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March 16, 1984

84-43

Southern Trustees
Elect 12 Professors

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, approved the addition of 12 faculty members, established the Carver School of Church Social Work, and confirmed the appointment of C. Ann Davis, WMU professor of church social work to be the first dean of the new school.

The 63-member board also changed the name of the School of Religious Education to School of Christian Education, ratified the appointment of William E. Rogers as dean of the school, and authorized the granting of the master of arts degree in Christian education to replace the master of religious education degree.

The appointment of G. Willis Bennett as dean of the school of theology also was confirmed. Bennett and Rogers, both faculty members at the seminary, had been named to their posts by President Roy L. Honeycutt, pending trustee approval.

During the three-day session, trustees observed the seminary's 125th anniversary as the oldest institution of the Southern Baptist Convention. A convocation address by alumnus and former SBC president James L. Sullivan and the premier of "God's Unfinished Dream," an original drama reviewing the seminary's history, highlighted the celebration.

Among the faculty added were:

William L. Hendricks, to be professor of theology, with tenure. He currently is professor of theology and philosophy at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

John Hendrix, named professor of Christian education with tenure, to fill the Basil Manly Jr. Chair. He is supervisor of the adult section of church training department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn.

E. Glenn Hinson, who returns to Southern Seminary as the David T. Porter, professor of church history with tenure, after two years as professor of religion at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. Hinson earlier had taught for 23 years at Southern Seminary.

Mozelle Clark Sherman, professor of church music. She comes to the seminary from the fine arts faculty of Grand Canyon College (Baptist) in Phoenix, Ariz.

Thomas G. Smothers, professor of Old Testament with tenure. He will leave the faculty of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., where he has taught since 1979.

James Michael Hester, associate of professor of Christian family ministry, from work as a consultant in family ministry in Asheville, N.C. Hester will be director of the seminary's new Center for Christian Family Ministry, endowed by the Gheens Foundation of Louisville.

Trustees also ratified teaching contracts for the following new faculty members:

Ragan Courtney, associate professor of church drama. He is widely known as a producer and director. His wife, Cynthia Clawson, is a popular Christian musician.

Ronald F. Prevost, associate professor of Christian education. He comes from Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., where he teaches Christian education.

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Molly Marshall-Green, assistant professor of Christian theology. She is a recent PhD graduate of Southern seminary.

Lloyd Lee Mims, assistant professor of church music. He is completing a doctor of musical arts degree at Southern seminary and serving as an instructor in church music.

Pamela Scalise, assistant professor of Old Testament, comes to Southern from Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn., where she earned a PhD. She has been active in Southern Baptist work in New England where her husband directs the program of campus ministry.

Danny Roy Stiver, assistant professor of Christian philosophy. He is a recent doctoral graduate of Southern Seminary.

The trustees granted tenure to Ronald A. Turner, associate professor of church music, and extended the appointment of Gerald L. Keown, assistant professor of Old Testament, for three additional years, 1985-88.

Five faculty members were promoted:

C. Anne Davis, to professor of social work, with tenure, occupying the Woman's Missionary Union Chair; Kathryn Chapman, to associate professor of childhood education, with tenure; Timothy George, to associate professor of church history and historical theology; R. Michael Harton, to associate professor of administration and adult education, with tenure, and Robin Kent Rogers, to associate professor of social work, with tenure.

The new school of church social work brings full circle the seminary's involvement in the preparation of students for Christian social ministries.

The Woman's Missionary Union Training School, founded in 1907 with the help of Southern Seminary Professor W.O. Carver, began teaching social work methods in 1912. It was renamed the Carver School of Missions and Social Work in 1953 and merged with the seminary in 1963.

Since that time, the seminary's adopted program of social work has grown to become the largest of its kind and Southern is currently the only seminary in the United States which offers the master of social work degree. More than 90 percent of its graduates now serve in church and denomination positions.

