



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Broadcasters Receive Abe Lincoln Awards

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Mardee McKinlay Birchfield, director of public affairs, KBTW, Denver, and Philip E. McDonald, vice president and general manager, WCKY Radio, Cincinnati, have received 1980 Abe Lincoln Awards from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

The two Abe Lincoln Awards--one in television and one in radio--are given for outstanding service to the industry and to the broadcaster's home community.

Wilson Wearn, of Greenville, S.C., president of Multimedia Inc., featured speaker at the 11th annual awards ceremony, received the Vincent T. Wasilewski Award, given to a broadcaster who raises the industry's image in the eyes of the public.

Wearn has served as chairman of the National Association of Broadcasters and president of the South Carolina Broadcasters Association. The Wasilewski Award was presented by Jimmy R. Allen, Radio-Television Commission president, and Vincent T. Wasilewski, president of the NAB.

A videotape of the presentation of the 1980 Christian Service Award to President Jimmy Carter was shown at the ceremony. Commission trustees and Allen gave Carter the award at the White House, Feb. 12. The award is usually presented at the Abe Lincoln Awards ceremony. Carter could not attend because of current world crises.

Ms. Birchfield and McDonald, as well as the six other Abe Lincoln finalists, were selected by a committee of broadcasters, including previous Abe Lincoln winners. The broadcasters helped the Radio and Television Commission evaluate entries from large and small markets.

The other Abe Lincoln nominees, who each received Abe Lincoln Merit Awards, were Kathryn F. 'Kitty' Broman, president, Springfield Television Corp., Springfield, Mass.; Michael H. McDougald, president/general manager, WRGA, WQTU Radio, Rome, Ga.; David R. Plyler, public affairs director, WXII-TV, Winston-Salem, N.C.; James V. Shircliff, president/general manager, The Jamarbo Corp., radio stations WLLL, WGOL, Lynchburg, Va.; L.T. Shoemaker, community affairs director, WROM Radio, Rome, Ga.; and Marilyn F. Solomon, director, corporate relations, KCOP-Television Inc., Los Angeles.

**Hollis Urges Focusing
On the Hurts of Families**

By Rex Hammock

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Appealing for an affirmation of the importance of family life, Harry N. Hollis Jr., challenged delegates to the Tennessee Governor's Conference on Families to focus on the hurts of family members and not "bog down" in single issue debates.

Hollis, director of family and special moral concerns for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, was keynote speaker to the conference, one of many such state meetings leading to this summer's activities of the White House Conference on Families.

Hollis, the only Southern Baptist on the 40-member national advisory committee for the White House conference, also delivered the keynote address at the Kentucky meeting.

In a direct appeal to special interest groups, Hollis told the delegates, "The problems families face are too great and too complex to turn this into a one-issue conference--no matter what the issue is. We need to hear about as many family problems as possible."

Hollis told the 200 delegates and standing-room-only crowd of more than 800 observers, "The way to keep this conference headed in the right direction is to focus on the hurts of family members."

Doing this, he explained, "we can move past haranguing to helping; past debating to deciding; past reacting to acting--acting to strengthen families."

While declaring his belief in the future of the family, Hollis acknowledged that "there is confusion about family life today."

Social and economic pressures, daily interpersonal conflicts, violence, television's sex "miseducation" and other threats are challenging families, Hollis explained.

"Families need help in looking beyond themselves to higher values and ideals," he told the delegates.

"In many cases, the greatest help for families will be the common sense wisdom of people sharing their own experiences and knowledge, older people communicating with the younger about lessons learned in their own life journeys, and taking time and going to the trouble of listening, lifting and loving."

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Rex Hammock is director of communications for the Education Commission of the SBC, Nashville.

Southern Baptists Help
California Flood Victims

Baptist Press
3/3/80

SAN JACINTO, Calif. (BP)--Southern Baptists are supplying manpower and money to help Californians clean up tons of silt dumped on their homes and businesses by February floodwaters.

