



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

## NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 244-2355  
Wilmer C. Fields, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Craig Bird, Feature Editor

### BUREAUS

**ATLANTA** Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
**DALLAS** Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996  
**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300  
**RICHMOND** (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** Stan L. Hasteley, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 27, 1984

C-N

84-64

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTORS' CONFERENCE Roe Bartle Hall, Kansas City, Missouri June 10-11, 1984

Theme: "Encouraging the Servant of God"

Text: Col. 2:2 - "That their hearts may be encouraged having been knit together in love"

### June 10, 1984

#### Sunday Evening

- 6:30--Choral Music--First Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra, Atlanta
- 6:50--Welcome and Prayer--Charles Stanley, president, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta
- 7:00--Praise
- 7:05--Greetings From The President--James T. Draper Jr., Southern Baptist Convention president, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas
- 7:15--Music Medley--John McKay, music evangelist, Fort Worth, Texas
- 7:25--"Encouraging The Servant Of God"--Bailey Smith, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- 8:05--Praise, Prayer and Offering--First Baptist (Atlanta) Choir and Orchestra
- 8:20--Solo--Cheryl Prewitt Blackwood, singer, Nashville, Tenn.
- 8:30--"Encouraging the Servant of God to Stand in the Gap"--Franky Schaeffer, vice president, Schaeffer V Productions, Los Altos, Calif.
- Benediction

### June 11, 1984

#### Monday Morning

- 8:45--Choral Music--First Baptist (Atlanta) Choir and Orchestra
- 9:00--Praise and Prayer
- 9:05--Solo--Joe Atkinson, music evangelist, Arlington, Texas
- 9:10--"Encouraging the Servant of God in Personal Evangelism"--Roy Fish, professor of evangelism, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas
- 9:45--Praise
- 9:50--Duet--Jerry Ables, minister of music, and Pam Puckett, soloist, Pisgah Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S.C.
- 9:55--"Encouraging the Servant of God in Church Growth"--Ron Lewis, consultant for Church Growth Designs, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- 10:30--Prayer, Praise and Offering--Quartet--Jay and Karen McKay; Bill and Laurie Cole, gospel singers, Fort Worth, Texas
- 10:45--"Revival With Effect"--Jerry Drace, evangelist, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 10:50--Solo--Ellen Roweton, soloist, Bolivar, Mo.
- 10:55--"Encouraging the Servant of God in Handling Stress"--Charles Lowery, director of counseling services, First Baptist Church, Dallas
- Benediction

#### Monday Afternoon

- 1:15--Choral Music--First Baptist (Atlanta) Choir and Orchestra
- 1:30--Praise and Prayer
- 1:35--Solo--D. Dee Click, contemporary Christian artist, Nashville, Tenn.
- 1:40--"Encouraging the Servant of God in His Finances"--Larry Burkett, president, Christian Financial Concepts, Dahlonega, Ga.

--more--

- 2:15--Praise  
 2:20--Solo--Ralph Freeman, sacred music vocalist, Atlanta  
 2:25--"Encouraging the Servant of God to Reach His Goals"--O.S. Hawkins, pastor, First Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.  
 3:00--Praise, Prayer and Offering--Murk Family Singers, Wheaton, Ill.  
 3:15--Election of Officers  
 3:30--Solo--Frank Boggs, recording artist, Atlanta  
 3:40--"Encouraging the Servant of God in His Personal Discipline"--Stephen Olford, president of Encounter Ministries, Wheaton, Ill.  
 --Benediction

Monday Evening

- 6:30--Choral Music--First Baptist (Atlanta) Choir and Orchestra  
 6:55--Praise and Prayer  
 7:00--Solo--Nancy Steinmann, Christian concert artist, Atlanta  
 7:05--"Encouraging the Servant of God in His Moral Standards"--Zig Ziglar, board chairman, Zig Ziglar Corp., motivational speaker, Dallas  
 7:40--Praise  
 7:45--Solo--Joeff Benward, artist in residence, Second Baptist Church, Houston  
 7:50--"Encouraging the Servant of God in His Family Life"--Edwin Young, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston  
 8:25--Praise, Prayer and Offering, First Baptist (Atlanta) Choir and Orchestra  
 8:40--Music Medley--Doug Oldham, singer, Thousand Oaks, Calif.  
 8:55--"Encouraging the Servant of God in His Inner Healing"--David Seamands, pastor, Wilmore United Methodist Church, Wilmore, Ky.  
 --Introduction of Officers  
 --Benediction

## Pastors' Conference Officers for 1983-84:

President--Charles F. Stanley, First Baptist Church, Atlanta  
 Vice President--Fred Lowery--First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.  
 Secretary-Treasurer--Fred Powell--Pisgah Baptist Church, Excelsior Springs, Mo.