In other matters trustees:

Approved an operating budget of \$11,848,062 and a capital budget of \$350,000 for the fiscal year which begins August, 1984;

Discussed plans for the proposed campus center complex, which will provide a teaching facility for the seminary's new training program in Christian family ministry, to include a physical fitness center, health clinic and a student activities building. The project also will provide expanded housing and classroom space for the continuing education program. The Southern Baptist Convention pledged \$2.8 million for the construction for the \$12.2 million facility for which funds will be sought from individuals, alumni and friends in keeping with the Southern Baptist Convention business and financial plan;

Changed the title of Harold S. Songer to vice president for academic affairs, reflecting his increased responsibilities;

Elected five Baptist laymen to three-year terms on the board of directors of Southern Seminary Foundation. They are Pat Baughman, Hilton Head Island, S.C.; Donald E. Bowles Sr., Dallas; Keith Cantrell, Evanston, Ill.; Sam McMahon Jr., Charlotte, N.C., and Homer D. Parker, Louisville, Ky.;

Reelected seminary alumnus James L. Monroe as chairman of the trustees for a second term. Monroe is pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Ben R. Murphy, an executive with the Tyler Corp., Dallas, was reelected first vice chairman of the board. Alumnus Perry F. Webb, pastor of First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., was chosen second vice chairman and Louisville businessman Fred Pfannenschmidt was reelected secretary.

HMB Directors Discuss Canada
Study Committee Recommendations

By Patti St phenson

ATLANTA (BP)--Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner told HMB directors he will support a long-range plan recommended by an SBC study committee which grants the HMB "the lead role in developing Southern Baptist work in Canada."

Tanner briefed trustees on the recommendation of the Southern Baptist Convention Canada Study Committee, which recently completed its work.

The committee, appointed as a result of a motion at the 1983 annual meeting of the SBC, recommendation is the Constitution of the SBC not be amended to include Canada, but that "an aggressive evangelistic strategy" be developed for Canada.

The plan, which calls for the HMB, Foreign Mission Board, Sunday School Board and Radio and Television Commission to cooperate in aiding Canada, "will allow us to continue to evangelize one of the most fertile spiritual fields on the North American continent," Tanner said. "The important thing is where will Canada be in 20 years," he added.

Tanner declined to speculate on what action messengers will take in response to the recommendation when it is presented at the 1984 annual meeting in Kansas City.

C.B. Hogue, who presented the motion at the 1983 SBC, observed, "It seems to me that all (the committee) is doing is strengthening where we've already been doing." Tanner agreed with that assessment, adding, "It does not allow an aggressive, total infiltration into Canada."

Hogue, a former vice president for evangelism at the HMB who now is a trustee, said in an interview he is disappointed the committee asked to study the issue never contacted him to ask why he made the motion.

"They did not ask me to meet with the committee to express my views," Hogue said. "No one even called me on the phone to ask about my motivations."

Hogue said he made the motion primarily because several Canadian Baptists had asked him to do so and because he became deeply concerned about spiritual needs in Canada when he was vice president for evangelism at the Home Mission Board.

Hogue said he supported the committee's overall recommendations, but felt the study committee did not thoroughly deal with the issue of seating messengers from Canadian churches. That issue, he predicted, will be dealt with on the floor of the convention in Kansas City.

Giving background on the Home Mission Board's involvement in Canada, Tanner noted the HMB received the right to respond to Canada's request for help in 1977 after the Foreign Mission Board chose not to respond to Canada.

Since then, he said, efforts have been "extremely effective. Our first responsibility as an agency is to reach America, but we surely cannot turn our backs on Canada when they are asking for our assistance. To back out of that opportunity, for whatever reasons, would be a serious mistake and tragedy."

In his report to HMB directors, Tanner also noted the HMB now supports 3,792 missions personnel, more than any other Protestant missions agency in the world.

