



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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## Allen Says Alcohol Ghetto Would Dramatize Problem

By Robert O'Brien

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--Creation of an "American Dachau for Alcohol Related Killing" for the 205,000 Americans alcohol kills annually would "dramatize the wastage of human life by the alcohol beverage industry," Jimmy Allen told a national conference on the impact of alcohol and other drugs.

"The stench from those figurative ovens of annihilation might wipe the smiles off the cheerful people who persuade us to consume 52.5 gallons of alcohol--the amount per capita for every American above the age of 14," said Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas.

Allen, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was one of a series of speakers on the opening day of the conference sponsored by an ad hoc committee from 40 denominations and religious groups.

Citing research, Allen declared that alcohol related costs in the United States total \$43.5 billion each year. "If we could dramatize the wastage of financial resources in the nation's alcohol experience," said Allen, "a citizenry worried over inflation and using deflated dollars might pay attention. Imagine how big a bonfire \$43 billion would make."

Allen said that figure includes \$19.6 billion in lost production, \$12.7 billion in health and medical costs, \$2.8 billion in violent crimes, \$1.9 billion in social responses, \$5.1 billion in motor vehicle accidents and nearly \$500 million in fire losses.

The San Antonio pastor quoted a World Health Organization report which said: "So rapidly have alcoholism and alcohol related problems increased that they now rank among the world's major health concerns, threatening to slow down economic development in the Third World and overburden the health services of most countries."

Several factors--the entrenchment of profit makers, the complexity of the problem and indifference and confusion--make the problem more difficult, Allen said.

"There are enormous profits to be made," he declared. "The alcoholic beverage industry alone grosses \$38.2 billion dollars annually, \$4.3 million an hour. Little wonder that the industry buys as much advertising on television and in print as the federal government spends on all programs dealing with alcoholism problems put together, including research, training and community programs."

He said the "entrenchment is so deep that the finest and most persuasive of advertising... comes free" from writers and directors who glamorize it on television.

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Allen challenged churchmen to avoid being paralyzed by the complexities of a problem which results in financial loss, broken families, damaged bodies, violent behavior, destruction, greed and pain.

"Churches and churchmen are divided and confused, ineffectual and ill-equipped," he declared. "While we look accurately and measure the task, let us determine by the power of God within us to do something."

He called on religious people who believe in abstinence and those who believe in moderation not to spend time attacking each other--but to get over emotional approaches and deal realistically with the problem.

"As we deal with these complexities, let us not overlook the simplicities," he charged. "Sometimes a troubled person does not need an expert as much as he needs a friend. The Spirit of God is at work using us to lift up the fallen. The grand schemes of which we dream must not be used as smokescreens behind which we hide from doing the obvious deed close at hand."

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Land Made Available  
For Work in Senegal

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--"A real breakthrough" has been made in a new area of Baptist work in Senegal, says John E. Mills, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for West Africa.

The local government has sold missionaries nearly an acre of land for a chapel and missionary residence. Mills says it is unusual in Senegal, as in many other Muslim countries, for any non-Muslim group, especially evangelicals, to be permitted to buy land.

The parcel is in the Casamance region south of the Gambia River. The Ken G. Robertsons moved there in 1968, settling in Bignona where the construction is to take place.

Mills says he hopes construction funds for the house and chapel will come from this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Most of the Southern Baptist witness in Senegal previously centered on urban approaches, mostly in Dakar, the capital. A Baptist center has also begun operation in Pikine.

Casamance is a largely agricultural area where tribal religious customs remain and where Islam is not as strong as in northern areas.

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Women, Youth Among  
Hardest Hit by Alcohol

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INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--Women and youth rank among American groups hardest hit by the abuse of alcohol, says a national expert on alcohol.

"Alcoholism is not just a man's disease," said John R. DeLuca, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. "And it is the leading cause of death among persons aged 15 to 24."

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DeLuca, who called for adequate government response to the severe public health problem of alcohol abuse, was one of a battery of experts in Indianapolis to address a three-day National Conference on the Impact of Alcohol and Other Drugs on Contemporary Life. It was sponsored by an ad hoc group of religious leaders representing 40 denominations and religious groups.

