

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 17, 1984

84-60

Church-To-Church Campaigns
Yield 16,000 Decisions In '83

By Bill Webb

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Partnership evangelism campaigns in countries ranging from staunchly Catholic to predominantly Muslim, from spiritually receptive to apathetic, yielded 16,000 professions of faith last year.

But statistics only begin to measure the value of the program which links pastor-led teams of laypersons from Southern Baptist churches with Baptist churches overseas.

The numbers of first-time decisions predictably were most impressive in two campaigns in South Korea, where more than 10,000 accepted Christ through the ministry of 51 Southern Baptist teams (208 volunteers altogether).

"Outside of my salvation experience, this is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me spiritually," said Connie Browning, from Holladay Baptist Church, Salt Lake City. "It was my privilege to see 17 people make professions of faith in one day!"

Similar testimonies were echoed by many of the 963 participants in 15 of the Foreign Mission Board-sponsored campaigns conducted last year, according to Billy R. Peacock, partnership evangelism consultant.

In Concepcion, Chile, a predominantly Catholic area, 1,186 Chileans made first-time decisions. A mass rally at the close of the campaign drew 3,000 people. In two campaigns in heavily Muslim Indonesia, more than 2,000 accepted Christ. In North Brazil, 89 volunteers working with 26 churches reported 1,091 professions in two partnerships.

Other campaigns included India, 400 conversions; Singapore (two campaigns), 166; Japan (three), 723; and Portugal, 21.

Evangelistic results are important but they aren't the only way to judge the effectiveness of a crusade, Peacock maintains.

Some 223 volunteers from New Mexico and Maryland descended on England and won 140 people to Christ. "But there's no question England was one of our most successful partnerships," Peacock said, because of the relationships that developed as British Baptists saw "plain, common Southern Baptists going over there to witness to their people."

At a victory banquet concluding the campaign, Lewis Thistlebrook, of the British Baptist Union, assured the volunteers: "Your love has touched many hearts this week. Many will remember what you have said and it will turn them to the living Christ."

With the second full year of partnership behind him, Peacock is convinced more than ever that the church-to-church relationship is what sets the program apart from other overseas evangelistic programs.

It differs from another Foreign Mission Board program, partnership missions, which links a Baptist state convention from the United States with an overseas convention, usually for three years. Such partnerships include direct evangelism but ministries may take other forms, too, such as well-drilling in developing nations.

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A year or more before a partnership campaign, Peacock visits with national Baptists and missionaries in a country and explains the program emphasizes evangelism that will strengthen the local church. "When I say that, I usually get an 'Amen' from the missionary and the national," he said, grinning.

Everyone involved benefits--nationals who accept Christ as their savior, national Baptists, volunteers and the Southern Baptist churches who send them--as Peacock sees it.

National churches get a spiritual shot in the arm as they work with enthusiastic American volunteers who, in turn, return home with a greater zeal for missions and a better understanding of both the need for overseas evangelism and the importance of working alongside overseas Baptists.

Stateside, "we are getting increased giving, greater prayer concern and more people surrendering to career missions," Peacock said. He admitted more evaluation is needed to determine just how much.

Orientation sessions equip both nationals and Americans for the time when they finally see each other face to face and hit the ground running for two weeks of intense evangelization.

Volunteers go through six hours of group orientation, including cultural orientation by a furloughing missionary and training in personal evangelism and discipleship. Peacock's office tries to share information about each overseas church to which a volunteer team is assigned, such as size and neighborhood setting.

Overseas, missionaries handle most of the preparation.

"Usually I ask the missionary to plan at least two rallies for the churches overseas and get all the pastors to share ideas, go over the general method the Americans will be using in witnessing, talk about goals and objectives, and talk about how to use the teams on the field," he said.

Japanese Baptists had volunteers witnessing in colleges, a nursing school, a nursing home, a high school, a train station, a school for the blind, a civic club, a cancer center, a hospital, on the streets, door-to-door, and other places, in addition to meeting with a mayor.

During the first Japan campaign, Sumio Kaneko, executive secretary of the Japan Baptist Convention, gained at least one new insight. "I am learning evangelism is not done only by missionaries and pastors but by laymen," he said. "You have helped us see this and helped show others in our churches that laymen can be used."

Americans and their hosts usually learn from each other.

