



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 25, 1982

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## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE

June 13-14, 1982

First Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA

Theme: Reaching People Through Instrumental Music

### Saturday, June 12

10 a.m. Pre-Conference Session--New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Baptist Hymnody Symposium  
4 p.m. Executive Council Meeting, Conference Room, Sellers Building, NOBTS

### Sunday Afternoon, June 13

12:30 Past Presidents' Luncheon, honoring all presidents in 26-year history--  
Marriott Hotel  
1:30 Registration Desk and Music Exhibits Open, First Baptist Church  
2:50 Prelude--Brass Ensemble, North Carolina  
3:00 Call to Order--Al Washburn, president  
Welcome and Invocation--Carroll Lowe, church music director, Louisiana Baptist  
Convention  
Greetings--William Hinson, pastor, First Baptist Church, New Orleans  
3:10 Brass Ensemble, North Carolina  
3:20 Anthem, "The Trumpeters and Singers Were as One"  
Sung by all, conducted by Fes Robertson  
3:25 Worship--led by Donald J. Burke and G. Douglas Smith  
Theme interpretation: 2 Chronicles 5  
3:55 Mini-Concert--Paducah Boys Choir, Tony Whitfield, director  
4:25 Offering  
Organ Offertory--Carolyn Cowan, organist  
4:30 Exhibit Break  
5:00 Address--Wesley Forbis, secretary, church music department, Baptist Sunday  
School Board  
5:20 Mini-Concert--Youth Choir, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, TN; James D.  
Whitmire, director  
5:50 Benediction  
6:00 Reception for Music Conference members and guests

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The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will join all other  
program organizations at a special evangelistic rally  
at the Louisiana Superdome Sunday evening.

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### Monday Morning, June 14

8:30 Prelude--Linda Shipley, pianist, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
8:40 Worship--Donald J. Burke and G. Douglas Smith;  
Linda Epley, organist  
9:10 Mini-Concert--Florida Baptist Singing Churchmen, Paul Bobbitt, director  
9:40 President's Address  
9:55 Exhibit Break  
10:25 Mini-Recital--Ramona Goff Bond, mezzo-soprano, New Orleans Baptist Theological  
Seminary; Max Lyall, pianist

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- 10:45 Mini-Concert--Choir, Louisiana Baptist College, Pineville, LA;  
Arnold Epley, director
- 11:15 Annual Business Session
- 11:45 Mini-Concert--B.A.S.E. Hits, First Baptist Church, New Orleans;  
Harry Cowan, director

Monday Afternoon, June 14

- 1:45 Mini-Concert--Texas Baptist All State Band and Choir  
Commissioned work--"Sing Unto the Lord" by Jack Dean
- 2:15 Mini-Concert--Choir, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS;  
Donald E. Winters, director
- 2:45 Divisional Meetings:  
Local Church--Gerald Brown, presiding  
Denominational--Carl Sheppard, presiding  
Educational--Louis Ball, presiding
- 3:15 Exhibit Break
- 3:45 Sacred Opera--"Singers Glen" by Alice Parker (to be published by Hinshaw Music,  
June 1982) Presented by Music Drama Group of New Orleans  
Baptist Theological Seminary; Ted Wylie, director
- 5:15 Dinner Break

Monday Night, June 14

- 7:00 Mini-Recital--Sharron Lyon, organist, church music department, Baptist Sunday  
School Board
- 7:20 Worship--Donald J. Burke and G. Douglas Smith
- 7:50 Presentation of New Council Members
- 7:55 Offering  
Offertory--Ferebe Gasque, handbell soloist
- 8:00 Concert--The Centurymen, Buryl Red, director
- 9:00 Benediction and Adjournment--Fes Robertson, SBCMC president-elect

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Officers:

- President--Al Washburn, chairman, church music division, Golden Gate Theological Seminary, Mill  
Valley, CA
- President-Elect--Fes Robertson, Church Music Department, Baptist Sunday School Board,  
Nashville, TN
- Vice President, Denominational--Carl Sheppard, church music secretary, Illinois Baptist Stat  
Association
- Vice Pr sident, Educational--Louis Ball, church music department, Carson-Newman College,  
Vice President, Local Church--Gerald Brown, minister of music, Richardson Heights Baptist  
Church, Richardson, TX

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Music Ministers Explore  
Ministry of Instrumental

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Baptist Press  
3/25/82

NEW ORLEANS (BP)-- A wide array of church music, much of it instrumental, will greet participants in the annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference June 13-14 at First Baptist Church in New Orleans.

