



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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August 17, 1984

84-117

Sample: Ordination  
An Interpretation

By Leisa A. Hammett

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The church's view on ordination today is extra-biblical, Woman's Missionary Union President Dorothy Sample told directors of mission wives.

"When you look in the Bible, the word 'ordained' isn't even used," said Sample. Instead, she maintained, Bible passages like 1 Timothy 2:7, Colossians 1:25 and 1 Timothy 1:12 use words like: "appointed," "made" and "enabled," respectively. These passages have been used by conservatives in arguments against women's ordination.

"There are places (in the Bible) where there is the laying on of hands, but it's no different, in essence, to what we do when we commission missionaries. We are affirming God has called (a person) to this particular task," she explained.

Sample, who was asked prior to the Southern Baptist Convention in June to address the home missions conference, explained she was not speaking officially for WMU but felt as president she needed to relate to the convention's current discussion on women.

"WMU," she said, "has not and will not speak for or against ordination of women," and added WMU believes ordination is a local church matter. "The call is from God, the response is personal and the affirmation of that call is the responsibility of the local church."

Sample said throughout its history WMU has encouraged women to be involved in all facets of ministry. "To narrow (ministry) down to only women who are ordained," she said, "is not a proper interpretation of what has happened historically with the term ministry."

Disagreement on biblical interpretation, said Sample, is inevitable. Controversial topics must be discussed in light of Christ's teaching of "Judge not that ye be not judged," and Baptists' adherence to the doctrines of priesthood of the believer and every Christian's personal accountability to love others as Christ loved. "Sometimes we go to the wrong places for scripture interpretation," she asserted. "We often look to what's been happening traditionally or culturally or what's been handed down to us by word of mouth. We need to go to the Scripture itself."

Sample said she believes all scripture is God-inspired and useful but for different reasons. She cited the differing purposes of books of the Bible such as law, poetry, history and instruction.

"Sometimes we try to build doctrines on history or other parts," she said. "We have to ask the question, 'Does this passage present a permanent and universal truth or something that is local and temporary--permanent like the 10 commandments (or) local and temporary like the dietary laws to the Jews or some of the other Jewish laws?'"

Sample described "a senior level" of biblical interpretation as "hearts and heads open, not trying to prove anything preconceived or pretaught in our minds, but to be open to look at the whole counsel of God.

"We Christians come to Christ for eternal life but then we don't search the scriptures to really know and grow in him and allow him to live out his mandate in our lives," she said, adding scripture could be used to prove any viewpoint.

Texas Baptist News

Baptist Have Parts  
In GOP Convention

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP)—Beginning with the singing of the national anthem by a Hispanic Baptist and closing with the benediction of W.A. Criswell, the influence of Texas Baptists will be felt at the Republican National Convention in Dallas, Aug. 20-13.

Shelley Palos, a member of Templo Bautista, McKinney, will sing "The Star Spangled Banner" Monday at 8 p.m. at the first regular session of the convention.

Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, will give the benediction at the closing session Thursday evening.

Throughout the convention, Texas Baptists will offer emergency medical and counseling services, said James Cooper, coordinator of the BGCT Ministers Counseling Service.

An ad in the official guide for convention delegates lists 24-hour telephone numbers, with Baylor Medical Center providing medical assistance and the Ministers Counseling Service and CONTACT--Dallas Telephone Counseling Service offering crisis counseling.

Baptist church choirs from the Metroplex will join choir members of other faiths at an ecumenical prayer breakfast Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at Reunion Arena.

The choirs, accompanied by a 65-piece orchestra, will perform a five-part program of patriotic and religious music, including one section under the direction of Gary Moore, minister of music, Second Church, Houston.

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(Ken Camp is a writer in the Texas Baptist relations office.)

S.C. Papers  
(C) - N

Breach Of Trust Charges  
Brought Against Bryson

Baptist Press  
8/17/84

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)—A Richland County grand jury has indicted the former director of the missions department of the South Carolina State Baptist Convention.

The indictment on charges of breach of trust was returned Aug. 8 against N. Larry Bryson, who resigned March 21 from the position he had held for 10 years.

The indictment charges Bryson was entrusted with certain business affairs of the Convention's missions department and that he converted funds "to his own use and purpose with the intention of defrauding the South Carolina Baptist Convention."

