



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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81-89

Washburn To Head
Music Conference

By Jerilynn Armstrong

LOS ANGELES (BP)--Al Washburn, chairman of the church music division of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., was installed Monday as president of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference for a two-year term.

Elected as his successor was Fes Robertson, supervisor in the church music section of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

Council members who will serve in the denominational, educational and local divisions include: John McGuckin, director of the church music department of the California Southern Baptist Convention; Fresno: Hugh McElrath, professor of church music at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; R. Wayne Stacks, minister of music and youth at First Southern Baptist Church, Lompoc, Calif.; and Truitt Roberts, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Starkville, Miss.

Ron Bostic, chairman of the Division of Fine Arts for Wingate College, Wingate, N.C., will be publication editor.

A special 10th anniversary production of the musical/pulpit drama, "Celebrate Life!", climaxed the two-day meeting of the conference.

"Celebrate Life!", a popular musical/drama, was performed by the Amen and High School/College Choirs of the First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, Calif. Composer Buryl Red and author Ragan Courtney were musical and drama directors.

Also included in the evening's worship was congregational singing from the recently released "Hymns Triumphant." The choir and congregation sang eight of the 42 traditional hymns included in the choral suite.

Worship leader David Matthews, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C., warned the 300 church musicians not to sing music of easy victory. "We must not project a superficial gospel but deal with the depths of our faith which include taking up the cross. Let church music be joyful but do not fail to include the call to commitment and discipleship," Matthews said.

During the Monday afternoon session, Wes Forbis, newly-elected secretary of the church music department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, was presented the W. Hines Sims Award for significant contribution to church music. For 29 years, Forbis has served as an educator and musician, including 18 years at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., as professor of music and chairman of the music department.

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Missions Directors Hold
'Old Time Camp Meeting'

By Marv Knox

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LOS ANGELES (BP)--Southern Baptist directors of associational missions participated in a conference which often resembled an old-time camp meeting during their 20th annual session.

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The directors also approved a change of the association's name from the Southern Baptist Associational Directors Conference to the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Associational Missions and elected officers.

Named to lead the group are Cline W. Borders, president, Kings Mountain Association, Shelby, N.C.; William R. Moyle, president-elect, Tampa Bay (Fla.) Association; J. D. Passamore, secretary, Current Gaines Association, Corning, Ark.; David Morgan, treasurer, Yuma County Association, Yuma, Ariz.; Daniel F. Page, newsletter editor, Greenville (S.C.) Association; and Nolan Johnson, host director for next year's meeting, New Orleans Association.

Choruses of "amen" periodically interrupted seminary president William Pinson, who told the directors, "Even in the storms that sweep over us, there is indeed hope, and there can be celebration."

Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., said some "storms" of life are normal and are to be endured. But the storms which are most difficult to handle are those which result because "you are right where God wants you to be," Pinson said.

"When you say yes to the will of God and cast off to do what He's told you to do, you better get ready for a storm," Pinson warned. "And if you're not in a storm, you better talk to the Father and see if you're in the right place."

William G. Tanner, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, said Southern Baptists should "make the bold, opportunistic move. If you wait for the perfect time, you will never begin the work. We're not a besieged city, but a moving army, and our Commander has never lost a battle."

In Bible studies throughout the two-day conference, Joel Gregory, pastor of Gambrell Street Baptist Church, Fort Worth, examined the parables of the forgiven debtor, workers in the vineyard, and the talents.

Respective themes of the parables focused on accepting the grace of God and extending grace to others, refraining from jealousy when other people seemingly receive equal or greater blessings for less service and being faithful enough to take risks in ministry.

The "how-to" sessions dealt with pastor search committees and organizing associational work with senior adults.

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New National President
Elected at WMU Meeting

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By Robert O'Brien and Rex Hammock

LOS ANGELES (BP)--Dorothy Elliott Sample, who has five earned degrees and is the wife of a bivocational pastor in Flint, Mich., has been elected president of the Woman's Missionary Union.