He said that alcoholism, long stereotyped as a man's problem, now affects about as many women as men. Women face growing societal pressures, he said, and have become more willing to talk about their problem now that women alcoholics are losing the stigma of being "fallen women."

DeLuca painted a picture of tragedy among young people, hooked by what they think is a "safe way to get high."

After the wide abuse of illegal drugs in the 1960s, youth "may be returning to what they perceive to be 'safe,'" DeLuca said, "and parents may be relaxing because their children are 'just' drinking."

But alcohol is trapping a growing number of youth who use it excessively. "Youth need to make a decision on facts, rather than peer pressure," he said.

DeLuca said a major emphasis of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism during the coming year will be dissemination of information on how women and youth may better deal with the problem of alcohol.

He said there will be "an enhanced effort to develop treatment programs for youth and to work with employers to develop assistance programs to provide on-the-job counselors to help women and other employees deal with drinking problems."

DeLuca hailed the efforts of the religious leaders--Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and Jew--sponsoring the conference. "The strongest network of organizations available to deal with this extensive public health program are religious groups," he declared.

"We all need to work together to get out the message that addiction can be cured," he said.

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Argentine Baptists  
Expect Lay Renewal

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Lay renewal is expected to become a national thrust of the Argentina Baptist Convention during 1981-85 according to David Haney, director of lay renewal at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Haney, who spent three weeks in Argentina recently with the convention's evangelism board, said the South American Baptists will adapt Southern Baptist lay renewal materials and methods for their four-year lay renewal strategy.

Argentine Baptists have translated three of Haney's books into Spanish and are using the third, "The Lord and His Laity," as the basis for a churchwide study in 1980, he said. The other two books, "Renew My Church" and "The Idea of the Laity," were used in similar ways earlier.

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Indiana Executive  
Says He'll Retire

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--E. Harmon Moore, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, has announced his retirement effective Jan. 1, 1981.

Following Moore's surprise announcement to the convention's executive board, Garland Morrison, a pastor from Marion, Ind., moved that R. V. Haygood, associate executive director and director of missions, be named executive director-elect immediately, foregoing normal search committee procedures. The motion was delayed until the board's meeting, Feb. 26, 1980.

Meanwhile, Glen Flowers, executive board chairman, has invited pastors and church members to suggest possibilities, including names, addresses and biographical data.

Moore, who will be 65 in May 1981, could have remained until age 70 under current retirement guidelines in Indiana.

The convention's chief executive since its formation in 1958, Moore told the group he was looking forward to not being a "bi-vocational" preacher anymore but a fulltime preacher again.

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Offensive Habits Prompted  
Iran Crisis, Anderson Says

By Lillian M. Moir

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11/27/79

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--The current crisis in Iran is the result of the United States' use of personnel who offend the Iranians by their personal habits, including use of alcohol and other drugs, according to nationally-syndicated columnist Jack Anderson.

Anderson told a national conference of religious leaders on the impact of alcohol and drugs that "the ugly American has turned much uglier overseas because he has become a carouser."

American military presence--and the spending of \$12 billion to keep the Shah in power--offended the people of Iran, said Anderson, a Mormon. "When Ayatollah Khomeini came to power, he closed the bars and preached anti-American sermons."

There could be other Irans, Anderson predicted, if the U.S. continues to send abroad people to represent the country who take drugs or drink liquor.

"Our strength (as a nation) is undermined by these personal habits," he told leaders from 40 religious groups from across the country. "Drunkness corrodes society. The problem is real. There is something about morality that either makes a nation strong or saps its strength."

Anderson said he sees signs of decay similar to that seen in Rome, France and other great civilizations of the past.

"Alcohol and drug abuse is greater than a personal problem, although it is that," said Anderson. "I believe that we are sons and daughters of God. Anything that degrades, despoils or debilitates human personality is evil. Anything that enlarges it is good."

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Lillian Moir is news service director of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis.

