



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 23, 1983

83-145

Religious Right Radical  
In First Amendment View

By Robert Dilday

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Religious Right does not represent the conservative viewpoint of First Amendment issues, according to a Southern Baptist church-state specialist.

Instead, the Religious Right "espouses in fact a radical view," said Stan Hasty, director of information services for the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. "Those who are the real conservatives on First Amendment questions are those...who join the the late Justice William O. Douglas in contending that 'the First Amendment says what it means and means what it says.'"

Addressing the 36th annual national conference of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Hasty criticized some fundamentalist leaders' assault on the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and their attempt to Christianize America by appealing to "tragically flawed interpretations of both theology and U.S. history."

"Leaders of the movement...interpret the Bible--particularly the Old Testament--so as to place the U.S. in the mainstream of covenant theology," Hasty told the more than 100 conference participants.

Referring to one of the New Right's most cherished political issues--prayer in public schools--and to recent polls indicating more than 80 percent of Americans favor school prayer, Hasty said, "We are losing the propaganda war in the school prayer debate.

"We have failed to get through to the pollsters...that the issue is not 'voluntary' but mandated prayer in public schools. How else can we explain the fact the pollsters continue to put to the American people the question, 'Do you support a constitutional amendment to restore voluntary prayer to public schools?'"

Hasty called the Reagan administration the worst on "First Amendment religion issues in modern times," and warned Moral Majority head Jerry Falwell's close association to the president could have dangerous side effects.

"By pledging his virtually unconditional support to a merely mortal politician...Falwell may well have hitched his wagon to a falling star," Hasty said. "He has become Ronald Reagan's palace prophet. If the president loses, so does his prophet."

In view of efforts by the Religious Right to push legislation based on radical interpretations of the First Amendment, Hasty said the main objective of church-state separationists over the next 14 months "must be the election of public officials whos vision of America is historically sound and constitutionally proper."

The "single most important threat to the First Amendment if we stay on the present course," Hasty added, "is the likelihood that the Supreme Court will cease to be the final bastion of its defense."

Welton Gaddy, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Texas, joined in denouncing the claims of the Religious Right. "I am tired of people like us being put on the defensive by arrogant people who think they have a corner on truth," he said. "Let there b no doubt about it: we are pro-America...,pro-family...,pro-morality...,pro-life...,and pro-freedom."

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Sketching a strategy for religious liberty, Gaddy told participants the most crucial battleground in maintaining separation of church and state is public opinion. "Religious liberty appeals to individuals must take place on two levels: intellectually and emotionally," he said.

Although "politics and theology are plagued by a bumper sticker mentality," Gaddy insisted a new definition of religious liberty is needed which will include a toleration for complex and confusing issues. "The same law that permits a parade by Vacation Bible School also permits a parade by the Ku Klux Klan," he said.

Americans United honored a Southern Baptist denominational employee and a U.S. Senator for their contributions to religious liberty. Sen. Lowell P. Weicker, R-Conn., received the Madison-Jefferson award for his successful filibusters against Senate legislation which would have removed jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and lower federal courts on issues such as school prayer, abortion and busing.

Ira Peak, director of Christian moral concerns for the Missouri Baptist Convention, was recognized for his leadership in successfully opposing a 1982 bill in the Missouri legislature calling for a constitutional convention. Despite continued efforts opposing the measure, the Missouri legislature passed legislation calling for a constitutional convention in May, 1983.

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Preachers, Church Developers  
Top FMB's 'Most Wanted' List

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press  
9/23/83

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries have told the Foreign Mission Board nearly three-fourths of their most urgent needs are for preachers and church developers.

The missionaries, from 101 countries, sent their message in the form of 484 requests for preachers, church starters and other specialists in evangelism.

Area directors who oversee missions work outlined these needs and others Sept. 15-16 in an annual meeting with the board's personnel selection representatives, who identify and process new missionaries.

This year's review focused more closely than in years past on needs directly involved in evangelism and starting churches. Missions, the organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries in each country, were instructed to pare personnel requests to include only most urgent needs.

Last year 817 requests came in from the field, and only about 18 percent of them have been filled. This year the board hopes to direct attention to the fields' most critical needs, explained Charles Bryan, senior vice president for overseas operations. So missions zeroed in on only 657 needs for the coming year.

Area directors stressed the number of appointments is actually a secondary factor in reaching the world for Christ. The most important thing, they noted, is that a missionary fits into the strategy of the mission to which he is assigned.

Personnel officials agreed. "What we're saying is that we need more people whom God is calling and who are qualified for these specific positions of Christian leadership," said Louis Cobbs, director of personnel selection. "These high-priority requests are at the cutting edge of where God is leading and where people are responding."

Area directors used the missions' priority lists to draw up their own priorities according to the plans they have for world areas. In some areas evangelists were not the No. 1 priority, but in all areas evangelists were, numerically, the most requested type of missionary.

In Middle America and the Caribbean, for instance, the top priority need is for a bookstore manager to develop a religious literature service throughout the Dominican Republic. But of the other 14 priority requests, nine are for evangelists.

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One of the more unusual requests came from Guyana, where national pastors need help in learning how to cope with their own family problems. The Guyana mission is seeking a family life counselor to work with pastors in a land where family life has deteriorated.

The first priority in Europe and the Middle East is for a bookstore manager in Morocco. The bookstore has been stocked with Bibles and offers a prime opportunity to witness to Arabs, said Isam Ballenger, area director. Other priorities in the area include 10 general evangelists, one to use the German language to reach some of the 2 million Turkish immigrants in Germany.

