



## **- - BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 11, 1984

84-71

Local Church Key  
To Messenger Registration

By Craig Bird

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)**—Like everything else in the Southern Baptist Convention, messenger registration for the annual meeting is the province of the local church.

"It is the responsibility of each local church to see that they follow the provisions of the convention constitution in selecting their messengers and in making sure the messengers are properly certified," said Lee Porter, registration secretary for the SBC.

"If registration cards are properly filled out and presented in Kansas City (site of the 1984 SBC meeting, June 12-14) it should take about five minutes for a messenger to register."

Since estimates of the number of messengers range from 15,000 to 20,000, the phrase "properly filled out" and "properly certified" are very important.

Messenger registration cards are available from all state convention offices and many associational offices. Churches must approve specific people as messengers at a regular or called business meeting. Each church is responsible for determining how many messengers they are entitled to elect.

Each Southern Baptist church is entitled to one messenger with additional messengers for each 250 members or for each \$250 "contributed to convention causes" during 1983. No church may have more than 10 messengers. The \$250 figure has been in use since 1931.

The provisions are printed on each messenger card.

The main insurance that the messengers are properly elected and certified belongs to local churches and the messenger's conscience, Porter admitted. It is important churches assume the responsibility to "police" themselves, even though "checks are being made to see churches do not violate provisions of the constitution."

If messenger cards are filled out "completely" and signed by either the church clerk or moderator, the messenger should have no problem being issued his badge and ballots when he comes to the registration area, Porter said.

However, cards improperly filled out will send those individuals to the credentials committee, along with would-be messengers who do not bring cards at all. Individuals may also present the credentials committee with a letter on church stationery and signed by the church clerk or moderator, listing the church membership and convention contributions during 1983 and certifying that the individual is a properly elected messenger for that church. The committee will also consider telegrams from churches, containing the same information.

If everything is in order, the messenger will then be allowed to register but the extra time and expense involved can be avoided by following the card procedures, Porter stressed.

Many problems can be avoided if churches will remember "alternate" messengers are not allowed and each messenger must be a member of the church which certifies him.

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"No messenger will be registered whose card is marked 'alternate,'" Porter said. "If an elected messenger needs to be replaced just prior to the convention the church is responsible for either securing a card for the replacement or for meeting the requirements by letter or telegram. Churches can elect alternates if they want but they can only certify 'messengers.'"

Also, no one is automatically a messenger—and the church is the only source for messengers to the SBC, he explained. "Missionaries, seminary presidents, interim pastors, denominational employees—no one—may be a messenger except as elected and certified by the church of which they are a member." And they count as one of the messengers the church is entitled to certify.

Members of mission or satellite congregations must be elected as part of the quota from the sponsoring church.

New churches must have been constituted and contributed to convention causes during 1983 to be eligible for messengers at the 1984 meeting.

Registration will open at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 10, off the main lobby of Roe Bartle Hall in Kansas City, site of the convention. June 11-14 registration will open at 8:30 a.m.

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Nicaraguan Baptist Leaders  
Condemn U.S. Policy Again

Baptist Press  
5/11/84

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP)—Nicaraguan Baptist leaders, again condemning U.S. support for rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government, have issued another appeal to Baptists worldwide to help change U.S. policy.

"It is urgent that we make an all-out effort, now while there is still time, to stop the plans for war and destruction designed against us. We need your help to achieve peace," stated the "pastoral letter," signed by Baptist Convention of Nicaragua President Gonzalo Mairena, Executive Secretary Tomas Tellez and Secretary Javier Talavera.

The letter, dated March 28, echoed two letters released last year by the convention and its executive committee. It charged the U.S. government with "blocking, attacking and destroying the life aspirations of (the Nicaraguan) people."

