



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 11, 1982

82-72

'Battle of New Orleans'
is Taking Shape: Herrod

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Pastor Ron Herrod calls it the "20th Century Battle of New Orleans."

Herrod, chairman of Bold Mission-New Orleans and pastor of Kenner's First Baptist Church, is in charge of a "Baptist blitz" expected to bring 5,000 Baptists to the streets of New Orleans on Sunday afternoon, June 13.

"Our goal is to have 5,000 ministers and laypersons to disburse into inner-city residential and business areas for witnessing," Herrod said.

Two hundred trained group leaders have been enlisted to provide orientation for those participating and buses will take them to their areas of ministry, he said.

The witnessing event will precede a Sunday evening rally in the Louisiana Superdome where Billy Graham has been scheduled as guest speaker.

Herrod said, "The temptation is for people to come to the Graham rally only and miss the visitation. But the visitation among apartment buildings, residences and business places will provide the opportunity to invite unchurched people to attend the Graham rally.

"Among those who have agreed to assist with the visitation blitz are Bailey Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Landrum Leavell II, president of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Graham and Cliff Barrows have been invited to participate, also, Herrod said.

The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission is "cooperating in an effort to get 5,000 persons to witness throughout the city."

John Winters, director of Louisiana Baptist Men, said efforts are being made to enlist 1,000 men from outside the New Orleans area to assist with the program.

The schedule for the day begins at 1 p.m. with orientation of group leaders. At 2 p.m. there will be training, instruction and distribution of materials for canvassers.

Buses will leave the Superdome for the assigned witnessing areas and team members will be picked up and returned to the Superdome at 6 p.m.

The Bold Mission Rally begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Superdome with a concert by the Centurymen and Festival Choirs led by Buryl Red. Following other program events Graham is scheduled to preach at 8 p.m., Herrod said.

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Los Angeles last June adopted a resolution supporting "Bold Mission-New Orleans."

Herrod said persons making visits will be organized into teams and disbursed to various areas of the city, some to include high-rise apartment buildings.

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Statistics indicate the inner-city has approximately 110,000 households. "Obviously the task is enormous and the potential is tremendous," Herrod said.

Persons wishing to participate in the afternoon witnessing program may contact Herrod at P. O. Box 1357, Kenner, La. 70063.

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Churches Cited for
Sunday School Growth

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Baptist Press
5/11/82

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Churches in Texas, Tennessee, New York and Louisiana have been recognized as the fastest growing Sunday Schools for 1980-81.

Cited for the second consecutive year for the largest increase in Sunday School average attendance was Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, where Bill Weber is pastor. The attendance increased from 608 to 1,038, for a gain of 430.

Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., was recognized for the largest increase in Sunday School enrollment. The church showed a net gain of 920 persons, increasing from 6,343 to 7,263 during the year. Adrian Rogers is pastor.

The largest percentage increase in enrollment was shown by Grossman Avenue Baptist Church, Olean, N.Y., where Fred Fowler is pastor. Enrollment increased 517 percent, from 6 to 37.

Lamourie Baptist Church, Lecompte, La., was recognized for the largest percentage gain in average attendance. Increasing from 8 to 46 the church registered a 475 percent gain. Marvin Stalnecker is pastor.

The third annual fastest growing Sunday School recognition was conducted by the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department.

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Hollis Johnson Heads
Foundation Executives

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Baptist Press
5/11/82

VICTORIA, British Columbia (BP)--Hollis E. Johnson III, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Foundation, has been elected president of the Association of Baptist Foundation Executives.

Also elected were: U.A. McManus Jr., president, Baptist Foundation of Alabama, vice-president, and Monty Townsend, director of investments, Louisiana Baptist Foundation, secretary-treasurer.

The Association will meet in Nashville, Tenn., March 28-31, 1983.

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Southern Seminary Trustees
Approve New Faculty Members

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Baptist Press
5/11/82

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Four faculty members were added and the status of 11 others was changed during the annual spring meeting of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees.