The conference is one of several adjunct meetings to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, held June 15-17 at the Louisiana Superdome.

The meeting's theme, Reaching People Through Instrumental Music, is adopted from a similar theme of the Baptist Sunday School Board church music department. It will be played in New Orleans with organ, piano and brass combinations.

Traditional voice concerts will also be in abundant supply with presentations by the Centurymen; Paducah Boys Choir; the youth choir of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.; Texas Baptist All State Band and Choir; Louisiana Baptist College Choir; William Carey College Choir and others.

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The annual commissioned work, this year "Sing Unto the Lord" by Jack Dean, retired professor from Hardin-Simmons University, will be performed at 1:45 p.m., June 14, by the Texas Baptist All State Band and Choir.

"We have two strong worship leaders in Don Burke, pastor of Greenwich Baptist Church, Greenwich, Conn., and Doug Smith, music minister at Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.," said Al Washburn, conference president.

Washburn, chairman of the church music division at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, said the conference will adopt a revised list of objectives. Primary, he said, are goals for spiritual and musical renewal, and for conference members to be more creative ministers-musicians.

A pre-conference hymnody symposium at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary begins at 10 a.m. June 12 and continues until 4 p.m. Washburn says the symposium is open to all.

Twenty-five to 30 exhibits from music publishers, robe manufacturers and bookstores will be set up in the church gymnasium.

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Parental Unfitness Test  
Roughened by High Court

By Larry Chesser

WB  
Baptist Press  
3/25/82

WASHINGTON (BP)--States may not permanently remove children from their natural parents without first demonstrating "clear and convincing" evidence of permanent neglect, a divided U.S. Supreme Court has ruled.

In a 5-4 decision, the high court held that a New York law requiring state officials to demonstrate permanent neglect by only a "fair preponderance" of evidence violates the due process rights of natural parents.

In an opinion written by Justice Harry A. Blackmun, the narrow majority cited the Supreme Court's "historical recognition that freedom of personal choice in matters of family life is a fundamental liberty interest protected by the Fourteenth Amendment."

The "preponderance" of evidence standard in the New York law is the least strict evidence test used by courts. The tougher standard of proof required by the high court's ruling lessens the possibility of wrongful termination of the parent-child relationship. It "strikes a fair balance between the rights of the natural parents and the state's legitimate concerns," the justices declared.

Until the state proves parental unfitness, the court held, "the child and his parents share a vital interest in preventing erroneous termination of their natural relationship."

The ruling will directly affect only a few states since 33 states plus the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands already require higher standards of proof than the minimum "preponderance" test in weighing their termination of parental rights.

Justice William H. Rehnquist, in a dissent joined by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Justices Byron R. White and Sandra Day O'Connor, charged that the ruling will invite "further federal court intrusion into every facet of state family law."

The dissent agreed with the majority that the interest of parents in relationship to their children is sufficient to warrant Fourteenth Amendment protection, but insisted that the New York statute already provides parents with "fundamental fairness" mandated by the Constitution.

Joining Blackmun in the decision were Justices William J. Brennan Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Lewis F. Powell Jr., and John Paul Stevens.

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Christian Life Seminar  
Offers Hope for Families

AB  
By Jim Newton and Stan Hasteley

ATLANTA (BP) -- The family is fighting for its life in contemporary America, but there is hope for strengthening the family through the church, a battery of 19 speakers said in a barrage of 25 speeches during a three-day national seminar on "Strengthening Families."

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention as part of the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust emphasis on strengthening families, 1,163 persons registered to make it the largest annual seminar the agency has sponsored.

In the closing address, Houston pastor Kenneth L. Chafin urged seminar participants to go home and start to work on strengthening families by making their number one priority improving their own family relationships.

Chafin, whose South Main Baptist Church has specialized for a decade in ministry to singles and divorced persons, said "tokenism" toward the family will not do, and that pastors and churches must "make a vocation out of strengthening families."

Pastors in particular must begin by strengthening their own families, Chafin said, realizing there is no "special immunity" against divorce or other family tragedies in pastoral families.

Earlier, veteran Southern Baptist pastoral care expert Wayne E. Oates sounded a similar theme, warning that the pastor is particularly vulnerable to family crises. Rather than "putting the Lord's work first," he declared, ministers should heed Paul's admonition that anyone who fails to care for his own family is worse than an unbeliever, a neglect he described as "the least-used test of orthodoxy."