Her election as national president of the auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention came as the WMU held its annual meeting prior to the 1981 session of the SBC.

The woman's group also named Betty Gilreath of Charlotte, N.C., as recording secretary.

Sample, a psychological counselor and educator, succeeds Christine Gregory of Danville, Va., who held the WMU's top elective post six years. Gilreath, a homemaker and former North Carolina WMU president, succeeds Mrs. William Ellis of Shelbyville, Ky.

In addition to naming national leadership, more than 3,000 women who attended the meeting were challenged to expand their concept of world missions.

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Keynoting the meeting, Charles W. Bryan of Richmond, Va., challenged his listeners to "open windows on a larger world."

Bryan, vice president for overseas operations for the SBC Foreign Mission Board, said Christian missions has entered a new day which demands an expanded world view, a recognition of change, and a boldness to respond.

He urged the women to pray specifically, listen to God's challenge to go as missionaries and give support to the efforts of Southern Baptists in 94 countries.

The two-day WMU meeting reverberated with the sights and sounds of world missions, focusing especially on missions in California, a state of 23.6 million people, 50 percent of which form various ethnic groups, but sessions also touched on missions in other parts of the United States and throughout the world.

Frances DuBose, professor of missions at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., told of missions in California, saying they are "a model of what black and white Baptists may do together."

Lonnie Chavez, language missions director for California Southern Baptists in Fresno, declared that "Christian loving" must accompany bold going, bold giving and bold growing, the themes of Bold Mission Thrust.

Foreign missionaries to two countries described their work as they talked of missions around the world.

Steve and Shirley Ditmore, missionaries to Peru, told of serving in a land where "the word Christian has become synonomous with being a human being," but where it has nothing to do with the Bible and is an "empty shell...(with) no spiritual meaning."

David H. Whitson, missionary to Tanzania, told of the importance of reaching out to touch people where their needs are.

Also, Petru Popovici, pastor of the Bellflower (Calif.) Romanian Baptist Church, talked of the growth of his church from its beginning in 1971 to the point it now has 230 members from 28 Southern California cities.

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Pastors Avoid Inerrancy,
Focus on Home, Evangelism

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6/9/81

By Jim Newton and Larry Chesser

LOS ANGELES (BP)--Setting a moderate tone, the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference avoided confrontation on biblical inerrancy and focused instead on the Christian home, evangelism and missions.

More than 7,000 pastors and their wives attended the sessions, listening to 15 sermons and seven testimonies, and electing a Houston pastor, Edwin Young of Second Baptist Church, as president.

Two former SBC presidents, Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., and W. A. Criswell of First Baptist Church, Dallas, preached sermons on the family and the church.

Rogers closed his sermon with the only reference to the inerrancy issue in the opening session, reminding that the only secure foundation for the family "is God's inerrant, infallible Word--the Bible."

Rogers insisted the Bible teaches wives should be submissive to their husbands and husbands should be head of the home.

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Criswell, dressed in a white suit with a red striped tie, preached on the mystery of the church's origin, nature, unity and salvation.

In an emotional plea for unity, Richard Jackson of Phoenix, Ariz., blamed the devil, the demons and the press for fueling the inerrancy controversy among Baptists, declaring "Southern Baptists are not split now, nor shall we ever."

Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, chided Baptists on both sides of the inerrancy controversy who "take your Christian brother to the press and cut his liver out for the whole world to laugh at."

He lashed out at both the religious press and secular press, saying if the press quit writing about the controversy, Southern Baptists wouldn't know it was going on.

Although Jackson acknowledged publicly that he planned to nominate Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., for a second term as convention president, he blasted those who have tried to get him to choose sides.

"I feel like I have a choice between joining the Ku Klux Klan or the gay rights movement, and I ain't joining either," Jackson said.

