



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 8, 1983

83-56

Marty Says Christian World
Is Getting 'Baptistified'

By Norman Jameson

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--World Christianity is becoming increasingly "Baptistified" according to one of America's best known modern church historians.

Martin Marty, professor of the history of modern Christianity at the University of Chicago, delivered two addresses at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, as part of the seminary's 75th anniversary observance.

He told an audience of Baylor University religion faculty and Southwestern Seminary's theological faculty that the Baptist form of Christianity which emphasizes persuasion and decision is gaining popularity over the "catholic" form of nurture, that "Christian children spring from the loins of Christian parents."

Marty, associate editor of The Christian Century, editor of the newsletter Context and co-editor of Church History, proved his claims he is an "unabashed Baptist watcher" by addressing several topics which have embroiled Baptists in recent years.

From his perspective of involvement when the Missouri Synod Lutheran split, Marty was asked what advice he had for Southern Baptists who, some say, are threatened with a split over biblical inerrancy. "I don't have a lot of advice or cheer," Marty said. "I have observed when an accuser gets the privilege of forming the accusation, there's no way to respond to it without sounding at least half guilty."

He said he had never seen an argument over the authority of the Bible that was not an attempt to use it as a weapon against other members of the church.

On school prayer, Marty explained to have authority, one must be under authority. He said Baptist strength comes from leaning on God, which is why he was so bemused by the Southern Baptist Convention's passage last summer of a resolution affirming a constitutional amendment supporting school prayer. "Southern Baptists' school prayer resolution leads us away from the power of God to the power of government to dictate the circumstances in which we work."

Asked to evaluate Southwestern on the occasion of its anniversary, he had two words for consideration: be happy, and be wary. He said Baptists and Southwestern should be happy for the way God is working and be wary lest they misinterpret how it is happening.

Baptist tradition is typed as the "church of the disinherited," he said. It is a creation of "people people" and "folk folk" who had the "unimpaired imagination" and "vehement force of need" to show where the power in society was missing the sources of need.

Real power comes through weakness, he said, because "God works on us when he sees our power gone. Even our strongest institutions are so frail."

"The power of being an outsider meant you had no resource to fall on except the divine resource," Marty said. Early Baptists did not have the burden of keeping the culture going.

Baptists no longer are outsiders in most of America's southland. They have become the religion of the culture in the areas of their strength. Marty said that does not mean Baptists or Southwestern should go back to being smaller, or retreating from their role of strength. But he urged the leadership to "keep the perception the simple people had in chartering this place (Southwestern)."

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE
 DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS
 June 12-13, 1983
 First Presbyterian Church
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

THEME: "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth and he that seeketh findeth; and to him knocketh it shall be opened." Luke 11:9-10

Sunday Afternoon, June 12, 1983 -Bill Moyle, director of missions, Tampa Bay association, Tampa Bay, FL, presiding

- 1:00--Registration
 1:30--Welcome
 Hymn
 Special Music--Beth Duke Nunn, soloist, Richmond, VA; Betty I. Carlton, accompanist, Richmond, VA
 1:50--Theme Interpretation I--"Association"
 2:00--What In the World Is an Association?--Russell Bennett, director of missions, Long Run Baptist Association, Louisville, KY
 2:30--The Association in the '80s and '90s--presentation and dialogue--J.C. Bradley, director of associational administrative department of HMB, Atlanta, GA; Reggie McDonough, associate executive secretary, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, TN
 3:10--Break, registration (Get tickets for banquet for those who pay their fees at First Presbyterian Church.)
 Bob Franklin, director of missions, Montgomery Baptist Association, Montgomery, AL presiding
 3:25--Hymn
 3:30--Special Music--Beth Duke Nunn and Betty I. Carlton
 3:40--Theme Interpretation II--"Director"
 3:50--What Does a Director of Missions Do?--Charles Nunn, director of missions, Richmond Baptist Association, Richmond, VA
 4:20--What Does a Director of Missions' Wife Do?
 Peggy Slaughter, Allegheny and Pioneer associations, WV
 Millie Renick, Alachua association, FL
 Phyliss Winters, Appomatox association, VA
 4:50--What Are the Spiritual Rewards of Being a Director of Missions?--Quinn Pugh, director of metropolitan missions, New York City, NY
 5:30--Benediction--departure to William Penn Hotel
 6:00--Dinner hosted by WMU, William Penn Hotel--Bill Moyle, presiding
 6:30--Invocation
 6:35--Special music, Beth Duke Nunn
 6:45--Introductions and announcements
 6:55--Special music, Beth Duke Nunn
 7:05--The Important Place of WMU in Associational Missions--Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, WMU, Birmingham, AL
 7:45--Benediction with fellowship following

