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Radio-Television Commission
Received Peabody Award

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has received one of the broadcast industry's highest awards--the Peabody Award--for its film "A River To The Sea."

The Peabody Awards, in their 40th year, are designed to recognize the most distinguished and meritorious public service programs each year in radio and television. The commission's award was given for work done by John C. Stevens, vice president of script development, who wrote, produced and directed the film.

Stevens, who has won more than 40 awards for filmmaking excellence, said, "I've never had an honor thrill me as much. I'd rather win this than an Emmy. It is one of the most prestigious awards we have ever received."

This is the fourth time "A River To The Sea" has been honored. It has received the Golden Image Plaque from the Long Island International Film Festival, the Bronze Medal from the Greater Miami International Film Festival and the CINE Golden Eagle Certificate.

The film is a 30-minute documentary on the history and evolution of the English language. Narrated by actor Alexander Scourby, it traces the language from "the Roman occupation to modern times--touching landmarks in the development from Beowulf to Shakespeare and from the King James translation of the Bible to Churchill," said Stevens.

"A River To The Sea" features five minutes of Scripture reading which Stevens said he used to stress the impact the Bible has had on the development of the language.

"The scriptures are also used to plant a seed in the hearts of our audiences. We want people to start thinking along a spiritual line without being preachy," said Robert Taylor, director of the commission's radio and television division.

"A River To The Sea" (which premiered October 1978 on CBS) is part of the commission's "The Human Dimension" television series.

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Wood R iterates Opposition
To IRS Schools Procedure

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press
5/1/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--Proposed Internal Revenue Service rules threatening the tax exempt status of church schools which fail to prove they are racially nondiscriminatory ought to be scuttled, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs reiterated here in testimony before a Senate subcommittee.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Washington-based agency, told the Senate Subcommittee on Taxation and Debt Management that The Baptist Joint Committee "has a longstanding commitment to the protection of human rights and to the elimination of discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, sex, or age..." But he said, "The fundamental issue which is raised (by the IRS proposal)...is religious liberty and the separation of church and state..."

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The Baptist executive acknowledged that government has a role in furthering what he called "an altogether meritorious public policy of abolishing racial discrimination," but not at the expense of the religion guarantees of the First Amendment.

Wood's appearance before the subcommittee came just days after staff members of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission in Nashville endorsed the IRS procedure on grounds "that racism is totally inconsistent with the Christian gospel." They communicated that view in a letter on April 20 to Jerome Kurtz, IRS commissioner, and U. S. Sen. Harry Byrd Jr., Ind.-Va., subcommittee chairman.

But both William H. Elder, director of Christian citizenship development, and Executive Secretary Foy Valentine, emphasized the commission's continuing commitment to the principle of separation of church and state. "It is at the important point of opposing racism that we are now compelled to raise our voice," Valentine said.

Elder declared that "The First Amendment was obviously not meant to protect practices which are contrary to the Constitution. Racial discrimination is such a practice."

But Wood made it clear that the Baptist Joint Committee, comprised of representatives from the SBC and seven other national Baptist bodies, feels the IRS has overstepped its boundaries in attempting to threaten the existence of religious schools unless they prove their nondiscrimination.

"We believe that the Internal Revenue Service lacks not only statutory authorization for issuing this proposed procedure but also the legal competence, under the First Amendment, to regulate enrollment policies of either churches or the schools which they operate as an integral part of their religious mission," Wood declared.

The IRS proposal, imposing a mathematical quota system for the integration of "certain private schools," including religious schools, was first announced last August 22 in "The Federal Register." Commissioner Kurtz indicated then that the powerful federal agency planned no public hearings because IRS considered the proposed procedure to be noncontroversial.

After thousands of protests, however, Kurtz scheduled four days of public hearings last December.

On February 13, 1979, IRS published revisions in the proposed procedures, eliminating from coverage Hebrew day schools, Black Muslim schools, and Amish schools. Another revision also made special accommodations for Roman Catholic parochial school systems, holding that such systems would be exempt even though some individual schools failed to meet the racial quota imposed.

The Baptist Joint Committee statement attacked as "constitutionally treacherous" such "invidious distinctions" between churches. Wood argued that the IRS may not discriminate between churches because of varying organizational forms, "thereby making accommodations favorable to one class of religious organizations as opposed to the others."

Wood also attacked the proposed procedures on grounds that their enforcement would "excessively entangle government with religion" in violation of the First Amendment. "The very nature of the...procedure would necessitate an ongoing examination of records and activities," Wood said.

The statement likewise criticized the IRS for "usurp (ing) the legislative role of the Congress" in issuing the proposed procedure. "Congress intended to limit only the political activities" of tax exempt groups, Wood insisted.

Among those agreeing with the Baptist Joint Committee position at the hearings were two U. S. senators, a congressman, and representatives of the Council for American Private Education, the National Society of Hebrew Day Schools, the Seventh-Day Adventists, the U. S. Catholic Conference, and the National Association of Evangelicals.