--30--

Pastors' Conference  
 Theme Announced

Baptist Press  
 4/27/84

C-N

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--"Encouraging the Servant of God" will be the theme of the 1984 Pastors' Conference in H. Roe Bartle Hall in the Kansas City Convention Center.

The Pastors' Conference, to be June 10-11, is one of the auxiliary meetings to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 12-14, also in Bartle Hall.

Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, and Pastors' Conference president, said the theme of encouragement is "exactly what we want to do. Every facet of the program is committed to helping the pastor in a specific area."

"We will not just be preaching to each other, but encouraging one another in areas in which we have to live every day."

Stanley added: "I think what motivated us to move in this direction is that we have seen so many pastors hurting in so many areas of their lives: finances, conflict in the church, families. Hundreds are fired every year. All of the turmoil that happens and the distress that occurs eventually takes place in the lives of the wives and children, too.

"We asked ourselves where these men were hurting and who could speak most effectively to these subjects."

Stanley added the criteria for selecting speakers was based primarily on seeking persons who could speak most effectively to the areas of need.

--more--

Speakers include Bailey E. Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., and immediate past president of the SBC, who will speak on the topic of "Encouraging the Servant of God."

Others are Franky Schaeffer, a Christian filmmaker who will speak on standing in the gap; Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, who will address personal evangelism; Ron Lewis, consultant for Church Growth Designs at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., who will talk of church growth, and Jerry Drace, an evangelist from Jacksonville, Fla., who will speak on real revival.

Also included are Charles Lowery, director of counseling services at First Baptist Church, Dallas, on the topic of handling stress; Larry Burkett, president of Christian Financial Concepts in Dahlonega, Ga., on finances; Stephen Olford of Encounter Ministries in Wheaton, Ill., on personal discipline, and O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on reaching goals.

The Monday evening program will feature Zig Ziglar, motivational speaker on moral standards; Edwin Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston, on family life, and David Seamands, pastor of Wilmore United Methodist Church in Wilmore, Ky., on inner healing.

"We are trusting the concluding night will be a great night of spiritual and emotional healing for people who are hurting," Stanley said, adding Seamands will speak on inner healing, a real need among many ministers.

"He (Seamands) has said 75 percent of the people who come to him for counseling are church staffers who are disillusioned, who have been deeply hurt, who feel rejected, who feel people are ungrateful for their labors or have strife in their family life," Stanley added.

Stanley said the announcement of the SBC Forum, a meeting for pastors and others in the Convention Center Music Hall Monday afternoon (June 11) "has had no impact" on the planning of the Pastors' Conference.

"We started working on this program a long time (before the Forum). I heard about it, and moved right along with our plans. I would say I think we have planned a helpful program and anybody who misses it will miss a time of refreshing for their own ministry and their own life. We would like to see people helped through the program.

"We are going to present our program and people will have to make their choice," he said.

--30--

*Hist. Comm.  
(C) - N*

Panel Discusses  
Biblical Interpretation

By Stan Haste

Baptist Press  
4/27/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A trio of Southern Baptist scholars put liberal, moderate and fundamentalist traditions in biblical interpretation under the light of historical examination and concluded that while Southern Baptists uniformly love the Bible, they are divided over how to interpret it.

Speaking in a panel discussion at the joint Southern Baptist Historical Commission and Society meeting, Glenn Hinson, professor of religion at Wake Forest University; Claude Howe, professor of church history at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Richard Land, vice-president for academic affairs at Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, addressed respectively the liberal, moderate and fundamentalist traditions in Southern Baptist life between 1845 and 1945.

Land, a leader of the inerrantist wing in present-day Southern Baptist life, repeatedly sought to dispel what he called widely held misconceptions about fundamentalists in the denomination, declaring they are fundamentally unlike the followers of the late J. Frank Norris, who left the Southern Baptist Convention after disrupting it during the 1920's.

--more--

By demanding "parity" in Southern Baptist educational institutions, Land said, inerrantists prove they are "inclusive" fundamentalists, unlike Norris's brand of "exclusive" fundamentalism. Present-day inerrantists will not leave the Southern Baptist fold, he added, because they are loyal to the denomination.