"They learn from us that a person can be approached with the gospel and can be led to a decision," Peacock said. "In some countries where they say, 'Our people are not open to the gospel,' they are. It just hasn't been tried effectively."

On the other hand, Americans sometimes arrive in a country thinking one particular approach is the best. In some places they expect to have preaching in a church every night, only to realize services in a home setting are more effective in that culture.

Fourteen campaigns are on tap for 1984, with as many as 1,500 volunteers expected to participate. "And I wouldn't be surprised if 1985 approached 1,800 people," Peacock said.

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Woman's Conference Emphasizes
Gifts, Call Of Women In Ministry

By Michael Tutterow

Baptist Press
4/17/84

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--For the second year, Southern Baptist Women in ministry will sponsor a pre-Southern Baptist Convention meeting to stress the role of women in ministry within the SBC.

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The Women in Ministry, SBC, conference, slated for June 9-10, 1984, at the Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City, is one of several meetings to be held prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14, at Roe H. Bartle Hall in the Kansas City Convention Center.

The conference is designed for women who, out of a sense of God's call, minister professionally in a local church in either a paid or volunteer staff position, and women who, because of skills and vocational calling, are employed by institutions, agencies and churches of the SBC, said Anne Neil, emeritus missionary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and pastoral counselor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Neil is chairperson of the Women in Ministry, SBC, steering committee which planned this year's meeting. The conference also is open to both men and women who share an interest and concern for Women in Ministry, Neil said.

Participants will explore the theme, "Exercising Our Gifts," she added, while also building support for women in ministry and creating awareness within the SBC of women in ministry. Promoting more understanding between men and women in ministry is also a goal of the conference, she said.

"The Holy Spirit gives gifts to all Christians," explained Neil, "and women need full opportunity for expression of their gifts."

She pointed out Southern Baptist male ministers have had a variety of support groups but Women in Ministry is the first organization for professional women ministers. As Southern Baptist women have entered into professional ministry roles, they have been isolated from others who share and understand their experiences, said Neil.

"Women who are called to ministry want to fellowship together, share common concerns, build support and clarify issues and directions," explained Betty Pierce, a Louisville, Ky., teacher and co-editor of FOLIO, a newsletter for women in ministry. "We are concerned that the gifts of women in ministry be recognized and their callings (to minister) be affirmed."

Conference speakers include Lynda Weaver-Williams, co-pastor of Goshen Baptist Church in Goshen, Ky., Elizabeth Barnes, Ph.D. candidate from Duke University, Raleigh, N.C., and Susan Lockwood Wright, pastor of Cornell Avenue Baptist Church in Chicago, Ill.

Wright was under fire from many Chicago Baptists because she accepted the pastorate of the Cornell Avenue church. A motion to disfellowship the church from the Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association was defeated in February by a vote of 210-113.

Although discussion on the issue of ordination of women may surface, conceded Neal, "It is not planned." Conference participants will discuss possible organizational structures for the group as well as directions for future meetings, she added.

Women In Ministry, SBC, held its first meeting during the 1983 convention meeting in Pittsburgh, Pa., where more than 70 Southern Baptist women attended. This year, Neil expects the conference to draw about 100 people.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY
June 9-10, 1984
Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel
Kansas City, Missouri

THEME: "Exercising Our Gifts"

June 10, 1984
Saturday Afternoon

Presiding: Anne Neil, chairperson, Women In Ministry steering committee; emeritus missionary, Foreign Mission Board and pastoral counselor, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

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2:30--Registration

4:00--General Session--Welcome and Introduction--Anne Neil, speaker; Lynda Weaver-Williams, co-pastor, Goshen Baptist Church, Goshen, Ky.

--Prayer--Debbie Lastinger Pittman, manager, Baptist Bookstore, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Saturday Evening

--Facilitator--Debra Griffis-Woodberry, associate minister, Ridge Road Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C.

5:30--Dinner (Advance Reservation Necessary)

6:30--After Dinner Speaker--Elizabeth Barnes, Ph.D. candidate, Duke University, Raleigh, N.C.

--Prayer--Connie McNeill, program consultant, Kansas City Student Ministry, Kansas City, Mo.

7:00--Break--Presiding, Anne Neil

7:15--Business Session--Facilitator--Marilyn Mayse, chaplain and clinical education supervisor, Baptist Hospital, Birmingham, Ala.

