



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Novemb r 4, 1983

83-170

Moore Elected Texas President;  
Cooperative Program Upped

By Orville Scott

AMARILLO, Texas (BP)--The pastor of a church closely identified with the unified giving program of the Southern Baptist Convention, W. Winfred Moore, has been elected president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas by acclamation.

First Baptist Church of Amarillo, under the leadership of Moore, has ranked first or second in the SBC in Cooperative Program gifts for many years. Veteran observers said the election without opposition of a first-time president for the BGCT is almost unprecedented.

Messengers underscored their missions concern by adopting a \$53.7 million (an increase of \$5 million) Cooperative Program budget, plus a \$2 million challenge budget.

The budget allocated \$19 million (36.1 percent compared to 35.9 last year) for worldwide SBC programs, including more than 6,000 missionaries in more than 100 nations.

Another \$34 million is budgeted for Texas mission causes, including more than 20 childcare homes, hospitals, colleges and universities, plus helping start new churches.

More than 2,500 messengers from many of the state's 4,700 Southern Baptist churches and missions adopted resolutions on issues ranging from nuclear disarmament to enforced child support payments. They also received a report from the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission dealing with sexual discrimination, hunger, Texas children in need and television morality.

Charles McIlveene, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lufkin, was elected first vice-president and Joel Gregory, assistant professor of preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, was elected second vice-president.

D.L. Lowrie, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, completed his second one-year term and used his presidential address to warn Texas Baptists face losing their institutions if they don't start doing more to support them. He chided Texas Baptists for being too quick to criticize leaders of their institutions and for being too slow to help.

A resolution stating opposition to "secular humanistic views as the only view of origin taught in public schools" was approved after being amended. A student from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, asked that the resolution also include Baptist schools since, "I go to a Baptist school and sometimes they teach evolution in the science classes."

Other resolutions urged Christians: to work to curb the influx of pornographic television programs and to refuse to patronize TV systems which promote such programming;

To support efforts to raise the legal drinking age to 21, ban open containers of alcoholic beverages in motor vehicles and join the nationwide effort against beer and wine commercials on TV and radio, and

To support Proposition 6 calling for a Texas constitutional amendment allowing courts to order a payroll deduction from the income of parents who would not otherwise pay child support.

A resolution to press for "a mutually verifiable nuclear disarmament that would in no way jeopardize our own national security" was amended to pledge support for the president, congress and other national leaders in their pursuit of p ace.

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Mess ngers also voted to expand the BGCT executive board by three members to 183 and mandate every association in the stat always have representation on the board.

Next year's convention will be in Dallas, Oct. 29-Nov. 1.

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Christians Must Surrender Power,  
Transform Structures With Love

By Patti Stephenson

Baptist Press  
11/4/83

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP)--Christians must give up their struggle for power and attempt to deliver the world of its evils through love, Anthony Campolo told more than 300 Southern Baptist laypersons here.

Campolo, a sociology professor at Eastern College, St. Davids, Pa., addressed participants at the eleventh annual lay renewal conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Campolo said Christ's mandate to his followers includes not only taking the gospel to individuals, but transforming the world, including corrupt corporations and governments.

"All principalities and powers were made by and for God, but all are influenced by evil," he said. "God expects us to challenge the demonic rulers of this world." Though Christians are to be faithful to that task, "we know the process will not be complete until Christ's return."

Campolo compared the Christian struggle to D-Day, the decisive battle of World War II. "Even though D-Day assured ultimate victory, many more Americans died before the war ended," he said. "For Christians, the cross was God's D-Day and the resurrection is our assurance of his ultimate victory."

Despite that hope, Campolo charged, "we're still basically afraid of the world. Our mentality is that the world is a sinking ship, so why should we bother to polish the brass? The church has become our lifeboat."

Such thinking has prompted some Southern Baptists to start their own schools, he said. "But what happens to our public schools? Do we just give them over to Satan or should we reclaim them for Christ?" he asked.

Such withdrawal from the world has caused Baptists to "lose the working classes," Campolo noted. "God is on the side of the poor and oppressed and expects us to champion their causes. We need to remember Jesus didn't speak to Rotary clubs or win citizenship awards--he was despised and rejected."

Inst ad of identifying with the poor, "our churches preach success and the theology of prosperity, wooing people to join and become successful, too," Campolo claimed. "But Jesus is the savior of losers."

