



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 1, 1981

81-55

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE

First Baptist Church

Los Angeles, CA

June 7-8, 1981

### Sunday Afternoon, June 7

- 1:00 Past Presidents' Luncheon, Sheraton-Town House Hotel  
2:30 Handbells workshop by L. Campbell Bunting, director of handbells, Schulmerich Inc.; free to all conferees; pre-registration necessary  
3:00 Registration desk and music exhibits open, First Baptist Church

### Sunday Evening, June 7

Presiding: Thad Roberts Jr., president, minister of music, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, TX

Coordinator: Harry Cowan, minister of music, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA

- 6:45 Organ Prelude--Al Washburn, conference organist, music faculty, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, CA  
7:00 Call To Order--Thad Roberts Jr.  
Introduction of James Craven, minister of music and administrator, First Baptist Church, Los Angeles, CA  
7:05 Welcome and Invocation--John McGuckin, director, church music department, Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fresno, CA  
7:10 Worship--Leaders: Max Lyall, music faculty, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; C. David Matthews, pastor, First Baptist Church, Greenville, SC  
7:40 Romanian Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra of Greater Los Angeles, Petro Popovici, pastor; Dumitru Ghitea, director  
8:00 Premiere of "Processional Fantasia," commissioned for the 25th annual conference of SBCMC, 1981, by Lanny Allen of San Antonio, TX, and performed by the Women's Handbell Choir of Sharpstown Baptist Church, Houston, TX, Merrill Luman, director  
8:10 Offering  
8:15 Soloist--Henrietta Davis, soprano, San Francisco, CA  
8:35 California Singing Churchmen, John McGuckin, director  
9:10 Benediction--Wes Forbis, secretary, church music department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, TN  
9:15 Reception in the Fellowship Hall

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Monday Morning, June 8

Presiding: Ron Bostic, chairman of the music and fine arts department, Wingate College, Wingate, NC

Coordinator: Posey Starkey, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Marietta, GA

- 8:45 Organ Prelude--Al Washburn  
 8:50 Worship--Max Lyall and C. David Matthews  
 9:15 New Music Reading Session--Led by Fred Bock, Fred Bock Music Inc., Tarzana, Calif.  
 10:00 Exhibit Break  
 10:30 Annual Business Session  
     Presentation of Honorary Life Membership Awards  
 10:50 Address--The Danger of Obsolescence, Mark Short, Louisiana Baptist Convention, church program services division, Alexandria, LA  
 11:10 The Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma--conducted by James D. Woodward, dean of fine arts, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, OK  
 11:30 Divisional Meetings  
     Local Church Division--Gerald W. Brown, minister of music, Richardson Heights Baptist Church, Richardson, TX, presiding  
     Denominational Division--Carl Sheppard, secretary of church music, Illinois Baptist Association, Springfield, IL, presiding  
     Educational Division--Louis Ball, music faculty, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN, presiding  
 12:15 Lunch Break

Monday Afternoon, June 8

Presiding: Carl Sheppard, Springfield, IL

Coordinator: C. David Keith, music faculty, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX

- 1:30 Music Prelude--Brass Ensemble, California Baptist College, Riverside, CA, Larry Johansen, director  
 1:45 Choral Concert--Seminary Choir, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Craig Singleton, director; premiere of a commissioned anthem composed by Max Lyall for the SBCMC, 1981  
 2:10 Business Session  
     Presentation of W. Hines Sims Award  
 2:30 President's Address--Thad Roberts Jr.  
 2:45 Exhibit Break  
 3:15 Jester Hairston sings Jester Hairston, choral concert with Euclid Street Baptist Church Adult Choir, Anaheim, CA, with Hairston, a leading authority of the Negro Spiritual, conducting  
 4:00 Four Special Interest Sessions  
     \* Updating the Sound System in the Local Church; Howard Parker, Sound Investments  
     \* How to Begin and Maintain a Music Ministry; Neil Darnell, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, TX  
     \* Developing the Instrumental Program in the Local Church; Larry Johansen  
     \* Repertoire for the Sunday Solist; Craig Singleton  
 5:00 Dinner Break--First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, CA, 7:15

Monday Evening, June 8 (First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, CA)

Presiding: Thad Roberts Jr.

Coordinator: Gerald W. Brown, Richardson, TX

- 7:15 Organ Prelude--Al Washburn  
 7:20 Congregational Singing with "Hymns Triumphant" from "A Symphonic Choral Suite based on Traditional Hymns," arr. Lee Holdridge, with Adult Choir, First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, O.D. Hall, director and minister of music  
 7:35 Worship--C. David Matthews  
 7:50 Offering  
 7:55 Reflections on the creation of "Celebrate Life," Buryl Red of New York City, composer; Ragan Courtney, Houston, TX, author of book and lyrics

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Officers:

- President--Thad Roberts Jr., minister of music, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, TX  
 President Elect--Al Washburn, music faculty, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, CA  
 Vice President, Denominational--Carl Sheppard, secretary, music department, Illinois State Baptist Association, Springfield, IL  
 Vice President, Local Church--Gerald Brown, minister of music, Richardson Heights Baptist Church, Richardson, TX  
 Vice President, Educational--Louis Ball, music faculty, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN  
 Secretary-Treasurer--Mary June Tabor, secretary to the state music secretary, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK

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Music Conference Aims  
 To Help Local Churches

Baptist Press  
 4/1/81

LOS ANGELES (BP)--The 25th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will focus on strengthening the musical program of the local church.