(Nicaragua has not been listed as a Southern Baptist mission field since two Southern Baptist missionary couples left the country in 1982 on the recommendation of Baptists there. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, which maintains a non-political stance, sent hunger relief funds to Nicaraguan Baptists during that year. Shipments of Christian literature from the board's Spanish-language publishing house to Nicaraguan Baptists resumed in December 1983, after a two-year lull.)

The latest letter claims the United States has ignored invitations to negotiate with Nicaragua, as well as the peace efforts of the Contadora Group (the foreign ministers of Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Colombia, who are attempting to promote a regional peace).

Nicaraguan Baptist leaders have generally supported the actions of their own government, though some prominent church members have left the country bitterly disappointed with life under the new regime.

In contrast, Roman Catholic leaders in the overwhelmingly Catholic country have sharply criticized the Nicaraguan government for what they see as harassment and manipulation of their churches, muzzling of the press and abuse of human rights.

Both the Carter and Reagan administrations have, in fact, negotiated with the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, and the United States officially supports the Contadora Group's work. But "covert" CIA support for anti-government rebels in Nicaragua has been open knowledge for more than a year. U.S. officials privately maintain such support will pressure the Nicaraguan government to cease arms shipments to rebels in El Salvador.

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In addition to U.S.-backed rebels, several of the rebel factions follow former Sandinista revolutionaries or exiled Nicaraguan politicians who deny accepting CIA aid. Those groups claim the Sandinista regime has betrayed the 1979 revolution.

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HMB-N

Baptists In Europe Retreat  
At Former Hitler Hideout

By Everett Hullum

Baptist Press  
5/11/84

BERCHTESGADEN, Germany (BP)—Baptist chaplains, military personnel, pastors and families in Europe spent four days in praise and celebration at the hotel used by Adolph Hitler as his retreat hideout.

Instead of plotting world domination and the annihilation of millions under the banner of the swastika, Baptist chaplains meeting at Hitler's hideout praised the Creator of all and sought ways to minister to the needs of people under the banner of the cross.

More than 300 attended the 29th annual Armed Forces Baptist Retreat at Berchtesgaden, the only inter-service gathering of Baptist chaplains in Europe. More than half attended for the first time, a result of the continual turnover of military personnel in Europe.

There are an estimated 500 chaplains in Europe, including 53 Southern Baptists and 15 American Baptists. Most chaplains attending were from Germany, with a few coming from Turkey, Spain and Italy.

Baptist pastors present represented 46 churches and missions of the European Baptist Convention, composed of off-base churches begun by military personnel and chaplains. Most of the 3,700 members are military, although some are American civilians who work for U.S. companies with European offices.

Purpose of the retreat, said Carl Hart, director of chaplaincy for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, "is to bring together Baptist chaplains and their families, pastors of Baptist churches and other Baptists in Europe in order to create a sense of unity and denominational closeness."

The retreats were started in 1955 by the first HMB chaplaincy director, Alfred Carpenter, who wanted chaplains to feel they were not forgotten by their churches and people back home.

Through the years, the retreat has changed little, said Pat Davis, director of military chaplaincy for the HMB and a retreat participant in the 1950s when in Europe as an Army chaplain.

The program this year featured worship, recreation, Bible study and workshops. Except for one outside speaker, Bible study leader Foy Valentine of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, all messages, devotionals and workshops were given by European-based chaplains or civilians.

The retreat is "a chance to get refilled and refreshed, to come back to our roots," said Navy Chaplain Rudy Viera of New Mexico, stationed in Spain.

"It's always a spiritual uplift like Glorieta or Ridgecrest (Baptist Conference Centers in New Mexico and North Carolina)," said Chaplain Lt. Col. Max Burgin of North Carolina, newly elected president of the Armed Forces Baptist, Europe, which plans and organizes the retreat.

Burgin, stationed in Germany, said the responsibilities for planning and preparation are so hectic the duties prevent some chaplains from giving full attention to the spiritual renewal and growth aspects of the retreat.

In a feedback session evaluating the sessions, many expressed interest in future retreats becoming "more intimate gatherings" in which HMB chaplaincy leaders and other resource personnel could minister to the unique needs of European-based chaplains.

