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March 24, 1982

82-47

Falwell, Allen Differ
On Education, Abortion

By Jim Newton

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ATLANTA (BP) -- Moral Majority president Jerry Falwell and former Southern Baptist Convention president Jimmy R. Allen gave differing views on the roles of public schools and abortion during a Christian Life Commission seminar on strengthening families in Atlanta.

Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va., and founder of Moral Majority, and Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, each spoke on the topic, "Strengthening Families of the Nation" before a packed crowd of almost 1,200.

Falwell supported the teaching of "scientific creationism" and "scientific evolution" in public schools, saying he does not believe it is a violation of separation of church and state as declared by an Arkansas Federal District Court. Falwell also endorsed "voluntary" prayer in public schools, and supported alternative education through 18,000 Christian parochial schools.

Allen, however, drew applause from the crowd by reaffirming his conviction "that withdrawal from the public school of the children of our strongest Christian families and of the finest Christian teachers or administrators is a basic mistake of strategy for the Christian community." This leaves the public school system "abandoned to non-Christians, property-stricken and a few stubborn and embattled believers," Allen said.

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poverty-

Citing the personal influence of a Christian teacher in an inner-city public school which did not have formal devotionals or prayers, Allen said, "What I am calling for is not formal prayers in public schools, but for more Christians who are pray-ers to be in the public schools of America."

Allen, president of the American Christian Television System (ACTS), which plans to satellite broadcast Christian television programming and low-power television stations and cable systems, said the greatest classroom in America is not the schoolroom, but the living room or den where the television set is located. Television is the greatest teaching tool in the history of humanity," Allen said.

Christian television programming can make a new impact on American family values, he said. But Christians must become involved in strengthening the family, not because it concerns the health of the nation, but because of the purposes of God, he said. "It is not enough to be concerned about the family for patriotic reasons," said Allen, who warned that "civil religion is dangerous because it over-promises and underproduces."

Although both opposed abortion on demand, Falwell said he "respectfully disagreed" with Allen's plea for "compassion and forgiveness" for women and young girls who have abortions in cases of rape, incest, and threat to life and health of the mother.

During discussion, John Brantley, of Auburn, Ala., asked Falwell if there was any similiarity to his opposition to abortion based on the sanctity of human life and former vice president Walter Mondale's opposition in an earlier seminar address to nuclear arms proliferation in order to preserve the lives of human beings already born.

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Falwell responded that he agreed with evangelist Billy Graham that ideally there should be total disarmament by both sides, but added: "We are not living in an ideal world" because the Soviet Union would not accept total disarmament. Falwell said he supports President Reagan's position that a strong national defense is the only deterrent to war.

Earlier in the day, Mondale opposed the President's plan to spend \$1.6 trillion in the next five years on the military while dismantling many social programs. Mondale said the writers of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution intended to provide both for the common defense and promoting the general welfare, not to choose one over the other.

Americans should insist that the U.S. Government "undertake the most solemn responsibility of all" to seek mutual arms reduction "to make sure every human being lives a full life."

Although Mondale said he is against "unneeded government," he insisted that social legislation affecting families is needed and ought to be reviewed. The question facing government policymakers, he said, is "How will this affect family life in America?"

Mondale declared, "Almost every social problem in our country today" is rooted in family crisis. Today's family may be facing more pressures than any other and need feeding, educating, loving and training," he said. These tasks can only be undertaken by "strengthening the ability of our families to do their jobs."

Citing his own home life as the son of a Methodist minister, Mondale, who is now an active member of Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church in the Washington, D.C., area, denied charges he is a secular humanist. "My faith has motivated my fight for a humane nation and world," he insisted. "I am not a secular humanist. It is because I am a Christian that I believe in serving humanity."

In introducing Falwell, Christian Life Commission Executive Director Foy Valentine pointed out Falwell had a clearly stated agenda for "strengthening families in the nation."

"I assume that the agenda he pursues as pastor of the Thomas Road Baptist Church is one with which we would be in essential agreement, but the agenda pursued by the Moral Majority political organization is apparently not one with which we are in complete and total agreement," Valentine said. "Nevertheless, we need to hear you," he told Falwell.