Citing statistics on divorce, former SBC President Jimmy R. Allen, president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, said there have been more than a million divorces in America each year since 1975, and that divorce rates doubled from 1970 to 1980.

"For every marriage that dies with a formal funeral called divorce, there are others which die and are never declared dead," Allen observed. "There are couples living in strident conflict and hostility who have murdered the marriage long ago but are chained to its corpse like ancient men punishing criminals," Allen said.

Allen said Christians must be compassionate and nonjudgmental in ministering to the victims of divorce, while upholding without apology the Christian ideal that divorce is wrong. "Not only does God hate divorce, divorced persons hate divorce and the children of divorce hate divorce," Allen said. "Of all armies, the Christian army should not shoot its own wounded."

Marriage enrichment specialist David Mace of Winston-Salem, N.C., said churches are in crisis over the remarriage of divorced persons. Mace said: "I can accept divorce for Christians in very difficult situations, although always with regret."

Mace called for Baptists to emphasize preventive ministries to the family that will help family members with the resources they need to keep families out of trouble.

As an example of what one Southern Baptist church is doing to strengthen families, pastor Neal Jones and minister of counseling Dale Keeton of Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church, Va., described a multi-faceted local church program of family ministries.

During discussion following their presentation, one seminar participant expressed frustration at knowing where to begin, saying he is pastor of a small church that does not have the resources for such an extensive program and asking where to start. "Find a need and then try to develop ministries to meet that need," Jones advised. "Then start to work on another need. Take them one at a time."

Speakers addressed family problems from virtually every conceivable angle during the three-day seminar, including public policies affecting family life, television's influence on family principles, issues related to singles and aging, roles of family members including "submission theology," the effect of racial prejudice on families and national values concerning the family.

Moral Majority President Jerry Falwell, in a sermon described by some as surprisingly moderate, listed seven Judeo-Christian principles he felt should be taught in the home, church and school in an effort to change American society.

Falwell stressed (1) the sanctity of human life and opposition to abortion, (2) the traditional monogamous family and opposition to homosexuality, (3) common decency and opposition to pornography, (4) the importance of work rather than government support of those who won't work, (5) support of Israel and the Jews as God's chosen people, (6) God-centered education with "voluntary" prayer in public schools and teaching "scientific creationism," and (7) support of three divinely-ordained institutions--home, church and government.

Former vice president Walter Mondale called for reordering the nation's priorities to make sure every person lives a full life, pointing out that almost every social problem in the nation is related to family crises. He affirmed his personal Christian faith and clearly stated, "I am not a secular humanist." He said he supports a strong national defense but not at the expense of social programs that help the poor and needy.

U.S. Congressman Claude Pepper, D-Fla., urged expanding ministries to the aging, saying "the great tragedy" of old age in America is the feeling of "being a burden instead of a blessing to the family."

A black Baptist pastor from Houston, Bill Lawson of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, urged families to work on the problem of racial prejudice in the home. Acknowledging "the sickness of racism belongs to us all," Lawson said it is nevertheless "a curable disease." The only antidote to prejudice in his own life, said Lawson, was "love nurtured in the womb of a family that prayed together and shared Christian values."

Speaking on the effect of television on families, especially children, TV personality Robert Keeshan--"Captain Kangaroo"--said too many parents blame television as a "scapegoat" rather than accepting responsibility for the root causes of problems among young people. Parents have a responsibility to make judgments concerning programs which their children watch as well as to work with others seeking to improve the moral quality of television programming.

Other major speakers for the seminar included Charles Petty, director of the governor's office of citizen affairs for North Carolina; James Dobson, producer of a widely-used film series on family life; Joyce Landorf, popular author and speaker; David Edens, director of family and community studies for Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., and Dorothy Sample, president of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the SBC.

CLC Distinguished Service Awards were presented to former president Jimmy Carter and to Rosalynn Carter during the seminar's opening session. The former chief executive and first lady were cited for making "unique and outstanding contributions in applied Christianity" in both public and family life.

Mondale later paid tribute to them, declaring, "I doubt that we've ever had a president or first lady more motivated by their Christian faith than the Carters." Mondale said Carter's legacy to the nation is that "he told the truth, he obeyed the law and he kept the peace. And that's not bad."