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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Baptist Work Continues
Despite Surinam Coup**

PARAMARIBO, Surinam (BP)--A 7 p.m. to 4 a.m. curfew may interfere with evening church services, but otherwise the work of Southern Baptist missionaries in Surinam is unaffected following a military coup here, according to missionary Fred E. Day.

According to reports, the bloodless coup Aug. 14 followed dissatisfaction with the results of an earlier military coup in February.

Day, chairman of the Southern Baptist mission in the country, said missionaries are safe and able to move openly and safely during the day.

He noted, however, that for a time the country is considered in a state of emergency. The constitution has been suspended, and the borders are closed, although foreigners may leave.

Day added no gatherings are allowed without permission, except for churches and temples, and not more than two people should talk to each other in the street. He said the coup "is in no way an anti-American action."

Southern Baptists have nine missionaries under appointment to Surinam, a Southern Baptist mission field since 1971. They include Fred and Janice Day, from Louisiana and Alabama; James and Zelma Foster from Mississippi; Minnie Gaston from California; and Leo and Margaret Waldrop from Texas and Oregon. Harold and Martha Lewis, from Indiana and South Carolina, are on furlough in South Carolina.

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**Historic Meeting Creates
New Level of Cooperation**Baptist Press
8/25/80

PEDHOULAS, Cyprus (BP)--Arabs and missionaries achieved a new level of cooperation at an historic international planning meeting in Cyprus involving 88 persons from seven countries.

For the first time, Arabs and missionaries met together to plan mission work for the Middle East and North Africa, according to J.D. Hughey, area director for Southern Baptist mission work in Europe and the Middle East. In previous international meetings, he said, only missionaries participated.

The meeting, which involved both men and women, laymen and pastors, "will play a major role in setting the agenda for objectives, goals and actions in the 1980s in this crucial area of the world," said Hughey. "It's a prime example of the goal of making missions indigenous and creating an environment in which missionaries and national Baptist leaders work as equals."

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Hughey said the gathering created "a real environment for understanding and acceptance on both sides and a willingness to listen as well as talk."

The conferees unanimously approved a statement which declared: "The purpose of Baptist ministry in the Middle East and North Africa is to win as many people as possible from all backgrounds to faith and life in Christ and to integrate them into strong, growing churches for continuing evangelistic outreach."

Primary concerns included ministerial and church leadership training, expanded use of radio and publications ministries, establishing and improving conference centers, intensifying witness and discipleship programs of the local churches, and expanding evangelistic outreach.

Ways to implement programs will be coordinated by a committee and submitted to area groups, Hughey said, adding that another outgrowth will involve special training in the states for about a dozen missionaries in planning methods.

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Reagan, Southern Baptists
Keynote Political Meeting

By Toby Druin and Jerilynn W. Armstrong

Baptist Press
8/25/80

DALLAS (BP)--Ronald Reagan brought a capacity crowd to its feet at the National Affairs Briefing when he vowed to return moral values to politics if he is elected president of the United States.

Reagan, the Republican nominee, was keynote speaker at the gathering, Aug. 21-22, which was designed "for Christians and other concerned citizens to discuss how their influence can be made known through political activity."

Southern Baptists, including the current and two past presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention, were prominent at the meeting. Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, addressed the gathering.

Presiding over most of the sessions were Southern Baptist evangelist James Robison of Hurst, Texas, and Ed McAteer, a member of Bellevue church. McAteer is president and Robison is vice president of The Roundtable, a Washington-based organization "which provides education and direction for leaders concerned with moral issues."

The National Affairs Briefing was sponsored by The Roundtable.

Organizers claimed the meeting was non-partisan, but there was little doubt Reagan is the man most of the 18,000 persons attending want in the Oval Office.

Reagan, a member of the Disciples of Christ (Christian) denomination, restated that he is a "born-again Christian," and told the gathering leaders of a growing moral movement in the country are disaffected with President Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist, because Carter "wore his religion on his sleeve and used it more than it used him."

SBC President Smith, elected to head the 13.4 million-member denomination in June, said he agreed to speak at the briefing to "balance" his appearance at the Democratic National Convention, where he gave an opening prayer.

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He emphasized he had not come to endorse anyone, but came only to "preach Jesus."

Though Smith's remarks about "balance" implied the NAB was a Republican function, McAteer said it was "non-partisan." The program included some Democrats--such as Gov. Fob James of Alabama--and both President Carter and independent candidate John Anderson had declined invitations to appear, he added.

However, Republicans were dominant and included Rep. Guy Vander Jagt, the House member from Michigan who keynoted the Republican National Convention; Rep. Philip M. Crane from Illinois; Sen. Jesse Helms of N.C.; and Texas Gov. William Clements in addition to Reagan.

Among other speakers were Jerry Falwell, independent Baptist preacher and television evangelist from Virginia; Pat Robertson, host of the 700 Club; Phyllis Schlafly, president of Eagle Forums; and Howard Phillips of the Conservative Caucus.

Smith, in his address, cited a newspaper interview where a member of a homosexual political caucus was asked about evangelist Robison. "We are in deep trouble in America when we interview a pervert about a preacher," Smith said. "The evil persons in this world have no right to evaluate a man of God."

Rogers, who stepped down in June after a year as president of the SBC, said: "America needs to be born again or she will join the graveyard of nations."

Criswell, who headed the SBC from 1968-70, welcomed the briefing and called the meeting "one of the most significant convocations assembled in this century." He said it was "dedicated to delivering the nation from the judgment of God."

Another speaker, Charles Stanley, pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church, talked of practical ways to implement a program of political action in a local church.

