



BAPTIST PRESS

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July 2, 1984

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FMB-N

Snowstorm Drops Deep Load; Baptists Send Food, Blankets

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP)--Southern Baptists are sending food, blankets and medicine to victims of a snowstorm which has covered western Argentina with six feet to 30 feet of snow.

Ten deaths have been confirmed and several thousand people have been evacuated from homes where they lacked food, fuel and other supplies, said Mell Plunk, chairman of the Argentine Baptist Mission. A great number of livestock has also been lost.

Plunk, from Dallas, said the snowstorm is being called the worst in 40 years in some parts of the country. It began in mid-June in northern Argentina and moved south along the Andes over a two-week period. Winter just began in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Baptist mission requested \$5,000 in Southern Baptist hunger and relief funds for immediate aid to be distributed through the Department of Social Ministries of the Argentine Baptist Convention. Argentine Baptists will work through local pastors and laymen with government contacts to distribute food, medicine, blankets, wood and kerosene. Plunk believes the mission will request additional aid after Baptists make a more complete survey of needs.

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Pro-Gambling Bill Hits Snag In House

Baptist Press
7/2/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--A mounting gambling initiative in Congress was derailed June 28 when a House subcommittee voted 4-2 not to mark up a bill which would remove federal restrictions on interstate advertising of casinos and lotteries.

The Administrative Law Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee elected not to report the bill (H.R. 5097), even though it had ignored a request to delay markup hearings until spokespersons against the legislation had an opportunity to speak. The request had been made by Larry Braidfoot, general counsel and director of Christian citizenship development for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The legislation would allow casinos and lotteries to advertise even in states where such gambling activities are illegal.

Gambling industry lobbyists who attended the meeting expressed surprise at the vote. Voting "no" on the motion to report the bill were Reps. Sam Hall (D-Texas), Thomas Kindness (R-Ohio), Bill McCollum (R-Fla.) and Clay Shaw (R-Fla.). Voting for the bill were Reps. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Howard Berman (D-Calif.).

Prominent among the bill's supporters was James Ritchie, representative for the Golden Nugget, Inc. (an Atlantic City casino), the Nevada Resort Association and the Gaming Industry Association of Nevada, Inc. Ritchie was executive director of the 1976 Presidential Commission which reviewed national policy on gambling. He has been a primary spokesman before Congressional committees considering the gambling advertising legislation.

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Ritchie's own words, however, were used against him in a letter from Braidfoot to members of the House subcommittee. Braidfoot quoted from an address Ritchie gave at the International Gaming Congress where he stated, "There is no question that gaming is regressive in terms of raising revenue. It is inefficient compared with a broadbased tax."

"The theory we developed at the U.S. Commission on Gambling," Ritchie continued, "is that, from the standpoint of economics, legal gaming not only feeds on itself and is its own economic stimulus, but it also stimulates illegal gaming."

Although pleased with the subcommittee vote, Braidfoot pointed out the bill also has been referred to the Post Office Committee in the House and that its companion bill in the Senate (S. 1876) has been reported out of committee.

He urged Baptists "to practice some positive citizenship" by applauding the stand of representatives who voted against the bill.

"We need to encourage them and others because the pressure is going to intensify greatly," he said, adding that several committee aides indicated the legislation is being supported by 'powerful influence' in Washington.

The Senate bill was introduced by Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.), general chairman of the Republican National Committee and a close friend of President Reagan. "Although support for this legislation comes from both parties, Laxalt's power and influence makes opposition to this legislation both difficult and important," said Braidfoot.

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Hill Actions Signal Stable
Nonprofit Postal Rates

By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press
7/2/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--Actions by the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate Appropriations Committee signaled the probability of a slight or no increase in nonprofit postal rates for fiscal 1985.

In passing its fiscal 1985 Treasury-Postal Service Appropriations bill June 27, the House of Representatives allocated \$793 million for the "revenue foregone" subsidy which provides reduced mail rates for a wide range of nonprofit and other mailers, including churches and Baptist state papers. The next day, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$801 million for the subsidy, the amount estimated by the Postal Service needed to maintain current rates through fiscal 1985.

The revenue foregone subsidy reimburses the Postal Service the difference between rates charged nonprofit and other preferred-rate classes and regular commercial mail rates. Nonprofit groups covered under the preferred rates include religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic, agricultural, labor, veterans and fraternal organizations.