Bryson resigned following a discovery by the business department of a misappropriation of slightly more than \$1,400. A subsequent audit of the department revealed discrepancies of \$36,732. Bryson made full restitution of the funds, including \$7,680 for the special audit.

Neither Executive Secretary Ray P. Rust nor the executive committee of the General Board moved to press charges against Bryson. The indictment was sought by Fifth Circuit Solicitor James Anders.

Rust, in a prepared statement released through the public relations office said: "I have been informed by the Richland County solicitor's office that an investigation has begun regarding misappropriation of funds by former General Board employee N. Larry Bryson. Although the General Board's executive committee voted not to initiate action against Mr. Bryson, our staff cooperated, voluntarily and fully, with the solicitor's office. We refer all questions in the matter to the solicitor's office."

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A spokesman in the solicitor's office said on Aug. 13 the case will be assigned to an assistant solicitor for prosecution and that a trial date will be set.

Rust was attending a meeting out-of-state and could not be reached for further comment.

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Servanthood, Not Authority,  
Is Appropriate Leader Goal

By Norman Jameson

Baptist Press  
8/17/84

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)—Servanthood, not authority, is the appropriate goal for those who would lead Southern Baptists, in-service guidance directors were told recently.

Russell Bennett, director of missions for Long Run Baptist Association in Louisville, Ky., said, "We are servants trying to help our people achieve their best."

In-service guidance directors, mostly on college campuses, train and guide students who find themselves in church staff positions before they understand the role or the denominational helps available. This year was the 25th anniversary meeting.

The meeting, held at Oklahoma Baptist University, recognized pioneers in the movement, which they credited with starting at the University of Corpus Christi, Texas, under the direction of Lewis Newman.

Newman was honored at the meeting, along with Nat C. Bettis, in-service guidance director at Oklahoma Baptist University; Garland Hendricks, for many years director of the program at Gardner-Webb, a professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and an early pioneer in the rural church movement, who is now director of the program of Gardner-Webb College in Boiling Springs, N.C.; and H.K. Neeley, first director of the ISG program at Southwest Baptist College, Boliver, Mo., now dean of the Logsdon School of Theology and Phillips Professor of Bible in religion at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas.

As a faculty member at Corpus Christi, Newman was asked by the Texas Convention men in charge of ministerial orientation if they were effective. He told them, "If you're trying to show students how busy you are and how big Baptists are in Dallas, you're doing great. If you're trying to teach them anything at all, you're doing terrible."

They were not offended but asked him to join the state convention staff to study training programs statewide. His work soon came to the attention of the Home Mission Board which asked him to start a national program to "help the people as they went through school so they'd be more effective later."

Another strong impetus to the program was trying to get students' church staff time while they were in college to count toward their time in-service requirement for appointment by the Home Mission Board or Foreign Mission Board. "If they can get students to count three years service while they're in school, through in-service guidance, think of the number of souls that can be won by thousands awaiting appointment for three years," said Newman, now a "retired" business consultant in Corpus Christi.

Fifty-eight schools participate now, up from 32 in 1973 and 44 in 1978.

Bill Neptune, current national consultant for ISG directors for the Home Mission Board, visited 20 Baptist colleges in his work last year. "I don't think there is another denominational system of higher education that can match us," he told the directors. "I didn't say excel, I said match. We have the best."

Neptune said college presidents are increasingly supportive of the program and that "in-service guidance has never had visibility and I'm thankful."

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Texas B...  
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Former Missionary 'Hurt'  
By Women's Resolution

By Terry Barone

WACO, Texas (BP)--Joy Fenner left the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City with a mixture of feelings over one of the resolutions and a deep concern for the future of missions through the Cooperative Program.

The executive director-treasurer of Texas Woman's Missionary Union voiced her concern last week during the annual WMU Leadership Conference at Baylor University. It was her first opportunity to speak to Texas WMU leaders since the convention in Kansas City in June.

Speaking to about 3,200 conference participants, Fenner said her feelings--hurt, disbelief, sickness and anger--stemmed from a resolution on the role of women, which was approved by SBC messengers.

The resolution runs counter to "what I believe the Bible teaches me about who I am as a child of God," she said.

The strongly-worded resolution opposed ordination of women and said the Bible excludes women from pastoral leadership "because the man was first in creation and the woman was first in the Edenic fall." The resolution also said, "Scriptures teach that women are not in public worship to assume a role of authority over men lest confusion reign in the local church."

