



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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July 19, 1983

83-107

Social, Moral Concerns  
Confront Southern Baptists

By Michael Tutterow

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--The basic deterrent to missions and evangelism is cultural mores of contemporary society, influenced more by secular humanism than by the church, claimed a Georgia director of moral and civic concerns.

J. Emmett Henderson, executive director of the Georgia Council on Moral and Civic Concerns, told conference participants at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center the culture in which a church or association preaches, ministers or evangelizes can have either positive or negative effects on church evangelism and missions. Henderson led the small-group conference, one of dozens offered during Home Missions Week at Glorieta, designed to help Baptists plan a church strategy for missions which included a "strategy to affect the institutions which shape attitudes about what is right and wrong."

Henderson charged the entertainment industry "is deciding for Americans what is right and wrong. We can pull down the shades on moral conditions about us," said Henderson, or Christians can direct their energies to influence public policy and opinion.

Though the church is under attack for its stands on moral issues--sexuality, marriage, alcoholism, family concerns--societal values, "must become the target of our missions and evangelism," Henderson said. Through active letter writing campaigns to public officials, legislators at both the local and national levels, and to manufacturers and advertisers, Christians can make their voice heard and shape societal values, he said.

Nathan Porter, national consultant on domestic hunger and disaster relief for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, also advocated Christians use letter writing to express their sentiments regarding hunger. Porter said concern about social issues like world hunger requires a stronger action than just providing food for a few hungry people in the church community. "Responsible Christian citizenship means advocacy," said Porter. "Why should we only get excited about gambling and alcohol?"

Porter said every letter received at the national level represents the sentiments of 10 people and Christians need to have their voice heard.

Though the church is charged with the task of caring for the poor and hungry, the government is going to have to solve the hunger problem in the United States, Porter said, because in a democracy, "We're the government. And when the government stops feeding the poor, cuts aid to families with dependent children, then who stopped? We did."

Porter suggested churches begin food pantries, form a food bank or cooperate with other local congregations in developing joint programs for meeting local needs as first steps in combatting hunger. And, he added, "Churches can start attacking the cause of poverty in their own church by raising salary standards for church custodial workers."

In another conference, Dale Cross, director of the HMB's associational evangelism department, said the cities have become continual disasters and churches need "to mobilize our people with the same kind of commitment" with which Baptists have responded to natural disasters. A primary need, added Cross, is adequate housing.

Cross and several other HMB staffers joined David Beal, national consultant in multi-family housing for the HMB's metropolitan missions department, and explored Baptist response to multi-family housing ministries with state multi-family housing contact people. Twenty-two state conventions now have multi-family housing contacts.

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Mike Robertson, associate director of the HMB's special mission ministries department, noted Baptist volunteers have gone into inner-city areas and either refurbished or raised living standards in multi-family housing complexes in places like the Bronx, N.Y. The resources to do multi-family housing ministries are in Baptist laypeople, he asserted.

Beal said by the year 2000, 50 percent of all Americans will live in multi-family housing. In addition, he said, by the turn of the century, an estimated 70 to 90 percent of all urban dwellers will make their homes in multi-family housing units.

But, he lamented, Southern Baptists are reaching less than two percent of multi-family housing residents now. Beal believes Baptists must adopt new strategies of ministry and evangelism if they are to reach the vast number of multi-family housing residents.

"Southern Baptists must penetrate multi-family housing communities through recreation programs, Big A clubs, satellite Sunday schools and non-traditional worship experiences," Beal said. The cost of building in the city "prohibits traditional buildings. We have to recognize the church can function in a clubhouse with a swimming pool as the baptistry."

Jack Redford, director of the HMB's church extension division, said multi-family housing represents a great opportunity for starting new congregations. But Carol Childress, associate church extension director for Texas Baptists, said Southern Baptists must first develop a new understanding of the church.

Beginning at the seminary level, seminaries must motivate students to accept bi-vocational pastorates and "less than ideal" church situations rather than "turning out professionals who only want to work in traditional church settings."

Robertson added a lot of pastors today are not willing to work in multi-family housing settings unless they can see direct benefits for their church. Cross agreed and said Baptists are moving toward a "franchise" model of the church, with pastors viewing themselves as managers in competition with other congregations instead of servants meeting needs.

The model reflects a denomination that is "upwardly mobile and interested in the 'good life,'" said Cross. "But our sense of the church as an institution prohibits us from opening models (of the church) which may not be successful in the traditional sense."

For other areas of multi-family housing, like apartment and condominium complexes, local pastors could serve as chaplains, advised Huey Perry, associate director of the HMB's chaplaincy division. Noting how pastors have worked with both Days Inn and Holiday Inn motel chains as "chaplains on call," Perry said pastors or laypeople could provide apartment or resident managers with cards to hand out to local residents, identifying a local pastor as chaplain for the complex.

