



--FEATURES
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Baptist Senator Keeps
Focus On Faithfulness

By Gerri Ratliff

WASHINGTON (BP)--A constant thread runs through Mark Hatfield's approaches to the issues he faces as an Oregon Republican, a third term U.S. Senator and chairman of deacons at Georgetown Baptist Church--faith in Jesus Christ.

He calls for "a spiritual renaissance in which people learn the biblical values of life--the dignity of the individual, the sacredness of creation and stewardship over resources for the glory of God and for the needs of people."

Because of the economic future, the arms race, the continued disintegration of the family unit, an increase in crime and problems with drugs, people have been challenged to recognize God is sovereign, he said in an interview in his Senate office.

Even though Hatfield believes the churches could do more to help needy Americans economically, with more efficiency and humaneness than can the government, he has devoted more than 30 years to political service. "We are not called to any one effort," he explains. "We are called to be the living presence of Christ wherever we are."

However, he added, "It would be far more effective if we could stimulate the churches and synagogues of this country to affirm their spiritual commitments by the way they relate to people in need. But the government is preempting the resources of people through taxation and regulation, diminishing people's capacities to meet each other's needs, neighbor to neighbor."

The government responds to political ideologies instead of to the needs of people, he observed. "Our perspective of the world, in particular the Soviet Union, has become so myopic that we continue to escalate our abilities to be more efficient in the potential destruction of life. We are much more willing to create instruments of war than instruments of peace."

Because of his belief that the escalating arms race is an overemphasized federal spending priority, Hatfield has initiated efforts to limit nuclear and chemical weapons. Last year he became a primary sponsor of the nuclear freeze proposal. As one of the earliest opponents of the Vietnam War during his tenure as governor of Oregon, he cast the only dissenting vote on the issue at the 1965 and 1966 Governor's Conferences.

To Hatfield, peace is more than the absence of war. It is "shalom," a Hebrew word meaning total fulfillment of the individual, "may your heart be filled with joy...may your soul be filled with the peace of the Lord."

He views peace as a product of one's spiritual commitment. "That is how one survives in this life. I do not know how people can survive without that in-dwelling support and love."

Mutually halting the escalation of the nuclear arms race and then reducing arsenals is the only hope for political peace, he believes. "Our hopes for tranquility between nations depend on reducing the capacity to wage war." Hatfield expresses admiration for "those in the historic peace churches" who refuse military service. He points to the history of early Christian pacifism prevalent through the fourth century.

A Christian may justify acts of civil disobedience only "if there is no violence and if you are willing to take the consequences," he reasoned. During the Vietnam War, Hatfield had considered withholding war taxes to protest U.S. involvement. "There are situations in which in order to say 'yes' to God, you have to say 'no' to Caesar. But you must be willing to take the penalty."

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Struggling to maintain his priorities in the political art of compromise, Hatfield experiences frustration but said he had never "traded principle for pragmatism. I think we can have diversity of viewpoint without rupturing our relationships. Maintaining working relationships in no way means you are compromising your principles."

Hatfield prays about his political positions but does not think his views are ordained by God. "I do not feel called to the role of speaking prophecy. As one studies the Word, as one lives his life, the prophetic word comes in a natural, normal manner."

The gospel is both a message of redemption and a mission of reconciliation, even though those two factors are often divided, Hatfield said. "The evangelical churches are awakening to a social consciousness. Our maturation process as Christians must involve reaching out to impact the whole community in acts that affirm the words of witness."

A lifelong struggle to act consistently with his Christian beliefs is evident in his writings and congressional action. He is the author of Not Quite So Simple, 1967; Conflict and Conscience, 1971; and Between a Rock and a Hard Place; 1976, and has co-authored Amnesty: The Unsettled Question of Vietnam, 1971, and The Causes of World Hunger, 1982.

Currently the fifth ranking Republican in seniority and fourteenth in the full Senate, Hatfield is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He also serves on the Rules and Administration Committee, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Joint Committee on Printing and Joint Committee on the Library.