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Southeastern Seminary
Beats Campaign Goal

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Baptist Press
3/24/82

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP) -- More than 300 trustees, staff, faculty and friends gathered recently to celebrate completion of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's \$3.5 million "Equipping for Bold Mission" campaign.

Campaign chairman Albert S. Lineberry of Greensboro, N.C., and Mrs. Theodore F. Adams, widow of the campaign co-chairman, unveiled a banner proclaiming that \$4,131,120 had been raised during the seminary's first major capital and endowment campaign.

William L. Burns Jr., president of the Central Carolina Bank and Trust Company, the host for the evening, said although "I'm a great believer in the Baptist faith, I had no idea this could be achieved." Burns is an Episcopalian.

Lineberry paid tribute to the bank as the campaign's first corporate contributor, adding that after the first one, the others come easier.

Commenting on the high cost of education, Southeastern President W. Randall Lolley quoted his father as saying, "If you think education is expensive, you ought to try ignorance."

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In a surprise announcement, alumnus Robert B. Whaley, pastor of Northgate Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C., said church member Josephine Carson Newell, who died in January, had willed about \$500,000 to Southeastern Seminary. Although the exact amount is indefinite, earnings from the trust will be available to the seminary to be used at the trustees' discretion. This bequest is in addition to the \$4.1 million raised during the campaign.

Lolley expressed profound gratitude to those who made the campaign a success. He pledged to see that the Southern Baptist Convention seminary is "kept Christ centered, biblically based, church related, denomination oriented and person focused."

He used the occasion to announce establishment of the Lineberry-Adams Award, to go to persons making a significant contribution to the life of the seminary.

Receiving the first award were: Lineberry; Mrs. Adams, Richmond, Va., on behalf of her late husband; and former trustee W. Perry Crouch, Charlotte, N. C., who was a development counselor at the school following his retirement as general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

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Billy Graham Accepts
Invitation to Moscow

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Baptist Press
3/24/82

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (BP)—Evangelist Billy Graham, urged by President Reagan to decline the invitation, has decided to preach in Moscow in May.

An invitation to speak in the Soviet Union was extended the Southern Baptist evangelist by Patriarch Pimen, primate of the Russian Orthodox Church, and by leaders of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of the U.S.S.R.

Graham will preach at the Orthodox Cathedral in Moscow May 9. On May 11, he will address the "World Conference: Religious Workers for Saving the Sacred Gift of Life From Nuclear Catastrophe." According to a statement released by Graham, he will speak on the Christian's understanding of peace in a nuclear age.

Graham, famous for friendships with U.S. presidents and other world leaders, is often expected to take political positions, an expectation he shuns. "My purpose in going to the Soviet Union is spiritual, and it is not my intention to become involved in political or ideological issues," he said.

"We have accepted this invitation to the Soviet Union because we feel it is a God-given opportunity for me to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in a country where I have not had this privilege before," Graham's statement said. "I also shall have the opportunity to give my Christian witness to leaders of various religious backgrounds from all over the world."

Graham, who had to change commitments in England to go to Moscow, said "It is my sincere prayer that this visit will make at least a small contribution to better understanding between the peoples of the Soviet Union, the United States, and other countries of the world.

"We trade with each other, we have cultural exchanges and we have continued political negotiations in spite of our differences. I think it is now time that we move into a spiritual dimension as well."

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Baptists 'Invade'
Pryor Methodists

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Baptist Press
3/23/82

PRYOR, Okla. (BP) -- Some of Pryor's Methodists will be listening in church to see if voices will come from the walls again. They did recently.

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Methodist pastor Tom Kirby had just opened his sermon when the strains of "Amazing Grace" were heard throughout the sanctuary of the United Methodist Church.

He tried to turn down the amplifier and continue his sermon, but the voices returned--still singing.

Finally, he turned the public address system off and continued in the old-fashioned way--without electronic help.

Kirby and members of the congregation recognized the singing voices as the Baptists down the street.