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That option would please Hart, who has intentionally kept a low profile "so the chaplains can run their own retreat. We're here to serve them, to meet the needs of our chaplains and their families," said Hart.

Whatever future direction the retreat takes, Hart said he hopes they will be rewarding, fulfilling experiences for chaplains serving as missionaries in demanding areas. "It is important for them to know they have the love and support of Southern Baptists," Hart said.

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Baptist Volunteer Gets Lift  
By Embassy After Kidnapping

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press  
5/11/84

FMB-N

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—Southern Baptist volunteer pastor Steve Fox got an unexpected ride in an American Embassy car May 8, just after a Presbyterian missionary was seized near Fox's church in Beirut, Lebanon.

But Southern Baptist missionaries in Beirut reportedly have taken no extra safety precautions after assailants kidnapped Presbyterian pastor Benjamin T. Weir in west Beirut.

Weir is the fourth American in three months to be kidnapped in Beirut. A 30-year veteran of Beirut mission work, he is known personally by the Southern Baptist missionaries there.

Fox, a Mission Service Corps volunteer from Dayton, Ohio, who is pastor of University Baptist Church in Beirut, was out visiting for his church when the kidnapping occurred, reported Finlay Graham from Cyprus. Graham is the Foreign Mission Board's field supervisor for the Middle East. "The embassy knew about it, and they sent a car to take him home so he would not be alone walking the streets," Graham said.

"The missionaries are doing quite well. They're not panicking, and they're not planning to leave," said Graham. In fact, when Graham called Beirut missionary Jim Ragland, of Wetumka, Okla., for details of the kidnapping, Ragland, his wife and two other missionaries were on their way to visit a local family. "They're going about business as usual," Graham said.

"All were very much concerned, and, of course, very grateful it was not one of our missionaries although we feel very much for Mrs. Weir. They did not feel like they were in any extra danger. They (kidnappers) may have just picked this man up at random. He looked like an American with probably no relation to his being a missionary. That is my guess."

Weir was walking near his home close to the American University of Beirut when he was nabbed by a group of men who jumped out of a car. According to wire service reports, a man claiming to represent Islamic Jihad, a shadowy group taking responsibility for some terrorist attacks in Beirut, took responsibility for Weir's kidnapping, as well as that of two other Americans. Jeremy Levin, Beirut bureau chief for the Cable News Network, has been missing since March 7 and William Buckley, a political officer at the embassy, was kidnapped March 17.

The spokesman for Islamic Jihad said the abductions were to reaffirm that the group "won't allow any American on Lebanese soil." Unidentified men have claimed responsibility on behalf of the group for last year's bombing of U.S. Marine headquarters and a French paratroop building in Beirut and an Israeli post in southern Lebanon, according to wire reports.

Southern Baptist mission work in Beirut is now proceeding much as it was before Feb. 6 when Moslem militiamen swept through west Beirut with bulldozers, trucks and other vehicles they commandeered. In the violence that followed, six adults and five children from the Southern Baptist mission in Lebanon evacuated to the port city of Larnaca, Cyprus, aboard U.S. transport ships.

All of the missionaries who evacuated the city have returned except Pat Dunn of Mobile, Ala., and Mack and Linda Sacco, of Gilroy, Calif., and McAlester, Okla. Mrs. Dunn is living in Cyprus where her daughter, Ashleigh, 13, is attending school. Pete Dunn, also of Mobile, is executive director of the mission's radio recording studio. The Saccos are on emergency leave in McAlester.

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Beirut Baptist School, which took in 100 refugees during some of the fiercest fighting, and Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, which closed during a period of intense fighting nearby, are going full strength again, reported Graham. All classes at Beirut school are in session and buses are running. School principal Ragland expects graduation exercises to be held the end of July.