8:00--General Session--"Storytelling" and Small Groups

June 10, 1984

Sunday Morning

--Facilitator--Anne Davis, dean of the School of Social Work, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

9:00--Fellowship Hour--Worship Coordinator, Linda Stack Morgan, associate pastor/minister of music, Jewel Baptist Church, High Point, N.C.

10:00--General Session--Worship--Sermon--Susan Lockwood Wright, pastor, Cornell Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill.

11:00--Adjourn

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Douglass Killer Gets
High Court Hearing

Baptist Press
4/17/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--In a rare decision, the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments for Glen Burton Ake, convicted murderer of Oklahoma pastor Richard Douglass and his wife, Marilyn.

Ake was convicted June 1980 of killing the Douglasses in their rural home in October 1979 by shooting them in the back after binding and gagging them.

Two Douglass children, Brooks, then 16, and Leslie, 13, were critically wounded.

Ake's lawyers want the court to determine if he had a right to expert psychiatric help to determine his mental condition at the time of the murders; and to determine if the state violated his constitutional rights by having him sedated during his trial.

Although the Supreme Court is asked to hear about 3,000 criminal cases each year, it usually decides only about a dozen, those offering new constitutional questions worth considering.

If the court finds Ake was denied proper examination, it means he will have a new trial, not that he will be released from prison where he is under two sentences of death, and two 500-year prison terms.

The court will hear arguments on the case sometime after it convenes in October, which means it will be a year before a decision is reached.

In April 1980, Ake was found insane and committed to a mental institution. Seven weeks later, he was declared competent to stand trial.

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At that time, his lawyers asked for a psychiatric examination to determine his mental state at the time of the murders. Their request was denied and he was convicted in June.

Oklahoma is one of 10 states that routinely refuses such examination for indigents.

The 14th Amendment, which Ake's lawyers cite, guarantees due process of law and equal protection under the law. The Supreme Court must decide if Ake was denied equal protection because he could not pay for such psychiatric examination.

Its decision will have the effect of telling states whether or not they are obligated to provide the examination.

Ake's lawyers say now that Ake was unable to help them prepare his defense because he was in a "zombie-like" trance from the sedation.

Oklahoma lawyers cite Ake's 44-page confession "in which he lucidly set forth the events before, during and subsequent to" the murders, as proof of his mental stability at the time of the murders.

The court's decision will not involve Ake's accomplice, Steven Hatch, who remains in prison under sentence of death. Ake was the gunman.

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Texas Bureau
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Fort Worth 'Dayspring'
Attracts 2,800 Women

By Jerilynn Armstrong

Baptist Press
4/17/84

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Dayspring, a national meeting on lifestyle evangelism, climaxed last weekend with 2,800 Baptist women making a covenant to pray daily for worldwide spiritual awakening.

Jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union, the three-day meeting was the same format as the meeting held at Ridgecrest Conference Center last fall. Each conference attracted more than 2,800 women.

Laura Allen, national evangelism consultant with women at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, challenged the women to become verbal witnesses. "Each of us is called to live a Christian life, but we also are called to be a verbal witness. Growing in our spiritual walk leads us to naturally share with others.

"I have discovered the Lord provides us witnessing opportunities in the midst of our routine if we are a prepared and willing vessel," she said.

Sharing five practical aspects of claiming the power and joy of salvation, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, first told the women to give themselves to a person.

"Too often we give our first class commitments to second class causes," said Weatherford. "This involves spending time with the Lord because there is no effective 'going out' until we have been with Him."

Weatherford then added the importance of giving of yourself to others for Christ's sake, using ordinary things in one's life in an extraordinary way, giving proper perspective to one's possessions and finding opportunities to be a verbal witness.

The last session's emphasis on spiritual awakening was highlighted by the testimony of Juana Ann Fort, medical missionary to Zimbabwe, and the group's commitment to pray daily for spiritual awakening.

Fort shared the amazing response of the Zimbabweans to the message of Christ in the midst of political upheaval and economic strain. "We are seeing people come forward in numbers not experienced by any of us on the field. It is thrilling," she said.