## Liberian Convention Celebrates Centennial

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)--Liberian Baptists will celebrate their centennial in 1980 with a new building, publication of the convention's history and the adoption of goals and strategies for the next century.

The Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention Inc. recently approved architectural drawings calling for a nine-story building in downtown Monrovia at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million. It will include offices for the convention and its organizations and auxiliaries, a bookstore, a film library, a publication center, conference rooms and office space for lease to outside groups.

The history of Liberian Baptists is intertwined with the history of the republic. The first president of the convention was Joseph J. Cheeseman, also president of the country. The current president of Liberia, William R. Tolbert Jr., is also president of the Baptist Convention and pastor of Zion Praise Baptist Church in Bentol City.

Liberia was never the colony of a foreign power. Free black men and women from the United States came to this part of Africa under the auspices of the American Colonization Society. They intended to live on the continent which was the homeland of their ancestors. Some had been slaves and had bought or been given freedom; others were born free.

This group established the first church on Liberian soil, what is now the Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia. Lott Carey, one of their leaders, became the first pastor of that church.

Nathaniel Richardson, retired author of books and articles about Liberia and Liberian Baptist history, and Abraham James, a university professor, will prepare a history of the convention.

Monthly centennial days in each church, beginning in January, will mark the start of the centennial observance. A thanksgiving service at the Good Hope Baptist Church in Marshall Territory on April 4 will mark the anniversary of the organizational meeting.

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Sect Wins, UPC Loses  
In High Court Actions

By Stan Haste

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WASHINGTON (BP)--In a pair of church-state actions, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to disturb lower court decisions upholding the right of members of religious sects to move about freely making solicitations in public places and declared that a California congregation which withdrew from the United Presbyterian Church owns its local property.

The high court declined without comment to review a ruling by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals that a policy of the state of Indiana--which would have confined members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Hare Krishnas) to a booth at the Indiana State Fair--violated the sect's free exercise of religion.

The Indiana State Fair Board had maintained that the state had a compelling interest in restricting the sect's members to a booth, arguing that it was obligated to protect the public from fraud and from the nuisance created by Hare Krishnas' pinning flowers on passersby.

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By declining to take up the California church property case, the high court left standing a state court ruling that the majority of members of the Community Church of Palm Springs, Calif., hold title to their church property in spite of their withdrawal from the United Presbyterian Church.

The denomination had claimed that it owns all local church property and that title to such property reverts to the mother body when a local congregation votes to withdraw.

The dispute was similar to a Georgia case settled last spring by the Supreme Court also involving a Presbyterian congregation. The Court ruled then that so-called "neutral principles of law" may be applied to church property disputes. That legal doctrine means that state property laws may be applied to church property disputes when the mother body's incorporation papers leave doubt as to ownership.

The United Presbyterian Church, in light of that Supreme Court ruling, is currently restudying its incorporation documents to come up with new language which will insure in the future that the denomination controls local church property in such disputes.

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HEW Loses Fight To Impose  
Sex Discrimination Rules

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WASHINGTON (BP)--The Supreme Court has denied a hearing to the federal government in its effort to refuse federal funds to local school districts which fail to follow sex discrimination guidelines in employment practices.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), acting under 1972 education amendments, issued regulations which, among other things, required school systems receiving federal aid to treat pregnancy-related leaves of absences as they would any other physical disability. A number of school districts have refused to comply.

Three years ago, in *General Electric Co. v. Gilbert*, the high court declined to force private companies to treat pregnancy as they would other physical illnesses. Since then, Congress has passed a law, effective April 1, 1979, mandating private companies to provide disability insurance for women on pregnancy leave.

At least three of the ten circuit courts of appeal have disagreed with the HEW guidelines, holding that while Congress gave the powerful federal agency the right to promulgate regulations keeping funds from school districts which discriminate against students on the basis of sex, it did not authorize blanket rules on employment practices.

Because of the high court's refusal to consider the issue, HEW will likely be forced to seek new legislation which will deal specifically with employment discrimination by school boards.

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