



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Pastors' Conference
Needs Contributions

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, which started the year with no money in its treasury, fell \$2,731.84 short of its expenses at its 1979 meeting in Houston, according to Homer G. Lindsay Jr., immediate past president.

Lindsay is urging contributions to help make up the deficit.

"If you received a blessing from the Pastors' Conference in Houston and would like to help us get out of this hole," Lindsay said in his request for funds, "please send money to Dr. John Hatch, pastor, First Baptist Church of Lakewood, 5602 112th St., S.W., Tacoma, Wash. 98499." Hatch was secretary-treasurer for the 1979 Pastors' Conference.

Figures released by Hatch show that the Pastors' Conference had \$12,401.25 in bills and took in \$9,669.41 in offerings, leaving \$2,731.84 owed.

The breakdown shows bills of \$490 for security guards, \$50 for piano tuning, \$800 for platform erection, \$3,646.25 for union labor in conference set-up, \$2,195 for printed programs, \$4,100 for coliseum rental and \$1,120 for decorator's fees.

"In the past," said Lindsay, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., "the Pastors' Conference has given the pastors' wives money to aid them in their pastors' wives dinner held during the Pastors' Conference. We were not able to do so last year, and it looks like we will not be able to do so this year."

He urged contributions to cover the bills and allow money to be passed on to the pastors' wives as well as to the new president of the Pastors' Conference, James Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, for next year's meeting in St. Louis.

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Hollis Named To
Family Committee

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WASHINGTON (BP)--An official of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has been appointed to a 40-member national advisory committee which will help plan and implement the long-stalled White House Conference on Families.

Harry N. Hollis Jr., associate executive secretary and director of family and special moral concerns for the Nashville-based agency, is the only Southern Baptist representative to be named to the advisory committee.

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The committee, comprised of 20 women and 20 men representing business, labor, religion, social services and "grassroots" segments of American society, held its first meeting in Washington July 19-20 to lay the groundwork for the national conference.

Proposed by Jimmy Carter in his 1976 presidential campaign, the White House Conference on Families was to have been held this year, but it has been delayed by key resignations on the conference staff.

The conference is now scheduled for the summer of 1980. Major goals outlined by the advisory committee, Hollis said, include providing a forum for nationwide discussion of family-related issues, evaluating the impact of public policy on families and stimulating action within private and public sectors which will support and strengthen families.

President Carter, who met with the advisory committee at the White House, emphasized his personal support for the conference which he hopes will enrich and strengthen family life. He outlined some of the problems facing the American family and pointed out that families "are very much a part" of the "crisis of confidence" which he described in a recent address to the nation.

Hollis, who said he has "great hopes" for the national conference, commended President Carter's "vision and courage" in calling the conference, "because there are risks involved." One of those risks, Hollis explained, is that "there will be pressures from some groups to divert the conference from its primary goal of strengthening families."

Last year, Christian Life Commission Executive Secretary Foy Valentine and David Mace, professor of family sociology at the Bowman-Gray Medical School of Wake Forest University, issued a public statement which expressed concern that various groups might try to manipulate the conference into an opportunity to publicize "alternative lifestyles." The statement, which called for the development of a national policy which would support the American family, was endorsed by then SBC President Jimmy Allen and national leaders from five other religious bodies.

A similar resolution was adopted by messengers to the 1978 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

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Grand Canyon
Not Sanctioned

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PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--Grand Canyon College will receive no sanction from the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for keeping its baseball team from participation in the NAIA world series.

Grand Canyon kept its team home after pictures were published in area newspapers showing the players celebrating their final victory by pouring champagne over their heads. School rules prohibit the use or possession of alcohol by its students.

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A statement issued by the executive committee of the NAIA, which met with Grand Canyon President Bill Williams in its Kansas City headquarters, said: "Because of the unusual circumstances surrounding this case, the committee has determined that institutional probationary action...shall not be assessed in this instance."

Williams said the committee members, composed primarily of college administrators and athletic directors, was supportive of Grand Canyon's action.