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Standing and speaking in unison, the women made a covenant to pray daily at 11:55 a.m. for worldwide spiritual awakening in our time. The resolution which recognizes "...historically spiritual awakening has come in similar periods as the result of unified, explicit, extraordinary prayer on the part of all God's people..." will be submitted for consideration and adoption by the women attending the Baptist World Alliance meeting this summer.

Other program personnel included Joe Ann Shelton, concert and recording artist, leading the music; Jeanette Clift George, producing manager for After Dinner Players, teaching the Bible, and Marge Caldwell, author and speaker, providing closing reflections.

In addition to the congregational meetings, the participants had the opportunity to select four special interest conferences from 38 offered. The seminars were in four categories--spiritual growth, how to witness, spiritual awakening and witnessing through ministry.

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Valentine Issues Appeal
For Prophetic Preaching

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
4/17/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The church needs a recovery of the "prophetic dimension" in its preaching, according to Foy Valentine, executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission.

Valentine, who delivered the H.I. Hester Lectures on Preaching at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., observed "every preacher is part priest and part prophet, part pastor responsible for affirming and part prosecuting attorney responsible for challenging and badgering and cajoling the people of God to get them to move in the direction God wants them to go."

"Today," he said, "there is a raging battle for the soul of the church between those who in the name of Christ and purely personal religion would retreat from the great moral issues and those who in the name of the Lord Christ and his full gospel with its divine imperative to do the truth seek to confront those issues and solve those problems.

"The prophetic preacher's task is to convert these modernists who have turned away from the prophets and Peter and James and John and Jesus to embrace the dualism which, like a defective gene, keeps turning up to plague the church."

The prophetic preacher, he declared, will preach "the whole gospel" of personal evangelism and social action, grace and good works.

God's basic concern is not religion but life," he said. "Luther rediscovered grace. Who today will rediscover good works? The churches have gone to seed on believing, much too narrowly and unbiblically defined, so who today will call them to behaving? No biblical doctrine is more shamefully neglected, more heretically shunted aside, or more smoothly glassed over than the doctrine of good works. Yet this doctrine is a pervasive Bible theme which cannot be ignored without grave consequences.

"Wherever the preaching of the gospel is vibrantly alive today," he continued, "it is alive with a vivid consciousness that good works constitute the other side of the coin of faith."

Valentine said the preacher who accepts the responsibility for prophetic preaching will help Christians see that "withdrawal and involvement, conservatism and radicalism, the journey inward and the journey outward, worship and work, reflection and action, practicing and preaching, the personal and the social all must be everlastingly linked in the life and work of the church or else the church goes off into grievous and crippling heresy."

He also pointed out the prophetic preacher can help people understand God's active, reconciling work in history.

"Jesus Christ is not just King of Kings and Lord of Lords in Handel's 'Messiah,'" he claimed. "He is King of Ronald Reagan and Lord of Margaret Thatcher.

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"Our world had a great fall and not all of capitalism's horses nor all of communism's men can put it together again. This is the work of God who is in Christ. But how shall they hear of this many-splendored work without a preacher?"

Valentine, who has directed Southern Baptist's social concern agency for 24 years, issued practical pointers on how to preach on moral issues, even when those issues are controversial. Prophetic preaching, he said, will help people recover moral values and spiritual ideals at a time when "values and ideals have come to be not only questioned but also systematically undermined and even viciously attacked.

"Part of the prophetic preacher's calling is to help set matters straight." God calls pastors to preach, he insisted, to help people "stand firm for those moral values and hold fast to those spiritual ideals without which all their 'God talk' is unvarnished hypocrisy."

With the help of such preaching, he said, Christians can recover "the values and ideals which constitute the glue holding both us and our churches, both our nation and our denomination, together."

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Missionary Repeats Med School
So He Can Help Paraguayans

By Breena Kent

Baptist Press
4/17/84

ASUNCION, Paraguay (BP)--Tom Kent sweated out medical school two decades ago. But to get a permanent medical license in Paraguay, the Southern Baptist missionary just finished going through medical training all over again.

The 47-year-old Louisiana native has struggled through six years and 30 different medical exams--all in Spanish--to get medical validation from the University of Asuncion. What's more, he did it while working at Baptist Hospital in Asuncion, where he's been practicing since 1976 with temporary permits.

The permits served their purpose, but Kent had to obtain a permanent license to keep practicing medicine in Paraguay.

