



- - BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 5, 1983

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ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTERS
June 12-13, 1983
Victoria Hall, University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sunday Afternoon, June 12, 1983

- 2:00--Call to Order--Fred S. Witty Jr., Johnson City, TN, president
- 2:20--Bible Study--William M. Pinson Jr., Dallas, TX
- 2:50--Business Session
- 3:05--Break
- 3:20--The Changing Role of Women in our Society with Special Attention Given to Building a Ministry Model for the Women on Our Campus--Sarah Frances Anders, Pineville, LA
- 4:00--Small Group Discussions Concerning Previous Topic
- 4:30--Dialogue with Sarah Frances Anders

Sunday Evening, June 12, 1983

- 5:00--Dinner Break
- 7:00--Worship--Frank Cofer, Chicago, IL
- 7:30--The Mission Thrust on Campus--Jimmy R. Allen, Fort Worth, TX
- 8:05--Small Group Discussions Concerning Previous Topic
- 8:30--Dialogue with Jimmy R. Allen
- 9:00--Reception--Jointly sponsored by National Student Ministries and Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers

Monday Morning, June 13, 1983

- 8:50--Reconvene
- 9:00--Worship--Charles Scalise, Northborough, MA
- 9:20--Business Session
- 9:40--The Strategy of National Student Ministries--Charles Johnson, Nashville, TN
- 10:10--Break
- 10:30--Small Group Discussions Concerning Previous Topic
- 11:00--Dialogue with Charles Johnson
- 11:30--Business Session

Monday Afternoon, June 13, 1983

- 1:30--Reconvene
- 1:40--Bible Study--William M. Pinson Jr., Dallas, TX
- 2:00--Health Care Delivery Services--Dewey Dunn, Nashville, TN and James Smalley, Little Rock, AR
- 2:30--World Hunger Emphasis--Presentation by staff of SEEDS, a world hunger ministry of Oakhurst Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
- 3:30--Business Session
- 4:15--Worship--Robert Timmons, Strongsville, OH

Monday Evening, June 13, 1983

- 7:00--Banquet--Stephen Foster Memorial Hall, University of Pittsburgh
 Music Presentation--Paul Lee, Richmond, VA
 Featured Speaker--William M. Pinson Jr., Dallas, TX

Campus Ministers Association Set
University of Pittsburgh Meeting

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (BP)--A list of topics as far ranging as the interests of the college students they work with will be presented to the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers at its annual meeting June 12-13 at the University of Pittsburgh.

Sunday afternoon Sarah Frances Anders, a professor at Louisiana College, will discuss building a "ministry model for the women on our campus" and Sunday night Jimmy R. Allen, president of the SBC Radio-Television Commission will speak on "The Mission Thrust on Campus."

Monday morning Charles Johnson, head of the National Student Ministries section of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will discuss the "Strategy of National Student Ministries" and Monday afternoon the staff of SEEDS, a world hunger ministry of Oakhurst Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., will present a world hunger emphasis.

William Pinson Jr., executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will be the featured speaker at the association's banquet Monday evening.

All sessions will be in Victoria Hall of the University of Pittsburgh except the banquet which will be in Stephen Foster Memorial Hall on the campus.

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United States Needs More
Than Jesus' Name: Wallis

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
4/5/83

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Despite bumper stickers and billboards to the contrary, Jesus is still obscure in America, insists Jim Wallis.

"His name is known and widely spoken but sometimes all that remains of Jesus in America is his name," Wallis explained, noting Jesus' teachings and example often are not followed.

Wallis, pastor and founder of Sojourners Community in Washington, D.C., and editor of Sojourners magazine, singled out concern for the poor and for peace as Christian issues which have been ignored, when he addressed the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's national seminar in Louisville, Ky.

Both care for the poor and peacemaking are dominant biblical themes, he said. But instead of listening to the Bible, people have "ignored the poor...and built walls of hostility, arsenals to destroy one another," he added. He linked peacemaking and concern for the poor by noting defense spending utilizes funds which otherwise might go to help the needy or strengthen the economy so they can help themselves.

Wallis claimed the method being used to save the "sinking economic ship" damaged by the strain of excessive defense spending is "throwing the poor overboard." He asked, "How can we accept reports of defense spending in billions and billions of dollars when people around us are out of homes and jobs?" He admitted, "What about the Russians?" is the question most asked when people discuss defense spending but he insisted the question replaces a proper focus on Jesus and faith in God.