Nonprofit rates are currently at step 14 of a 16-year phasing process Congress began in 1970 to gradually move these rates toward covering the full costs directly attributable to handling these classes of mail.

The House Appropriations Committee had sent to the floor a \$12.8 billion package containing the full \$801 million for the revenue foregone subsidy, but the House agreed to a floor amendment reducing most items in the bill by one percent.

Specific estimates of how the \$793 million voted by the House would affect nonprofit rates were not available but the amount is considerably more than the \$731 estimated by the Postal Service Board of Governors needed for a one-step increase in preferred rates.

Both House and Senate figures are well above the \$400 million requested by the Reagan administration for fiscal 1985. Earlier estimates indicated the administration proposal would result in increases of 29 to 58 percent in nonprofit rates.

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Martin Leaving
Virginia Intermont July 31

By Tom Miller

BRISTOL, Va. (BP)--James E. Martin Jr., president of Virginia Intermont College since Sept. 1, 1983, has resigned and accepted a position at an undisclosed college.

The resignation, effective July 31, was tendered to a meeting of trustees on Friday, June 22. Martin said board President Hal S. Stubbs of Bristol asked him to "keep it (the resignation) under wraps" until a board meeting on Thursday, June 28, but within hours it was announced on a Bristol radio station.

Martin then issued a quick notice to faculty and staff.

In a telephone interview with the Virginia Religious Herald, Martin cited pressures on his family resulting from conflict between himself and some faculty and students as the immediate reason for the resignation. "It was sort of hasty," he said. "We have a situation where the alternative was to take the family away."

Martin has been at odds with faculty members and students since early in his administration when he came down hard on consumption of alcoholic beverages and curtailed visitation between sexes in college dormitories.

The contest of wills became public early last December when Martin ordered the temporary removal of two charcoal sketches of nudes from an art exhibit, because the art was in an area through which persons would pass on their way to a service of dedication for a renovated theater in the Fine Arts Building.

In protest, students removed all art from the exhibit, and faculty members presented Martin an ultimatum demanding that he promise not to ever again impose "censorship."

Martin refused the faculty demand and told the Herald, "I appreciate art. I am not an art expert. But I am president of this college. If an action or activity of this college is offensive, I am ultimately responsible to the college, the community and the church with whom we have affiliation."

In the aftermath of the fall events, Martin said the family has endured severe stress. The Martins have three children, ages 11, 9 and 8 and the president's home is on campus. There have been public demonstrations against the president and other forms of harassment which took their toll on the children.

"It became obvious," said Martin, "that the hostility from faculty and students was going to continue next year."

Martin said, "The potential is great (for Virginia Intermont)," and added, "I loved my job and I love the work, but if we were to be successful we were going to have to pull together."

"The foundation is here, and I hope they will rally around the new president," said Martin. "I regret very, very much we are leaving."

Martin reported he has submitted to the board of trustees a balanced budget for 1984-85.

Returning to the subject of conflict, the president said, "I wouldn't have done it any other way. I appreciate the support I have had from people throughout the state and nation. There are far too many (letters) for me to make individual replies."

Martin declined to reveal his destination after July 31, but said, "We will head closer back home to Texas," and acknowledged his new position will be in education.

Martin came to Virginia Intermont from the position of dean of men at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Baptists Urged To Support
Drive Against Alcohol Ads

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptists have been urged to support a national campaign against the advertising of alcoholic beverages on radio and television.

Ronald D. Sisk, director of program development for the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, praised Project SMART (Stop Marketing Alcohol on Radio and Television) as a "realistic venture to end alcohol advertising's assault on our homes and families."

The national petition drive, intended to reduce the pressure on young people to drink, was launched June 25 by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the National PTA, the National Council on Alcoholism, Action for Children's Television and other supporting organizations. The project hopes to collect one million signatures.

The petition asks the President and Congress to ban TV and radio ads for alcoholic beverages or to require broadcasters to give equal time to health messages about alcohol. It points out public airwaves annually carry more than \$500 million worth of ads for beer and wine, even though "alcohol abuse and alcoholism are American's No. 1 drug problem."

Sisk noted that Congress 15 years ago banned cigarette advertising from television because of the health dangers in smoking tobacco. "Alcohol," he said, "is every bit as dangerous. By itself, it is the third leading cause of death in the United States today."