The word "chaplain," Perry said, raises few objections or suspicions among people, and added chaplaincy models may provide the viability and credibility Baptists need for multi-family housing ministries.

Robertson said volunteers, working with a chaplain, could provide daily ministries to meet residents' needs. Mothers Day Out programs, free concerts, reading programs for senior citizens, daily Bible clubs for youth and other resort-type ministries could help Baptists "earn the right to be heard," said Robertson.

Regardless of the model, asserted Beal, Baptists must change their understanding of the church if they expect to reach multi-family housing residents.

The church is people, not buildings, Beal said. "Baptists must move from an organizational to a community fellowship concept and get out of the confines of the four walls," he said.

Western Recorder Editor  
To Retire In 1984

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--C.R. Daley, the dean of Southern Baptist state paper editors, has announced his retirement from the (Kentucky) Western Recorder.

Daley, who will turn 65 on Oct. 1, suggested the retirement take effect Dec. 31, 1983. At the request of the board, however, he agreed to remain until June 30, 1984, at which time he will complete 27 years as editor to the 157-year-old state Baptist journal.

Concerning his own ministry, Daley said he has had "more than ample time to make a contribution" and the time "is right now: for someone else to have that opportunity."

He added he is "not tired" and feels "no ministerial burnout" but believes a change would be "good for the paper as well as myself." Western Recorder's board of directors has provided the kind of support "to let me minister with utmost freedom," he said, adding such freedom is one of the "absolute necessities" of an editorial ministry.

Daley was born Oct. 1, 1918, in Newington, Ga. He attended Brewton-Parker College, Mt. Vernon, Ga., before graduating in 1939 from Mercer University, Macon, Ga., with the BA degree. He subsequently earned three degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville--BD, 1946; ThM, 1947 and ThD, 1953.

He holds the honorary LLD degree from Mercer University, is an honorary alumnus of Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky., and was named an alumnus of the year in 1980 by Southern Seminary.

His experience includes being principal and coach at Hiltonia (Ga.) High School, 1939-43, and professor of Greek, Latin, Old Testament and philosophy and dean of men at Georgetown, (Ky.) College during the period 1949-54.

His pastorates include McDonald, Green Fork and St. Clair Baptist churches, all in Georgia, 1942-43; Woodburn (Ky.) Baptist Church, 1944-46; Providence Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky., 1944-49; and Harrodsburg (Ky.) Baptist Church, 1954-57.

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World Hunger Demands  
Prompt, Decisive Action

By Tim Fields

Baptist Press  
7/19/83

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--World hunger can be eradicated within the next decade--if drastic and deliberate steps are taken immediately, says a Southern Baptist hunger specialist.

W. David Lockard, director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and coordinator of the Commission's program of world hunger education and action, recently served as an official observer at the international meeting of the United Nations' World Food Council (WFC) in Washington. He was also a participant in the Non-Governmental Organization's (NGO) Food Policy Forum in the same city.

"It was evident from these two important international hunger strategy meetings numerous sustained actions must be taken in order to eradicate hunger," Lockard said, "and the help of Southern Baptists is needed in these efforts.

"Hunger is one of humankind's oldest enemies," Lockard said, "but the world has never before had such ample technical and financial resources for coping with hunger and poverty. This immense task can be tackled once the collective will of those fighting the problem is mobilized."

The World Food Council is hard at work on the hunger problem, he said. The WFC's main purpose is to conquer the problem of hunger and malnutrition while the NGOs monitor the progress of the United Nations agency in promoting, funding and coordinating food program policies.

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Lockard outlined seven critical actions which were cited at the meetings as necessary for solving the hunger problem:

1. High priority must be given to the development of national food strategies. It is essential that every nation give priority to the problem of hunger in tandem with the issue of global peace and security. 2. Food aid from developed countries such as the U.S., Canada and Australia must continue until each country receiving aid becomes self-sufficient.

3. Agricultural technology and research must be shared on a wider basis. 4. Countries must work to help stabilize world food prices and remove trade barriers. 5. The decrease in per capita grain production in 33 developing countries must be reversed (Africa was self-sufficient two decades ago but is now heavily dependent on food imports.)

6. Countries must anticipate future food needs. (Projections indicate an additional 900 million Asians--more than double the present population of all Africa and larger than the current population of Latin America--will have to be fed by the end of the century.)

7. Inflation and economic injustice, which swell the ranks of those who spend their lives in chronic hunger, must be brought under control. (Increased food production alone will not insure food is available for persons trapped by dire and debilitating poverty.)

