



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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## Jewish Members Named To ADL-SBC Committee

NEW YORK (BP) --The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has named eight members to a joint committee to improve Baptist-Jewish relations.

The concept of a joint committee was established in December after Bailey E. Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, met with ADL leaders in New York. Smith named five Southern Baptist leaders to serve with him on the group in February.

Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., asked for and attended the New York meeting after two controversial remarks he made concerning Jews were widely publicized.

Smith will co-chair the group with Ronald B. Sobel, chairman of the ADL's national program committee.

Sobel, senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El in New York, said establishment of the committee implements an ADL-SBC agreement to develop "a working relationship in which Baptists and Jews can improve methods of communication to further mutual respect and understanding."

He went on to say that "a promising working relationship" already has been established as the result of several meetings that have been held since December by representatives of both groups. "This relationship can only deepen as we continue to work together," Rabbi Sobel added.

In addition to Sobel, Jewish members of the task force are: Saul Besser of Temple Shalom, Dallas; Mark Briskman, director of ADL's North Texas-Oklahoma regional office; Yechiel Eckstein, associate director of ADL's midwest regional office, Chicago; Abraham H. Foxman, associate national director of the League; Theodore Freedman, director of ADL's national program division; Joseph B. Glaser, vice president, Central Conference of American Rabbis; and David H. Panitz of Temple Emanuel, Paterson, N.J., cochairman of the League's Inter-faith Affairs Committee and president of the Coalition of Religious Leaders of New Jersey.

Besides Smith, Baptist members are: Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission; James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board; William Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; and C. Wade Freeman, second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Simpson Named Head  
Of Clear Creek School

PINEVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Leon Simpson, 43, has been named president-elect of Clear Creek Baptist School, succeeding D. M. Aldridge, president since 1954.

Simpson, assistant pastor at First Baptist Church of Dallas, was director of ministerial training at Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky., for 12 years before moving to Dallas in 1979.

Simpson is a graduate of Texas Technological University, Moody Bible Institute and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is a native of Oklahoma and will assume his new post in August. He will become president in June 1982.

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Williams To Head  
Foundation Group

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COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--C. Fred Williams, president of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma, has been elected president of the Association of Baptist Foundation Executives for 1981-82.

Williams, an ordained minister who has served the Oklahoma City-based Baptist convention for 13 years, was named president during a business session at the 35th meeting of the association, succeeding Glenn E. Bryant of Alexandria, La.

The Association of Baptist Foundation Executives is made up of Southern Baptist leaders who administer endowment funds for the denomination's institutions, agencies and other causes.

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New Ministerial Training  
Structure is Created

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5/5/81

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--A new structure for providing ministerial training beyond the seminary campuses has been activated by the presidents of the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

The Seminary External Education Division, to be jointly sponsored by all six schools, will incorporate a new Seminary Satellite Department along with the existing Seminary Extension Department. The satellite department will provide seminary-level courses in certain areas of the country, particularly in the northern tier of states.

A request from the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention led to the creation of the new structure. After considering and then rejecting a proposal to establish a new seminary in the northern tier of states, messengers asked the seminaries to take steps to provide training in that area.

Pre-college and college-level studies have been available throughout the country through the Seminary Extension Department since it was established in 1950. More than 10,000 persons are enrolled annually in approximately 400 extension centers and in correspondence study. Seminary Extension courses are designed primarily for ministers unable to participate in formal theological study on a seminary campus.

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Studies provided through the new satellite department will be on the graduate level, creditable toward a seminary degree. Centers offering courses on the seminary level already are in operation or in final stages of planning in Baltimore, Md., Detroit, Mich., and Chicago, Ill.

The six seminary presidents will be the governing board for the new division. An academic council made up of the chief academic officers from each school will supervise the division's curriculum and other academic concerns.

The Seminary External Education Division will be housed in the Southern Baptist Convention Building, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn. 37219.

Raymond Rigdon, director of Seminary Extension since 1969, will be executive director of the new division and will continue to direct Seminary Extension Department for the present time. He also will be interim director of the Seminary Satellite Department. Other staff members are Lee Hollaway, director of communications, James L. Ryan, director of Seminary Extension center education, and James E. Reed, director of Seminary Extension Independent study education.

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Grad Receives Degree  
Only 30 Years Late

By Philip Poole

Baptist Press  
5/5/81

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Gershom Ma "graduated" from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary more than 30 years after completing the requirements for his degree.

A special commencement was arranged for Ma by seminary officials as part of the National Conference on Broadcast Ministries held in Fort Worth, jointly sponsored by the seminary and the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Ma, a citizen of the People's Republic of China, returned to his native country at the close of the 1949-50 academic year, after completing requirements for a master of sacred music degree.

Communists took control of China and closed the borders, preventing Ma from returning for his official graduation July 13, 1950.

The seminary mailed Ma's diploma to him in China after Ma wrote James McKinney, dean of the seminary's School of Church Music in 1979.

When Ma planned to travel to the U.S. this year, a stop at Southwestern was included on the agenda. In addition to the special commencement, Ma lectured and observed in music classes and spoke during chapel services at the seminary.

Ma is a professor at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and is a guest conductor of the Shanghai Philharmonic Society Chorus.