Three persons died and approximately 4,000 of the community's 6,000 residents were forced to evacuate their homes when the San Jacinto River levee broke under the strain of torrential downpours, said Paul Adkins, director of Christian social ministries for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

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"The Home Mission Board has sent a check for \$5,000 to the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, designated for emergency relief in the San Jacinto/Himet area to be used by the local coordinator," Adkins said. "Further funds will be sent as needs are determined."

First Southern Baptist Church of nearby Himet became a center of Southern Baptist relief efforts. While approximately 85 local Baptists worked around the clock in relief efforts, about 120 persons lived in the church's building for up to six days, waiting to move in with friends and relatives.

Buddy Reeves, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Himet, is local coordinator of Baptist relief efforts. Reeves and Bob Williams, California Baptist director of Christian social ministries, are working with the American Red Cross to facilitate emergency relief and restorative services.

Edd Brown, California Brotherhood director and coordinator of disaster relief, and Norman Godfrey, director of the SBC Brotherhood Commission's ministries section, are coordinating the implementation of several disaster relief units from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. At least 100 volunteers are expected to join these crews, Adkins said.

"The people here have lost everything," Brown reported. He said about 600 to 700 persons were without housing.

Members of the First Southern Baptist Church in Himet, who have not been affected by the flooding, were being organized by Brown to provide relief assistance. "The shock is over and the realization that they have lost everything has begun to sink in," he said.

Brown's Fresno office began alerting the state convention's network of trained disaster relief volunteers. Brown said he needed 30 volunteers a day to provide relief assistance to the understaffed Red Cross group.

Prior to the flooding at San Jacinto, Brown had just returned from an on-the-site inspection tour of southern California areas most affected by the two weeks of rain and mudslides.

"Primarily public facilities--roads, sewer systems, utilities, service type things--have been affected. There is considerable damage to private homes," Brown explained. The affected areas include Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Riverside Counties.

"As far as we know, there has not been a church affected," Brown said. "Most all the damage has been along the coast and the hill areas and in areas under development where the land is susceptible to the heavy rains," he said.

Several directors of missions in the affected areas reported that although no churches were damaged, a number of Baptist families were displaced after their homes were hit by mudslides and/or flooding.

The First Southern Baptist Church of Lakeside in San Diego was briefly evacuated by pastor Glenn Sanderson and his family, who live on the church property. Although the church was in the path of flood waters, "no water got there," reported Wayne Eurich, San Diego's director of missions.

In south San Diego, Calvary Southern Baptist Church was continuing to serve as a crisis evacuation center and command post for police and disaster relief officials following flooding from the Tijuana Dam.

Since late January church members have been providing clothing, bedding and foodstuff for the 200 families displaced by the several weeks of continued flooding, pastor Jim Ingram reported.

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Cooperative Program Has First \$7 Million Month

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program recorded its first \$7 million month in February, according to figures compiled here by the SBC Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee received and disbursed \$7,109,343 in Cooperative Program receipts channeled by SBC churches through state Baptist conventions. The figure topped by 27.13 percent the \$5,592,262 given in February of 1979 and exceeded the previous record high month of \$6,488,452 in January 1980.

The February figure was aided by several state conventions which sent large checks for Bold Mission Thrust giving above their basic operating budgets at the end of their fiscal years.

The undesignated Cooperative Program receipts for February, along with another \$22,489,332 in designated contributions, brought total giving for the month to \$29,598,675, up 26.64 percent over February 1979.

Through the first five months of the SBC's 1979-80 fiscal year, Southern Baptists have given \$30,199,313 through the Cooperative Program, up 15.56 percent over the same point last year, and \$31,604,018 in designated contributions, up 21.59 percent. That totals \$61,803,331, up 18.57 percent over the \$52,125,194 at the same point last year.

Harold C. Bennett, executive director-treasurer of the Executive Committee, said he felt as if the Cooperative Program giving "is coming as a result of effective promotion of Bold Mission Thrust," the SBC plan to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world by the year 2000.

"I feel this is an indication of an increasing excitement about personal involvement in missions," Bennett said. "This seems to indicate a reaffirmation of the Cooperative Program as our main channel of world mission support."

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