Baptists in Mali, a predominately Moslem country, need someone with religious education training to direct a self-help center in a Moslem city, said West Africa Director John Mills. Though the center would not identify itself with Christianity, the missionary director could provide Bible study for people he meets who want to know about Christ.

Other West African needs include a dentist for The Gambia, a business manager for the Benin mission, a mass media director in Nigeria and an agricultural evangelist in Mali.

Fourteen of the top 15 priority requests from East Asia are for evangelists, five to work with students. Missions in Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong need general evangelists and church planters.

Response to the gospel remains strong in South and Southeast Asia, noted Area Director William Wakefield. Missionaries report about one baptized person for every five church members during the last two years. Four church planters (starters of new congregations) and an agricultural evangelist are sought for the Philippines.

Attitudes of some governments in South and Southeast Asia have hampered Southern Baptist attempts to strengthen some key missions. Last year only about 10 percent of new missionaries went to the area, though about 50 percent of all the people to whom Baptist missionaries minister live in that area, Wakefield said.

Western South America's primary need is for a general evangelist in Arica, Chile which has never had a missionary couple. Eleven other evangelists are priority requests.

Area Director Davis Saunders gave special attention to Uganda, in Eastern and Southern Africa, in requesting four evangelism specialists for the country. Only one of 27 Southern Baptist missionaries now there is a preacher, he said.

Eight of the top 15 requests from Eastern South America come from Brazil, where vast areas still need to hear the gospel despite more than 100 years of Baptist missionary work, said Thurmon Bryant, area director. "There are still cities of 80,000 and 90,000 with no Baptist witness. Some of the states have 200 or 300 counties with no Baptist church," he said.

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House Passes Stronger Ban  
On Funding Of Abortions

By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press  
9/23/83

WASHINGTON (BP)--Going beyond previous restrictions, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to bar all federal funding of abortions, even in cases where the life of the mother is endangered.

However, backers of the abortion rider insisted the exception clause contained in current law which permits federal payment for abortions when the mother's life is threatened will be part of the final bill that goes to President Reagan for his signature.

Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Mass., offered the restrictive amendment to a \$96.4 billion appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Resources after language in the bill barring Medicaid funding of abortion except to save the life of the mother had been stricken on a point of order.

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Conte's amendment prevailed 231-184 despite charges by opponents that it disregards "the mother's life and health entirely."

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ohio, a long-time foe of federal abortion funding, said criticism of the Conte amendment because it does not have the exception clause protecting the life of the mother is unfair. "But I guarantee my colleagues, as I stand here on this floor, that that protection will be put in in conference as it always has been," he said.

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CORRECTION--In BP mailed 9/21/83 "Cecil Ray Elected; Giving Group Named" please correct first sentence of last paragraph to read: "The 1984-85 budget calls for \$81,000 salary and benefits , \$15,000 travel, \$11,000 for office support and \$1,000 for miscellaneous expenses." To insert underlined material and benefits .

Thanks,  
Baptist Press

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Buildings Are Instruments  
For SBC Work And Ministry

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press  
9/23/83

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--"Southern Baptists think of their church buildings as instruments with which to accomplish work and ministry," Gwenn McCormick, newly elected secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church architecture department.

McCormick's goal is to help churches provide buildings for programs that "are at the heart of what our churches are all about." Southern Baptists are "not hung up on architectural styles so much as on the church fulfilling its mission," he said.

McCormick's interest in building goes back to his childhood where he gained a working knowledge of the trade from his father, who worked in the home-building business. "The first money I ever made was clearing nails out of a stack of used lumber," he recalled.

But McCormick's personal goal was to be involved in pastoral ministry. Following graduation from Mercer University in Macon, Ga., he attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., where he continued earlier studies of New Testament Greek.

After 29 years as pastor of churches in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, McCormick's career took on a different perspective in 1977.

When the director of the church building planning position for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina was discussed with him, McCormick had some concerns. "I struggled with whether my training and seminary preparation would enable me to function effectively in the position," he recalled. "I saw it as an opportunity to help churches in areas where I felt they sometimes made awkward decisions in building."

In a step of faith, McCormick accepted the new post, finding almost immediately "it really did offer an opportunity for ministry in new dimensions."

"I discovered my experience in the pastorate, in church programming and in working with leaders along with my awareness for opportunities for church growth helped me bring a needed perspective to the position," he said. "I found many persons seeking architectural help also are seeking help with church programming and church growth."

His North Carolina post, McCormick said, "offered opportunities for a form of support for pastors that I had not envisioned."

As he assumes his present role, one of McCormick's concerns is the church architecture department provide building planning that supports sound financial goals balanced with a world mission commitment.

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"If we get to churches in time, we can assist in redesign and space planning so that facilities are more effectively used," he said. "This often gives a church additional time for capital fund raising."

Additional priorities McCormick has for the denomination's architectural service include continuing to offer quality consultation to churches, tapping the volunteer leadership resources of Baptist architects to assist with projects and helping churches to focus on the need for energy-efficient buildings and for responsible use of energy.

As he begins a new phase of denominational service, McCormick's desire is to provide "the very best techniques and design expertise available, resulting in facilities that help meet Southern Baptists' goals in ministering to people."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Sunday School bureau of Baptist Press

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CORRECTION--In (BP) story "Virginia Editor Emeritus Dies" mailed 9/22/83, please change the spelling of the last name to Alley instead of Allen as sent. We regret the error.

Thanks,  
Baptist Press

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