He said the NAIA contract of participation clearly showed the NAIA's desire to support moral and ethical values and support the autonomy of the school.

Williams indicated some committee members said corrective action would more likely have been taken if the school had not taken strict measures to reprimand the violation of school rules.

Williams pointed out there was no violation of the NAIA by-laws because the by-laws support the school's autonomy. "The executive committee was sympathetic and expressed appreciation we would stand by the ethical values of the school and prioritize the matter as we did," Williams said.

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Williams's Witness Success When He Tells Failure Story

By Jim Newton

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (BP)--J. T. Williams once lost \$2 million in 18 months, but what he found was worth more than that, he insists.

"The most joyous years of my life were when I lost that money," asserts Williams, a Baptist layman and real estate developer in Tallahassee, Fla.

What he found was a deep, abiding faith in God, and the gift of sharing his faith in Jesus Christ with others.

To explain his point, Williams tells of an experience he had as coordinator of the Bill Glass Prison Crusade at the federal penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa., three years ago.

One of the inmates started giving him a hard time and said, "If I hadn't found something better, I'd be a Christian myself."

When Williams asked what he'd found that is better than Christ, the inmate replied flatly, "money."

"Well, I've made some money in the past, but I never found it better than Christ," Williams replied. "Either you know something about money that I don't know, or I know something about Christ that you don't know. So tell me what you know about money."

Mickey Mack, the inmate, told Williams that he had "made" more than \$15,000 a week robbing banks, and that enough money could buy anything.

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Williams replied that he had made more than \$1 million in a single year, "but I didn't find it that good. But that's not the end of my story," he added. "In the last two years, I've lost more than \$2 million."

"If that'd happened to me, it would've killed me," Mickey replied.

Williams said that "Jesus was with me when I was making the money, and he was with me when I was losing it. And Jesus gives me joy, peace and happiness regardless of my financial situation."

The very next day, Mickey Mack accepted Christ as personal Savior. "It wasn't making the money, it was losing it that impressed him," Williams said.

Making money is a secondary concern for "Tee" Williams, president of Killearn Properties, Inc. His major interest in life is telling others about Jesus.

Five years ago, Williams, who had been leading a legalistic and perfunctory Christian life, was asked to be chairman of the citywide Bill Glass Evangelistic Crusade. During a spiritual preparation rally for the crusade, he made a "total commitment" of his life to Christ.

He became involved in the pastor-led witnessing training program at Immanuel Baptist Church and said, "Within a month, my whole life changed. My prayer life changed. I found a new peace within me. I quit taking tranquilizers, and haven't had one since."

In mid-1974, the largest mortgage company in the area, Commonwealth Corp., went bankrupt, depressing the area real estate market. Killearn Properties had been selling 30 homes a month previously, but sold only one house the next month.

Within the next 18 months, Killearn Properties lost \$5 million, and Williams personally lost \$2 million.

"But I never worried about it," Williams insisted. "The Lord really prepared me. He knew I couldn't handle it without him."

His business associates couldn't understand why Williams was so calm, so happy all the time. Every time someone asked why he was smiling while he was losing millions, Williams had an opportunity to witness.

The president of the largest bank in Florida asked Williams to pray for him. Several employees at Killearn Properties accepted Christ. The president of the state Senate and speaker of the House of Representatives accepted Christ as a result of Williams' personal witnessing efforts.

Williams is full of stories about people who have come to know Christ as a result--a former Florida State football player who spent time in prison on a narcotics charge who now works for Killearn Properties; a hard-nosed road building contractor whose son was killed in a traffic accident; the son of a bank holding company who had been unable to communicate for years with his father; dozens of prison inmates he has won to Christ during Bill Glass prison crusades...

Oh, yes, his business has improved too. During the last six months, Killearn Properties made \$500,000 profit, the highest since 1974.

"And I now have the joy of giving a second or third tithe," Williams says.

Still, his greatest joy is not making money, but telling others about Jesus.

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(BP) photos mailed to Baptist newspapers by Memphis Bureau of Baptist Press.