He added the HMB "needs at least 8,000 serving by 2000 AD" to keep pace with needs and must boost baptisms and new church starts to reach end-of-the-century goals. The current net gain of about 400 churches a year "is not on track if we intend to have 50,000 by 2000," he warned. He also noted baptisms have held at 400,000 a year for the past two decades while SBC membership has doubled over the same period.

Tanner expressed concern that current receipts for the Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified financial support system, are \$300,000 under budget. He told board members he has received reduced contingency budget plans from all HMB programs which may be implemented if anticipated funds are not received.

Actions taken by the directors included reelecting all eligible officers to a second one-year term and electing Barbara H. Fain of Dunwoody, Ga., as assistant secretary, succeeding Edna I. Shows of Atlanta. Those reelected were Jerry Gilmore of Dallas, chairman; Omar H. Pachecano of El Paso, Texas, first vice-chairman; Frank B. Lowndes Jr., of Atlanta, second vice-chairman, and Helen S. Landers of Riverdale, Ga., secretary.

Directors also named 67 persons to missions posts and approved a slate of staff and organizational changes.

Ron W. Johnson, HMB national consultant for families since 1979, was named to fill a new position as editor of HMB evangelism materials. He is a graduate of West Georgia College, Carrollton, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and is a former editor for the Sunday School Board.

Directors also created two departments within the church extension division and shifted responsibilities among the division's associate directors. C. Nelson Tilton was named director of the church starting department, with James L. Hill serving as associate director. Joel T. Land was named director of the new church growth department, with Thomas E. Sykes serving as associate director.

The church loans division also was restructured into three areas to meet the growing demand of churches for HMB financial services.

Appraisal responsibilities were divided into three regions. Bobby M. Stidham, associate division director, will be associate director of the eastern region and a new position for assistant director was created.

W. C. Dudley, associate division director, was named associate director of the central region; Joe Carl Johnson will retain the title of associate director until his retirement at the end of 1984 when the position title will change to assistant director.

Associate division director Bennett Cook will be associate director of the western region and a new position of assistant director will be filled later.

The new loan servicing department will be headed by Thomas F. Thrailkill, former associate division director. T.V. Haynes will retain the title of assistant director for this department.

B. Olin Cox will continue as associate division director. Staff of the H.M.B. Service Corporation which oversees the agency's bond program will be Robert H. Kilgore, president; B. Olin Cox, vice president-treasurer; and Paul Montgomery, vice president.

Board members also approved expansion of the HMB's word processing systems and created a new position for director of word processing.

In other actions, the board agreed to allow early retirement of HMB personnel at age 55 and approved a plan to pay ordained staff members additional salary to cover self-employment tax, Social Security and income taxes which are not assessed non-ordained staff.

Members also accepted an offer from Days Inns of America to purchase from the HMB its Days Inn Motel leasehold interests for \$5,767,350. The leases were part of an endowment from the late Cecil B. Day, founder of the motel chain.

The board approved cooperative agreements providing financial and program development support with three state conventions: New England, Minnesota/Wisconsin, and Wyoming. All three became conventions during 1983.

Directors also approved a committee to study long-range site needs of the HMB, whose current Atlanta headquarters are valued at approximately \$10 million. Board member M.A. Winchester, M.D., of Whitley City, Ky., urged caution in considering moving the board facilities elsewhere in Atlanta. He expressed doubt that he "could justify leaving this site if we're committed to reaching the inner city" and said he would rather put funds into missions than in a "keeping up with the Joneses building program."

News Analysis

High Court Nativity Ruling
May Only Seem To Be Victory

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--When the city of Pawtucket, R. I. won a case at the U. S. Supreme Court March 5 over its challenged practice of sponsoring a nativity scene during the Christmas season, the immediate reaction of many Christians was: "It's about time!"

It's about time, they no doubt thought, that Supreme Court justices rejected the arguments of the much-despised American Civil Liberties Union (which brought the original Pawtucket challenge) and other "humanist" groups that seem hell-bent on removing God from public life.

