

**(BP)****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. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

August 21, 1984

84-118

Atlanta Religious Groups  
Rally For Political SeasonAMB-N  
By Michael Tutterow

ATLANTA (BP)—Conservative Christians in the Atlanta area rallied at First Baptist Church to show their support for political candidates who espouse a return to traditional morality.

About 150 people gathered in the sanctuary Aug. 16 for the rally, sponsored by FaithAmerica, a non-denominational organization based in Phoenix, Ariz., which claims it is dedicated to preserving constitutional liberties, educating Americans about their Christian heritage and current issues and training Christians how to be effective in protecting and advancing those liberties.

Charles Stanley, president of the 14.1-million member Southern Baptist Convention, is pastor of the host church. He was scheduled to be present but was unable to because of a last-minute schedule conflict. Rally organizers said Stanley "is supportive" of FaithAmerica and "agrees in our wanting to get more Christians registered to vote."

The rally, prefaced by the playing of patriotic songs and hymns, was set as a preliminary to a Sept. 15 national Constitutional Liberties Rally in Washington. The September program will be beamed live, via satellite, to more than 700 sites throughout the nation, including the Atlanta Civic Center.

A similar rally was held in Atlanta this past spring prior to many of the state Democratic presidential primaries and was hosted by Zig Ziglar, a Dallas businessman and first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

During the rally, participants viewed about 45 minutes of video tape from the two-hour Spring rally. Footage included a speech by former Arizona congressman and FaithAmerica national president John Conlan claiming lax morality is one form of Communist aggression toward the United States designed to make the nation crumble from within.

Also shown was a clip from an address by President Reagan to a group of religious broadcasters. When Reagan was introduced on tape, the audience broke into applause.

Jim Zauderer, founder and chairman of FaithAmerica Foundation's Georgia chapter and a member of Atlanta's First Baptist Church, said the organization has grown since its Georgia beginning last January. A February rally at First Baptist Church drew 1,000 people; in April, the Constitutional Liberties Rally attracted more than 3,000 participants.

Other activities have included voter registration Sundays, corresponding with thousands of drives by churches nationwide. Zauderer said the drives represented "the first major push the Christian community has had in this area and the results have really been fantastic."

Another First Baptist Church member, Greg Brezina, a former pro-football player, said registering Christians to vote had helped to "get rid of one" unidentified Fayette County (metro Atlanta) politician. Though the office "was a small one," he contended the process will work at all levels. "If I can be salt in this sin-sick society by getting rid of corrupt politicians, stopping homosexuals, standing against abortionists, then I'll do it," he said.

Zauderer said an estimated 10-15 million Christians are not registered to vote. Nancy Shaefer, chairperson for the Atlanta chapter of FaithAmerica Foundation, said complacency "moves across this country just like fog" among many Christians who "don't want to know what's happening and willfully choose not to hear it."

--more--

She questioned why Christians don't get angry "when greed and evil and perversion and lies and murder and pornography" are allowed to go unchecked. "When God is removed from our schools, leaving them with confusion, with no discipline, with teachers who are teaching humanism, with no restraints, no boundaries, why don't we get angry?" she asked.

She advocated changing laws which allow homosexuals to have unlimited freedom and urged the election of Christians to public office "to get them to positions where policies and decisions can be altered." She added Christians should fight to get textbooks "back into the classroom that once again introduce the minds of our boys and girls to love of country, love of God, love of their Christian heritage and of their families."

Zauderer introduced Pat Swindall and Bill Bronson, who are running for congressional seats in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Both Republican candidates received strong applause. Swindall, who took 90 percent of the vote in the Republican primary, is vying for Georgia's fourth district congressional seat; Bronson is seeking Georgia's seventh district seat.

"Both of these men are committed Christians, who are politically conservative," said Zauderer. "They're both committed to a strong Judeo-Christian heritage; both these men have been endorsed by the national Right-To-Life and the Georgia Right-to-Life; both of these men deserve and should have our support."

He urged churches to get involved in voter registration and individuals to choose "one or two key Christian races" and work for candidates. "If we can send one new conservative Christian congressman to Congress from each state, we can turn this nation around," he added.

Zauderer was Reagan's state treasurer and state co-chairman from 1977 through 1980. He said in an interview following the rally he had been involved in efforts to organize Christians to vote and make an impact on the political and social scene, especially in the areas of prayer in public schools, tuition tax credits for those who send their children to private and parochial schools and anti-abortion legislation.