Named to the faculty were assistant professors Gerald Keown and R. Philip Roberts, professor Luther Joe Thompson and senior professor Penrose St. Amant.

Keown, professor of the chair of Bible, Baptist Student Center at the University of Missouri, will be assistant professor of Old Testament interpretation. Roberts, a doctoral candidate at Oxford University in England, will be assistant professor of evangelism.

Thompson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., will be professor of Christian preaching. St. Amant, former dean of Southern's school of theology and retired president of the Baptist seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, will be senior professor of church history.

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All four additions were made in the form of confirmations of appointments made by seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt. Thompson's term will be from 1982-1984; the others will serve from 1982 through 1985.

Trustees also elected Elizabeth Ann Bedsole as assistant professor of church music and Robin Kent Rogers as assistant professor of social work, effective Aug. 1. Both have been on the faculty in contract positions.

Three faculty members were granted tenure. They are Walter C. Jackson III, professor of ministry; David E. Garland, assistant professor of New Testament interpretation and R. Michael Harton, assistant professor of educational administration.

Four faculty members were promoted from associate professor to professor. They are Andrew D. Lester, psychology of religion; Larry L. McSwain, church and community; Paul D. Simmons, Christian ethics; and William P. Tuck, Christian preaching. Daniel O. Aleshire was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of developmental psychology.

Frank Stagg, senior professor of New Testament interpretation and long-time faculty member, was designated emeritus professor of New Testament interpretation, effective upon his retirement from teaching June 12, 1982.

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Argentina's Baptists Discuss
Concerns, Affirm Missionaries

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Baptist Press
5/11/82

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP)--Argentine Baptist leaders affirmed the presence of Southern Baptist missionaries and expressed concern for their well-being in a joint meeting of nationals and missionaries in Buenos Aires May 10.

Thurmon Bryant, Foreign Mission Board director for eastern South America, reported the meeting by telephone from Buenos Aires.

He said national Baptist leaders shared the steps they had taken to affirm Argentine sovereignty over the Falkland (Malvinas) islands, including drafting supportive communications to the Argentine president and commander-in-chief of the Argentine army.

In the communiques, Argentine Baptists called for a peaceful solution to the crisis and then backed that call up by organizing a public prayer march, which drew 3,000 participants May 2. They cooperated with the Bible societies in providing 10,000 New Testaments for Argentin soldiers and offered to provide evangelical chaplains to military personnel.

They expressed concern at the meeting that statements reportedly made by Baptist leaders in the United States regarding the Argentine-British situation could have negative effects on Baptist work not only in Argentina but throughout Latin America. They referred to no specific statements.

Import restrictions imposed by the Argentine government are already affecting the provision of church literature for Baptist congregations, they said. As expected, imports are restricted to materials vital to the military effort and of overall benefit to the Argentine government.

The Baptist leaders shared with the missionaries an open letter drafted May 5 and mailed to leaders of Baptist conventions and agencies around the world.

That letter acknowledges that Baptists around the world are praying for peace in the situation, and urges them to pray for Argentine Baptists and send letters of spiritual support to the convention. Despite reports of a boycott by postal employees of mail going to or coming from the United States, some mail has been "trickling through" during the past few days, Bryant said.

The letter urges non-Argentine Baptists to try to understand the position of Argentine Baptists in the Falkland Islands dispute, and to exercise caution in using public rhetoric that might endanger missionary and national Baptist work in Argentina.

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The letter is signed by Ignacio Loredo, executive secretary of the Argentine convention, and Miguel Ballotti, convention president.

Bryant said missionaries have no specific plans to leave Argentina, though they have developed a contingency plan should they have to leave suddenly.

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Few Families Free
From Addiction Problems

By Debbie Baird Buie

Baptist Press
5/11/82

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)—As an employer, counselor and concerned citizen, George Ricker has committed himself to helping addicted persons and their families.

"Few families are free from problems associated with alcohol," said Ricker, director of Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly near Talledega, as he spoke during the Alabama Clergy Conference on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, sponsored by Baptist Medical Center in Montgomery, the Alabama Baptist State Convention and the Montgomery Baptist Association.