Monday morning, June 13, 1983 -First Presbyterian Church, Bill Moyle presiding

- 8:15--Registration
 8:30--Hymn
 8:35--Theme Interpretation III
 8:45--How Do You Discover Your Association's Missions Responsibilities?
 9:15--The Role of an Association in the USA in Foreign Missions--R. Keith Parks, president FMB, Richmond, VA
 9:45--Break
 9:55--Hymn
 10:00--Business Session
 10:45--Special music--Beth Duke Nunn
 10:55--President's message--Bill Moyle
 11:30--The 1983 Kansas City meeting--Bob Franklin
 11:40--Benediction--Bob Franklin

Luke 11:9-10 Theme
For Directors of Missions

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (BP)--An introspective look at their jobs and an examination of two key outside relationships will highlight the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions, June 12-13.

The group will meet at First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pa., just prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sunday afternoon there will be presentations on "What In the World is an Association?," "The Association in the '80s and '90s," "What Does a Director of Missions Do?," "What Does a Director's Wife Do?," and "What are the Spiritual Rewards of Being a Director of Missions?"

Sunday evening Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, auxillary to the Southern Baptist Convention, will speak on "The Important Place of WMU in Associational Missions" and Monday morning R. Keith Parks, president of the SBC's Foreign Mission Board, will talk on "The Role of an Association in the USA in Foreign Missions."

Bill Moyle, director of missions in the Tampa Bay Baptist Association, Tampa Bay, Fla., is president of the conference this year.

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Nine-Year-Old RA
Works To Aid Hungry

Baptist Press
4/8/83

CAYCE, S.C. (BP)--Micah Chaneyworth, a nine-year-old member of Holland Avenue Baptist Church, Cayce, S.C., has a vision of the needs of the world's hungry.

When his Royal Ambassador chapter had a program about hunger needs he decided there was something he could do about it. "Two years ago I set a goal of \$10 and started saving all the money I got," he said. He twice raised his goal and finally collected \$30.

Last year he wanted to do more so he set a goal of \$40.

His father, Rufus Chaneyworth, pastor of the church, wanted to be sure all his people had time to give to world hunger, so he used a little rice bowl provided by the South Carolina Baptist Convention missions department to call attention to world hunger needs.

Church members were asked to keep the bowls on their tables and to deposit change into it through the year. October included a special in-gathering of the world hunger offering.

The younger Chaneyworth raked leaves, saved his allowance and found other chores to earn money for his rice bowl. As the year went by, he began to realize he might be able to raise more than \$40. He raised his goal to \$50, then \$60 and finally decided to try for \$100.

"I remember the children in my Royal Ambassador magazine (Crusader) and how you could see their ribs and bones and some of their stomachs had swelled up because they didn't have enough to eat," he said. "It made me think of how we in this country always have something to eat and some in other countries don't have enough."

When the October offering was gathered, Micah had his \$100 and his father exchanged it for a \$100 bill.

Micah doesn't know yet what goal he'll set this year when the world hunger offering begins, but he does know he'll do what he can to help the boys and girls he saw in his Royal Ambassador magazine.

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Reagan Again Vows Support
For Tuition Tax Credits

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--Declaring his critics are wrong to say he pays lip service to tuition tax credits while doing little to push their passage, President Reagan said April 7 he will "charge up" Capitol Hill "until we get a victory."

Reagan spoke briefly during the closing session of the National Catholic Education Association convention and called again for congressional passage of three pieces of education legislation the White House has drafted.

Besides the tuition tax credit measure for taxpayers who send their children to private schools, other Reagan bills call for a separate system of vouchers to help parents of disadvantaged children obtain special services at either private or public schools and for establishment of education savings accounts to help defray college costs.