Land also disclaimed responsibility for a recent statement by Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center, that if he were president of a Southern Baptist seminary, he would want all faculty members to be inerrantists. Land said he prefers "more parity by addition," an apparent reference to new positions to be created and to vacant faculty slots.

He renewed the oft-repeated inerrantist complaint that the inerrancy viewpoint is not adequately represented on Southern Baptist institutions' faculties as presently composed.

Land also protested treatment of the fundamentalist/inerrantist movement in the denominational press, saying, "it is at least as diverse as the non-inerrantist" camp rather than a monolithic movement.

In an exchange with Hinson over the importance of specific views of biblical interpretation to the average Southern Baptist, Land said Southern Baptists were relatively unaffected by the fundamentalist debate of the 1920s largely because they uniformly held to the inerrantist viewpoint that the Bible in its original autographs is without error in any respect.

Only after World War II and the rise of "pluralism" and "heterodoxy" were Southern Baptists threatened by the liberal onslaught that hit other Protestant denominations earlier, he said.

But Hinson, who recently announced he will rejoin the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., next fall, said his experience growing up in the Missouri Ozarks taught him that what matters for most Southern Baptists is not what they say they believe about the Bible, but whether they practice its teachings.

"Orthopraxy," not "orthodoxy," Hinson declared, is what has always mattered most to Southern Baptists.

In his address on the liberal tradition and biblical interpretation in Southern Baptist history between 1845 and 1945, Hinson said one must search "far and wide" to find Southern Baptists fitting the category.

He defined liberal interpretation of the Bible as a "nearly uncritical and complete acceptance of critical historical methodology wherein the Bible would be treated like any other writing or collection of writings."

The only Southern Baptist biblical scholar who embraced liberalism, he went on, was Southern Seminary professor C.H. Toy, who left the faculty in 1879 after a stormy 10-year tenure and eventually became a Unitarian.

More prevalent during the period was the approach to liberalism of Southern Seminary President E.Y. Mullins who, Hinson said, "sought to learn from the liberal tradition without swallowing it whole." Hinson reminded his audience while Mullins wrote one of the 12 tracts known as The Fundamentals, "he refused to defend the Bible as a book of science" and regarded it "a great mistake and contrary to Scripture to insist that the Bible teaches science."

Apart from Toy, Hinson concluded, "Southern Baptists scarcely did more than flirt with the liberal tradition during their first hundred years."

Howe, a veteran church history professor at New Orleans Seminary, urged caution in categorizing historical figures as liberals, moderates or fundamentalists because "the Moderate of 1845 is not quite the same as the one of 1890 or of 1930, and the same may be said of Fundamentalists and Liberals."

Given such definitional limitations, Howe declared nevertheless, "Liberals most often regard themselves as advocating change in or reversal of the status quo, Fundamentalists envision themselves as defenders, while Moderates contemplate some adjustment in light of current conditions."

In Southern Baptist life from 1845 to 1945, Howe asserted, "no doubt more (Southern Baptists) defended a Fundamentalist view than a Liberal one, but most maintained a high view of Scripture expressed in rather general terms that reflected moderation."

He continued: "Southern Baptists affirmed that the Bible is uniquely inspired but most hesitated or refused to regard one theory of inspiration as essential. All insisted the Bible is authoritative for faith and practice but few denied some flexibility in interpreting the faith or describing the practice. Southern Baptists asserted the Bible is the Word of God but recognized it was mediated through the words of men."

In his presentation, Land said whereas fundamentalism has often been oversimplified with "the so-called 'five points of Fundamentalism' (inerrancy of the Bible, virgin birth of Jesus, substitutionary atonement of Christ, bodily resurrection of Jesus and physical second coming of Christ,) clearly the crucial issue was the inerrancy of the Scripture."

Although Southern Baptists were relatively unaffected by the liberal-fundamentalist battle in other major denominations in the 1920s, "the controversy...was present within their communion," he said.

After World War I, Land continued, fundamentalism changed "as the debate grew ever more acrimonious." The movement then split into two groups, one developing "an increasingly negative attitude toward scholarship, mainstream culture and social involvement." Among Southern Baptists, Norris, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, from 1909 to 1952, "exemplified this type Fundamentalist." Norris's brand of fundamentalism, Land said, largely withdrew from the Southern Baptist Convention by 1945.