And, after decades of refining First Amendment religion law, the nation's highest court does indeed seem determined to reject arguments for a strict separation of church and state in favor of a larger accommodation of religion, what the court on another occasion called "benevolent neutrality."

But a careful reading of the Pawtucket decision yields some interesting--and troubling--gleanings.

Most reasonable citizens will agree with Chief Justice Warren E. Burger in his written opinion for a 5-4 majority that "total separation" of church and state is not possible. "In every Establishment Clause case," he began, "we must reconcile the inescapable tension between the objective of preventing unnecessary intrusion of either the church or the state upon the other."

He went on to explain that since 1973 the court has employed a three-part test to insure a proper balance between the two: the challenged practice must have a secular purpose, must neither advance nor inhibit religion, and must not excessively entangle government with religion.

In spite of the need for such safeguards, the chief justice argued, "Our (nation's) history is replete with official references to the value and invocation of Divine guidance," including the 200-year practice of paying chaplains to serve the Congress, the proclamation of Thanksgiving Day as a national holiday, the use of "In God We Trust" on coins and currency, the phrase "One nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, and publicly funded art galleries with hundreds of religious paintings and sculptures.

So far, so good. But then Burger noted that Pawtucket's practice of sponsoring the creche must not be seen apart from all the other objects in the town Christmas display, including Santa Claus, some reindeer, an elephant, a teddy bear and a tree. "Focus exclusively on the religious component of any activity," he reasoned, "would inevitably lead to its invalidation under the Establishment Clause" ("Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. . . .").

Despite the purely religious nature of the nativity scene, Burger concluded, it is but a "passive symbol" which as part of a larger display "engenders a friendly community spirit of good will in keeping with the season" and "serves the commercial interests" of merchants and their employees.

Such a tortured rationalization is what might well trouble devout Christians and other persons of faith. Is a city's sponsorship of a creche which, as Justice William J. Brennan Jr. noted in his dissent, "is the chief symbol of the characteristically Christian belief that a divine Savior was brought into the world," worth the debasing requirement that it be accompanied by Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?

Little wonder, then, that Justice Harry A. Blackmun, in a separate dissenting statement, observed: "The creche has been relegated to the role of a neutral harbinger of the holiday season, useful for commercial purposes, but devoid of any inherent meaning and incapable of enhancing the religious tenor of a display of which it is an integral part."

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And, in what may have been the best single statement the court issued, Blackmun concluded: "The city has its victory--but it is a Pyrrhic one indeed."

The same could be said of what some are claiming to be the decision's victory for Christians. Like the Greek general Pyrrhus, who defeated the Romans at Asculum in 279 B. C., the battle may have been won, but only with great loss of life.

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Spacenet Launch Delay
Won't Slow ACTS Start

By Greg Warner

Baptist Press
3/16/84

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Launch of the Spacenet I satellite which will carry the programs of the American Christian Television System (ACTS), has been postponed from April 12 to May, but the delay will not slow the start-up of the Baptist TV network, according to ACTS President Jimmy R. Allen.

ACTS will begin broadcasting May 15, with the initial six hours of daily programs being delivered by another satellite on an interim basis, Allen said. The full 16-hour day schedule day will begin June 12 with a formal launch ceremony at the Southern Baptist Convention. ACTS will switch to the Spacenet I satellite when it becomes operational.

ACTS was informed of the Spacenet delay recently by the satellite's owner, GTE Spacenet Corp. The postponement, however, resulted from a delay in launch schedule of the rocket that will place Spacenet in orbit. Arianespace, the French company that owns the rocket, has cancelled the April 12 launch. It has not been rescheduled yet, but is expected in May.

Allen said several possible interim satellites are under consideration and a contract will be signed soon.

Meanwhile, construction continues on the satellite transmitting facility for Uplink, which will send the ACTS program signal from Fort Worth to the satellite for relay to cable TV systems and television stations around the country. A two-ton, 36-foot dish antenna, centerpiece of the uplink facility, was installed at the site March 7.