Baptist churches in the city are again operating normally, added Graham. In fact, members of Fox's church gave more than double their goal for a delayed Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Even though attendance had dropped by more than half, the church collected more than \$600 Easter, far exceeding a \$250 goal.

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Baptist College  
To Borrow \$1 Million

Baptist Press  
5/11/84

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)—The South Carolina Baptist Convention will negotiate a \$1 million loan for Baptist College at Charleston to help the school pay outstanding debts.

The loan will be used to help liquidate accounts payable at the four-year Baptist school, one of four colleges and universities sponsored and supported by the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

The loan will use as collateral the general board staff's contingent reserve fund mandated by the convention. The fund is 25 percent of the state convention's annual basic operating budget. Currently, the contingent reserve fund amounts to \$4 million.

"The general board made a decision on the basis of the best option open to them," said Ray P. Rust, executive secretary-treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. "Other decisions would have had an immediate negative impact upon all our mission work, institutions and agencies. The board chose this approach in an effort to avoid that jeopardy."

General board members agreed to the loan after John A. Fincher, acting president of Baptist College in Charleston, presented a financial report which indicated the school is deeply in debt. Audits show outstanding student accounts receivable alone amount to some \$1.2 million.

Besides authorizing the state convention's executive committee to seek the loan, the recommendation also calls for a "serious intensified effort" to be made to collect outstanding student accounts receivable.

The recommendation says trustees of Baptist College will be "involved in contacting the individuals who could respond immediately to the need for \$350,000 to \$400,000 in urgent financial assistance."

The general board pledged its support of efforts to rescue the college by agreeing an "outside consultant with expertise in resolving crises" be retained in order to: precisely identify the college's total financial obligations; provide management guidelines to set in place, and monitor the situation at least for the oncoming year.

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One-Of-A-Kind Program  
At Missionary Center

By Marty Croll

FMB-F

Baptist Press  
5/11/84

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP)—About two miles from the general store in Rockville, Va., Texan Dara Galloway is preparing to tackle one of the most significant undertakings of her life.

Galloway is in the first group of Southern Baptist foreign missionary families to use the newly built Missionary Learning Center and participate in an orientation program its creators say is one-of-a-kind.

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By the time she leaves June 3, she should know a great deal more about herself and other people—and how to take on an identity in line with the West African country where she will work.

The \$9 million complex of 20 contemporary buildings is clustered by a pond on farmland 35 minutes northwest of Richmond, Va. It opened in April, marking a new era in preparing Southern Baptist missionaries for foreign service.

"We realize we're here for a purpose, to prepare for something tremendously important," Gallimore said. "And I have sensed that, for me, this is absolutely the perfect place."

The Missionary Learning Center does not attempt to duplicate the wide range of field conditions missionaries could encounter. But it does attempt to help them sharpen their emotional, mental and spiritual eyesight and learn to live closely with other people.

"There are several ways they throw you all together," said Mike Dietz, a former Texas pastor headed to Chile. "They put you in learning groups and groups by the area of country you are going to. In your living quarters four families share the same living room and all eat together. You are forced to relate to people...even more so than in church settings. I think that's good."

Southern Baptists' new facility will serve as training ground for everyone the Foreign Mission Board sends out, and includes special orientation for the new missionaries' children—something never done before. It represents one step for reaching a goal of maintaining 5,000 missionaries on the field by the year 2000. The denomination now has a missionary force of more than 3,350.

Already several Christian groups have begun studying the Missionary Learning Center as a possible model for orienting their missionaries. As far as officials at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board can tell, the center is the only facility in use in the world designed to prepare entire Christian missionary families to leave one culture and be absorbed into another.

Until this year, career and associate missionaries have been trained at Callaway Gardens, a resort facility near Pine Mountain, Ga. Journeymen have been trained at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C., and volunteers have been trained in the board's main offices in Richmond, while staying in nearby hotels.

Past facilities were adequate for classroom-style teaching, but the surroundings were less than ideal for creating an atmosphere of preparation. At Callaway Gardens, for example, missionaries went to class while other residents teed off on the golf course.