Furthermore, such thinking ignores the fact that "real people," creations of God, are repressed behind the propaganda put out on the United States and the Soviet Union by each other, Wallis noted. He also said the problem pits Christian against Christian.

"Our national loyalty has preempted loyalty to the body of Christ," he explained. "We have permitted nuclear weapons to be aimed at Russian Christians."

He suggested people should think about the faces of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, already killed by nuclear weapons and to really "see" the faces of potential victims, the people now labeled "enemies."

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Wallis conceded "Jesus never said we wouldn't have enemies," but added Jesus "offered a new approach to dealing with them." That approach is the "way of the cross of Christ," being willing to suffer for reconciliation the way Jesus did.

"The cross is going to be rediscovered by the church, the people of Christ, in this nuclear age," he predicted, challenging Christians to "wage peace" and to be willing to risk as much for peace as people historically have risked for war.

Such a stand for peace, culminating in the end to the arms race, will "take a miracle," he said. And the leaders who help achieve such a goal will come from among those who "still believe in miracles."

That leaves a very important question of peace for all Christians, Wallis pointed out: "Do we still believe in miracles?"

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Marijuana In Worship
Not A Protected Right

Baptist Press
4/5/83

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected an appeal from a member of a small sect which maintains the use of marijuana is indispensable to its faith.

In refusing to hear the appeal of Clifton Ray Middleton, who belongs to the tiny Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church, the high court let stand a decision by a federal appeals panel last year that the government has a "compelling interest" in regulating and controlling the drug which outweighs the free exercise of religion claimed by Middleton.

Use of drugs such as marijuana and peyote, utilized by some native Americans in religious rites, has long been a point of contention in legal circles. But courts have consistently ruled that Congress and state legislatures may restrict or prohibit their use under the "compelling public interest" doctrine, a legal principle which has upheld bans on other religious practices such as snake handling and bigamy.

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CORRECTION--In (BP) story "Ministers Receive Bad Advice On Social Security" mailed March 31, 1983, please change date in fifth paragraph to Dec. 31, 1983 instead of 1981 as sent.

Thanks, BP

High Court Will Not Review
Teacher Accreditation Rule

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press
4/5/83

WASHINGTON (BP)--Conflict over state accreditation of sectarian school teachers has reached the U.S. Supreme Court but the justices have declined to review a North Dakota law requiring all such teachers to be state-approved.

Two parents of pupils in a Christian day school, Living Word Academy, of Elgin, N.D., sought unsuccessfully to have the high court review their state's compulsory attendance law, which includes a provision requiring teachers in private and parochial schools to be certified.

In a written brief, Kathy Rivinius and Ronald Weikum argued that lower court decisions upholding the law are "abhorrent to the very principles for which the religion clauses of the First Amendment were added to the Constitution...."

They cited a 1972 Supreme Court decision upholding the right of Old Order Amish parents in Wisconsin to educate their children at home without state interference. Protecting citizens' religious beliefs, they added, "is probably the paramount and fundamental obligation of government."

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But in a brief for the state, North Dakota's attorney general said the lower rulings upheld the state's "compelling interest" in the school attendance law.

While pointing to the conclusion of North Dakota's Supreme Court that the parents' religious beliefs concerning the education of their children were "sincerely held," the attorney general argued those beliefs were not "unduly burdened" by the state's compulsory attendance law, including the requirement that teachers in all schools be accredited.

He also pointed to previous U.S. Supreme Court rulings that although the freedom to hold religious beliefs is absolute, "the freedom to act, even if the action is in accordance with religious convictions, is not totally free from legislative restrictions."

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The Church On Fillmore SBC
Ministers In Phoenix's Inner-City

By Elizabeth Young

Baptist Press
4/5/83

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--While some churches flee downtown, a Phoenix church has opted to move into the heart of the inner-city.

Given the opportunity and funds to move almost anywhere, members of Parkview Baptist Church recognized their church's responsibility to minister to the less fortunate of society. Inst ad of moving to the surburbs, the church moved further downtown.