"Repeating medical school after 20 years was not something I wanted to do," Kent admitted after finishing. "It was tough enough in 1958-62, but it was even harder 20 years later in Spanish, after medical knowledge has doubled every five years."

Kent flunked the first exam in biophysics. After that defeat he seriously considered calling it quits and returning to private practice in the United States.

"I had no desire at all to submerge myself in a detailed study of biophysics when there were so many people to care for," he said. "But I felt God calling me to Paraguay, so I prayed that he would change my mind and give me a strong desire to study."

Kent's prayer was answered. For the next four months he actually had "fun" studying facts that were only theories when he first encountered them.

The anatomy exam was even worse. The anatomy professor told Kent that every American who'd taken his exam had failed it. For an entire year the missionary dissected cadavers with other medical students and struggled to memorize 7,000 pages of the French system of anatomy translated into Spanish.

"At 5 a.m. on the morning of the anatomy exam, I was ready to pack my bags and return to the United States," Kent said. "But my wife prayed, 'Lord, whatever they ask of him, let him be able to answer.' Seven of the eight subjects on that exam I had been over within the prior 24 hours, and the eighth within two weeks. My exam grade was 100!"

Judi Kent, in fact, made a habit of praying in the car outside the medical faculty building while her husband took exams inside. Often she waited all day for him to finish.

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But even she "thought he'd blown his cork" when, after a spiritual retreat in 1982, Kent claimed God had given him a vision that he would complete the remaining 23 exams in one year. It had taken him five years to get through the first seven. But he did it.

There were anxious moments near the end. The professor in charge of Kent's 30th and final exam refused four times to let the missionary take it. But fellow Paraguayan professors who treated Kent as a colleague intervened.

Senior medical students who'd already completed their testing waited to find out if Kent would be allowed to finish. After learning he would, they stood and applauded.

Even after completing medical school, Kent faced a possible three-year wait for his license to be approved and signed by government authorities. But one day before his Feb. 11 departure for furlough in Louisiana, the wait came to a surprising end.

"One of the key secretaries fainted while I was waiting in the (government) office for my papers, and I attended her," Kent explained. "Her friend was the woman who was to type them, so in appreciation she typed them straight away. I arrived at the Ministry of Health to get them signed just as they were closing, but the secretary was a Christian and delighted that I had gotten my title revalidated. Ten minutes before the office closed I got my Paraguayan license number."

When he gets back to Paraguay next year, Kent will be able to devote a lot more time to church planting and medical ministry, including mobile clinics in rural areas and training Baptist medical workers.

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(Breena Kent, daughter of Tom and Judi Kent, is studying journalism at Louisiana College.)

Sharing Ministry, Planning
Addressed At Staff Meet

By Jim Lowry

B55B-N

Baptist Press
4/17/84

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Sharing ministry between vocational ministers and the laity and a commitment to coordinated planning were two top agenda items at the first National Church Staff Planning Retreat at Ridgecrest, N.C.

Gary Cook, director of the church and staff support division at the Sunday School Board, said the week-long meeting, attended by staff members from 13 states, was held to allow church staff persons to consider several aspects of problem solving in one setting, with appropriate resource persons on hand.

Sunday School Board support programs represented at the conference were the church administration, church media library, church architecture, church music and church recreation departments. Church staffs attended the retreat as teams.

The retreat featured the introduction of Shared Ministry, an emphasis from the board to coordinate the ministry responsibilities of staff ministers and church members.

"Shared Ministry will not solve all the problems in churches, but will offer alternate ways of answering some of the problems we are facing in the denomination," Cook said.

"For instance, some ministers with strong, authoritarian styles of leaderships have special gifts in experience which permit them to successfully lead a church in that manner," he explained. However, for a new minister or one in a church where members want heavy involvement, a balance would be more acceptable.

"This program can help ministers address the question of balancing leadership and authority with the role of the servant, which is so obviously implied in the life of Christ," he continued.

"The role of the laity is the other issue of Shared Ministry," he explained. "Shared Ministry is build on the concept that all people of God are to be involved in ministry.

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"I think as our churches became more affluent and able to afford full-time pastors and other staff persons, an attitude developed that we will pay the professionals to do the ministry," he said. "Vocational ministers and laity let this concept grow to the point there became a rather wide distinction between vocational ministers and laity.