The new center was designed to foster a lifestyle of learning and accountability. The missionaries spent half of their first day, April 9, deciding what they wanted to learn and what they would do during their stay to learn it.

Less emphasis is placed on space for lecturing, and more on space for independent study, learning in groups, and generally just living together. "By starting from scratch, we were able to design the physical facility in light of an emphasis on learning," said Tim Brendle, manager of career orientation for the Foreign Mission Board.

"We were told a lot of what happens on the field will depend on how well you depend on the Lord and are able to work with other people," Gallimore explained. "It's a tremendous experience to be so dependent, interdependent and independent at the same time. This is just a little part of what we will find on the field, I guess."

Housing units at the center are designed to hold up to four families. The families have private sleeping and eating facilities but share a common great room without a television set.

Dietz and his wife, Janis, of Texas, have four children ages one to 10. They have found the living arrangement particularly helpful when they needed to be out of their home, and another couple could stay with the children—or vice versa. "We've pretty well gone together to share the responsibilities," said Dietz.

Most new missionaries are used to single family living, said Brendle. "These (living) units should help them experience a transition into a new living situation with all the stress that goes with that."

The center's program buildings have several informal discussion areas where missionaries can engage in "shared learning." Because, for the first time, program content will be tailored to individual needs, missionaries will be assigned study carrels for independent study. Also, a media center with constantly updated information on the countries and cultures to which Southern Baptists minister—greatly expanded from similar setups in the past—will be at the missionaries' disposal.

A school for missionary kids (MKs) takes up an entire building. For the first time ever—as far as Principal Corella Ricketson can determine—an effort will be made during orientation to prepare MKs for a major life change in which they have no choice.

The MK school seeks to meet three basic needs: providing a quality education for the children of missionaries during their eight-week orientation period; orienting the children to their places of service through visits from internationals and practical cultural activities, and educating the entire family through parent-child activity on MK-parent relationships.

"The child is not called by God," said Ricketson, a Southern Baptist missionary mom herself for 17 years and the wife of an MK. "We want to try to let the parents know what kinds of demands are placed on an MK and provide some information on MK lifestyles."

One significant advantage to the center is it allows more frequent sessions with fewer missionaries in each, reducing overcrowding and confused scheduling. A second training session for journeymen, the college graduates who work two years alongside missionaries, and two additional sessions for career missionaries will help spread the load throughout the year. Program time for 1985 is already nearly booked solid.

Another advantage the center makes possible is a new program of debriefing missionaries in the States on their first furlough. The board hopes this will help them review their work, identify gaps in their training or skills and possibly prevent resignation down the road.

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(BP) photo mailed to Baptist state newspapers May 4 by Richmond bureau of Baptist Pr ss

Ministers Urged To Blend  
Emotion With Intellect

By Nancy Barcus

Baptist Press  
5/11/84

WACO, Texas (BP)—Most ministers have only "moderate intellect, a moral standard not higher than average and great glibness of speech."

A stinging indictment of modern-day preachers?

No, the words were penned in the 19th century by famed novelist George Eliot as an attack on that era's clergymen.

But Baylor University religion professor John Davidson thinks there may be a bit of warning in those words for pastors today. Consequently, he seeks to correct that age-old criticism with some hard-hitting advice for his college students, many of whom are preparing for the ministry.

First, he recommends they avoid glib and superficial sermons by seeking a careful balance between what he calls "ecstasy" and "intellection." The two halves of faith—emotional response and a carefully reasoned interpretation—must operate together, he says.

Too often, a minister stresses one aspect to the exclusion of the other, Davidson said. The result is either an irrational and emotional faith or a cold and factual sermon that never touches the hearts of the hearers.

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Davidson urges his students to have intellectual honesty at all costs. Developing this attitude may involve pain and temporary fear because new ideas and discoveries sometime seem to disprove the Christian faith, he said.