James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, and immediate past president of the SBC Pastors' Conference, warned against the danger of seeking moderation and neutrality in the name of Christianity.

"Our forefathers had convictions; we have opinions," he said. "We are in danger of moral laziness because we are seeking to see both sides and are afraid to form an opinion."

"Jesus was tolerant, but he was not neutral."

Robison, the fiery Hurst evangelist, spoke on several occasions, including priming the audience for Reagan's appearance. He warned the audience to be wary of men who use religious rhetoric and talk about the promises of God and urged them to elect men who have discovered the promises of God. He also called for redemption from wicked ways and "government-backed sin."

"When Christians vote, they should not vote for a position, a party or a platform but principles--principles that make this a great nation," he said.

Robison went on to add that those who criticize him for violating the separation between church and state forget that our founding fathers never intended for the Constitution to mean separation of God from government or the separation of Christians from the political system.

"If the righteous, godly and decent individuals stay out of politics then who does that leave to make the policies?" Robison asked.

The meeting concluded with a workshop on the "how-tos" of political involvement. A capacity crowd of 500 filled the chapel at First Baptist Church, where the workshop participants learned how to put the aims of the briefing into practical use in their own communities.

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Huey Perry Elected
Chaplains President

Baptist Press
8/25/80

ATLANTA (BP)--Huey D. Perry, director of institutional chaplaincy for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been elected president of the American Protestant Correctional Chaplains Association.

The 400-member organization is the Protestant segment of the American Correctional Chaplains Association, which is affiliated with the American Correctional Association, which includes all disciplines in corrections in the United States and Canada, Perry said.

Perry was a chaplain at Florida Correctional Institution in Lowell, 1968-1973, and was coordinator of Chaplaincy Services for the Florida Department of Corrections, 1973-1977. He became associate director of the HMB chaplaincy division in 1977.

He is a graduate of Tennessee Temple College, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Perry has been pastor of churches in Florida, Texas and Mississippi.

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Park Chaplain Cain
Has Worlds of Fun

By Mike Chute

Baptist Press
8/25/80

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--As Jerry Cain walks through the gates at Worlds of Fun, he literally steps into the lives of 1,400 teenagers. They're the ones most of the millions of patrons never notice, the ones who actually operate the Kansas City fun park.

As he makes his "rounds" in the amusement park, Cain spots a youngster he hasn't seen before. "Hi, I'm Jerry Cain, the chaplain here. What's your name?" The words flow smoothly and unintimidating. "Well, Shelly, we have Bible study every Sunday morning. Come join us, we'd love to have you," he encourages.

That scenario is reenacted many times during the morning. Each time with the same results. A wide smile, a recognition, "I've heard about you (from the other kids)" and "I'll try to make it."

The Bible study is just one of the ways Jerry Cain ministers to the largest concentration of employees in Kansas City and one of the largest in Missouri. More than 75 percent of the teenagers are high-schoolers. Last year the figure was 90 percent.

To the teen-age staff, Cain is a friend, a confidant, a big brother. He's someone they can talk to, share their frustrations, vent their feelings and uncertainties. He rejoices with them over their successes, and cries over the heartaches. In short, he is trusted by these youngsters who by nature tend to be mistrusting.

"Love is the most powerful force available," Cain explains. "These kids will always respond to love."

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Last year the administration at Worlds of Fun got concerned about the employees' spiritual welfare so it polled the workers. The majority of the employees said Bible study would make their work more enjoyable.

That was all it took and now three mornings a week—Thursday, Saturday and Sunday—the director of Christian ministries at William Jewell College dons his chaplain's hat.

Even though the project is Baptist-supported, Cain's "purpose as chaplain is to represent the Christian faith, not to be denominationally oriented," he says, adding that kind of dogmatism would be counterproductive.

Cain checks in with personnel director John Thompson every day to learn of problems or new developments. Thompson uses the chaplain as a sounding-board for personnel motivation ideas.

"I hope through the ministry, these kids will come face to face with Jesus Christ as Lord," Cain says. "I hope they will learn Christian disciplines such as honesty, patience, dependability, openness and friendliness."

The only stipulation of the Baptist's work at Worlds of Fun is that "I'm instructed not to bother the guests. We can't turn this into a Moonie or Jehovah's Witness-type thing."

And that's fine with Cain, because that's not his style. "Oh, I'm not afraid to be an evangelist," Cain states. "I actually do evangelism here but you have to let it happen. These kids can't be forced. That would turn them off."

So Cain's approach is subtle, yet at the same time he realizes the need for urgency. On Thursday and Saturday, he walks through the park making new friends, encouraging old ones, and then seeking out those with special needs. He keeps a record of each visit so he can follow it up.

He now talks to a boy whose sister has come through major surgery. "He's having a problem dealing with it," Cain says. "That's just one of the crises I deal with."

He visits another boy who is active in Youth for Christ; he has no church affiliation but is regular at Bible study. A girl tells him her father gets up with her every morning and they have Bible study together before she goes to work. He encourages another boy who provides a ride to work for a young international student at Jewell; she's a product of Baptist missions. He asks another about the health of an expectant wife and the baby. He chats with the "beer lady" who lets him store Bibles in her storeroom.

And after all the contacts, all the visits, all the solved problems, Cain leads the Sunday morning Bible study which the employees otherwise would not have.

On his way out the gate, Cain stops and talks to a young girl who runs the shooting gallery. "Dierore, remember Bible study every Sunday morning at 8 o'clock," he reminds. "Since you work on Sunday morning, you probably don't get to go to church so we'd love to have you."