"If only vocational ministers do ministry, then you rob the people of the opportunities and blessings which come by being involved in ministry," Cook explained. "I believe that in a real sense the laity can minister in ways and in places more effectively than vocational ministers.

"The world is far too big for only vocational ministers to be involved in ministry," Cook said. "The only way to reach the world with the gospel of Christ is for every Christian to take seriously the claims of Christ for his life to be a minister.

"For vocational ministers and lay persons, sharing the ministry can mean shared joy, calling, problems and hurts," he explained.

Cook added the first National Church Staff Planning Retreat was the initial step to introducing the Shared Ministry concept to Southern Baptists. Shared Ministry should begin with the church staff, but needs to spread to the deacons, volunteer leaders and church members.

To help staff members better understand their part in a Shared Ministry emphasis in their church, conferences were offered to aid role clarification. Staff members worked together according to job title for part of the conference time to assess their responsibilities and learn from other ministers.

Time was then given for ministers to meet together for church staff planning for their own churches. Help was offered in conferences on worship planning, education, media library, recreation, youth and BTN.

On a personal development level, other sessions addressed developing support systems, anger and frustration in ministry, staff team building and leadership style. Worship services were held each evening.

Plans are being made for another National Church Staff Planning Retreat next year, but dates and location have not been determined yet.

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BTC-N

Reagan, Bush Push
Religious Toleration

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press
4/17/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--In what may signal a major shift in White House religious strategy, President Reagan and Vice President Bush told a convention of Baptist fundamentalists here that religious pluralism and toleration are American hallmarks to be cherished and advanced.

Climaxing a three-day meeting called Baptist Fundamentalism '84, convened by Jerry Falwell and other well-known fundamentalist preachers, Reagan delivered a speech fundamentally unlike any previous address he has made to such audiences in his three years as president.

Instead, after an initial word of greeting and a reassertion of a statement made in January to the National Religious Broadcasters convention that "the answer to the world's problems can be found in the Word of God," Reagan read a lengthy letter from a Jewish chaplain who ministered to injured and dying Marines in the aftermath of the October Beirut massacre.

The rabbi, accompanied by a Catholic priest, spent several days immediately following the truck bomb blast which claimed the lives of more than 240 American Marines, comforting shak n survivors. He testified that human barriers came tumbling down during the experience, including religious differences. "If there were more interfaith foxholes," he wrote, "maybe there wouldn't be the need for foxholes."

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Aft r reading the rabbi's letter, Reagan appealed to the nearly 20,000 fundamentalists to "live up to the vision" of tolerance xpressed by the rabbi.

Earlier, Vice President Bush sounded a similar theme, declaring that the "Judaeo-Christian and democratic tradition" has made the United States a "city on a hill" and a "light of th world" by emphasizing "American pluralism" and "respect for diversity of opinion."

Bush did evoke roars of approval and a standing ovation when he declared, "I cannot believe that the founding fathers intended for the Constitution to prohibit children from opening their school day with voluntary prayer." But it was the only reference in either his address or that of the president endorsing specific items on the agenda of the Religious Right.

Reagan in particular has come under intense attack in recent weeks for a string of speeches earlier this year in which he reaffirmed his support for Religious Right goals on a wide variety of divisive public issues.

Speculation by some White House observers is that having sounded those themes with narrowly directed appeals to shore up his evangelical/fundamentalist base early in the election year, Reagan will now seek to broaden his appeal when speaking to religious audiences by affirming pluralism and toleration.

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East Texas Baptist
Gets \$1 Million Gift

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Baptist Pr ss
4/17/84

MARSHALL, Texas (BP)--A Texas couple which, during their lifetimes, helped 29 young people attend college, will aid countless others after their deaths.

The Joseph G. and Myrtle Beard Breco Endowment Fund, with assets in excess of \$1 million, has been established at East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, Texas.

Mrs. Breco died last December, several years after her husband.

Breco grew up as an orphan in Athen, Texas, and was one of seven in his high school graduating class of nine who became millionaires. He was a surgeon who owned a hospital in Ada, Okla., before being sucessful in oil and gas investments in the Southwest.

Mrs. Breco began teaching school at age 15 and taught at colleges in Oklahoma and Colorado.

East Texas Baptist officials said a limited number of scholarship will be specified over a period of years but the rest of the income generated by the endowment will be unrestricted.

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