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'Stop Giving Pabulum,'
Seminary Chief Says

By Roy Jennings

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Pastors should stop dispensing spiritual Pabulum, seminary president Landrum Leavell told 2,000 leaders of Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union.

Speaking at a missions conference, Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said: "We have passed out so much spiritual dextrose that the people are suffering from spiritual diabetes."

He made his comments as he sounded a call for a new breed of laity to mold themselves in the characteristics of the Apostle Paul.

Another speaker, Mrs. Dorothy Sample, newly elected president of WMU, urged the conferees to dream, live and listen boldly if Southern Baptists are to share the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000.

"For some Southern Baptists, Bold Mission Thrust has been a passive declaration without involvement," Mrs. Sample said. "We must make a personal commitment and a bold response."

The WMU president described bold dreaming as visualizing what God can accomplish through women and bold vision as seeing the needs of the world.

"Bold living may mean giving up a job or career, living a more simple lifestyle, or giving up tribal things," she added.

Mrs. Sample said Bold Mission Thrust may require seminary-trained women pastors to go as evangelists into foreign countries.

James H. Smith, who became executive director of the Brotherhood work two years ago, identified Andrew, a disciple of Jesus, as an example of bold new men.

"Jesus was the first priority in Andrew's life and Andrew's practice was to bring others to the savior, beginning with his brother."

Relating the characteristics of Andrew to Southern Baptist men, Smith told the conferees, "There are people in your community who will listen to you but will not listen to any preacher."

The conference opened with an observance of Independence Day and 100 years of organized Southern Baptist work among Hispanics in the United States.

Oscar Romo, director of the language missions division of the Home Mission Board, reviewed the growth of 80 ethnic groups in the Southern Baptist Convention, calling the denomination

the most cosmopolitan in the United States.

"You don't need to look to foreign countries or beyond the borders of this country to see a mission field. Just look outside your door," Romo said.

"You and I can be the architects of a Christian America but we must work together in designing it. We must share the gospel with the ethnics who can share it with the other people of the world."

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Southern Baptists Granted
Permission To Enter Egypt

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CAIRO, Egypt (BP)--The Egyptian government has granted permission for three Southern Baptist representatives and their families to live in Egypt and work among Egyptian Baptists.

Two couples, Roger and Linda Rucker and Michael and Madelyn Edens, are studying Arabic in Cairo and another couple will be appointed, said J.D. Hughey, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's director for Europe and the Middle East.

Southern Baptists have had a fraternal representative to Baptists in Egypt for about 25 years, but he has lived in Lebanon or Jordan, making only periodic trips to Egypt as a tourist because of government restrictions on work by "new" mission organizations, Hughey said.

Several church organizations which had missionaries in Egypt in the 1930s have been allowed continuing representation in Egypt.

"Baptists will now have the same right the 'older' Christian groups enjoy," said Hughey, adding: "This act of the Egyptian authorities testifies to their fairness, justice and magnanimity."

The request for residence, submitted by the board and Hughey in March, said Southern Baptist representatives in Egypt will preach in the churches when invited to do so, aid in preparation of church leaders, and strengthen ties of friendship between Baptists in America and those in Egypt.

Eight Baptist congregations currently operate in Egypt, with about 250 total members, Hughey said. The largest is in Cairo, where Seddik Girgis, pioneer Egyptian Baptist preacher, was pastor for many years until his death in June 1980.

The Ruckers, from Texas and Kentucky, were appointed by the board on Oct. 9, 1979, and have worked in Lebanon and Jordan. The Edens, from Oklahoma and Louisiana, were appointed Dec. 9, 1980, for work in the Middle East.

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Burger Rebuke of Critics
Hailed By Baptist Pair

By Stan Haste

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Chief Justice Warren E. Burger's rebuke from the bench of those who accuse the U.S. Supreme Court of making, rather than interpreting, the law drew praise from a pair of Baptist leaders.

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The chief justice's comments, made July 2 as the high court sat for the final time in its just-concluded term, appeared to be a thinly-veiled reprimand of President Reagan, some of his top advisers and certain media commentators who have said that too often the court has seen itself as a legislature.

While paying tribute to retiring Associate Justice Potter Stewart on his last day on the high court bench, Burger declared: "Justice Stewart's 23 years on this court embrace a stirring period of major political, economic and social changes in our country...most of the problems of the changes in our society have a way of finding their way into this court. This is not—as some observers erroneously suggest—that the courts reach out for these problems. On the contrary, the problems are thrust upon the courts."

During his 12-year period at the helm of the nation's highest tribunal, Burger has gained the reputation of a legal conservative. Most court observers, in fact, rank only Associate Justice William H. Rehnquist's judicial philosophy as more conservative than Burger's.

Two executives of the Washington, D.C.-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs praised Burger's comments as timely and needed.

John W. Baker, the Baptist agency's legal counsel, said that while individuals may agree or disagree with the high court's decisions, "Simple fairness requires us to accept the chief justice's declaration that the court does not seek out controversies."

"The court does not answer unasked questions," Baker said. "Neither does it go seeking questions to answer."

