



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

## NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 244-2355  
Wilmer C. Fields, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

## BUREAUS

**ATLANTA** Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
**DALLAS** Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996  
**MEMPHIS** Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461  
**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300  
**RICHMOND** Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** Stan L. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

March 6, 1981

81-38

Religious Educators  
'Facing the Future'

LOS ANGELES (BP)--"Equipping for the Exciting Eighties" is the theme for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, which will meet June 7-8, at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

The meeting of the SBREA is one of several related meetings preceding the Southern Baptist Convention at Los Angeles Convention Center June 9-11.

"We want to help our membership see the opportunities that are ours in the 1980s," said J. Roger Skelton, professor of religious education at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and SBREA president.

The equipping aspect will feature focus of the minister of education, the family and the church, Skelton said.

"The areas of our concern are the minister, his relationship with himself, with Christ, with the church and to the ministry in which he is engaged," Skelton said. "We also are concerned about the family and will emphasize the family of the education minister and the problems and strains involved. We also are thinking of the equipping of the church to meet the challenges of the Eighties."

Key speakers include Grady C. Cothen, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn.; Reginald M. McDonough, associate executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville; Edward B. Lindaman, president emeritus of Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash.; and William E. Hull, pastor of First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La.

Other program personalities include Glen Paden, assistant executive director of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California in Fresno and Ernest E. Mosley, executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association, Springfield.

Coming from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville are Joe W. Hinkle and Douglas Anderson of the family ministry department; F. Marvin Myers, church management consultant, and Crawford Howell, manager of the Broadman sales department.

Also participating are F. Daniel Boling Jr., associate professor of religious education, and Max Lyall, associate professor of church music, at Golden Gate Seminary.

Michel and David Russell, musicians from San Diego, and Lavonn Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church of Norman, Okla., will provide worship services before each session.

Also scheduled are the Covenant Players, a group from Reseda, Calif., featuring Arthur Alberts, Douglas Beckman, Patricia Morris and Sharilyn Stekete.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
June 7-8, 1981

Renaissance Room, The Biltmore Hotel  
Los Angeles, California

Theme: "Equipping For the Exciting Eighties: Yourself, Your Family, and Your Church"

Sunday Evening, June 7

Session Theme: "Equipping YOURSELF For the Exciting Eighties"; J. Roger Skelton, Mill Valley, Calif., president, presiding

- 7:00 Worship--Michel and David Russell, San Diego, Calif.; Becky Noia, Fresno, Calif.;  
Lavonn D. Brown, Norman, Okla.  
7:15 Welcome--E. Glen Paden, Fresno, Calif.  
7:25 Theme Interpretation--Grady C. Cothen, Nashville, Tenn.  
8:00 Music and Preview of Business Session  
8:10 "Understanding Yourself"--F. Daniel Boling Jr., Mill Valley, Calif.  
8:30 "Understanding Your Call"--Ernest E. Mosley, Springfield, Ill.  
8:50 Question and Answer Time  
9:15 Benediction--Bill May, Phoenix, Ariz.  
9:20 Fellowship

Monday Morning, June 8

Session Theme: "Equipping Your FAMILY For the Exciting Eighties"; Neta Stewart, Fort Worth, Texas, Vice President, Presiding

- 9:00 Worship--Michel and David Russell; Becky Noia; Lavonn D. Brown  
9:15 "Understanding the Families of the Eighties"--Joseph W. Hinkle, Nashville, Tenn.  
9:40 "Equipping the Minister's Family"--E. Glen Paden, Fresno, Calif.  
10:05 "Christian Parenting in the Eighties"--Douglas L. Anderson, Nashville, Tenn.  
10:30 Music  
10:40 Recognition of New Members--F. Marvin Myers, Nashville, Tenn., and Jerry D.  
Brumbelow, San Diego, Calif.  
10:50 New Religious Education Resources--Crawford Howell, Nashville, Tenn.  
11:00 Business Session--J. Roger Skelton, Mill Valley, Calif.  
Committee Reports--Election of New Officers--Recognitions  
12:10 Presentations by Woman's Missionary Union  
12:15 Benediction--Philip T. Card, Denver, Colo.

Monday Noon, June 8

Charles F. Polston, Nashville, Tenn., Vice President, Presiding

- 12:30 Luncheon  
1:10 Distinguished Leader Award Presentation--Gerald D. Dunlap, New Orleans, La.  
1:20 The Inimitable Humor and Music of...--Max D. Lyall, Mill Valley, Calif.  
1:40 Dramatic Presentation by the Covenant Players--Arthur Alberts, Douglas Beckman,  
Patricia Morris and Sharilyn Steketee, Reseda, Calif.  
2:00 Closing Prayer--Jo Bevington, La Mirada, Calif.

Monday Evening, June 8

Theme: "Equipping Your CHURCH For the Exciting Eighties"--Charles F. Gwaltney,  
Baton Rouge, La., President-Elect, Presiding

7:00 Worship--Michel and David Russell; Becky Noia; Lavonn D. Brown  
7:15 "Equipping Church Staff Teams"--Reginald M. McDonough, Nashville, Tenn.  
7:40 "Religious Education Trends in the Eighties:--Edward B. Lindaman, Spokane, Wash.  
8:15 Music  
8:20 "Equipping Your Church to Reach People"--William E. Hull, Shreveport, La.  
9:00 Benediction--Paul Everett, Riverside, Calif.

---

SBREA Officers - 1980-81

President--J. Roger Skelton, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.  
President-Elect--Charles F. Gwaltney, First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.  
Vice President--Neta Stewart, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas  
Vice President--Charles F. Polston, retired, New Mexico Baptist Convention, Albuquerque,  
N.M., now living in Nashville, Tenn.  
Secretary-Treasurer--F. Marvin Myers, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.  
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer--Jerry D. Brumbelow, San Diego Association, La Mesa, Calif.