Alcohol advertising, Sisk added, "is designed to make drinking seem grown-up, exciting and sexy. Children and young people are bombarded with these kinds of messages without counterbalancing health education or help in interpreting their claims."

Southern Baptist families, he said, "should no more allow alcohol to be pushed in our living rooms through television than we would allow heroin to be sold there."

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BSSB-N

Elder Claims Adherence
To Biblical Conservatism

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
7/2/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder urged employees to adhere to the institution's 93-year heritage of maintaining a biblical conservative stance and staying in touch with Southern Baptist people during a recent chapel address.

Elder made his comments to employees and eight new trustees attending orientation sessions, describing his personal deepening impressions of the denomination after the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

"If we stand as biblical conservatives we're standing right in the middle of where we've been since 1845 (the year the convention was formed,)" Elder emphasized. "There is a new rise of those of us who are biblical conservatives to reassert ourselves as mainstream grass-roots Southern Baptists."

Elder said he will not describe himself as a moderate (a label sometimes attached to persons described as denominational loyalists). "I'm zealous about the conservative position," which he said includes belief in the authority of Scripture, the virgin birth, atoning death and visible return of Christ.

However, he emphasized, "That does not mean I have taken a political stand. It just means that Southern Baptists are biblically conservative and I don't want a small group to claim that as a political wedge in Southern Baptist life." He told employees, "Don't let anything ever drive a wedge between you and the churches. We can make a difference if we stay in touch with Southern Baptist people and churches. There should be no cause for suspicion to be linked unapologetically to the denomination."

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"We (Sunday School Board) will not be conquered or controlled by any faction of the convention. We are going to stay out of the political battles of Southern Baptists," Elder said. "But we are going to speak up for the denomination and the board."

Elder urged all biblical conservatives to be "unapologetically denominational without loss of individual freedom, biblical authority or local church autonomy. We are for the Cooperative Program. We need convention leaders who support worldwide mission enterprise through the Cooperative Program. We are for our sister institutions."

In Kansas City, Elder said he was both inspired and challenged during the reports of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards. However, on Wednesday night in the midst of the drama of the call by FMB President R. Keith Parks to involvement in world missions, Elder said he was grieved and disappointed to observe political caucuses on the convention floor in preparation for the business session to follow.

"This world is lost without Jesus. We need to be taking the gospel to the world," Elder protested. "Messengers need to be prepared (for business sessions) one by one, not by caucuses or political huddles. I do not believe the Lord will look with pleasure on us as Southern Baptists as long as that is our dominant way of doing business."

Concerning the resolutions process, Elder said he sees a diminishing value of resolutions. "They have been valuable for messenger participation and as a safety valve for the free expression of thoughts and feelings," he said.

However, he said he fears resolutions are becoming a "battleground of partisanship, a test of fellowship and implied directives. I'd like to see one resolution, on appreciation to the host city, introduced in Dallas (site of the 1985 convention)," he quipped.

Elder said the 1984 resolution on ordination and the role of women in ministry illustrates an issue on which Southern Baptists hold honestly differing opinions.

"There are many devout, Bible-believing Southern Baptists who have different interpretations about what the Bible says. The wisdom of Southern Baptists has been to recognize this. Ordination of women is not a test of conservative orthodoxy or of Baptist fellowship. We must be patient with each other at this point."

Calling ordination of women a local church matter, Elder said, "ordination has not been an issue with the Sunday School Board and will not be. We have emphasized the calling and gifts and skills of the men and women who are employed here, not the issue of ordination.

"I am grateful for the gifted women who have invested their lives in the work of this board," he added. "This board could not have done its work down through the decades if we had not God-called men and women laboring at the task."

In another matter, Elder said it is being reported by representatives of the fundamentalist political faction that they are tape recording conferences, speeches and lectures of seminary professors and employees of SBC institutions.

"I say to you very sadly that this is not the Southern Baptist way of doing things; that is not biblical conservatism," Elder said. "But let the tape recorders run. Let us stay close to Jesus Christ and close to Holy Scripture and close to Southern Baptists. Let us believe in what God has asked us to do.

"What is said to Southern Baptists about this great board, let us be saying it," Elder added. "If we are not proactive in communication, there are those who will use half-truths and distortions to make it appear we are not in touch with Southern Baptists.

"We believe in open, candid communication. Let us tell the story, tell it straight, tell it unapologetically and then do it all over again," said Elder. "The truth will win out in the war for men's souls. Let us give our best to Christ. Let this kind of spirit not quench our creativity or limit our best efforts."