But, Land added, "another type of Fundamentalist persevered...espousing 'the fundamentals' without anti-intellectual and isolationist tendencies." Further, "this second type fundamentalism...designated by a lower case 'f,' existed both prior to The Fundamentals, and subsequently alongside the more strident Fundamentalism of Norris. The absolute veracity of scripture, occasionally described as inerrancy, was the touchstone of this fundamentalist tradition within Southern Baptist ranks."

--30--

Urgency of ACTS, BTN  
Marks Broadcast Meet

By Greg Warner and Jim Lowry

Baptist Press  
4/27/84

DALLAS (BP)--With the premier of the American Christian Television System (ACTS) three weeks away and the first telecast over Baptist Telecommunications Network (BTN) due in seven weeks, there was a sense of urgency at the National Conference on Broadcast Ministries.

In workshops and general sessions of the conference, April 23-25, some 800 media ministers, pastors and others made last-minute preparations to involve their churches in ACTS and BTN, Southern Baptists' two national communications networks.

During the meeting leaders concentrated on getting the equipment and information necessary to make use of the two services.

The three-day meeting, which included 33 training workshops and 20 equipment displays was the largest broadcasting conference in Southern Baptist history. The fourth annual session was sponsored by the Radio and Television Commission, Sunday School Board and four Baptist seminaries--Midwestern, New Orleans, Southern and Southwestern.

The success of both ACTS and BTN will depend on the involvement of the local church, participants were told repeatedly. Lloyd Elder, president of the Sunday School Board, which is sponsoring BTN as a satellite network of teaching and training for churches, said the commitment of BTN is to support the local church in its ministry.

--more--

Elder said he hoped through powerful evangelistic efforts of ACTS and BTN Southern Baptists would have 50,000 churches by the year 2000. "We need to anticipate the great things God will do with Southern Baptists," he said. "He has not brought us this far to languish."

While the establishment of BTN will give Baptists one of their greatest teaching tools, Elder said it also will serve as a unifying force in the convention. "We are now involved in a telecommunications revolution," Elder said. "We can either be at its cutting edge or be overrun by it. If we are committed to the past, we will watch something happen. If we are committed to the future, we will make something happen."

BTN will deliver its first programming June 12 when portions of the Southern Baptist Convention are broadcast on both services. BTN will then begin telecasting five hours a day July 1. ACTS will begin delivering its family Christian entertainment programs to American homes through cable TV systems and television stations May 15.

The timing is right for ACTS to coincide with worldwide spiritual renewal, said Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Radio and Television Commission, which is assembling the TV network. "There is a moving of God around his earth," Allen said. "The hunger is there."

More than 500 Southern Baptist churches are involved in getting ACTS on cable TV in their communities through local ACTS boards, Allen told the group. The role of churches in promoting the network and producing local programs is the unique aspect of ACTS and the key to its success, Allen said.

Conference participants got the same advice from Bill Karnes, one of two cable TV executives on the program. "Local involvement is not important, it's essential," said Karnes, former president of Sammons Communications, and now a cable TV consultant. Karnes also is working with the RTVC this year as a Mission Service Corp volunteer.

"ACTS depends for its future success hopefully on the involvement of church members and local ACTS boards," Karnes said.

Success in cable television does not depend on technical innovation, said Anne Janas, manager of programming development for Cox Communications, the nation's fourth largest cable TV corporation. "It's a matter of commitment and doing something that has not been done.

"Local programming is very important to the cable TV operator. From his point of view, it can be a tremendous asset. We have evidence your programming is what people are watching," she said.

The conference's keynote address by former Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen, also emphasized the role of local churches.

"The success of our satellite telecommunications networks will depend on the investment of our imagination and money and on the denomination's leadership recognizing the opportunities to help local churches," Cothen said.

"It will cost some money," Cothen said. "But if any church invests in ACTS and BTN with any degree of imagination, it will not cost you anything but will bring in money you didn't know was there."

ACTS and BTN are not commercial enterprises, but denominational efforts "aimed at helping you be all you can be," Cothen said. BTN will multiply a pastor's ministry potential by helping with the primary function of "equipping the saints for ministry."

"Your denomination is ready to help you," he concluded.

Workshop sessions instructed participants in television and radio production techniques, negotiations with TV operators, church media staff needs, use of BTN in educational programs and other topics. For the first time, a two-day advanced TV production workshop was held immediately after the conference this year. More than 120 people participated in the hands-on technical training.