Uplink construction, authorized by action of the Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) trustees in January, is on schedule for the May 15 start-up, according to Allen, also president of RTVC. The RTVC is assembling the ACTS network and providing the programming.

Other components of ACTS are falling into place as well, Allen said. The renegotiated contract with GTE Space Corp., which will lower ACTS' satellite lease to \$138,000 per month and provide the network with \$1.5 million-worth of satellite dishes, is in the final stages of discussion, he said.

Equipment is being installed in the network operations center, which will originate ACTS broadcast signal at the RTVC for relay to the uplink. The facility will be operational in early May, Allen said.

The RTVC has scheduled dinner rallies April 12 to coincide with the spacenet launch. Allen said the rallies, part of the development program for the network, will go on as scheduled.

Rallies are planned in more than 50 cities through a live satellite hookup to ACTS studios in Fort Worth. Rally participants will view a 75-minute closed-circuit TV special featuring Allen, comedian Jerry Clower and John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, and preacher for ACTS' "Invitation to Life" program. Other features include music by the Brooks Brothers and clips of ACTS programs.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Radio and Television Commission

Senate Sets Final Vote
On Prayer Amendment

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--Giving up its lengthy search for compromise language more likely to produce a two-thirds vote for a constitutional amendment on school prayer, the Senate decided to vote up-or-down on the wording it began with--President Reagan's proposal to permit structured, vocal prayer in public schools.

For nearly two weeks, Senate proponents of a school prayer amendment toyed with dozens of variations of and possible substitutes for the President's three-sentence amendment. But that process failed to enlarge the existing consensus and the Senate agreed to vote March 20 on the White House amendment S.J. Res. 73.

Before reaching unanimous consent for the final vote, however, the Senate tabled substitute language offered by Sen. Alan J. Dixon, D-Ill., to permit silent prayer and provide equal access for student-initiated religious meetings.

Although several senators, including Dixon, indicated the silent prayer version stood a better chance of passage, the tabling motion prevailed 81-15 behind a coalition of senators committed to Reagan's vocal prayer amendment and those who favor no prayer amendment at all.

Passage of the Dixon amendment would have meant no vote on the Reagan proposal, a situation Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, floor leader of the school prayer proponents and himself a sponsor of another silent prayer amendment, was determined to avoid.

The Senate action left President Reagan and other backers of his prayer proposal with four days to lobby senators for the final vote. Although a firm vote count was not available, most observers believed the President would need to convert more than a handful of senators to give the amendment a two-thirds majority.

In the only other vote on the measure, the Senate unanimously agreed to accept the third sentence of the amendment added in the Judiciary Committee with the administration's blessing. The full text reads:

"Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions. No person shall be required by the United States or any State to participate in prayer. Neither the United States nor any State shall compose the words of any prayer to be said in public schools."

Backers and opponents disagreed over what passage of the amendment by Congress and ratification by 38 states would mean in public schools. Much of the debate centered around the question of the "voluntary" nature of the proposal.

While admitting individual students now have the right to pray silently any time, Hatch said, "This is the equivalent of saying that prisoners in Siberia can pray for their salvation whenever they choose."

The issue, he insisted, "is voluntary prayer, voluntary group prayer, voluntary group prayer accommodated by school authorities."

Hatch conceded the Reagan proposal would permit local school districts to structure prayer periods, but discounted charges such structured prayer periods in religiously pluralistic areas would create tension. "I believe that an intelligently and compassionately structured opportunity for prayer can achieve the opposite effect," he said.

Hatch said further, "I genuinely do not know how a period of morning prayer in our schools can hurt anyone."

Sen. Lowell P. Weicker, R-Conn., argued that the issue involved is government prayer, not voluntary prayer. "Words like organized and structured are exactly what complicates this issue," he said. "All of a sudden, prayer or reflection becomes an activity of the institution of government."