Despite the problems, Elder concluded, "Southern Baptists are a great people because of the grace of God. Although we are moving through troubled times, I am convinced God wants us to be united around the cross of Jesus Christ.

"The Sunday School Board is owned and controlled by the Southern Baptist Convention and we will serve the whole convention to the best of our ability. Together we are a family doing the work of God," said Elder.

"We are grass-roots Southern Baptists. We are in step with our churches. We want to be in their heart."

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Baptists Rush 5,000 Tons
Of Grain To Mali Villages

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press
7/2/84

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries are fighting the clock to get 5,000 tons of grain to drought-stricken Mali villages before the rainy season makes roads impassable.

If rains don't come, the food crisis can only worsen for the African nation where last year's rains were 39 percent below normal and crop production was even lower--only eight percent of normal.

Already, some villages in the drier northern regions bordering the Sahara Desert contain only women and children. The men have left with the cattle, seeking their survival. The drought has brought other plagues: meningitis and measles to humans, blister beetles and leafhoppers to plants. The U.N. Children's Fund estimates 100,000 children in Mali will starve to death this year.

Norman and Beverly Coad, who became Southern Baptists' first missionaries to Mali in the fall of 1983, plan to use a network of evangelical groups to distribute grain in some of the country's hardest hit villages. Already crossing the ocean is a shipment of 5,000 tons of surplus U.S. grain, which the Coads plan to distribute to villages which normal government aid programs would not reach.

In the meantime, the Coads have accepted a small loan of grain from the U.S. Ambassador to keep the situation from deteriorating in hardest hit areas. They will repay the grain when the 5,000-ton shipment arrives.

Using surplus grain will enable the Foreign Mission Board to distribute about five times as much as it could if it had to purchase grain, said John Cheyne, the Foreign Mission Board's senior human needs consultant. The Mali mission will use more than \$170,000 of Southern Baptist hunger relief funds to provide local storage and transportation for the grain after it arrives in Mali. Ten percent of the shipment will be packaged into 22,000 bags weighing about 45 pounds each.

A group of interested Baptists in the Washington, D.C., area secured the government grain for the Foreign Mission Board.

Mission Service Corps personnel, George Foshee of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Howard Mayberry of Gastonia, N.C., are expected to arrive in Mali in August to help with grain distribution. Foshee, a long-time army chaplain who recently was interim pastor of Monument (Colo.) Baptist Church, will coordinate field distribution of the grain and Mayberry, who managed a plant in Mrral, Ohio, until his retirement in 1983, will coordinate the grain storage.

John Mills, the Foreign Mission Board's director for West Africa, said outbreaks of kwashiorkor, a protein-deficiency disease, already have been reported in Mali. "The government has great concern because that is the first step that comes before starvation really starts wiping people out," he said. "You've not seen yet the devastation that is expected."

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The worst part of the food crisis for Mali will come in August, September and October, the last months before harvest when food supplies are lowest, he said.

Mills said long hoped-for rains have begun in coastal West Africa, a good sign. They are moving inland, but no one can predict whether they will reach Mali and other countries bordering the Sahara.

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BTN Moves
To Spacenet I

BSSB-N

Baptist Press
7/2/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--BTN (Baptist Telecommunication Network) began transmitting to churches on Spacenet I satellite July 2 after the transponder was made available by the GTE Corporation following extensive tests.

BTN, the teaching and training network for churches sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, transmitted simultaneously July 2-6 on Spacenet I and Westar V, which was leased temporarily for BTN. The simultaneous transmissions were done to allow churches to locate the permanent transponder for BTN on Spacenet I.

Spacenet I and Westar V are located at 120 degrees west and 123 degrees west, respectively, according to Joe Denney, manager of telecommunications at the Sunday School Board.

To move from Westar V to Spacenet I requires only a minor adjustment of the satellite receiving antenna. There is no other satellite between the two. BTN is on transponder I on the Spacenet I satellite.

On July 2 BTN began full schedule programming of six hours each day from the network uplink facility which is located approximately three miles south of the Sunday School Board.

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AMB-N

Diplomats, Baptists Challenged
To 'Live Together In Peace'

By Daniel J. Nicholas

Baptist Press
7/2/84

NEW YORK (BP)--Ambassadors and personnel from more than 40 United Nations member countries gathered June 22 for a reception and banquet hosted by Christian ministries to the United Nations, a division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The event drew 375 persons including Southern Baptist leaders from Metropolitan New York Baptist Association and the Baptist Convention of New York, as well as guests from the Home Mission Board and several Texas churches. It honored U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for leadership toward establishing lasting peace in the world's many troubled regions.