God's call to a "theology of servanthood" illuminates the contradiction between love and power, he observed. "The more you play power games, the less you love. The Christian doesn't aim to be master, but servant."

The debate over "who should be the head of the household wouldn't be a problem if husbands and wives lived to serve each other," he said. "When husbands are ready to become the slaves of their wives, then their wives will be ready to submit."

Campolo declared love, not power, must be the basic chang agent in churches and society as well as homes. "Two thousand years ago, God decided to convert the world through love, which meant he had to set aside his power voluntarily. The cross was not a place to demonstrate power, but love."

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He warned recent power plays within the Southern Baptist Convention have "weakened your witness." SBC churches are "imitating the United States Congress instead of the Bible," he said. Ministers and churches "must abandon power games and all manipulative techniques" and learn to act of one accord. "Where there is unity there is the spirit of Christ."

He also chastised those Christians "whose attitude has been we need to elect a 'God squad' who'll force the rest of the country to conform to our standards." Though Christians are responsible for effecting change "in politics and every sector of society," Campolo said, "if you transform through power, you forfeit the ability to express love."

The professor noted "as long as the human race has been around, we've tried to create a better world with power and it's never worked." He asked, "If we invade Grenada, do we really win? To change the world, we must call them to repentance and declare the Word of God."

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Georgia Baptist Church  
Flourishes Despite Fire

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press  
11/4/83

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--In the spring of 1982 a surge of growth in membership and a renovated four-story educational building made the future look bright for the First Baptist Church of Thomasville, Ga.

Then on May 3, a fire ravaged the facilities of the 2,300-member congregation, leaving a stunned membership faced with finding places to worship, hold Sunday school, church training and other activities.

Eighteen months later, Sunday school is being held at locations stretching over on and a half miles, two morning worship services are held at the high school and Wednesday night prayer meeting is held in homes as members gather around radios to hear a message broadcast by the pastor, Milton J. Gardner Jr.

Construction began in this October on a new building almost twice as large as the old one, a two-year project leaders hope will be highlighted when they move into a debt-free facility. So far they have raised \$3 million in pledges and received \$2 million from insurance.

Despite the difficulties, a staff member, the Sunday school director and four age-group division directors recently expressed a sense of excitement about their church. They and five others traveled 1,600 miles by van to Glorieta Baptist Conference Center to attend the Large Church Sunday School Leadership Conference to receive more training to carry out their responsibilities.

The six leaders were Ron Cain, minister of education and administration; Jim Wise, Sunday school director and a jeweler; Jud Arline, youth division director and a dental hygienist; Ginger Newman, children's division director and owner of a fitness center, and Linda Petrey, preschool division director and a homemaker.

Acknowledging many positive things have happened since the fire in the form of a stronger fellowship and commitment to the church, Cain nevertheless emphasized with a smile, "I don't recommend that anyone go out and burn down the church."

At present, the offices and music ministry of the church occupy a rented commercial building. The preschool departments meet in a house owned by the church. Children's departments are in two rental houses. Youth and adult departments meet in the local middle school and the high school, where worship services also are held.

"Workers must bring their own visual aids and supplies with them each Sunday. "It is normal to see workers carrying big boxes of materials with them on Sunday mornings," said Cain.

"Logistics have been especially challenging for our young adults," said Henderson, noting parents may have to deliver children to as many as three scattered locations before arriving at the building where their class meets.

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On the positive side he said, "We had needed to reorganize our adult departments into smaller units for growth. The schools had more space for this than the church building."

As a result, the adult division has been expanded from three to five departments and from 16 to 26 classes.

Since the fire a potential worker training class has been started and 27 have graduated so far. "Teachers seem more willing to put out extra effort," said Petrey. "When we enlisted new workers this fall, we had no trouble finding enough persons willing to serve."

Also, Newman noted, "We haven't cut out any activities because of lack of facilities."

Despite the inconvenience, Wise noted, "We're holding our own (in Sunday school enrollment and attendance)."

Cain attributed this to the fact "we had tried to build a basic organization and train the workers. We built our organization on visitation, outreach and ministry."

Despite the fact the schools are not available to the church on Wednesdays, adult and youth weekly workers meetings and midweek Bible study continue to be held, but in the homes of members.