"Southern Baptists are making strong contributions in dealing with hunger through local churches, associations and state conventions and through the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, the Christian Life Commission and other SBC agencies," Lockard said. "While we can and should do much more through prayer, giving and involvement in obedience to biblical mandates, we are doing some solid work both in hunger relief and hunger prevention.

"Because continued suffering and dying due to malnutrition and hunger are avoidable, they are not morally acceptable," Lockard stressed. "Southern Baptists need to continue to cooperate with other religious and secular organizations in ongoing intense efforts to solve the devastating problems of world hunger in our lifetime," he said.

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CORRECTION....In (BP) story "Layman Smooths a Path For Missionaries to Mali," mailed 7/15/83, in fourth paragraph, please insert underlined material. West Africa to help people--such as the Sanwabo project in Upper Volta (which joined Southern Baptist missionaries and Tennessee Baptist volunteers in building a dam) and teaching people how to...

Thanks, (BP)

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Ministers, Churches To Pay  
Higher Social Security Rates

By Ray Furr

Baptist Press  
7/19/83

DALLAS (BP)--Unless churches grant generous increases in salaries for 1984, ministers will have substantially less take home pay due to a tax rate change in the new social security law.

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan said the changes in the social security tax will have a "devastating effect on the minister's annual compensation and churches should consider appropriating a social security allowance for the minister in 1984."

Morgan said the minister is, by law, considered self-employed for social security tax purposes. "Under the social security amendments of 1983, the tax rate for the self-employed rises to 14 percent in 1984, a 4.6 percent increase over 1983. The tax hike means ministers would pay more than twice as much as that of the employee." A tax credit of 2.7 percent will be allowed in 1984, but will drop in increments until 1989 when there will be no credit.

"Some of our pastors will pay \$700 per year in additional taxes." Morgan said, suggesting congregations could alleviate some of the added financial burden by establishing a "fair social security allowance which would pay the amount equal to the additional self-employment tax the minister must pay over the employee."

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Such allowances would be subject to social security and federal income taxes, so "the church may want to consider paying an allowance that will also compensate the minister for additional tax due on the social security allowance," he noted.

Also included in the new law is the mandatory social security coverage of all employees of churches. Effective January 1, 1984 all churches must withhold 6.7 percent of the employee's income and pay seven percent social security taxes on all the wages paid to all employees other than the ordained minister.

Morgan said many church leaders do not understand churches no longer have the option to participate in social security. "The new law means all churches must withhold and pay on both full-time and part-time employees."

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Chinese Materials  
Urgently Needed

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press  
7/19/83

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptists must provide culturally relevant Bible study materials if Chinese-American churches are going to minister effectively to an expected influx of Chinese people, according to Chinese consultant Peter Kung.

Chinese Bible study materials presently are available only from Hong Kong publishers, Kung said, but the Baptist Sunday School Board has made a commitment to begin providing Bible study materials in Chinese, possibly beginning next year on a very limited basis.

Kung, consultant in the language missions unit at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said Chinese Southern Baptist churches need materials to successfully share the gospel with Chinese people and then train them to witness.

In the next few years, particularly toward the end of the century, the Chinese population in the U.S. is expected to jump from one million to more than five million. One of the principle factors in the higher immigration is what is referred to by the Chinese as the "1997 Phobia." That is the year mainland China will reclaim Taiwan.

Pastors of Chinese Southern Baptist churches met at the Sunday School Board recently to offer advice as the process begins to provide material in Chinese. They presented examples of successful ministry efforts in their churches and provided insights into the social and cultural background of American-born Chinese and overseas-born Chinese living in the U.S.

Attending the conference were Simon Tsoi, pastor of First Chinese Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Andrew Chan, California Baptist Convention; Alvin Louie, pastor Chinese Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas; Lawrence Au, pastor, Hyde Park Baptist Church Baptist Mission, Austin, Texas, and Stephen Chow, pastor of the Chinese Baptist Mission, Beltsville, Md.

Chinese will be the third foreign language in which the Sunday School Board has made a commitment to provide materials because of special needs. Materials already are published in Spanish and Korean. There are 140 Chinese Southern Baptist churches.

The Chinese are the most educated and wealthy ethnic group in the U.S. today, Kung said. However, they are experiencing family and other personal problems which could be aided through new literature and churches. A shortage of trained leaders is one of the most serious problems as Chinese-Americans try to establish Southern Baptist ministry efforts.

Kung explained while many Chinese-Americans speak and read English fluently, the need still exists for Chinese language materials. The materials must relate to their culture, but take into consideration their high education level to capture their interest and eventually let them understand the gospel message.

The possibility for growth in church affiliation of Chinese-Americans is tremendous, according to Kung and pastors attending the meeting. They say literature is the missing link to establish churches which are cooperating Southern Baptist churches and not just Baptist in name alone.

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