Although he called for support of the two Atlanta candidates, Zauderer maintained FaithAmerica endorsed no candidate, though "I may have indicated that this group should support candidates like (the two introduced at the rally)." Zauderer said he personally supports the two Georgia congressional candidates.

Zauderer encouraged participants to place information about the September rally in churches throughout the city. The leaflets advertise that both President Reagan and Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale will be present at the rally.

He said many people have asked why Mondale would appear on the program. His statement--that the positions of both men would be presented "side by side" so "every Christian can see the difference between President Reagan and Walter Mondale"--drew laughter from attendees.

He also indicated the Republican and Democratic platforms will be compared in a similar fashion, yet maintained "we're not trying to promote one party over the other." That statement also elicited laughter from rally participants.

Zauderer defended FaithAmerica's effort to sign up voters, noting voter registration is something blacks have been doing in churches for the last 20 years. "It's funny to me that when white churches begin to be involved in the same practice they're criticized," he said.

"The paradox is when Jerry Falwell spoke up on political issues in 1976 through 1980, he was chastized for doing such by the press," said Zauderer. "Yet Jesse Jackson, who is a minister, can run for president and nobody brings up separation of church and state. On the other hand you have a minister who's speaking out about how he feels about the country and the whole news media comes down on top of him like he's some wild-eyed radical. This seems hypocritical," he said.

FaithAmerica is working in conjunction with the American Coalition for Traditional Values (ACTV), a group organized by author Tim LaHay, and with the 700 Club, a Christian broadcasting group based in New Jersey.

Barber, HMB Staffer  
Dies In California

HMB-N

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--James L. Barber, assistant director of the Christian social ministries department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, died Aug. 17 of cancer.

Barber, who would have been 56 August 21, also directed youth and family services and was executive secretary to Southern Baptist association of ministries with the aging for the HMB. He had held the three-fold CSM post since 1972, making his office in San Francisco since 1979.

In 1963, Barber founded Buckner Marriage and Family Counseling Center in Dallas. He served as the center's first clinical director and administrator from 1963 until he joined the HMB staff.

Prior to beginning the Buckner center, Barber was a staff counselor for two counseling centers in Fort Worth, Texas. He also was pastor of two California churches and one Arizona congregation.

Barber, a native of Headrick, Okla., was a graduate of Grand Canyon College, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Barber performed clinical study at the U.S. Public Health Hospital in Fort Worth, and Topeka State Hospital and the Menninger School of Psychiatry, both in Topeka, Kan.

Memorial services for Barber were to be held August 20 in San Francisco. He is survived by two sisters, both of Tennessee.

--30--

Missionary Gus Verdery  
Dies In Switzerland

FMB-N

Baptist Press  
8/21/84

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--E. Augustus "Gus" Verdery, 61, first-term missionary professor at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, died Aug. 17 in Zurich. Doctors diagnosed his illness as periarteritis nodosa, an inflammatory disease of the blood vessels.

Before he and his wife, Eleanor, were appointed missionary associates in December 1982, Verdery logged 30 years as director of the department of pastoral services at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta.

In Switzerland, he taught in the area of pastoral care and counseling, and practiced what he taught. "He did a lot of personal counseling," said Isam Ballenger, Foreign Mission Board director for Europe and the Middle East. "People really valued him for that."

During his 15 months overseas, Verdery spoke frequently at missionary and pastors' conferences in Europe. Earlier this year, he participated in a pastors' conference in Poland.

Prior to missionary appointment, Verdery had taught twice previously at Ruschlikon and had led conferences for the Foreign Mission Board in the Caribbean islands, Taiwan, Japan and Brazil. He also was a part-time counselor for the Home Mission Board.

Verdery was an assistant professor and director of religious activities at Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; adjunct professor at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga.; and visiting professor at Chandler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Formerly southeastern regional director for the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, he was a field worker in the Sunday school department of the Georgia Baptist Convention and assistant pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta.

--more--

He held the associate of arts degree from Mars Hill (N.C.) College; the bachelor of arts degree from Mercer University; and the bachelor of divinity, master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern seminary. While a student he was pastor of several churches in Georgia and Kentucky.

The Harlem, Ga., native is survived by his wife, the former Eleanor Reynolds of Lexington, Ky.; a brother, Holcombe, Harlem; and a sister, Caroline (Mrs. William) Galloway, Decatur.