Appearing in support of the IRS proposal were the chairman of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, Kurtz, and representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Tax Reform Research Group, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

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Baptist Work in Zambia
Growing Amid Tensions

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press
5/1/79

LUSAKA, Zambia (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in this Central African country are more concerned about their need for additional missionary personnel than about travel difficulties stemming from Zimbabwe/Rhodesian bombings of guerrilla camps here.

Church growth continues, and the missionaries have made an urgent appeal for an evangelistic missionary couple to work in the Chipata area of Eastern Province, says Franklin A. Kilpatrick from Texas, Southern Baptist missionary press representative.

Although no apparent danger exists in the areas where Southern Baptist missionaries work, some incidents of hostility on the Great East Road between Lusaka and Chipata have caused missionaries in the Eastern Province to travel to the capital by air rather than land. The incidents were attributed to tensions which appear to stem from the bombings.

Recent bombings of guerrilla camps near Lusaka did cause missionaries to suspend the April meeting of the mission (organization of missionaries) until May, but did not interrupt other work there.

Missionary Leroy Albright from Kentucky, who teaches a Bible school for pastors and church leaders in Petauke, 100 miles from Chipata, has been trying to work with the eight to ten churches in the Chipata area. "They are young churches," he says, "and if we don't get somebody to help them soon, we may lose them."

Also in Petauke, Delos D. Brown, agricultural missionary from Louisiana, continues farm development with an emphasis on seed production. At Kalwa Farm in the Serenje District, agricultural missionary Thomas A. Waddill from Virginia seeks to meet physical and spiritual needs. With the help of a Zambian couple, Rev. and Mrs. Moses Chimfumpa, Waddill and his wife Lucille, a North Carolinian, provide evangelistic coverage of their area and the Copperbelt Province while other missionaries are on furlough.

In Lusaka, Baptists have established a church within the boundary of the State Lodge, home of Zambian President Kenneth D. Kaunda and his family. "When the president heard that the church on his farm was a Baptist church," Kilpatrick says, "he was delighted and welcomed the idea..."

With the exception of the suspended missionary meeting and one week when expatriates were advised not to go downtown, Baptist work has not been interrupted in Lusaka, Kilpatrick says. Baptists operate a seminary, a publications house, a communications center, a music ministry, Theological Education by Extension classes, and other ministries there.

In Livingstone, on the Zambezi River border with Zimbabwe/Rhodesia, a Bible study center opened in August by missionaries Lonnie and Fran Turner from Kentucky has already resulted in the starting of four home Bible study groups.

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(BP) Map mailed to Baptist state papers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

SBC Giving Tops
\$76.6 Million Mark

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5/1/79

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--With seven months gone in the 1978-79 fiscal year, Southern Baptists' total giving to national causes has reached \$76,839,511, more than \$7.8 million above the amount given at the same point last year.

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The portion of that amount going undesignated to Cooperative Program budget needs of the Southern Baptist Convention's worldwide missions program is \$36,916,988, more than \$3.8 million or 11.50 percent ahead of last year.

The balance--\$39,922,524--consists of designated contributions to the SBC's Lottie Moon Christmas and Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings and other causes. It exceeds by more than \$4 million, or 11.28 percent, the designated contributions in 1977-78 at the same point.

During April, the seventh month of the fiscal year, Southern Baptists contributed \$10,071,408 with \$5,426,709 going undesignated to Cooperative Program causes, and \$4,644,698 designated. The Cooperative Program portion represents a 12.15 percent increase over the amount given in April, 1978, while the total amount is 5.38 percent ahead of last April.

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Zimbabwe/Rhodesia Mission
Says Time Right For Witness

Baptist Press
5/1/79

GWELO, Zimbabwe/Rhodesia (BP)--Calling it "a unique time of witness and personal ministry," Southern Baptist missionaries in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia are asking for prayer after election of the country's first majority government April 20.

The prayer request came from the missionaries in a statement drafted at their annual meeting, April 28-May 5, in Gwelo.

At the meeting, the missionaries' feelings were echoed by Baptist Convention President A. Nziramasanga, who said, "I love you missionaries; you are needed here. This is the time for harvesting in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia."

Although rural areas are torn by war, Baptist churches and institutions in urban areas are flourishing and African leadership is emerging rapidly, the missionaries said.

"Baptist churches and Christians in the rural areas are experiencing suffering, intimidation, restriction of worship, destruction of property, and even loss of life," the statement read.

Baptists in rural areas, such as those near Sanyati Baptist compound, have continued ministries missionaries left when they moved to cities because of increased guerrilla activity. Missionary Archie G. Dunaway Jr. was murdered by guerrillas at Sanyati in June 1978. Local Baptists continue to operate the Baptist Hospital and schools there.