But Davidson is convinced a preacher who is not afraid to "examine all freshly discovered truth" will find ways to relate new knowledge to God's truth. Without that hard intellectual work, ministers will be passing on a shallow faith, he fears. They will be guilty of an "intellectual schizophrenia" which divides thought and feeling into separate compartments.

Most important of all, Davidson believes, ministers must hold on to the vision of ministry as a divine vocation. "Refuse to become a 'professional' as other professionals," he said. "Rather, be a member of a helping service. Give yourself without expectation of reward, and don't deal in gimmicks and techniques as a substitution for true servanthood."

A dazzling pulpit performance may lead to greater popularity and success, he says, but it undercuts the slow, thoughtful process that leads to authentic Christian leadership. Pastoral burnout may be the result of such shallow professionalism, he warns.

Far better than hollow success is "taking people into a redemptive relationship with God as a way of life," he says.

A desire for popularity and success should have no place in a minister's life, Davidson said. A true servant and follower of Christ must live by the principle of the cross, rather than listen for the approval of the crowd.

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B55B-F

Family Leaders Urged  
To Address Changes

By Gail Rothwell

Baptist Press  
5/11/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—If you are married and between the ages of 20 and 39, there is a 49 percent chance your marriage already is heading for trouble. If your child was born in the 1980s there is a 59 percent chance he or she will live with only one parent before reaching 18.

These statistics may sound harsh but they are very much reality, based on national research figures compiled by Paul C. Glick, professor of sociology at Arizona State University and former demographer for the United States Census Bureau.

Although the statistics reflect the population of the United States as a whole, Southern Baptist families are not exempt from these crisis situations.

For Southern Baptists to try to change the reality of the world situation would be a mammoth task, according to Doug Anderson, head of the Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department. "But we can begin to alter the church family by reclaiming the image of the church as the family of God," he explained.

Noting the number of single-parent households will increase by 33 percent by 1990, Anderson said, "The concept of the church as a family is important to all persons, not just the traditional nuclear family. For youth who are being reared in single parent homes the church can provide a sense of family. The church should also be an advocate for the needs of single and senior adults," he said.

Anderson explained there is a "high marriage death rate" among young adults, 20-39, because of the many developmental pressures in a marriage relationship.

He believes all couples go through an adjustment period, but may lose hope during this time and instead opt out of the relationship.

"If we can instill into people that the church is the family of God we can begin to change relationships," Anderson said. "Couples and others can find fellowship, stability and a sense of belonging not offered to them by the world."

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There is an urgent need for churches to begin ministering to couples and families because the divorce rate among young adults is not expected to peak until 1990, he said.

"The divorce rate is already 49 percent among young adults. Unless the church begins to take a preventative approach to ministry more marriages will fail," Anderson stressed. "Baptist couples are not exempt from the pressures of the world. They face the same type of crises as anybody, but the church can help by providing training opportunities, resource materials and a helping hand."

Anderson believes another problem faced by young adults is the loss of a value system and authority figures or role models. "We are living in a time when Christians do not even see or feel that a value system is binding," he noted. He attributed part of the loss of a value system to the fact there are very few valid authorities in the lives of young adults today.

The lack of a "religious" authority figure/role model has evolved over the past few decades, Anderson said. "Southern Baptists and other grass roots religions were not highly literate in the past. As more persons obtained more education, the result was an increasing number of pastors who were not as well educated as their congregations. This resulted in a loss of the authority figures' credibility for many young people," explained Anderson.

Along with the educational revolution came a rise in the number of working women. "On the educational level women were being treated equally with men; therefore, it was a natural transition for them to move into the work force and expect equal rights there," he said.

Although census statistics show the divorce rate is higher in households where women work, Anderson stressed the changing role of women does not in and of itself cause divorce.

Although family ministry must be an ongoing process of the church, the Southern Baptist Convention will highlight family enrichment during the 1984-85 church year.