Faced with polls showing most Americans favor voluntary prayer in public schools, Weicker suggested 99 percent would say "no" if asked their approval of "government" prayer in schools.

Sen. Dan Evans, R-Wash., joined colleagues who contended that voluntary prayer is now available to public school students and urged the Senate to get on to more important issues. "I am confident that God will remain in the heart of every child who will let him in, with or without this amendment," Evans said.

"But the nation's economic recovery may not last until we propose, debate, and pass an effective deficit reduction program. And none of us may survive at all unless we devise an appropriate way to secure nuclear arms reductions and a more secure peace."

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Political Maneuvering
Snarls Hunger Aid Bill

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
3/16/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--As severe food shortages and massive hunger raise the haunting question of daily existence for millions of people in Africa, lawmakers in the nation's capitol continue to debate the question of how the United States can help.

Religious leaders and various anti-hunger organizations have lobbied Congress for quick action on emergency food aid to Africa. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, more than 150 million Africans face starvation as a result of the worst drought there in a century.

But Congressional action has been complicated and delayed by weeks of political maneuvering, says W. David Lockard of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

A bill to provide \$150 million in emergency food aid to African countries passed the House, 374-29. In the Senate, however, the bill's supporters have been frustrated by various obstacles. With strong backing from the Reagan administration, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved an amendment to the bill which would have tacked on \$93 million in military aid to El Salvador.

The move drew immediate criticism from hunger activists and legislators.

Lockard, who coordinates hunger education and action for the moral concerns agency, said the Senate was being asked to act as an accomplice to a "brazen attempt to hold hungry people hostage in exchange for military and political advantage."

He added: "Christians who have given selflessly to help alleviate the blight of hunger in our world have reason to be morally outraged by such political shenanigans."

When a number of lawmakers expressed similar misgivings, the Senate voted March 15 to separate a major portion of the African aid bill from the El Salvador military aid amendment.

A total of \$80 million in emergency food aid to Africa was approved by the Senate in a last-minute amendment offered by Sen. John Danforth, R-Mo., to a low income energy assistance bill. According to a staff member for Bread for the World, a Christian lobbying group, Danforth's action put legislation for African aid "back on the fast track."

The energy assistance bill now will go to conference committee, since the House earlier approved a similar bill.

Senate observers are uncertain about the future of the original bill for emergency assistance to Africa, left with \$70 million in food aid and the amendment for military aid to El Salvador.

Lockard and other anti-hunger activists hope Congress eventually will approve in some form at least the \$150 million in emergency food aid originally passed by the House.

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He urged "Southern Baptists and other concerned Christians to communicate with their legislators about the urgency of the situation."

"A single day's delay," he said, "can mean the difference between life and death for thousands of innocent victims."

Lockard added Southern Baptist missionaries in Mali--one of the countries crippled by drought--have been asked by that government to assist in distribution of grain "once aid is approved by Congress."

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Clower To Highlight Brotherhood
Breakfast In Kansas City

Baptist Press
3/16/84

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Presentation of the national Jerry Clower award for the Royal Ambassador missions speakout contest will be the highlight of the third annual Brotherhood breakfast in Kansas City, Mo., on June 13.

Held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention's annual session, the breakfast will bring men and boys together at 7:30 a.m. at Howard Johnsons, 610 Washington St., for a time of testimony and fellowship. The breakfast site is within walking distance of the convention center, said director of Baptist Men, Doug Beggs.

Also on the morning agenda will be a testimony by Mission Service Corp volunteer Gregory Brockman, a trustee of the Memphis based commission. In addition, recognition will be given to 1982-83 recipients of the Royal Ambassador National Service Award.

Clower, nationally acclaimed comedian and Baptist layman from Yazoo City, Miss., will present the speakout award to a Royal Ambassador judged to have written the best speech on moral and social subjects. The speech, which must have been presented on the state convention level, will be consistent with the mission education emphasis of Royal Ambassadors.