The 27 Southern Baptist missionaries now in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia work with the Zimbabwe/Rhodesian Convention in the operation of a seminary, publishing house, radio studio and Bible correspondence school. Work is located in the cities of Salisbury, Gwelo, Bulawayo, Fort Victoria and Gatooma. They also continue to work with churches in the urban areas.

In the election Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council won 51 seats, a majority in the country's first Black dominated 100-member Parliament and 67.3 percent of the popular vote. Muzorewa, who will be prime minister, is a United Methodist minister.

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Wrapup
Inspiration, How-to's Top
First Secretaries Meeting

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press
5/1/79

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The daily machine-like efficiency of operations in a multitude of Southern Baptist churches no doubt ground to a halt during the first National Conference for Church Secretaries.

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More than 500 secretaries registered from 26 states and Canada at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board for the first-ever national conference planned exclusively for the needs and interests of church secretaries. Attendance exceeded 700 at some sessions.

"The secretaries need inspiration to do a better job, and know that they are significant persons," explained Lucy Hoskins, conference director and consultant to church secretaries in the board's church administration department.

"A church secretary is the girl Friday every single day," said Hoskins. "She is the pastor's right arm, plus being a receptionist, counselor, head of the information bureau and keeper of the lost and found."

Depending on the size of the church, secretaries also type, transcribe, keep records, count money, write letters and serve as church clerk. Many of the secretaries said they were in the only clerical position in their church. On the other hand, First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., sent all 10 of its church secretaries.

In addition to secretaries in local churches, some of the secretaries at the conference work for associations, state conventions and denominational agencies.

Special interest sessions during the four day conference ranged from grammar to personal appearance and help on filling out the annual church letter to help for working mothers.

Jeanette Clift George, star of the motion picture, "The Hiding Place," shared her testimony in the final evening session of the conference. Mrs. George told the secretaries that "Faith is a gift of God, but it is a muscle that must be exercised. I would challenge you to move forward unto excellence. God assigns us to do what he has equipped us to do. We don't find what we're equipped to do until we step out on faith."

David Matthews, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville, S. C., addressed the church secretaries for six of their full group meetings.

Albert Cardwell, counselor from Macon, Ga., told the secretaries that there would be times when they would be exploited, and they would need to go beyond self and give."

He added that an important ability to possess was that of adaptability, that is how sensitive you are to others. Cardwell also said the secretaries should accept credit for their actions, right or wrong. For instance, the next time someone expresses appreciation for a job well done, don't explain it away as nothing, just say thank you, he said.

Many of the secretaries expressed gratitude for the opportunity to attend a conference directed toward their needs. A church secretary from Paducah, Texas, said the conference was a "shot in the arm. It has given us life, revived us just like a pastor needs to be revived."

"The conference gives me a better outlook on my position," commented a secretary employed at the Mississippi Baptist Convention. "I think attending here will give me a more positive approach to my job and the ministry of my job. It also helped me recognize the responsibility that is mine."

Several of the church secretaries said they were going home to change aspects of their work that had been discussed in the special interest conferences. "Getting organized" was a consensus goal of secretaries who attended the filing conference and others relating to personal and job priorities.

Church-Related Colleges
Plan National Congress

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (BP)--A major two-year effort to review, reaffirm and renew the role of church-related colleges and universities in American life will be kicked off at the University of Notre Dame in June.

More than 1,500 educational and church leaders from over 700 colleges will convene at Notre Dame June 21-23 for the National Congress on Church-Related Colleges and Universities.

It will be the largest, most representative meeting of church-related college and university administrators yet held, according to congress planners. More than 100-million church members are included in the sponsoring bodies.

Theodore Hesburgh, president of the University of Notre Dame, is chairman of the national committee sponsoring the congress, and Ben C. Fisher, retired executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, is chairman of the program committee.

The executive director, John D. Moseley, chancellor of Austin College in Sherman, Texas, said, "We will have no uniform structures or seek to mold any common educational patterns. Every denominational group will 'do its own thing' in separate meetings, but we will come together to share traditions and needs and ideas. Then, we will take our findings back to our various parent bodies and use the accumulated data as it fits individual needs."

Major study commissions are now preparing special working papers on various issues facing the churches and the colleges including educational purpose, societal needs, governance, finance and other phases of college and university life.

The papers, plus speeches and other data presented at the June 21-23 congress, will be studied by follow-up committees for several months. Then, on February 1-2, 1980, a concluding session will be held in Washington, D. C., to wrap up findings and evaluate directions charted in the 1979 congress.

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Mrs. Carter Will Address
American Baptist Churches

Baptist Press
5/1/79

CARBONDALE, Ill. (BP)--First Lady Rosalynn Carter will address the biennial meeting of American Baptist Churches here June 8 by way of a telephone hook-up from the White House.

Earlier, Mrs. Carter had indicated her hope to be present at the meeting, on the campus of Southern Illinois University, June 6-10, but her busy schedule makes it necessary to communicate with her fellow Baptists by telephone.

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