He is very cautious in describing life in his native China. Because he was educated in the West, Ma said people did not trust him at first and often asked if he worked for the American government.

Ma said he tried to explain that his return to China was because he always had felt "a duty to go back to my native country. But people tried to read between the lines."

One of the most difficult decisions during those days, Ma said, was his decision to forego all work with the churches. He did so to release the churches from pressure because he was suspected of being a spy.

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Although about 70 churches have reopened in recent months, Ma has kept his promise to stay away. "I still have great faith, but I worship alone in my home," he said.

Church services are very popular, Ma said, and people begin forming lines at 4 a.m. for the first of three services conducted each Sunday. Despite the revitalization of the church, the government still is very selective about pastors. Christianity cannot be propagated, and public worship in homes is forbidden, he said.

"Please pray for China that we can have more churches," Ma said. "We believe it is possible."

In today's China, the arts exist only for political purposes, Ma said. Almost all compositions performed are of Chinese origin and are used either to educate the people or for propaganda purposes. Before the cultural revolution of the 1950s, most music used was from other countries. Ma has written several musical compositions and has one hymn in the Chinese Baptist hymnal.

He is not allowed to perform any material with religious overtones, but use of religious materials is permitted in the classroom as a learning tool from other cultures. Ma said the government "gives you a free hand, but you must follow their rules."

Ma noted many changes since his last visit to the United States and the seminary campus. The highways are bigger and people use slang expressions such as "o.k.," he said.

Language is not a problem for the very fluent Ma, however. He said language problems "cramp my style."

Ma also said the number of buildings on the seminary campus have doubled since his student days of living in Fort Worth Hall, the men's dormitory. Students have changed also. "Girls were not allowed to wear pants on campus back then," he said.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Broadcast Meeting Helps  
Baptists in Media Use

Baptist Press  
5/5/81

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--In what organizers are calling the largest meeting ever of Southern Baptists involved in broadcasting, the first National Conference on Broadcast Ministries explored the practical, moral and legal aspects of the electronic media.

The broadcasting conference, jointly sponsored by the Baptist Radio and Television Commission and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, involved 359 people in training for use of the media in ministry.

Conference participants heard television evangelist Robert Schuller, considered the most widely-viewed religious television personality, Federal Communications Commissioner Anne P. Jones, who plays a major role in government regulation of broadcasting, Harry N. Hollis, Baptist specialist on morality in television and others.

Organizers of the three-day meeting said it was keyed to local church needs and was "a great success." Replacing the Radio, Television and Cable Consultation, held since 1974, the broadcast conference broadened the appeal of past meetings.

Schuller, pastor of Garden Grove (Calif.) Community Church, offered practical helps for developing a television strategy and explained the rationale for his own unique approach.

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To start an effective television ministry, he said, four questions need to be answered: "Who do you want to impress? What kind of impression do you want to make? How do you make that impression? And are you willing to pay the price?"

"I decided I wanted to impress the cynical, secular, non-Bible-believing people," he said, recounting his start at a drive-in theater. His 11,000 members are now housed in a \$10 million glass cathedral.

He began preaching in language biblically illiterate people could understand. "And I believe I proclaimed the Scripture as authentically as if I had quoted every reference," he said.

In an apparent reference to current Baptist inerrancy debates, Schuller said, "I believe in the Holy Trinity, not the holy quadrangle. A book was never nailed to the cross."

Schuller said he has defined his role, "but I will never fail to name the Name."

Harry N. Hollis, director of family and special moral concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, called television a "moral time bomb." He cited both negative and positive effects of television and called for a responsible use of the television medium by all broadcasters.

Christians should view television as "neither a one-eyed tyrant to be feared nor a one-eyed god to be served," he said, but instead use the gospel "to empower us to act to change the media."

"The best way to overcome the negative impact of the media is to share the Good News with people. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ that changes us," Hollis said.

Hollis encouraged Christians to present the gospel's alternatives to television's materialism, sex exploitation and violence.

FCC Commissioner Jones updated conference participants on low-power television and commended Southern Baptists for their plan to establish a television network.

"You have an important message to convey," she told the audience. "I want to commend the Radio and Television Commission for this new plan and wish you great success."

Jones explained she and other commissioners had initial reservations about the RTVC's plans for a satellite-fed network, since one purpose of low-power authorization was to increase local involvement in broadcasting.

But she said the American Christian Television System plan, as explained to her by Radio and Television Commission President Jimmy Allen, would provide enough local programming to serve that purpose.

Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Houston, said Christian broadcasters face an "inadequacy of words" in sharing the gospel and called for clarity, poetry and vitality in television preaching.

Calling television "the greatest physical instrumentality for sharing the gospel," John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, endorsed the practice of broadcasting worship services. "Let the cameras catch you doing what you normally do," he advised.

But he cautioned that religious broadcasters have "two strikes against them" because of the bad image created by a few.

Bob Werner, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ferguson, Mo., spoke on the value and use of 30-minute television programs. His weekly "Think About Tomorrow" program has won a local Emmy Award.

The broadcast conference had other special features. Pilots of four new RTVC television productions were previewed. The new Center for Christian Communications Studies, another joint effort of the RTVC and Southwestern Seminary, was launched to provide graduate training in the use of the media in ministry.