The meeting, scheduled June 7-8, will precede the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 9-11, at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

The music conference, which will meet in First Baptist Church of Los Angeles and in First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, Calif., will be led by Thad Roberts Jr., minister of music at South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, and conference president.

"This is the only professional organization for Southern Baptist church musicians, and we are going to be trying to share ideas and to help local churches and local pastors," Roberts said.

As a secondary purpose, Roberts said the musicians also will try to encourage ministers of music in California churches, a "rich, growing mission field."

The program will feature two presentations composed for the meeting. They are "Processional Fantasia," by Lanny Allen of San Antonio, Texas, and performed by the Women's Handbell Choir of Sharpstown Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, and an anthem by Max Lyall, a member of the music faculty at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and performed by the seminary choir.

Addresses will be brought by Roberts and Mark Short of the church services division of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, La.

Creative worship services will be led by Lyall and C. David Matthews, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenville, S. C.

Special features include concerts by Jester Hairston, one of the nation's leading authorities on the negro spiritual; by Henrietta Davis, a San Francisco soprano who performs opera and religious music; the Romanian Baptist Church choir and orchestra; the Golden Gate Seminary choir; and the brass ensemble of California Baptist College, Riverside, Calif.

Also, participants will hold a reading session of new music, led by Fred Bock, president of Fred Bock Music Inc., of Tarzana, Calif.

Other features are the presentation of music from "Hymns Triumphant," an arrangement of standard hymns, and a 10-year retrospective of "Celebrate Life," one of the most popular Christian musicals, composed by Buryl Red of New York City, and with book and lyrics by Ragan Courtney of Houston, Texas.

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Unlikely Campus Pastor  
Builds Mission Church

By David R. Wilkinson

Baptist Press  
4/1/81

AMES, Iowa (BP)—The bony, bald preacher looks out of place amidst the large, muscular bodies of the college athletes. But Southern Baptist pastor John Hamilton is completely at ease in the sweaty, steamy locker room of the Iowa State University football team.

Hamilton is equally at ease at the piano as the accompanist for one of the university's productions of a popular Broadway musical.

Hamilton is pastor of University Baptist Church of Ames, Iowa. The congregation doesn't own a building; it meets every Sunday in the student union on the Iowa State University campus. Baptisms are in the university swimming pool. Having no church building doesn't bother Hamilton, because "wherever God's children are, that's his house."

An Oklahoma native with masters degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Montana State University, Hamilton has been pastor of the campus congregation for more than four years. He and his wife, Virjama, began the church with 14 members from the 350-member Grand Avenue Baptist Church across town, where Hamilton was pastor for 12 years. The Grand Avenue congregation had talked for "six to eight years" about "starting work on the west side" when members finally voted on the project in 1976.

After 30 years of Southern Baptist "pioneer missions work" in Colorado, Montana and Iowa, the Hamiltons were unsure about launching another mission project. So they agreed that unless the church voted unanimously to begin new work on the university campus, they wouldn't be a part of the adventure. The vote was unanimous. Hamilton resigned as pastor and began the task of trying to fill "the vacuum of spiritual need" in a new mission field of 24,000 students.

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In the process of starting a mission on the campus, Hamilton has taught missions. University Baptist Church now has almost 75 members; more than half are students. Last year the church paid \$125,000 for a two-and-a-half acre plot adjacent to the campus, where they plan to build a church facility next to two 10-story dormitories. The small congregation raised \$95,000 cash and borrowed another \$35,000 to pay for the land. At the present rate of giving, the six-year loan will be repaid in three years.

At the same time, the church gave more than \$10,000 to Southern Baptist missions. The 1980 state missions goal for Iowa was \$10,000; University Baptist Church gave \$2,500. In addition to giving to missions, the congregation also has contributed several persons to full-time missions work.

The leadership for the young church has come from a pastor who doesn't think of obstacles as obstacles. Hamilton is 64, but students don't seem to notice. "I enjoy a better rapport with students today than I did 25 years ago," he says. If a powerful voice was essential for a successful preaching ministry, Hamilton would be looking for another line of work. A cancer cell which struck his right larynx a dozen years ago left him voiceless for two years. Now, thanks to one vibrating vocal cord, he is able to speak with a hollow, raspy voice.

Several years ago, doctors discovered cancer in another area of Hamilton's body. An operation and three years of chemotherapy have halted the cancerous growth, at least temporarily. "I imagine it will kill me someday," admits Hamilton. "But I'm in the same boat as everybody else. I'm going to live until I die."

He spends much of his time on campus. "If you have a genuine interest in students, they'll respond," he explains. "I don't preach, but I do cultivate friendships. I just wait for the Lord to open a door. That's all I know to do."

His rapport with athletes is inexplicable, Hamilton says. "As (humorist) Grady Nutt says, 'I've always wanted to be an athlete in the worst way, and I got my wish.' But my ministry to these athletes has been the most effective and most rewarding work I've done."

The Hamilton house is often crowded from planned get-togethers or impromptu visits from varsity athletes. Several athletes have lived in their home. One is now an SBC Foreign Mission Board missionary journeyman in Beirut.

In a recent address at Southern Seminary, Hamilton mentioned humility as an important ingredient in new mission work. "Too many times," he explained, "we rush into a territory and announce, 'We're Southern Baptists, and we have all the answers.'"

Hamilton doesn't claim to have all the answers. "I just try to be Christ's representative wherever I am. I think he honors that, don't you?"