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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 24, 1980

80-49

**Peace Conferees Hear
Military Might Futile**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)--Increased military might is not the way to world peace that Christians should seek, according to speakers at a peacemaking conference at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.

Mike Clark, minister of the disarmament program at the Riverside Church in New York, said the fallacy of military strength as a deterrent to aggression is illustrated by the crisis in Iran. First, the powerful shah, with access to the latest lethal firepower, was deposed by a virtually non-violent movement. Secondly, the U.S., with the strongest military force in the world, is being held hostage by a group of students.

Clark challenged conference participants to make the difference in United States policy. "The nuclear threat is a threat to our whole creation and now Christians are beginning to realize the response is one of faith," he contended. "Southern Baptist churches, in the next 10 years, may well be a crucial determining factor in the outcome of the century."

The Myers Park event, attended by over 200, was the second peace conference at a Southern Baptist church. Glen Stassen, the prime mover behind the first such meeting in February 1979 at Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., said in Charlotte that the United States theoretically has the power to deliver more than 6,500 megatons of nuclear explosives on more than 11,000 targets.

Stassen, associate professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, emphasized the increased likelihood of the use of nuclear weapons and said control must be mutual between the superpowers. "It is imperative we take the forgiving words of Jesus concerning our brothers, to the people of Russia for the survival of those we love," Stassen said.

Bill Elder, director of Christian citizenship in the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, called for hope in the time of anger and frustration. "We must recover the ministry of hope and peace," he said.

Elder, himself once a congressional candidate, explained that policy is shaped in an election year and said, "Public opinion is the most important policy-maker." The reason presidential candidates are not addressing the peace issue is because the voters are not pushing the nuclear disarmament programs, he said.

Americans appear confused on the issues affecting world peace, according to Elder. Almost 60 percent of Americans in a survey said they supported a nuclear limitations treaty with Russia. However, 64 percent said they wanted increased U.S. spending for nuclear arms.

Myers Park pastor Eugene Owens told participants that peacemaking is a "noisy business." He said the noise against the Viet Nam war changed the minds of many who had supported it. "The nuclear era has changed everything except our way of thinking and now we must change our minds," he said.

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Baptist Press

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION
ANNUAL MEETING
June 8-9, 1980

Kiel Auditorium
St. Louis, MO

THEME: "Life-Changing Commitments"

Director of music and soloist at each session: Mrs. Beverly Terrell, Dallas, TX
Organist: Albin Whitworth, Wilmore, KY

Sunday Afternoon, June 8, 3:30

Session Theme: The Family in Life-Changing Commitments

Monologue on the theme: Sheryl Churchill, Baptist Young Women consultant, WMU,
Birmingham, AL

Interviews of Families by Evelyn Blount, assistant to the education division director, WMU,
Birmingham, AL

--Dr. and Mrs. Adrian Rogers and family, Memphis, TN. Dr. Rogers is
president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Bellevue
Baptist Church.

--Mr. and Mrs. James Barron and family, missionaries in Ghana

--Mr. and Mrs. Ted Samples and family, missionaries among Indians
in Fort Washakie, WY

--Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Butler and family, Guin, AL, volunteer workers
in home missions

Special Music: Missouri Singing Women, Linda Boyd, Jefferson City, MO, director

Address: Harvey Cox, professor, Harvard University Divinity School and author, Cambridge, MA

Monday Morning, June 9, 9:30

Session Theme: The Church in Life-Changing Commitments

Monologue on the theme: Sheryl Churchill, Birmingham, AL

Message: Alastair Walker, pastor, First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, SC

Interviews by Evelyn Blount, Birmingham, AL:

--Mrs. Lanell Saeger, leader of refugee ministry, Vestavia Hills Baptist
Church, Birmingham, AL

--Anita Reese, college student and Acteens Activator, St. Louis, MO

--Mrs. Gail Linam, children's director, Calvary Baptist Church, Waco, TX

Address: Margaret Perkins, WMU consultant for cooperative ministries with National Baptists,
WMU, Birmingham, AL

Monday Afternoon, June 9, 2:00

Session Theme: Great Women and Life-Changing Commitments

Great Women of Woman's Missionary Union Today: WMU Executive Board report,
Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, WMU, Birmingham, AL

Business: Election of Officers

Lottie Moon and Life-Changing Commitments: Official presentation of the new book,
The New Lottie Moon Story

--Catherine B. Allen, assistant to the executive director, WMU,
Birmingham, AL, and author of the book

--Jane Chu, concert pianist and student, Ouachita Baptist University,
Arkadelphia, AR

--Mrs. William Barry Harmon, Richmond, VA; great-great niece of
Lottie Moon and WMU member, River Road Baptist Church

--Mrs. R. C. Churchill, Crewe, VA; great-great niece of Lottie Moon

--Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Barrett, missionaries, Hong Kong

Upon Adjournment of Monday Afternoon Session

Lottie Moon Exhibition and Autograph Party

Display of memorabilia of Lottie Moon

Honoring Moon family, missionaries, and special guests

Monday Evening, June 9, 7:30

Session Theme: The Individual in Life-Changing Commitments

Music Director: Linda Boyd, associate, church music department, Missouri Baptist
Convention, Jefferson City, MO