Ricker said he is surprised how many young people who work at the assembly during the summer are troubled about friends or family members addicted to drugs or alcohol. He said that such concerns, and the fact that he had alcoholic friends and that his father was an alcoholic, is the reason for his involvement with Alanon, a support organization for friends and families of alcoholics.

"These organizations (such as Alcoholics Anonymous) are tools," he said, explaining that the support a person receives from such groups undergirds recovery.

On the panel discussion with Ricker were pastors Chester Jernigan and Leon Harris.

Jernigan, pastor of Forest Park Baptist Church in Montgomery, whose father was an alcoholic, said ministers must attune themselves to the particular needs of their communities and churches.

"The minister needs to understand the environment to which he is called," he said, adding they must be prepared to deal with all problems, including alcoholism, which affect the congregation.

Leon Harris, pastor of Mohoba Baptist Church in Mohoba, is a full-time worker with the Southwest Alabama Council on Alcoholism.

"Throughout my ministry I have dealt with lots of alcoholics," he said, explaining he really didn't know how to help people with these problems except by prayer--until he realized prayer wasn't enough.

"I began to read, study, and learn more about the illness (of alcoholism), because that's what it is, an illness," he said. "I began to see it as the disease it is. "I couldn't help the alcoholic until I changed (my attitude)."

The panel discussion with these pastors followed a day of learning about the disease and symptoms of chemical dependency--alcoholism and drug abuse.

Douglas Talbot, a physician who specializes in addictive diseases, instructed the approximately 60 church leaders on the nature of addiction.

"If the clergy remains sensitive to this disorder," he said, "then it may be the only opportunity for the person to be directed toward treatment."

He said the disease of alcoholism most closely resembles diabetes. He also said that the clergy must examine their attitudes toward addicts.

"Would you react the same to an addict as you would to one with diabetes?" he asked. He then explained that there is a difference between an abuser and an addict.

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An abuser is not necessarily an addict, he said, but an addict is definitely an abuser. Similarly, he explained that an addict isn't an addict because he drinks too much (or takes too many drugs), but he takes too much because he is an addict.

"An addict makes abuse his lifestyle," he said.

According to Talbott, the capacity for addiction is inherited. The biochemical genetic defect shows up in the "X/Y" chromosomes. He said addiction is a function of the primitive brain--the hypothalamus. The hypothalamus, he said, controls instinctual, compulsive behavior in a person.

"Alcoholism doesn't come in a bottle, but in people," he said.

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(Buie is assistant in the community relations department at BMC, Montgomery)

Retired Archivist
Marian Keegan Dies

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BSSB

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Mrs. Marian Keegan, Sunday School Board retiree and widow of former student department secretary Kearnie Keegan, died May 10 following a short illness.

Mrs. Keegan, 69, was the first full-time archivist in the board's Dargan-Carver Library, a post she held 14 years prior to her retirement in 1975.

A native of Texas, Mrs. Keegan was a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, where she earned the B.A. and M.A. degrees. She also studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

She was the daughter of Finis A.R. Morgan and Gertrude (Weatherby) Morgan, Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil.

Her late husband headed the student department from 1950 until his death in 1960.

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Photo will be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by (BP) Sunday School Board bureau

Readers Get Results
When Record Speaks

Baptist Press
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JACKSON, Miss. (BP)—People united, pastoriums restored; when the Mississippi Baptist Record speaks, things happen.

The Record, weekly newspaper of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, published a short article Feb. 14, 1980, about Dianne Martin joining the staff of First Baptist Church, Jackson.

That article, read by Alfred Crawley, a research engineer with the state highway department, led to the wedding of Martin and Crawley Aug. 16, 1980. Crawley had dated Martin when she was a college student but had not seen her in eight years.

Another article, on the December 1981 burning of the pastorium of New Hope Baptist Church, told of pastor I. L. Hill losing his books and personal belongings that were uninsured.

Readers responded "overwhelmingly" with help, the Record says. One person, who did not even know the pastor, sent him a check for \$3,000.

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