Jess Moody, a former president of the Pastors' Conference and pastor of First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, Calif., charged that controversy between two Christian groups "is contrary to the mood of Jesus."

Moody claimed the controversy is not over the Bible:

"The only difference between the liberals and fundamentalists is that they deny different verses," he said. "They are both fear peddlers selling the same thing--just from different bottles."

Eighty-year-old Vance Havner, a Bible conference leader from Greensboro, N.C., called for unity among Southern Baptists, and said it could only come from repentance and a fresh moving of the holy Spirit.

"Within the next few hours if we really opened our hearts to repentance faith for an unscheduled invasion of God, we could meet the demonism of the age with the demonstration of the Holy Spirit and power," Havner said.

In another address, Sam T. Cathey, Southern Baptist evangelist from Hot Springs, Ark., told the pastors the Bible clearly teaches that "Satan and demons are real, literal and personal," adding he knew the pastors believe this because they believe the Bible is literally true. He urged pastors to reject the temptation to ignore the subject of demons.

Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., who later was elected vice president of the conference, warned that the Bible is not like a cafeteria line where people can pick and choose what verses they will obey, based on personal preference.

Wolfe warned against Christians who "substitute hearing the word of God for doing the word of God."

In a similar light, Harold O'Chester, pastor of Allandale Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, told the pastors they didn't need to hear more sermons, they just needed to go back home and do the gospel, and its Great Commission to proclaim Christ to the whole world.

SBC Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks challenged pastors to support Bold Mission Thrust, the denomination's program to proclaim the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000.

Parks said if Baptists succeed in Bold Mission Thrust, it will be largely because of the support of pastors; but if Baptists fail, there will be "more blood on the hands of pastors" than anyone else.

John Bisagno, pastor of Houston's First Baptist Church, urged the pastors to go to the mission field personally, saying it would change their lives and their commitment to missions just as it changed his own.

Bisagno warned the pastors they could never win the world to Christ "sitting behind a desk playing solitaire with church prospect cards."

It was Bisagno who had nominated Young as the new president of the Pastors' Conference. Young won by an estimated 60-40 percent margin over Clyde Fant, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas, and a leader in the so-called "moderate" movement in the convention.

The Pastors' Conference closed with a challenge from evangelist Arthur Blessitt to move beyond being tourists to being evangelists in the world.

"Los Angeles doesn't need a theological debate," Blessitt said. "Los Angeles needs Jesus."

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Uncertainty Is Asset,
Educators Are Told

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LOS ANGELES (BP)--The 1980s will be full of stress but understanding the changes that produce that stress can make religious educators more effective, participants at the 26th annual Southern Baptist Religious Education Association were told.

"God has given us, not so much the colors of a picture, as he has given us the colors of a palette," said Edward Lindaman, president emeritus of Whitworth College, Spokane, Wash. "The uncertainty of the future is an asset, not a liability. We will never be free until we are uncertain--because then we experience in a real sense that God is change. And God works through change."

Other speakers included Grady Cothen, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Daniel Boling Jr. of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; Ernest Mosley, executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association, Springfield; Glen Paden, assistant executive director of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fresno; William Hull, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.; and Joseph Hinkle and Douglas Anderson of the family life department of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

J. Earl Mead of Dallas, an 89-year-old religious educator, received the distinguished leadership award. He served as minister of education at Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas in 1926-62 and presently serves Cliff Temple as ambassador at large.

Elaine Dickson of Nashville was chosen president-elect of the SBREA for 1982 and first vice president for 1981. She is manager of the direct sales department of the Sunday School Board.

Other new officers include Charles Gwaltney, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., president; Bruce Powers, professor of education and administration at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., second vice president; Bill Ballou, minister of education and administration at Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, third vice president; Marvin Myers, a church administration consultant with the Sunday School Board, secretary-treasurer; and Ferris Jordan, professor of religious education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, assistant secretary-treasurer.

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