Monologue on the Theme: Sheryl Churchill, Birmingham, AL

Testimonies: --David Book, home missionary assigned to Winter Olympics and
continuous ministry in Lake Placid, NY

--Dr. and Mrs. Dale E. Beighle, foreign missionaries, Bophuthatswana

--R. Keith Parks, executive director, Foreign Mission Board

WMU Officers

President—Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, Danville, VA

Vice President—The 26 State WMU Presidents

Recording Secretary—Mrs. William Ellis, Shelbyville, KY

Executive Director—Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham, AL

WMU Annual Meeting Urges Life-Changing Commitments

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (BP)--Harvey Cox, Lottie Moon, Keith Parks and two dozen other names will anchor the annual national meeting of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, June 8-9, at Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis.

"Life-Changing Commitments," a three-year emphasis of WMU, is the theme for the missions meeting which precedes the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 10-12, at the Cervantes Convention Center.

"We will miss no opportunity at the meeting to remind Southern Baptists that Bold Mission Thrust (the SBC plan to proclaim Christ to the entire world in this century) will cost dearly in lives and money," said Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., president of WMU, the 1.1 million-member auxiliary to the SBC.

"Nothing short of major commitment of self will bring us to a new plateau of mission support," she said.

The opening session of the meeting on Sunday, June 8, at 3:30 p.m., will feature a keynote address by Harvey Cox, professor at Harvard University Divinity School.

That session will accent the role of "The Family in Life-Changing Commitments." Others on the program include families, who will be interviewed by Evelyn Blount, assistant to the WMU's education division director, about their changes in lifestyles to become involved in missions. They are SBC President and Mrs. Adrian Rogers and family of Memphis, Tenn.; Mr. and Mrs. James Barron and family, missionaries to Ghana; Mr. and Mrs. Ted Samples and family, missionaries among Indians in Wyoming; and Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Butler and family of Guln, Ala., who have done volunteer missions projects for the SBC Home Mission Board.

The meeting will also include three sessions on Monday, June 9. The morning session at 9:30 will feature "The Church in Life-Changing Commitment." Alastair Walker, pastor of First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C., and Margaret Perkins, WMU consultant for cooperative ministries with National Baptists, Birmingham, Ala., will speak.

Miss Blount will introduce three women involved in missions through their churches-- Mrs. Lanell Saeger, leader of the refugee ministry of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, Birmingham; Anita Reece of St. Louis, Mo., a student at Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo., who served as an "Acteens activator" in WMU's missions program for teen-age girls, and Mrs. Gail Linam, a WMU writer who is children's director for Calvary Baptist Church, Waco, Texas.

The afternoon session at 2 p.m. will feature "Great Women and Life-Changing Commitments." Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, will report on the work of the WMU executive board and other "Great Women of WMU Today."

Broadman Press and WMU will unveil officially the new biography of Lottie Moon, whose name and story are perpetuated by the Christmas offering which provides more than half the funds for Southern Baptist foreign missions.

"The New Lottie Moon Story" will be reviewed by the author, Catherine B. Allen, assistant to the executive director of WMU, Birmingham. Two descendants of Lottie Moon will be presented--Mrs. William Barry Harmon of Richmond, Va., and Mrs. R.C. Churchill of Crewe, Va.

Special music will be presented by Jane Chu, a concert pianist of Chinese descent, who is a student at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark. Special speakers will be Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Barrett, missionaries in Hong Kong.

The session will adjourn into an autograph exhibit and reception at which WMU plans to bring together the largest collection of memorabilia of Lottie Moon ever shown. All Southern Baptist home and foreign missionaries will be honored.

The closing WMU session at 7:30 Monday evening will stress individual action in life-changing commitments. R. Keith Parks, executive director of the Foreign Mission Board, will be the final speaker, along with David Book, home missionary who coordinates Southern Baptist ministries at Lake Placid, N.Y.; and Dr. and Mrs. Dale E. Belghle, foreign missionaries in Bophuthatswana.

Each segment of the WMU annual meeting will feature dramatic monologues by Sheryl Churchill, Baptist young women consultant for WMU, based on "The New Lottie Moon Story."

Mrs. Beverly Terrell of Dallas, Texas, will direct music and sing at each session. The Missouri Singing Women, directed by Linda Boyd of Jefferson City, Mo., will perform at the opening session. Albin Whitworth of Wilmore, Ky., will be the organist at the meeting.

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Cothen Hospitalized
To Treat Malignancy

Baptist Press
3/24/80

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Baptist Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen entered St. Thomas Hospital March 23 for treatment and likely surgery for an abdominal malignancy.

The condition was discovered during his annual physical examination the previous week.

Cothen, who has been president of the board since 1975, has cancelled all engagements for five weeks.

While Cothen is recuperating, Executive Vice President James Clark will perform the duties of the president, as specified in the bylaws of the Sunday School Board.

The Cothen family has requested that inquiries about Cothen's condition be directed to the board's executive office or the office of communications.

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