FMB-N

Chinese Christian Leader Says  
Hong Kong Churches To Stay Free

HONG KONG (BP)--China's top Protestant leader has pledged that Hong Kong churches will continue to run their own affairs after China assumes control of Hong Kong in 1997.

"We Christians in the north will not interfere and would not tell what Hong Kong Christians should do or should not do," Bishop Ding Guangxun was quoted as saying in the South China Morning Post. Ding is president of the China Christian Council and leader of the Three Self Patriotic Movement, China's government-recognized Protestant organization.

Ding spoke April 10 at a Hong Kong news conference, just 10 days before Great Britain publicly dropped demands that it retain administrative control of the colony after 1997. That is the year Britain's 99-year lease on most of Hong Kong expires. China has consistently said it wants full sovereignty over Hong Kong when the lease runs out.

Hong Kong Christians have wondered privately and publicly whether their churches will be controlled or restricted after 1997, but Ding insisted that "church building and evangelism in Hong Kong is the right and responsibility of the church in Hong Kong," according to reports from the Chinese Church Research Center. More than 30,000 Baptists worship in about 70 churches in Hong Kong. Seventy-two Southern Baptist missionaries work there.

"I don't think fears and worries are warranted because after 1997 Hong Kong will be a special district with a basic law of its own," the South China Morning Post quoted him as saying.

Ding's statement reinforced comments made in January by Li Chuwen of the New China News Agency (the Chinese government's de facto representation in Hong Kong). Li said restrictions on churches in China were designed to limit foreign influence on the mainland but would not be necessary in Hong Kong.

Under questioning at the news conference, Ding again denied that the Three Self organization or government agencies have harassed "house churches" in China, closing them or compelling them to join the government recognized group.

Sources with ties to independent house churches have reported dozens, perhaps hundreds, of Christians were jailed during the recent government anti-crime drive and campaign against "spiritual pollution." But Ding said believers or clergymen arrested "would not have been put in jail because of their religious faith or other religious differences with other Christians. They must have committed some crimes."

Asked whether Hong Kong Christians, being Chinese, could share their faith in China, Ding replied it would be natural, particularly among family relatives. But he warned against organized evangelistic campaigns and repeated that missionaries from Hong Kong or elsewhere were not welcome in China.

--30--

BTC-N

Court Declines To Settle  
Church Of Christ Dispute

By Stan Haste

Baptist Press  
4/27/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court has announced it has no jurisdiction to settle an internal church dispute involving a Church of Christ congregation in Miami.

A pair of elders who had held office throughout the 30-year history of Liberty City Church of Christ took their minister to court after they fired him and he refused to leave. The elders contended they were not subject to the will of the congregation's majority, which voted to retain the minister, Freeman T. Wyche, and, oust the elders.

Throughout the church's history, the elders argued in a legal brief filed with the high court, they had been empowered to "dictate" to the congregation on matters ranging from hiring and firing of ministers to controlling church funds.

--more--

But last year a trial court sided with Wyche, ruling the elders were subject to the congregation's majority in the decision to retain the minister. The court also held that all church property, including the parsonage occupied by Wyche, likewise came under congregational control.

A state appeals court affirmed the trial court.

In asking the Supreme Court to deny a hearing in the case, an attorney for the congregation's majority noted that the church has no articles of incorporation vesting power in church elders. He argued that the Florida courts properly applied a state law governing religious property in siding with the church majority.

The attorney argued further that the high court should dismiss the ousted elders' appeal because they had not raised First Amendment questions in the state court proceedings.

For their part, the elders argued unsuccessfully in their legal papers filed with the high court that the state courts violated their free exercise of religion, guaranteed in the First Amendment. (83-1434, Williams v. Wyche).

--30--

Westar V Transponder Secured  
For Interim BTN Transmission

BSSB-N

Baptist Press  
4/27/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A transponder has been secured on Westar V for interim transmission of Baptist TelNet to churches until the network's regular transponder becomes operational, according to Joe Denney, manager of telecommunications at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

BTN, the Sunday School Board's training network to churches, will be carried on Westar V between June 4 and July 12, when SpaceNet I is expected to be ready to carry the signal to churches.

Testing will be done for one hour per day June 4-8, with Southern Baptist Convention telecasts June 12 and 13 at the previously announced sessions.