Most of his seven-minute address, however, was devoted to convincing increasingly skeptical Catholic educators he intends to fight for tuition tax credits. Saying he was disappointed such a measure received little attention during the last Congress, Reagan reminded the educators that the tuition tax credit bill was one of the first to receive his personal attention during the recently convened 98th Congress.

"I want this legislation to move as quickly as possible," he insisted.

Reagan acknowledged his bill would overwhelmingly assist sectarian parochial schools run by Roman Catholics, Protestants and Jews. But he repeated his view that the main issue in the debate is not separation of church and state, but equity for parents who use parochial schools. They face a form of double taxation, he claimed, by having to pay local school taxes in addition to tuition fees. "I just don't think that's fair," Reagan said.

He also said, "If anyone knows the need for full parental choice, it is the Catholic community."

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Stable Non-Profit Rates
Signaled By House Budget

By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press
4/8/83

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. House of Representatives gave non-profit mailers a potential boost when it approved its first fiscal 1984 budget resolution calling for enough postal subsidy to keep non-profit rates at their current level.

The action signaled that Congress is highly unlikely to approve President Reagan's budget request to sharply reduce the preferred-rate postal subsidy and thereby trigger another round of large rate hikes for non-profit mailers.

The House-passed resolution projecting a total 1984 budget of \$936 billion only sets broad, non-binding spending ceilings. It assumes \$879 million for the non-profit postal subsidy, compared to the Reagan administration request of \$400 million. But both houses of Congress would have to pass appropriations bills containing the full \$879 million to preserve current rates.

Since 1981, when the Reagan administration proposed sweeping cuts in domestic spending, non-profit rates have see-sawed dramatically.

Before then, non-profit rates had been rising gradually on a 16-year phasing schedule Congress established in 1970 to move preferred rate mailers in annual steps toward paying full costs directly attributable to handling their mail.

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An appropriations shortfall for the postal subsidy in late 1981 sent non-profit rates soaring in early 1982, jumping from step 10 of the phasing plan to step 16. This hike more than doubled the rates for many non-profit mailers. Later in 1982, Congress added enough funding to the subsidy in a supplemental appropriations measure to bring the rates back to step 13. Last January, non-profit rates went up a normal one-step increase to step 14.

Non-profit rates are available to a wide range of organizations, including religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic, agricultural, labor, veterans and fraternal groups.

A number of these groups charged at a recent House Post Office and Civil Service subcommittee hearing that the unstable rates had hampered their ability to raise funds and thus pick up the slack caused by federal cutbacks in spending for social services.

Leland Hacker, president of the Baptist Children's Home, San Antonio, Texas, said his agency is one of those President Reagan said in 1981 he was counting on to keep the social safety net from unravelling.

"Unless Congress stabilizes non-profit mail rates and stabilizes them soon," Hacker told the Subcommittee on Postal Operations and Services, "Anglo and Hispanic children alike will fall through the safety net."

Hacker's agency receives about half its annual budget from the Baptist General Convention of Texas but depends on private donations for the remainder. Though the home is currently operating at full capacity caring for 104 children, Hacker warned the facility may be forced to cut back because of a lack of funds.

"Because of the steep increase in non-profit rates over the past 18 months, we had to reduce newsletter appeals for support," he said. "We can't reach the people who support us without stable non-profit mail rates."

Meanwhile, the Senate Budget Committee is expected to complete work on its first budget resolution by mid-April. House and Senate appropriations committees are expected to vote on actual funding for the subsidy in late spring or early summer.

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Baptist Hospital Employee Indicted In Georgia Embezzlement

ATLANTA, Ga. (BP)--The director of housekeeping at Georgia Baptist Medical Center has been arrested and indicted in connection with alleged embezzlement of more than \$100,000 in payroll funds at the Atlanta hospital.

Herbert F. Thomas, 57, has been charged with second degree forgery and theft by deception.

Administrator Robert L. Zwald said two other employees had been suspended without pay in the incident, which is still under investigation. The alleged embezzlement came to light in early February when Internal Revenue Service agents alerted the hospital to payroll inequities.

At that time Zwald said all parties at Georgia Baptist Medical Center are fully bonded and that no patient funds or charity funds had been effected.

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