Although for the past two years his legislative concerns have primarily been economic, Hatfield has been a leader in congressional efforts to combat world hunger and raise human rights issues. Representing a state where the federal government owns over 50 percent of the land, Hatfield's interests also include natural resources and public land issues.

Hatfield's legislative career began with his election as an Oregon state representative in 1951. Since then, he has served in Oregon as a state senator, secretary of state and two terms as governor.

During a recent trip to India, Hatfield spoke with Mother Teresa of Calcutta who encouraged him to keep his focus on Christ. "The Lord has not called me to be successful. He has only called me to be faithful," she told him. "She gave me the insight that even though the task may seem at times insurmountable, we are to live a life of faithfulness."

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Shurden Leaves Southern,
Bennett Named Replacement

Baptist Press
7/26/83

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Walter B. Shurden has resigned as dean of the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and will be succeeded by missions strategist G. Willis Bennett.

Shurden, dean since 1980, will become chairman of the Department of Christianity at Mercer University, Macon, Ga., on Aug. 15. His wife, Kay, also will join the Mercer faculty as an associate professor in the medical school. Before coming to Louisville in 1975, the Shurdens were both professors at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

Bennett currently is director of graduate studies and occupies the William Walker Brookes Chair of Church and Community. He has been a member of the seminary faculty since 1959.

Bennett holds the master of divinity, master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary and the master of social work degree from the University of Louisville. He was pastor of four churches in his native North Carolina and one church in Kentucky before coming to the seminary.

Bennett was author of a strategic study on churches in transitional areas for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and is recognized nationally as an early pioneer of supervised field education for ministers.

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Bennett, who holds the bachelor of arts degree from Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., is married to the former Caroline Dillard.

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Retired HMB Art Director
Thomas Baker Dies

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ATLANTA (BP)--Thomas Hastings Baker, 66, retired Home Mission Board art director, died July 13 following open-heart surgery.

Baker worked at the HMB for 17 years and is perhaps best known for a series of paintings depicting the history of the HMB which were first displayed at the 1982 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans.

He was born in Charlotte, N.C., and grew up in Nashville, Tenn., and Tampa, Fla.

His family requested that, in lieu of flowers, memorial gifts be made to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions or to the Women's Crisis Center of the Master's Inn, Inc. in Atlanta.

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B.G. Hickem Resigns
Florida Convention Post

Baptist Press
7/26/83

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--B.G. Hickem, assistant executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, has resigned to become pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Jacksonville.

Hickem, 55, held the state convention post since 1974.

During his nine years on the convention staff, Hickem had been responsible for church staff relationships and institutional relations. A major part of his assignment has been oversight of convention properties which include two conference centers, a retirement center in Vero Beach, five student centers located across the state and the Baptist building in Jacksonville.

Hickem will assume leadership of the 1,500 member Riverside church which has been without a pastor nearly a year.

Prior to joining the convention staff, Hickem spent 29 years as pastor of churches in Florida, Arkansas and Kentucky.

The Illinois native is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and holds the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

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CORRECTION-----In (BP) story "Chinese Materials Urgently Needed," mailed 7/19/83, please insert underlined material into sixth paragraph...San Antonio, Texas; Lawrence Al, pastor First Chinese Southern Baptist Church, San Francisco; Caleb Tang, pastor Hyde Park Baptist Church ...

In seventh paragraph, insert underlined material...Chinese will be the third priority foreign language....Materials are already published in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean...

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Tennessee Executive Board
Dismissed In IRS Suit

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention has been dismissed as a plaintiff in the lawsuit it had filed jointly with Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc. against the Internal Revenue Service.

The suit had been filed Feb. 16 in U.S. District Court for Middle Tennessee, Cookeville Division, to contest penalties levied by IRS against the Children's Homes for its refusal to file Information Form 990.

In an action which may have impact outside Tennessee, Judge L. Clure Morton instructed the IRS to submit to TBCH attorneys its definitions of "interchurch agency, church and association or convention of churches." However, Morton instructed IRS to provide these definitions "in the main."