Every Sunday, the local radio station KMYZ broadcasts the 11 a.m. service from First Baptist Church. Apparently, weather conditions, humidity, frequency modifications, birds on the high lines or something caused the Baptist service to go directly into the public address system of the Methodist church.

"We would be happy to provide that service every Sunday and give Brother Kirby a rest," laughed Forrest Jackson of the First Baptist Church.

One member, asked what Kirby was preaching about, though for a moment and replied, "I'm not sure. I think it was sin. And he's against it."

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Adapted from The Pryor (Okla.) Times.

Guatemala Missionaries Safe;
Report Awaited on Bangladesh

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Baptist Press
3/24/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) -- Early reports said Southern Baptist missionaries are safe following a March 23 military coup in the Central American nation of Guatemala.

The Foreign Mission Board had received no word from missionaries the day after another military coup March 23 in Bangladesh, but the five couples there also are believed to be safe.

Don Kammerdiener, Foreign Mission Board director for middle America and the Caribbean, was assured by missionaries in Guatemala by telephone that all 22 missionaries there now had been "accounted for" and were in no danger.

William Wakefield, director for South and Southeast Asia, had received no direct communication from missionaries in Bangladesh on the day after the coup, but said he felt sure the five missionary couples were in no danger since the coup was reported to be bloodless. He said communications with a nation often are frozen temporarily following a coup.

In Guatemala, the right-wing government of Gen. Romeo Lucas Garcia was quickly ousted and replaced with a junta headed by retired General Efraim Rios Montt, who ran unsuccessfully for president in 1974 as the candidate for the center-right Christian Democrat Party.

Charging the March 7 election won by another conservative general, Angel Anibal Guevara, was fraudulent, the coup leaders pledged over radio and television they would defend human rights and stamp out terrorism in Guatemala. Guevara would have succeeded Garcia July 1.

In Bangladesh, the ouster of President Abdus Sattar came a day before the country's 11th anniversary of independence. A martial law administrator was appointed and parliament was suspended, news reports said. The chief martial law administrator was identified only as a lieutenant general named "Ershad."

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A list of missionaries in Guatemala and Bangladesh, with home states, mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--All 6,800 hotel rooms reserved for participants in the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 15-17 have been claimed, as well as 300 to 500 others the New Orleans housing bureau was able to dig up, according to convention manager Tim Hedquist.

Hedquist suggests persons still planning to attend the meeting, but who have no room, writ the New Orleans Convention and Housing Bureau at 334 Royal St., 70130. Ask for a brochure that lists all the hotels in the area. They can be contacted individually.

"Other than that, just get a registration form and fill it out by Oct. 1 for Pittsburgh," Hedquist says. The 1983 meeting is there June 13-15.

The number of rooms reserved through the housing bureau is double that reserved last year in Los Angeles when registration reached 13,529.

Statistician Martin Bradley and registration secretary Lee Porter project registration will be just over 20,000. Porter says further it is conceivable registration could pass Atlanta's record registration of 22,872 in 1978. Martin's projections are based on location, Baptist strength in the area and registration over the past eight years.

Hedquist says the youth evangelism emphasis that is bringing 5,000 young people to New Orleans for a week of study and witnessing, has soaked up rooms that normally would be available to the convention bureau. Dorm space in New Orleans colleges is gone, and almost very major Southern Baptist church in the city is housing youth, he says.

The 6,800 original rooms were sold out by Dec. 1 after registration opened Oct. 1. The majority of the hotels were filled in two weeks.

Hedquist credits associational missionaries, pastors and some laymen who made special efforts to reserve blocks of rooms and encourage turnout with filling the hotels so rapidly. He said 10 to 12 associational missionaries and 15 to 20 pastors and laymen reserved blocks of rooms.

He said there also appears to be a "tremendous" number of churches from small cities making efforts to be represented this year.

In Los Angeles, registrants used 3,560 rooms through the housing bureau; in St. Louis in 1980, 3,533 rooms and in Houston in 1979, 4,955 rooms. Registration in those years reached 13,529 in Los Angeles; 13,844 in St. Louis; and 15,760 in Houston.

While he would not estimate registration, Hedquist said, "I have to believe a lot more people are coming."