Baker, who has written several legal briefs submitted to the high court, went on to say that under the nation's system of checks and balances, the Supreme Court "must play the role of final interpreter of the laws and Constitution whether it wants to or not." He noted that because every legal dispute before the court has a winner and loser, the latter labels the court "activistic" while a winner sees the court as "interpreters."

Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director James M. Dunn also hailed Burger's comments: "I applaud his strong attack on the muddle-headed thinking that continues to insist that the high court legislates."

Much of the speculation surrounding President Reagan's nominee to replace Stewart has centered on whether a woman will be chosen. Regardless of his nominee's gender, however, the president has repeatedly stated that his first criterion will be to appoint someone who interprets, rather than makes, law.

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BWA Elects Staffers;
Speaks On World Issues

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SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (BP)--Two new staff members were elected as the General Council of the Baptist World Alliance held its annual session.

The 260 Baptist leaders from 36 nations also passed resolutions which dealt with such issues as the crisis in El Salvador and disarmament.

In electing the new staffers, the BWA has completed a restaffing process which began in October of 1980 with the retirement of Robert S. Denny as general secretary and of several key staffers.

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Archie Goldie, secretary of the department of evangelism for the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, was elected associate secretary for relief and development, succeeding Ronald Goulding.

Goldie also will be the director of the North American Baptist Fellowship.

Denton Lotz, who has been responsible for relief and development since Goulding's retirement, will retain his work as associate secretary for evangelism and education, and was named director of the youth department.

Also elected was Azariah McKenzie of Kingston, Jamaica, who will become regional secretary of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship.

Both McKenzie's and Goldie's new posts are effective Oct. 1.

The appointment of Sampson Mathangani of Nyeri, Kenya, as field assistant in the youth department, was announced by Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the BWA.

Goldie, 54, a native of Scotland, has been on the staff of the Canadian organization since 1965. Previously, he was pastor of churches in Windsor and Dunville, Ontario. He has been active in the BWA and NABF.

McKenzie, who has been general secretary of the Jamaican Baptist Union since 1967, is immediate past vice president of the BWA, serving 1975-80.

Mathangani, who currently is living, working and attending school in Baltimore, was youth secretary of the Kenya Baptist Convention 1975-80 and was a representative on the BWA youth committee.

The general council session, which traditionally meets on a different continent each year, was preceded by meetings of the executive staff, the international missions secretaries, the evangelism and education committee and the executive committees of the BWA men's and women's departments.

During the business sessions, delegates approved without opposition strongly worded resolutions regarding the conflict in El Salvador and disarmament.

On El Salvador, members of the member bodies of the alliance were encouraged to "pray and work for the establishment of lasting peace with justice and the welfare of the entire people of El Salvador."

The General Council urged "that military aid in terms of weapons and personnel from whatever sources be terminated on a bilateral basis forthwith and that renewed efforts be made to bring about a political rather than a military solution to this conflict."

On disarmament, the BWA called on Baptist unions and conventions worldwide to give "most serious consideration" to disarmament and to "promote understanding of the issues and to take active responsibility within their own nations and states to preserve and propagate peace and to effect the reduction and ultimate cessation of armament, both conventional and nuclear."

The component Baptist groups condemned the folly of relying on the concept of "mutually assured destruction," and urged that "the two great nuclear powers, the USA and the USSR, in persons of their appointed leaders, seek as soon as possible a meeting to demonstrate to the rest of the world their readiness to reduce world tensions."

The resolutions were among seven presented to the General Council by the resolutions committee, chaired by David Russell of London, England, secretary of the Baptist Union in Great Britain and Ireland.

They drew little discussion or debate.

The General Council will meet in July of 1982 in Nairobi, Kenya.

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Decade May Be Crisis
For America's Poor

By Beth Wildes

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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Just as the 1960s were a time of racial crisis for the United States, the 1980s may be a crisis time for America's poor, says hunger consultant Nathan Porter.

Porter, a consultant with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said one reason for this possible social revolution is that affluent Americans have little understanding of the causes of poverty.

Porter spoke to more than 2,000 church mission leaders at the Bold New Laity conference sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union and SBC Brotherhood Commission.

"We have a great American ideal that anyone who wants to make it in America can," he said. "They can learn to read. They can get a job. They can go to college."

However, Porter, son of retired foreign missionaries, believes most poverty stricken people are victims of society's social situations and circumstances.

"People in middle and upper income levels have many prejudices and stereotypes about poor people," Porter contended, such as the average person receiving federal aid is a male who won't work.

In reality, he said, most who benefit from federal aid are children. Others receiving large shares are the elderly and families headed by a single woman. Nationwide only about 50 percent of all persons eligible for federal aid actually receive it.

Porter opposes President Reagan's budget cuts of social programs but he is far more concerned about what Southern Baptist churches do to help the poor. "Our ministry should always be right regardless of what the government does or doesn't do," he said.

However, Porter warned that those who want to minister cannot be judgmental toward those they are trying to help.

"How can I help you if I think you're to blame for what you are?" he said.

"To witness, we have to accept and respect these people and allow them to have dignity. That's exactly what Jesus did."

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