The definitions could provide a consistent outline of "integrated auxillary" of individual churches and state and the national Southern Baptist Convention legally is.

July 15, Morton dismissed the TBC Executive Board since it is not a corporate entity which has been assessed penalties. Morton did advise the attorneys for the Executive Board that if a separate lawsuit was filed by the board it might be consolidated with the TBCH suit and heard at the same time.

The suit seeks to recover \$17,675 paid by TBCH in penalties and interest in what was termed "unlawful assessments." The TBCH and TBC Executive Board contended the children's homes are not required under Internal Revenue Act of 1976 to file Information Form 990 and to fill such forms would "result in an excessive entanglement of government in the function of the church which is violative of the U.S. Constitution, including the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses of the First Amendment."

The IRS Act of 1976 was interpreted by IRS regulations to mean certain religious organizations, such as Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, were not "integrated auxiliaries" of churches and conventions of churches and therefore are subject to government inquiries and possible taxation.

Also at the hearing, Morton ruled TBCH could include in the suit \$11,990 in penalties and interest paid by TBCH in 1980, 1981, 1982, in addition to \$17,675 in penalties and interest paid by TBCH in 1977, 1978 and 1979.

In April 1981, TBCH was informed it would be assessed penalties and interest for refusal to file Form 990. In May the TBC Executive Board voted to "reiterate its position on the separation of church and state by taking such actions as is necessary, including retaining legal counsel, to support the refusal of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes to file Form 990.

TBC Executive Secretary Tom Madden said the board would continue to support the children's homes in the matter as the Executive Board had voted. He added he was not sure what form this support would take until he had received counsel from the convention attorneys, the officers of the Executive Board, and perhaps the administrative committee of the Executive Board.

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Stewardship Professionals
Hold Annual Meeting

Baptist Press
7/26/83

BRANSON, Mo. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Stewardship Development Association's annual meeting in Branson, Mo., attracted 116 state and SBC stewardship workers and family members from 23 states.

Robert Dale, a professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., led the opening seminar on stress and burnout. Noting 19 percent of Americans suffer from burnout, Dale said, "Lifestyle creates a lot of stress and most of the burnout in our lives."

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"Stress and burnout are stewardship issues," Dale pointed out. "Many Americans worship their work, work at their play and play at their worship. This leads to burnout."

Dale, professor of pastoral leadership and church ministries, said "the most likely candidate for burnout is an idealist who tries to reach a goal that is unattainable."

He said energetic leaders, goal-oriented persons, outstanding achievers, people sensitive and committed to helping others, servants and those with a mission are often susceptible to burnout--"Ministers are good candidates--in the bad sense--for burnout."

Dale said symptoms of burnout in one's personal life include chronic fatigue, boredom, impatience, a sense of over-responsibility, forgetfulness and a lack of emotion.

Career dimensions related to burnout begin with enthusiasm followed by stagnation, frustration and apathy. The only real solution is self-care, Dale insisted. Individuals should begin with boundary setting--"deciding who you are and how to live your life."

Then, monitor yourself "to determine whether you're doing first things first," he said. Finally, persons concerned with burnout should develop replenishing strategies through a support system of spiritual resources, spouse and family assistance and a strong peer-support network.

When burnout does occur, Dale remarked, closeness is needed for recovery. He suggested finding a person who will listen without using pressure to seek his solution. "Burnout occurs when we don't change enough," cautioned Dale. "We just get bogged down and depleted."

Other seminars held during the conference included "Surviving Difficult Personalities in the Church," led by Dale; "How Can the Computer Help Me," by Jim Lowry, Baptist Sunday School Board statistical section supervisor; "Family Financial Planning," by Lee Davis, associate director of stewardship development, SBC Stewardship Commission, and "Planning for Retirement," by Harvey Wright, Missouri Baptist Convention annuity and insurance director.

Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., delivered an inspirational message during the association's closing session.

Elected officers were: Grady E. Welch, director of the stewardship division for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, president, and James Abernathy, director of the stewardship division for the State Convention for Baptists in Indiana, president-elect.