--30--

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

HMB-N

HMB Black Church Relations  
Language Missions Awards

By Leisa A. Hammett

Baptist Press  
8/21/84

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Baptist contributors to interracial reconciliation and deaf ministries were honored during home missions week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

The Home Mission Board's black church relations department gave three persons the Victor T. Glass award for work in racial reconciliation.

National Baptist Convention Music Director J. Robert Bradley of Nashville, Tenn., was honored for his use of music in interracial reconciliation.

"Bradley has a long history of being a part of interracial programs as a singer, using his music and musical ability to bring blacks and whites together," said Chan Garrett, associate director for the HMB black church relations department.

William T. Moore, pastor of Gracey Avenue Baptist Church in Clarksville, Tenn., was recognized for his contributions to black church relations in Louisville, Ky.; Tulsa, Okla., and the state of Michigan.

Moore directed and developed black church relations for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. He also authored "His Heart is Black" and "Speaking to the Mountain" which tell about white Southern Baptists and black Baptists working together.

Former Woman's Missionary Union President and New York Baptist Convention WMU Director Helen Fling was also honored for her leadership in interracial reconciliation ministries. According to black church relations department Director Emmanuel McCall, HMB/WMU field worker Fling developed and supported WMU interracial reconciliation work in pioneer states.

The Victor T. Glass award is presented annually by the HMB black church relations department for outstanding contributions to interracial relations.

Glass, retired director of the HMB department of work with National Baptists, (now black church relations department) presented a \$5,000 scholarship to Morehouse School of Religion. Morehouse, a black Baptist seminary in Atlanta, is the first scholarship recipient of the \$50,000 endowment established by Glass and his wife, Edith.

Edward Wheeler, former black church relations department associate director and new dean of Morehouse, presented HMB President William G. Tanner a plaque of appreciation for the HMB's support of Morehouse.

Wilbur Huckleba, pastor of the Crusselle-Freeman Church of the Deaf in Atlanta, was named the 1984 Deaf Pastor of the Year by the HMB language missions division.

Huckleba, a bi-vocational pastor, worked with deaf ministries in various Atlanta churches before pastoring the multi-ethnic Crusselle-Freeman. He also served as an officer for Georgia Baptist Conference of the Deaf and was a catalyst in the establishing of the Watchful Care Home for the Deaf, an Atlanta retirement home for deaf.

Elder Seeks Great Dreams  
For Student Work

By Frank W. White

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—"For student work to be great, there must be great dreams," Lloyd Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, told student leaders attending the Ridgecrest Student Leadership Conference.

"Leaders must paint great dreams for local church and campus involvement in student work," and campus ministers should involve local churches because "We will be at our best in student work when we focus on the local church," he said.

Working together, the local church, the Baptist Student Union, campus ministers and the Sunday School Board have the tools to equip each other in team leadership to reach students for Christ, Elder said.

Campus work is a crucial area because what is done there to change lives on campus will change the world in future generations, he pointed out.

Elder said his first contact with BSU was when a summer missionary in Fairbanks, Alaska, led him to commit his life to Christ.

"Student work is more than an assignment at the Sunday School Board. There is a deep sense of commitment to student work and to the people of student work," he said. "We have a decision to make about the commitment of our convention to missions. We must decide whether we will help to raise up Christian young people with a commitment to missions."

Getting young people committed to missions means they need to be taught the Southern Baptist heritage of missions commitment, Elder explained.

"I am appealing to you to consider laying the glory and splendor of this convention's history passionately before young people," he said.

"When we have a denomination committed to missions to the whole world, the denomination has power," Elder said.

--30--

FMB-N

Baptists Helping Sponsor  
Christian Radio To Albania

Baptist Press  
8/21/84

MONTE CARLO (BP)—Through a radio broadcast, Baptists are helping the gospel message penetrate Albania, the east European country considered by some to be the world's most atheistic state.

Since 1967, when its communist leader, Enver Hoxha, closed the 2,149 churches and mosques in the country, all religious liberty has been denied.

But since July 2, a radio program has beamed the gospel into Albania weekly through Trans World Radio facilities in Monte Carlo. The program has been jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's east European mission and the European Christian Mission.

A Yugoslav-Albanian pastor residing in the West prepares the programs in the Albanian language. Annual cost of the project is \$25,000, a major factor being the high frequency beam used to reach the country. Messages are broadcast for 15 minutes each Tuesday evening.

The Foreign Mission Board is providing approximately \$21,000 for the project and the European Christian Mission, a Yugoslav organization, approximately \$4,000.

--30--