A former missionary to Japan, Fenner said she came home from the convention "perplexed" Southern Baptists "could so joyfully send me to the other side of the world to communicate to Japanese that the saving work of Christ on the cross has broken down all barriers--that there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for we are one in Christ Jesus."

Throughout her WMU ministry, Fenner said she has encouraged Southern Baptist girls to accept the challenge of the Great Commission by listening to God's call.

"His call is personal to individual believers," she said. "I taught my GA's that the greatest joy comes in being obedient to his call. I felt my job as mission leader was to help create the kind of environment through which persons could hear and respond to God's call to missions in whatever form it may come."

She urged WMU leaders to "think again on the scriptural authority of the priesthood of the believer--know what you believe and courageously speak the truth in love for mission tasks."

Fenner said she has an overriding concern for the Cooperative Program, the primary support for Southern Baptists' worldwide mission causes.

Southern Baptists' strength in missions historically "has been that we cooperate to do missions," she said. "It was out of convictions on missions tasks that Woman's Missionary Union was born, not to be a missionary sending agency, but to cooperate in providing awareness, prayer and financial support for the sent ones."

Fenner urged the leaders to be informed, not only of what their churches give through the Cooperative Program, but also to make sure church members understand what the Cooperative Program is and how it works.

She also urged participants to pray specifically for Southern Baptist mission boards.

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In (BP) story "Braidfoot Says Lottery Odds Tell True Story," mailed 8/15/84, please substitute the following paragraph for the third from last paragraph.

--The New York lottery generated a \$22.1 million jackpot (44 percent) on about \$50 million wagered. The state got about \$20.5 million (41 percent) of the total wagered, with about \$7.8 million (15 percent) going toward overhead.

Thank you,  
Baptist Press

FMB-F

Mission Volunteers Win  
One-Fourth Of Student Body

By Mary Calvert

SAMOA (BP)—Ten of the 40 students enrolled at the Samoa Baptist Academy made professions of faith during the past school year. All four teachers at the school are Mission Service Corps volunteers.

"Not many can say they saw one-fourth of their student body come to know the Lord," said Almarine Cotten, MSC volunteer and teacher at the Baptist school 2,800 miles south of Hawaii.

Cotten, who is in Texas for the summer, said Bible classes are taught at the academy everyday. "And we try to relate every subject to God and how he works."

She noted the 10 students who made professions of faith came during the last three months of school on a one-to-one basis and had asked about Jesus. "I believe it was an outgrowth of our teaching all year," she said.

"We saw a change in the lives of the children who accepted Christ, and they began to behave differently," Ms. Cotten said. "We are going to go back and do some follow-up and discipling. For many, the only teaching they will have will come from the school."

American Samoa is a U.S. territory and part of the Hawaii Baptist Association.

The Samoa Baptist Academy, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Happy Valley Baptist Church in Samoa, is a school for all children living on the island. There are six MSC volunteers working at the academy, four of whom serve as the teaching staff.

Baptist mission work in Samoa began in 1977, and there are now four congregations on the island. They include Samoan, Korean, Tongan and English congregations. There are plans to begin work with the Chinese fishermen.

The people of Samoa have a Polynesian background and are very family-oriented, Cotten said.

"It would be hard for anyone to go against the beliefs of their family," she said. "But even if the adults won't listen to the gospel, they usually don't hinder the children from being open to Christianity. We have found an openness among the younger people, and they are searching."

Cotten, a native Texan, has served in Samoa for a year and will go back at the end of this month for at least one more year.

"For years I said 'Lord, I'll do whatever you want me to.' Last summer the Home Mission Board asked me to pray about going to Samoa. I just knew that was the Lord's will, and He opened the doors for me to go," Ms. Cotten said.

Last year there were 40 students at the academy. Pre-enrollment for this year has reached 57, according to Ms. Cotten. "And we need more teachers to help with our growing numbers," she said.

The most prevalent religion in Samoa is Congregationalism, Ms. Cotten said.

"The people there are very religious, but they don't know Jesus. There is a great spiritual need for Christ," she said. "We need to help them realize that Christianity is a way of life, and God needs to be involved in every area of their lives."

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Calvert was a 1984 summer intern for Texas Baptist Public Relations. She is a senior at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.)