An ongoing program of family ministry should include periodic conferences and seminars designed to enrich every facet of family life. Christian family values should be regularly emphasized through worship and educational organizations.

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

(Note: This story is the first of a three-part series. Parts two and three will deal with issues related to church ministries with senior adults and single adults.)

Ford Criticizes Media,  
Calls For Renewal

By Michael Tutterow

Baptist Press  
5/11/84

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—The media exerts more influence on today's Christians than the Bible and may be a significant hindrance to revival, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board staffer Joe Ford feels.

Ford, HMB associate vice president of evangelism, told more than 380 people at the Fourth National Prayer for Spiritual Awakening Conference at Glorieta, N.M., Baptist Conference Center, the church is conforming to a worldly standard shaped by the media and contrary to the Bible.

"Today we're not living by a word from God but by a word from the media," he charged. Ford added that what Christians hear determines how they think and act and warned the media gradually desensitizes Christians to immoral practices.

"We believe we can screen out the effects," said Ford. But, he noted, if 60 seconds of commercial time can sell people on a product, an hour of programs like "Dallas" and "Dynasty" can undermine morality.

He noted the average one-half hour television program depicts eight violent acts; the average American watches television 49 and a half hours a week. "We are serving ourselves a diet of abnormal and deviant behavior in the name of entertainment," Ford concluded.

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In addition, he added, "The media ignores the reality of God and his work in the world and aggressively attacks it." Sin is glorified and depicted in "lurid detail" while problem solving is simplified to 30 minutes, creating no sense of perseverance or character building, he said.

A recent survey on moral viewpoints rated media personnel in conflict with Christians on issues of abortion and sexual practices, Ford pointed out. The survey recorded 90 percent of persons in the media approved of abortion, 75 percent condoned homosexuality and 54 percent said adultery was acceptable.

Media personnel create programming which models their beliefs, Ford charged, which gradually influences those who watch it to become tolerant of immorality.

Christians, he stressed, must renew their minds with God's word and reject the immoral philosophy espoused in the media.

Ford lambasted the media for claiming openness to all points of view while consistently portraying Christians as foolish, naive or dishonest. He also took exception to the argument that some Christian groups are attempting to legislate morality, asserting "every law in the land is based on someone's moral judgment."

He encouraged Christians to "renew their minds" by spending more time reading the Bible instead of watching television. He recommended Christians cut back on their television viewing and spend more time talking with family members or engaging in other more wholesome activities.

He called on Christians to make a commitment to read the Bible and other Christian literature at least as much as newspapers or news magazines. "How can we ever expect to be instruments of revival if we are not bringing our thoughts captive to Christ?" he questioned.

He also suggested Christians exercise regularly, write down personal and family ministry goals for the year, memorize Scripture, place religious sayings or pictures in their homes to remind them of God, and spend 30 minutes "minimum" in prayer each day.

"Christians are more concerned with looking good than being good; they are more concerned with offending others than offending God," he added. "We cannot be more interested in taste than in truth or we'll find ourselves unable to discern between hype and holy."

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'Lottery!' Loses  
In TV Ratings

Baptist Press  
5/11/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—"Lottery!" has come up a loser. The controversial television series has been cancelled by ABC-TV following consistently dismal ratings.

When the show was introduced last fall it triggered a protest from a Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission staff member for its "pro-gambling propaganda."

Larry Braidfoot, director of citizenship development for the national agency, urged Southern Baptists to express their opinions to the show's sponsors and to ABC-TV.

The series was dropped, but months later was reintroduced and its executive producer threatened to take "all appropriate legal action" against Braidfoot and the SBC agency if the protest resulted in "prejudicing the commercial value and future" of the series.

In turn, Braidfoot and CLC Executive Director Foy Valentine responded the threat was a "transparent publicity gimmick" aimed at boosting the program's sagging ratings. The show's cancellation, said Braidfoot, is "an obvious indication the gamble never paid off."

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