



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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## Witnessing Education Featured By WMU

**NEW ORLEANS (BP)**--The call to become witnessing women and celebration of 75 years of religious education for women were the highlights of the 94th annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union, the 1.1 million-member auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The two-day meeting which drew more than 3,000 women, focused on the need for women to share the gospel on a regular basis.

Highlighting the myriad of lifestyles and opportunities available today were women representing the fields of business, the military, home and foreign missions and higher education.

Julia Cadenhead, chaplain at the Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, Ill., said her assignment is an unusual one for women but one she enjoys.

"In my role as a Navy chaplain I seek to help men and women face the tough challenge the Navy has to offer and share the hope available through Jesus Christ," she said.

Jaxie Short, missionary emeritus to Hong Kong, said witnessing opportunities often become available during times of crisis. "For me a witnessing woman overseas meant allowing yourself to hurt with the suffering of the people who surround you and know that your love and compassion can help them know the love of God," she said.

Continuing the appeal for women to actively share their faith was WMU President Dorothy Sample who reminded the crowd that the Great Commission is for women too. "Often we hear things in Southern Baptist life which intimate that women are not equal in the call of the Great Commission to go and share the good news, but God made women equal partners in this endeavor," Sample said.

Prior to her presidential address, Sample was elected to a second term. Sample is a psychologist and educator in Flint, Mich., and wife of Richard Sample, a bivocational pastor of a local congregation.

Also elected to a second term as recording secretary was Betty Gilreath of Charlotte, N.C.

In the celebration of 75 years of religious education for women, the audience was reminded that in 1907 the WMU Training School was opened in Louisville, Ky. It was later named the Carver School of Missions and merged with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1962.

Four graduates of the training school shared about theological education for women then and now.

"When God opened the door for me to attend the WMU Training School it was one of the greatest blessings of my life. I had been a missions volunteer for two years but I needed to know more about missions and the training school gave me this experience," said Verlene Farmer, Baptist Student Union director at Langston University in Langston, Okla., and the first American black to graduate from the school.

Helen Falls, professor of missions at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, noted that the major differences between theological education then and now is the curriculum and the difficulty of placing women seminary graduates.

"These days women are allowed to be in the same classroom as the men and are not limited to preparing for careers in missions, work in a community center, church secretary, student work or WMU positions. But despite these achievements, many positions formerly filled by women on the mission field and in the local churches are now given to men," Falls said.

"As a result of these exigencies, young women completing their seminary education are becoming frustrated and many are returning to secular positions," she said.

Included in the meeting were 15 special interest conferences covering the topics of mission issues, WMU enlargement, need for prayer support and strengthening the Cooperative Program.

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Pastors' Conference Hears  
Messages on 'Great Texts'

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference blended evangelistic, Bible-based preaching with the election of a conservative president and the endorsement of the religious right by Vice President George Bush to maintain a conservative stance throughout a two-day meeting at the Superdome.

An estimated 2,000 persons responded to an evangelistic appeal by Billy Graham at the opening session. Attendance at the rally, estimated by Superdome officials at 42,000, was far short of the 80,000 goal.

Elected president of the Pastors' Conference was Fred Wolfe, previously vice president of the organization, and pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

Although Bush began his remarks by saying he would not be political, the Republican used the platform to endorse and embrace the religious right in the strongest statement on the subject made by a top official of the Reagan administration.

The vice president said he did not feel the religious right wanted to impose its own moral values on American society, and that it was a predictable response to trends in America over the last 25 years, including legal abortion, use of drugs, widespread pornography, sexual conduct and marriage.

In his message following music by Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash, Graham said he had not come to speak on world affairs or deliver a major address, but to preach an evangelistic message.

Following a pattern he used for years, Graham first painted a dismal picture of world conditions. "The chances of our living to the year 2000 are very remote unless God intervenes with a miracle," Graham said.

Graham proclaimed all the problems of the world are basically moral and spiritual, and that the solution to all is the love of Jesus Christ.