Perez de Cuellar cancelled his attendance at the banquet because of strong commitments elsewhere but was represented by Undersecretary General Yasushi Akashi who challenged Baptists to "bring home to the members of your church the constant endeavors of the U.N. to work for human rights and individual dignity," and "practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors."

Theodore E. Mall, associate director for Christian ministries to the U.N. and host for the evening, joined Oscar I. Romo, director for language missions for the HMB, in presenting an award to Perez de Cuellar in recognition of the secretary general's "leadership of this global organization in this most critical period." The plaque also pledged prayers from Baptists for the U.N.'s efforts toward peace and quoted I Tim. 2:1.

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Musical entertainment was provided by the internationally known gospel soloist Willa Dorsey and the praise singers choir of First Baptist Church, Pasadena, Texas. The choir ended the evening with a candlelight vigil. Dorsey's performance was met with a standing ovation.

Among the U.N. missions represented by ambassadors or top level diplomats were: The USSR, the United Kingdom, India, Poland, Chile, Bolivia, Uganda, Hungary, Guatemala, Afghanistan, Cuba, El Salvador, Liberia, Iran, Brazil and Swaziland. The U.N. guests included representatives from several missions that retain only U.N. observer status including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

More than 20 diplomats from the U.N. Secretariat, including James Sutterling, director of the representation unit from the secretary general's office were also present. Sutterling led an afternoon briefing on world affairs for Baptist leaders.

Christian Ministries to the United Nations, based at 211 E. 43rd Street in New York, sponsors Bible study groups and Bible distribution in the U.N. community. Baptist families in the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association Tri-State area are encouraged to pair themselves with diplomatic families for private dinners and cross-cultural communications.

Mull reported, "tremendous response to our offer for free Bibles," at the dinner. The Bibles are available in more than 95 languages through the ministries office.

United Nations diplomats were encouraged to visit some of the Metro association's 150 churches and chapels which worship each Sunday in Arabic, English, Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese and American sign language.

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(Dan Nicholas is assistant editor of Religious Broadcasting Magazine and communications committee chairman for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association.)

Baptist Educators Reaffirm
Christian Commitment

By Ionnie Wilkey

Baptist Press
7/2/84

Ed. Comm.
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DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (BP)—In light of recent criticisms of educational institutions, some 150 Southern Baptist college and seminary administrators approved a resolution reaffirming their commitment to the "historical role of intellectual inquiry within a framework of Christian principles and Baptist doctrine."

Action took place during the annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools in Daytona Beach, Fla.

The presidents and deans also expressed in the resolution their appreciation to the Southern Baptist Convention, state Baptist conventions and churches for "past, current and continued support of Baptist institutions at which a biblically based intellectual inquiry is not only permitted but encouraged."

J. Gordon Kingsley, president of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., addressed the educators on leadership. The largest single issue facing any institution, he said is identity or mission, not survival. "The first task of leadership is to embody and articulate a sense of purpose for the school," Kingsley said.

Kingsley called for Southern Baptist educators to remain true to their schools' historic heritage of caring for the individual and having a concern for molding Christian character. "We dare not sell this birthright for a mess of cultural pottage by trying to become just like the secular institutions," he warned.

Kingsley said educators must lead their institutions to their own identity as places "where people matter, where truth is central, where God is honored and where even the highest quality we can muster is still not good enough.

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"Academic sloppy is still sloppy. In the secular school it is a darn shame; in the Christian school, it is a sin."

In another address O. Suthern Sims, president of Tift College, Forsyth, Ga., told educators "Baptist institutions of higher learning should be places where learning and piety are directly related."

Baptist institutions, Sims said, must promote the building of character through the curriculum and all supporting activities. He called for Baptist schools to be unique in higher education by promoting non-sectarian religious values. "Baptist schools can create and recreate community places where the individual is all important--places where bureaucracy can be de-emphasized and wholeness and congruity stressed," he said.

During the meeting educators also attended a public policy/legal affairs workshop. Ruric E. Wheeler, vice-president for academic affairs at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., described aspects of tenure and retirement while James P. Guenther, a Nashville, Tenn., attorney, spoke on tax exemption/tax expenditure.

