Bold Mission Thrust in evangelism," Roberts said. "There has never been a time in the history of Southern Baptist work in these states when our priorities were more compatible with the nationwide emphasis of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Roberts said the regional effort relied heavily on the personnel and financial support from the Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board and Woman's Missionary Union.

The simultaneous revivals will be followed by area crusades to be conducted locally around the north central states later this year.

The count by state in conversions was: Ohio, 2,048; Illinois, 1,508; Indiana, 943; Michigan, 550; Iowa, 200; Minnesota-Wisconsin, 78.

Local reports indicated tremendous results: A church in Flint, Mich., which had an attendance of 25, extended its revival one week and reported 25 professions of faith; more than 30 churches in Ohio reported 10 or more converts; a sign in the window of a restaurant in suburban Columbus, Ohio, prompted four diners to visit a nearby church where they all professed faith; one Illinois church had 58 persons converted during pre-revival preparation; several churches reported more additions by baptism during pre-revival week than they had all last year; a church on the verge of disbanding reported 17 conversions and changed its mind about closing up.