Finding places has not been the end of logistical problems.

Baptisms have been held in other Baptist churches and at the YMCA. Utensils for the Lord's Supper have to be borrowed. Songs for the worship services must be multilithed from the Baptist Hymnal for each Sunday, with the permission of Broadman Press.

"You wouldn't believe how wonderful it is to sit on a church pew and sing out of a real hymnal," said Arline.

Area Baptist churches and those of other denominations have generously aided First, Thomasville, by offering space and supplies. A recent revival was held at the First Assembly of God and an upcoming Baptist banquet will be held at a Presbyterian church.

The fund-raising drive for the new building had a spiritual dimension that has strengthened the church, according to Wise.

The personal visitation was so rewarding, Cain said, "We're going back into every home next year with information and a spiritual emphasis." That will be followed by a churchwide emphasis on reading the Bible through.

The current excitement among the members focuses on what is happening now as well as anticipation of moving into a new building in 1985, according to Cain. "We can't sit back and wait for a new building. We've got to grow in the meantime."

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

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CORRECTION--In (BP) story, "Bellevue To Move To Memphis Suburbs," mailed 11/1/83, in 3rd paragraph, please change 45 to 25 acres.

Thanks,  
Baptist Press

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Baptist Leaders Tell Reagan  
Of Far East Religious Freedom

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)--Officials of the Baptist World Alliance have told President Reagan the state of religious freedom in the Far East appears to be good and the gospel is being preached freely and with excellent response in that part of the world.

Duke K. McCall, president of the worldwide fellowship of more than 35 million Baptists, and W.H. (Dub) Jackson Jr., coordinator of BWA's organization for men, reported to Reagan during a Nov. 4 White House visit that a recent trip they took to several Asian nations left them encouraged about the place of Christianity in the region. Reagan is scheduled to visit Japan and Korea later this month.

McCall said the White House visit had been requested before he, Jackson and the latter's wife, Doris, took an extensive tour of the Far East last month but Reagan's schedule did not permit it then. But on Oct. 31, McCall said, the White House asked for a meeting with the three to discuss their impressions of religious freedom in the area.

Particular attention was paid to Korea, McCall indicated. That nation's military dictatorship has been criticized by some mainline Christian groups for denying human rights to its own citizens. But evangelical leaders often have praised the government's policy of permitting and even encouraging the propagation of the Christian faith.

McCall told Baptist Press after the visit with Reagan he preached to 50,000 persons at one Sunday morning service alone. "We saw nothing to indicate it (religious freedom) was not absolutely complete," he said. McCall added quickly, however: "I am being a little cautious because my observation is a very limited observation."

In a letter he handed to the President during the visit, Jackson said "contrary to many published reports Christians are enjoying total freedom in the expression of their faith. None of our people have felt any governmental restraints whatsoever."

He added: "Korea has what appears to be the most exciting and vibrant expression of the Christian faith ever recorded. The most rapid growth rate among Christians anywhere in the world is in Korea, a nation now 25 percent Christian and one that is expected to be over 50 percent Christian in the very near future."

McCall said further he expects Baptists from around the world at the 1985 Baptist World Congress in Los Angeles to select Seoul, Korea, as the site for the 1990 Congress. The meeting is held every five years.

Regarding Reagan's reportedly planned visit to a famed Shinto shrine during his stay in Japan, Jackson said he and McCall did not raise the issue, although they had planned to do so. The brevity of their conversation with Reagan, which lasted only 10 minutes, did not permit it, Jackson said.

He added, however, he had heard from Japanese Christians in recent days the President's itinerary had been altered to avoid visiting the Yasukuni shrine, a religious site which purportedly includes among its gods the spirit of Japan's World War II dictator Hideki Tojo.

Belief by Japanese Baptists that Reagan planned to visit the shrine led the executive committee of the Japan Baptist Convention in August to send Reagan a letter warning such a visit would "be misinterpreted as an act of Shinto worship by the President of the United States" and as "an attempt by the U.S. to force Japan to rearm."

Asked to confirm the reported cancellation of the President's scheduled visit to the shrine, White House official Morton C. Blackwell told Baptist Press while he is not in a position to give specific details of Reagan's Far East schedule, it is his understanding no shrine will be visited. He added, as far as he knows, no such visit was ever placed on Reagan's schedule during planning for the presidential trip.