SBC President Bailey Smith, pastor at First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., opened the conference, saying "this is the greatest hour in the history of mankind" to proclaim the gospel.

During a series of 12 sermons on "great" texts of the scriptures, the evangelistic, conservative theme was repeated by almost every speaker.

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Challenging the pastors to be effective soulwinners, former SBC President Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, warned "if you're not out there winning souls, you're not right with God."

In the opening message on "the Great Beginning," Barry Landrum, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La., said it is preposterous, naive and ridiculous to believe in evolution or "self-creation."

In a message on "The Great Invitation," Charles T. Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., lashed out at the concept of "universalism" which contends that eventually everyone in the universe will be saved.

Carter said it is not enough even to "believe with the mind" that Jesus is the Christ, but that salvation requires "commitment to the will of God." He questioned whether many Southern Baptists are truly committed.

"With one-fourth of our Southern Baptist membership being non-resident and with 50 percent of our members not attending on any given Sunday, and with 20 percent of our members actually providing 80 percent of our income, it would seem there must be a renewed emphasis in the 20th century on...commitment to Christ as Lord," he said.

Jimmy Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, said he wished a "heavenly hurricane" could rip through the Superdome like the "heavenly tornado" that roared down from heaven on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came down in power.

Draper said only with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit can Southern Baptists hope to carry out the Bold Mission Thrust goals of proclaiming the gospel to every person on earth by the year 2000.

During the closing session, expressions of conservative theology continued when pastors applauded remarks of Ron Dunn, president of Lifestyle Ministries, Irving, Texas, who claimed the churches that are growing fastest are led by pastors "who are steadfast and rock-hard stubborn in what they believe about the word of God and about Jesus Christ."

By contrast, said Dunn, those who are wishy-washy and not sure of what they believe "and can't make a statement until they have checked it out with certain so-and-sos" are not growing great churches.

A more moderate tone was proclaimed earlier by William B. Tolar, dean of the School of Theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, who said he refuses to make differing interpretations of the scripture the criterion of Christian fellowship.

Tolar told of overhearing two seminary students arguing violently about the second coming, one of them shouting to the other, "You don't believe the Bible." What he really meant, said Tolar, was "If you don't interpret the Bible like I do, then you don't believe the Bible."

Following a similar pattern, Bob Werner, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ferguson, Mo., called for an emphasis on love, the greatest gift from God.

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Missions Directors Urged  
To Have Leadership Skills

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Southern Baptist directors of missions were urged to sharpen their leadership skills for working cooperatively with churches in missions and evangelism.

More than 500 associational leaders met in one of six Baptist conferences preceding the 125th meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Superdome.

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Bruce Grubbs, church administration consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., said effective leaders "must learn how to deal with conflict in redemptive, creative ways."

In one of three addresses, Grubbs said Southern Baptists "are scared to death of conflict. We almost always think it's un-Christian."

One reason Baptists often experience conflict is "we're together more than other groups," Grubbs explained. "We meet more, share more space. We are more prone to have problems with each other."

However, when groups can work through their conflicts and solve their problems, benefits are gained, he said. "Conflict energizes people, overcomes apathy and creates a sense of urgency."

Advocating a servant-leader role for directors of missions, Grubbs said as more leaders adapt their style of behavior to meet the particular situation and the needs of their followers, the more effective they will be in reaching personal and organizational goals.

Other speakers included Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Texas; Cline Borders, 1982 president of the Association of Directors of Missions, Shelby, N.C.; and Cecil Ray, executive secretary of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, Raleigh.

Officers elected for 1982-83 were: president, William R. Moyle, Tampa, Fla.; president-elect, Bob Franklin, Montgomery, Ala.; secretary, Wayne Willcoxon, Chico, Calif.; treasurer, Hugh Durham, Conroe, Texas; editor, Daniel F. Page, Greenville, S.C.; and host director, James Craven, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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Music Ministers Hear  
Three New Compositions

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Southern Baptist music ministers were encouraged at a two-day meeting to make church music the "redemptive connection" between the secular and sacred.