The national winner will be given an expense paid trip to the Kansas City meeting, a \$500 scholarship personally funded by Brotherhood Commission trustees, an expense paid trip to the Grand Ole Opry as a guest of Clower, an RA blazer and a plaque.

Cost of the buffet breakfast is \$5.00 with tickets available in advance from state Brotherhood offices, the national Brotherhood office at 1548 Poplar, Memphis, Tenn., 38104, or the Brotherhood exhibit at the convention. Tickets will only be available on Monday, June 11 at the convention, Beggs said.

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Elder Calls For Increased
Urban Ministry By Baptists

By Michael Tutterow

Baptist Press
3/16/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--"An effective ministry in the urban setting is very important to the welfare of our denomination," said Baptist Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder.

Elder addressed more than 60 urban pastors and directors of missions attending the Models for Effective Urban Church Ministry Conference, an Urban Training Cooperative event sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the Baptist Sunday School Board, the Center for Urban Church Studies and the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Elder noted effective ministry in the urban arena "depends upon effective leadership in ministry. "A tremendous advance forward will be made in effective urban ministry when there is a stirred up, nurtured, trained and committed leadership to do urban ministry."

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But encouraging Southern Baptists to invest in urban ministry will necessitate a re-examination of the denominational reward system, Elder said .

"We have so glamorized some standards of success that we may well have diminished other standards that are going to be absolutely essential if we do a good job in the urban setting," he noted.

"Right now the denominational reward system is based not on faithfulness but largeness and notariety. You almost have to make it to the headlines in order to be recognized among the bretheren as being faithful in ministry."

Large churches play an important role in Southern Baptist life, admitted Elder, but he added Southern Baptists must recognize the "large work" done by "untold thousands" in smaller congregations.

Elder called on Baptists to look to Jesus' example of servant as the model for success. Reading from the gospel of Mark, Elder noted several principles for servant-leadership.

Like the followers of Jesus, human beings have ambition, explained Elder, illustrated in two disciples' request for status in the Kingdom of God. "Ambition is desperately needed in the ministry," conceded Elder, but added that James and John brought their ambition to Jesus. "We try to hide it."

The ambition of the two disciples created "a divisive spirit of criticism" among the other disciples, said Elder, who added, "The same thing happens in the midst of the brethren today."

Elder said the world's standards of leadership are based on "one-ups-manship" while Christ emphasizes servanthood as the standard for greatness. "Effective ministry in the urban setting waits upon servant leadership," he said, adding when people work under servant leaders they become "wiser, freer, healthier, more autonomous and more likely to become servants themselves."

Elder noted: "If in the institution like the church there is a true and consistent model of servant leadership and ministry, then there will be an enlarged flow of resources to the church to do ministry. If the church is not authentic," he warned, "then there will be those who seek elsewhere their mountain to climb."

Elder encouraged Southern Baptist pastors and leaders to share decision-making responsibilities in ministry. "If there is to be effective ministry in the urban church, it cannot be done simply by the pastor or the professional staff. It must be a team leadership, a shared leadership," said Elder.

"When work is accomplished among Southern Baptists by those who have a deep concern for people and a sense of urgency and a part of the decision, it will be more productive, it will have more resources, and it will be more effective in the lives of those to whom it is addressed," he added.

Elder said Southern Baptists seem to be faltering in efforts to stay personal in ministry. "If we are going to be successful, effective in ministering in the local urban situation, we're going to have to stay close to people," he explained.

"We're told that we're having a problem with our upward mobility and getting further and further away from the vast numbers of people who do not know Jesus as Savior and are giving no attention to the organized church and its preaching of the gospel.

"A people-oriented ministry will be an effective ministry in the urban setting," he added, even if it means holding services in storefront buildings with 30 or 50 in attendance. "We do not have to have the cathedral building to be effective," he said. "We just need to have people."



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