The annual meeting also featured the H.I. Hester Lectures delivered by C. Penrose St. Amant, senior professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He spoke on "Undergraduate Education in Historical Perspective."

Daniel R. Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., was elected president of the association for 1984-85. Other officers are John E. Johns, president of Furman University, Greenville, S.C., vice-president; Hiran E. Barefoot, academic dean, Union University, Jackson, Tenn., secretary and Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director-treasurer of the SBC Education Commission, executive secretary.

The 1985 meeting of the association will be held June 24-26 in Nashville, co-hosted by the Education Commission and Belmont College.

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Baptist Hymns Reveal
Encounters With God

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press
7/2/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptists form many of their concepts of biblical truth and doctrine from the hymns they sing, according to Wesley L. Forbis, secretary of the church music department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"For Southern Baptists, the hymnbook is our portable systematic theology. We have captured the drama of man's encounter with God," said Forbis.

However, Forbis observed, in many churches today singing is such an expected part of the worship experience that it is a privilege often taken for granted.

The freedom to sing has not always been given to public worshipers, Forbis observed. He cited a 4th century edict of the Council of Laodicea which provides modern worshipers a look at very different times.

"Beside the Psalm singers appointed thereto who mount the ambo and sing out of the book, no others shall sing in church."

Forbis concludes "song had existed as a part of the service, specific singers were appointed to lead, the congregation was forbidden to sing and the idea of an appointed intermediary between God and man suppressed the need and the desirability of a congregation directly addressing God."

Despite the edict, the singing of popular religious music did indeed take place. "There is ample evidence to indicate that such music existed," said Forbis. "However, in public worship, only those appointed would sing."

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It was a conflict over this very theological point that returned music to the congregation. In the 15th century, John Huss died on a burning stake, as much for the fact he had produced a hymnbook for his followers as for the "heretical" theology expressed in the texts, Forbis said.

But a century later, Luther reasoned "if there is but one mediator between God and man" then each person should be able to speak directly to God. Luther's first major undertaking was to translate the mass into the vernacular so that all worshipers could participate through responses and music.

Two major problems confronted Luther: the prevailing compositional technique required the melody to be in the tenor line, and the people were not musically literate. The solution came through Luther's friend, J. Walther, a gifted musician, who developed compositions in which the melody was placed in the upper, or soprano, line. Thus, all could sing the melody.

Among the early Protestant controversies was that of whether congregational music could be drawn from the New Testament. "Again, Forbis said, "it was a theological position which determined the answer: the New Testament was the fulfillment of God's covenant."

A related question was that of using verbatim Scripture or freely composed texts. Once more, a theological position prevailed, Forbis said. The conclusion was made that we are new creatures in Christ and are to use our creative gifts for redemptive purposes.

"While congregational singing may have followed diverse paths, supported peculiar doctrinal positions and developed unique forms during its history," Forbis said, "it exists today among Southern Baptists as an expression of theology, of individual responsibility to God and redemption in Christ."

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(This is the first in a series of articles on congregational singing.)

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

Kerr, Adkins
Honored

HMB-N

Baptist Press
7/2/84

WACO, Texas (BP)—Horace Kerr of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Paul Adkins of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board have received a service award named for them.

The Southern Baptist Association on Ministries with the Aging presented Kerr and Adkins the organization's distinguished service award at a June conference in Waco, Texas, and named the award the Adkins-Kerr Distinguished Service Award.

Kerr is the supervisor of the family ministry department's senior and single adult sections at the Sunday School Board. Adkins is director of Christian social ministries at the Home Mission Board. They were cited for outstanding service to older persons. The two have worked to provide materials and resources for church senior citizens' programs.

Churches often have programs for the young but not for the older members, Kerr said in explaining his involvement in developing programs for senior citizens. Housing for senior citizens is a concern that the organization hopes to highlight in the next year, Kerr said.

Kerr has been with the Sunday School Board since 1976. He previously was the director of the Mississippi Council on Aging and was minister of education at First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., from 1959-1972.

Adkins joined the Home Mission Board in 1971 and is on the board of directors of King's Bridge, an Atlanta retirement community developed by Briarcliff Baptist Church, Atlanta. He was director of Florida Baptist Retirement Centers, Vero Beach, Fla., and Director of Aging at Buckner Baptist Church, Dallas, before joining the Home Mission Board.

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