The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, one of six Baptist groups meeting in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention, brought together 450 music ministers, denominational music workers and music educators.

Calling church music a "redemptive connection" between a secular world and the Christian gospel, Wesley Forbis, secretary of the church music department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., said music should speak to the despair left in the world by secular humanism.

While music itself is amoral, Forbis declared, it can be used for both good and bad. "It is in the church that music and all its elements attain their real significance," he said.

Al Washburn, president of the conference, linked musical renewal to spiritual renewal, and called on the ministers to make spiritual input part of their daily routine.

The conference featured music from 11 choirs, soloists and ensembles, much of it instrumental; introduced the annual commissioned work, "Sing Unto the Lord," by T.W. Dean, and the premier of a new sacred opera, "Singers Glen," by Alice Parker.

The final session of the conference featured a concert by the Centurymen, a 100-voice male choir directed by Buryl Red of New York City. The group performed the musical, "Beginnings," written by Red and Ragan Courtney of Houston. Courtney and his wife, singer/composer Cynthia Clawson, were featured as narrator and soloist respectively.

Officers for next year's Church Music Conference are: president, Washburn; president-elect, Fes Robertson, supervisor of youth/adult/general materials development section, church music department, Sunday School Board; secretary-treasurer, Mary J. Tabor, associate music secretary, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City; vice president of

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the denominational division, Charles Storey, associate of the church music department, Baptist Convention of North Carolina, Raleigh; vice president of the local church division, Harlan Hall, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Longview, Texas, and vice president of the music educators division, Jack Coldiron, professor of voice, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

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Kenya MK Dies After  
School Bus Accident

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NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)--Sheri Lynn Richardson, 9-year-old daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries Jim and Marcia Jones Richardson, died June 15 after a freak school bus accident in Nairobi.

Returning home on the last day of school, Sheri had stepped off the bus when her dress got caught in the closing bus door. As the bus drove away, she was dragged 20 yards before her dress tore and she was released. She died two hours later without regaining consciousness.

The bus driver apparently was not aware of the girl's plight until the dress tore. Her father, waiting for her, witnessed the accident and immediately took her to a Nairobi hospital.

The accident occurred at the Nairobi Baptist Centre, where her father is a school administrator and the family home is located. Sheri was a student at Rosslyn Academy, an interdenominational school attended by many of the missionary children.

The Richardsons were appointed missionaries in March 1976. Richardson was a teacher and guidance counselor-coordinator for Roanoke, Va., city schools before their appointment. Both he and Sheri were born in Roanoke. Mrs. Richardson was born in Columbia, Mo., and grew up in Eldon, Mo.

Other survivors include a younger sister, Amy Luck, six; a brother, James, three, both of Nairobi; paternal grandmother, Hazel Richardson of Roanoke; and maternal grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Dwight L. Jones of Eldon.

Burial was in Kenya.

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Craig Bird Named  
Feature Editor of BP

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Craig Bird, 32, has been named feature editor of Baptist Press, effective June 21.

Bird, who has been director of news and information at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, since 1978, replaces Norman Jameson, who resigned to take a position at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Bird was elected by the administrative subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee, of which Baptist Press is a part.

A native of Camden, Ark., Bird is a graduate of the University of Texas, and a candidate for a masters degree from HSU.

Prior to joining the Texas Baptist-affiliated university, Bird was a houseparent and director of communications at South Texas Children's Home in Beeville, editor of the Beeville Bee-Picayune, copy editor and sportswriter for the Corpus Christi Caller Times and a reporter for the Lawton (Oklahoma) Constitution Press.

Bird has won more than 30 writing awards and has published articles in a number of denominational and secular publications.

Bird is married to the former Melissa Jackson. They have two sons, Coby Alan and Brant Michael.

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