-30-

Baptists Exercise Caution  
During Dominica Emergency

Baptist Press  
3/6/81

ROSEAU, Dominica (BP)--Attendance has increased at four Southern Baptist related churches in Dominica despite a declaration of a state of emergency by the government of this Caribbean nation.

The Feb. 14 declaration forbids public gatherings except for regular church meetings and people are being cautious about where they travel. Yet, attendance at the four churches has not declined and actually increased the Sunday following the declaration, Southern Baptist missionary La Homa Singleton says.

Terrorist acts by an armed cult called Rastafarians caused the government action, according to Mrs. Singleton. "This cult lives in the bush, rejects society and the laws of the land. They claim to be back-to-nature people, wanting peace, harmony and love," she added.

Police and national defense forces have tried to crack down on heavy marijuana traffic to the group's bush settlements, and the Rastafarians retaliated against the general community with acts of destruction, theft and kidnapping.

Rastafarians are a political religious group which worships Haile Selassie I, a former emperor of Ethiopia, under his pre-coronation name of Ras Tafari. They consider blacks true Jews and Selassie their messiah and champion. Their roots can be traced to the Back to Africa movement of the 1930s.

"The group uses scripture, yet rejects Jesus Christ," Mrs. Singleton explained.

"Our members, though concerned, are not unduly anxious," said Mrs. Singleton. "At present we are not in any immediate danger, but when we travel into the rural areas there is risk involved. We are praying for a speedy resolution to the problem so that life for Dominica can return to normal."

-more-

The island nation suffered major damage as Hurricane David swept through the Caribbean in 1979, and Southern Baptists have helped in a variety of rehabilitation projects.

-30-

Help For the Hungry  
Urged By Coalition

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press  
3/6/81

ATLANTA (BP)--"Reagan Says Cut Back, We Say Fight Back," more than 150 representatives from eight states chanted at a news conference ending a two-day meeting of the Council of Southern Hunger Coalition.

During the news conference, which at times sounded like a cross between a black Baptist worship service and a pep rally, religious groups and churches of all denominations were called on to take a stand against the Reagan administration's proposed budget cuts which may hurt the poor and hungry in America.

Several Southern Baptists participated in the two-day meeting and news conference, including Nathan Porter of Arkadelphia, Ark., consultant on domestic hunger for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Porter criticized the Reagan administration's budget proposals and observed that "Jesus was in the business of multiplying bread for the needy, but Reagan is in the business of cutting food for the poor."

The Baptist told the news conference that churches in America have to be on the side of the poor because God is on the side of the poor. "I believe churches will respond. Like Jesus, we love the poor, the elderly and the children who are most likely to be hurt by the proposed budget cuts."

Earlier during the news conference, a spokesman for the Kentucky Coalition on Hunger, Barney Owens of Paducah, issued a plea for religious groups, churches and synagogues to "take a stand for the poor and oppressed" who may suffer because of proposed budget cuts.

Owens, chairman of the Western Kentucky Clients Council and a former interdenominational minister, said both Christians and Jews have a clear calling from God to participate in meeting the needs of the poor and hungry in America.

In an interview, he said one of the most practical things churches can do is to set up food pantry programs to distribute food to the poor in their own communities. He added, however, it is not enough for churches to simply try to feed hungry people and urged religious people to take a stand opposing the proposed budget cuts by writing their congressmen and senators.

"Don't be deceived by President Reagan's claims that the truly needy will not be hurt," warned Cathy Caprara of Florida, who described herself as a single working mother with five children.

Sandra Robertson, director of the Georgia Citizen's Coalition on Hunger, claimed that the Reagan administration "has declared war on the poor people of this country. We have no choice but to fight back."

At the news conference points made by participants were affirmed by applause, shouts and repeated chants of "Reagan Says Cut Back, We Say Fight Back." A "cheering section" standing

-more-

behind the spokespersons held aloft empty paper plates as symbols of protest.

At least two Southern Baptist women identified themselves during the conference. Mable Hall, a member of Olivet Baptist Church in Paduchah, Ky., expressed appreciation for Porter's comments and presence.

Josephine Rivers, a Choctaw Indian and member of Reeves Chapel Baptist Church near McIntosh, Ala., said Baptists should be especially concerned about the effects of proposed budget cuts on American Indians.

Mrs. Rivers said most of the 10,000 Choctaws with whom she works as a member of the tribal council, get the majority of their support through CETA programs and food stamps, both of which are slated for heavy cuts. Mrs. Rivers recently lost her job with the Creek Nation East of the Mississippi because of cutbacks in government funding.

In the news conference, Mrs. Ethel Mae Matthews, president of an Atlanta welfare rights organization, charged that children of the poor will suffer most and urged mothers and others who love children to take to the streets and march on Washington to pressure Congress to eliminate the proposed budget cuts.

"Anytime you take bread out of children's mouths, you don't really love children," she said.

Responding to the Reagan administration's proposed increases in defense spending, Mrs. Matthews snapped, "Our kids can't eat bullets, and they sure as hell can't eat bombs."

-30-

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

---

CBS Chooses D.C. Church  
For Easter Sunday Telecast

Baptist Press  
3/6/81

WASHINGTON (BP)--Easter Sunday morning services at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., will be televised live on CBS April 19, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. EST.

The predominantly black church, a cooperating congregation in the D.C. Baptist Convention, is affiliated with the Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc., National Baptist Convention Inc., American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. and the Southern Baptist Convention.

-30-