Other programming will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 18-22 and June 25-29. The expanded schedules will start Monday, July 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the month of July.

BTN and ACTS (American Christian Television System) will be on the same satellite, but with different channels for the interim transmission period. BTN will be on transponder channel 18 (9X) and ACTS will be on channel 4 (2X). They also will have the same polarization.

Instructions on the location of Westar V will be mailed to churches, associations and state convention personnel to aid in dish placement to receive the transmission.

--30--

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

C

HMB-N

Missionaries Urged To Stress  
Justice, Not Bandaid Approach

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press  
4/27/84

PACIFIC GROVE, Calif. (BP)--Southern Baptist home missionaries assigned to Christian social ministries were challenged to spend next year studying and applying the biblical teachings of justice, not just "putting bandaids on hurting people."

The plea for justice came from Anne Davis, dean of the new Carver School of Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., who spoke three times to about 50 home missionaries from the western United States.

--more--



"It's not enough to do it (Christian social ministries) the way we've been doing it for years," Davis said. Past Southern Baptist approaches of Christian social ministries have emphasized helping the individual who has social problems, she explained.

"We've got to come down on the side of the poor and oppressed and become people of justice who work on changing the systems that cause the problems," she said.

This is one of the most difficult things to get through to most Southern Baptists, she added. "We must lead Baptists to deal with justice, and even if most Baptists won't go with us, we still have to go," she insisted.

Davis told a modern-day parable of a fisherman who jumped in the river several times to save people who were drowning. After repeated incidents, he faced the decision: "Should I stay here and keep on fishing, saving those who cry for help; or should I go upstream and deal with the person who is throwing these folks into the river?"

In another presentation, Davis urged churches to put more emphasis on "growing mature Christians," saying in the long run, "it will pay off and we Baptists won't face some of the problems we face now."

Too many churches, she observed, are filled with immature Christians who are constantly asking two adolescent questions:

- (1) What's in it for me? and
- (2) Life just isn't fair: why isn't there justice?

Most of her three presentations dealt with theories of how people learn and change their values, and how people with different styles handle conflict. She urged the missionaries to use psychological testing techniques to better understand themselves and how they interact with other people so they can be more effective in their ministries.

In another major presentation to the missionaries, Paul Adkins, director of the SBC Home Mission Board Christian social ministries department, described trends in society which will affect the missionaries' work.

Adkins cited the increasing population of America over age 65, and said churches and missionaries must develop more effective programs using the skills and talents of older people. "All older people are not sick," he declared, pointing out surveys in which 80 percent of elderly persons describe their health as "good."

Entertainment is not as high on the priority of retirees as most churches seem to assume, Adkins said. Most retired persons want to use their gifts and years of experience in meaningful ministries, and to be challenged rather than entertained, he insisted.

Pointing out 35 million Americans now live in a home headed by a single parent, Adkins said churches can no longer consider their primary target audience to be "the white, middle-class family of four." Churches may also need to reconsider the pastoral image of a married man with children, he added.

He decried the increase of child abuse in today's family life, and said one fourth of all persons in the U.S. today are either victims of, or guilty of, child abuse.

"The victims of child abuse are coming bleeding and crying out of the closet," Adkins lamented. Some show up for counseling 40 years after a parent beats them with an electric cord or burns them with a cigarette, he said.

Increasingly, the victims of child abuse run away from home and support themselves by stealing, drug-dealing or peddling sex, Adkins observed.

Although the problem of child abuse may not be greater than in the past, the children and parents refused to talk about it previously. Now more are seeking help, or they are running away from the problem, Adkins added.

He cited statistics indicating one million kids between 10 and 17 run away from home each year. Although 90 percent return within 48 hours, 50,000 runaways disappear each year.

Adkins challenged churches to respond to the problems of child abuse and runaway teenagers by providing counseling, fingerprinting for children and family life conferences emphasizing preventive approaches.

In another speech at the conference, Bill Baker of Buckner Baptist Benevolences in Dallas summarized megatrends affecting family life, pointing out some churches are developing a new ministry called "shepherding homes" for runaways, homeless children and unwanted offspring of unmarried mothers who refuse to have abortions.

"Shepherding homes" are similar to foster homes, Baker said, but tend to have a strong spiritual orientation and motivation, and are less involved in legal red tape.

Worship for the three-day conference was led by Floyd A. Craig, deputy director of North Carolina's office of citizens' affairs and former staff member of the SBC Christian Life Commission.