As arly as 1965 some recommended the church, in the airport relocation area southwest of Sky Harbor International Airport, disband or move. It was slated to relocate in 1975 and last January the city finally bought the church property for \$960,000.

According to James Hiatt, pastor of the church, Parkview would have been all alone within a year as the city continued to buy the houses around it.

Along with the relocation came a name change. In order to avoid barriers erected by the word "Baptist" and thus be able to better minister in its new community, Parkview changed its name to The Church On Fillmore SBC.

The facilities originally housed the First Church of God and were sold to a Christian social organization about a year ago. A member of that organization approached the Baptist Foundation of Arizona about buying the property as an investment.

Parkview bought the First Church of God facilities for \$363,000 and then spent additional funds to buy adjacent property.

Why would a church that has operated on a shoestring budget for 18 years opt to remain in the inner-city when it has the money needed to move into the surburbs?

Hiatt's motivation for ministry goes back to his childhood when "I was always from the wrong side of the tracks. I understand the feelings of the people in these situations."

Hiatt sees a big vacuum in Christian ministry in the middle of town, and he and th church are challenged by that fact. Church members have ministry opportunities now they never had at Parkview, said Bill Crofts, president of the Arizona Baptist Foundation. "The church can be a wonderful neighborhood focal point," he added.

The Church on Fillmore plans to be an inner-city church that cares for people and is involved in the lives of people. Some of its ministries will be outside the traditional ministries of the church. "If we have to do things that are not normal," Hiatt said, "we will do them to meet the total needs of the peopl ."

The church hopes to build a retirement complex of 35 apartments and have at least some of them operational within six months and hopes to have a boarding home open within the next year.

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Already some in the neighborhood have responded to the presence of their new resident, and church members haven't even started visitation. On March 13, the second Sunday at the new location, with 86 in Sunday School, attendance was up 20-25 over the average attendance at the old location.

With its 28,000 square-foot, debt-free facility, the possibilities for growth are unlimited, Hiatt said.

One area that probably really will grow in the church's new location is its Spanish work, with Alejo Maldonado as pastor. The church has an integrated Sunday School and separate worship services at the same time in different parts of the building.

Parkview was started as a mission of First Southern, Phoenix, in 1938. As one of the oldest Southern Baptist churches in the city, it has been dramatic for the church to move and change names, Hiatt said, adding that members are adjusting to the change very well.

Like their pastor who, as a student at Grand Canyon College, "happened to go down and fill in once and has been there ever since," the members of The Church on Fillmore have accepted the challenge of ministry in the inner-city.

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Money for Afghan Refugees
Stolen From Austrian Church

Baptist Press
4/5/83

SALZBURG, Austria (BP)--Thieves stole a freewill offering box containing an estimated \$200 to \$300 worth of shillings from Salzburg (Austria) International Baptist Church. The money was intended for Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

The theft was committed while the box was left unattended for a few minutes during a benefit classical music concert at the church. Another 8,000 shillings (nearly \$500) was collected in admission fees. That will go toward medical supplies for some of the 3 million Afghan refugees now living in Pakistan.

The predominantly student congregation of the church decided to combine their quarterly classical concert--for outreach and evangelism--with an effort to help the refugees. The idea stemmed from concern for fellow member Ayub Tabish, a native Afghan who escaped from his homeland after the Russian invasion.

Tabish, a roommate of a music student in the Baptist church, became a Christian from his Muslim background after entering Austria last year. He is trying to learn German and pass required exams so he can practice veterinary medicine in Austria.

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Bus Strike, Bad Ankle Can't Keep
70-Year-Old Nursery Worker Home

Baptist Press
4/5/83

IBAGUE, Colombia (BP)--Rosario Cabezas, 70-year-old nursery worker at First Baptist Church, Ibague, Colombia, had to decide whether or not to walk 35 blocks to church on the first day of a recent bus strike.

After short deliberation, she set out for church, trudging 2.5 miles, much of it uphill. Unaware of the bus strike in her area, Southern Baptist missionary Ellis Leagans and others at the church wondered why she wasn't present when Sunday School began.

Finally, she arrived, 20 minutes late, the hour-long walk made even more difficult because she had broken an ankle a few months earlier. For several weeks she had been unable to walk at all.

But on this Sunday, "She thought of children, not ankles," Leagans said.