

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
Wilmor 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. Hasty, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

November 14, 1984

84-165

Christians Are 'Ordained'
At Baptism, Miles Says

By Sherri Anthony

TOCCOA, Ga. (BP)--All Christians are called to be ministers and should consider their baptism, like ordination, as recognition by the church of that call, a Baptist seminary professor told participants in the twelfth annual Southern Baptist Lay Renewal Conference.

Delos Miles, professor of evangelism at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., said there is very little in the New Testament about ordination, but much about baptism. He suggested Christians should either "equate baptism with ordination and tie that to a radical priesthood of all baptized believers" or else develop a more "pragmatic approach to ordination."

In an interview later, Miles said baptism should be considered ordination by the church to Christian ministry, and that any ordination other than baptism is strictly a practical thing added on to facilitate the administration of the church.

Most Baptists, he conceded, do not think of baptism as an ordination to ministry, because they have confused the "pragmatic practice of ordination" as being based on Scripture, when it really is not. He said the "pragmatic practice" of ordination is the various different approaches to ordination used by churches of various faiths and denominations to facilitate the faith and order of that particular church.

Miles said he sees no evidence in the New Testament God has divided Christians into clergy and laity, male and female, ordained and unordained, or that God gives one group authority over another.

He suggested the current controversy over ordination of women in the Southern Baptist Convention is not an issue directly addressed in the Scripture.

"The New Testament," Miles said, "is far more concerned with calling and ministry than it is with ordination and authority."

Another speaker at the conference, John Havlik, who retired recently from the Home Mission Board evangelism section, defended ordination of women.

"Church leaders must not fall back on male chauvinism to deal with the problems. We must face the problem (of ordination) with the belief that in Christ there are none of these myths," he said, calling for "extraordinary people to embrace the future and accept what God is doing."

"It won't get better in the church until it gets better in the world, because we've always followed the world--except for a few brave souls," he continued. The church must become concerned, not with the past, but with "new goals to meet the demands of the mad, mad world."

Thomas Starkes, professor of Christian Missions and World Religions at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, presented seven factors which will precipitate renewal in the church: (1) when people quit fighting the Bible and start reading it; (2) when people are not afraid to let miracles happen; (3) when the role of the laity is heightened to what it should be; (4) when the proper role is given to the Holy Spirit; (5) when laymen realize discipline is based on freedom, not on 'oughtness'; (6) when people begin to speak out from the church to the world; and (7) when Christians understand there are people who are hungry and hurting.

--more--

LIBRARY OF THE
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Jack Taylor, author of "The Hallelujah Factor," led a study of biblical praise, stressing "every human was created to worship God; it is the reason we exist."

The conference, sponsored jointly by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board evangelism section, ended in a praise and celebration service led by Reid Hardin, director of evangelism support for the Home Mission Board.

A record crowd of more than 500 attended the week-long conference.

--30--

Moderates Publish
National Newspaper

By Karen Benson

Baptist Press
11/14/84

DALLAS (BP)--An eight-page tabloid newspaper published by a group of Kentucky pastors and laymen aligned with the moderate faction of the Southern Baptist Convention is being mass distributed across the nation.

More than 31,000 copies of "The Call: Dallas '85" were mailed in early November to Southern Baptist pastors and key officials of Southern Baptist institutions and agencies.

The newspaper, which refers to itself as "an awakening voice for loyal Southern Baptists," is in reference to the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention June 11-13, 1985, in Dallas.

The Call--which promises to "name names, present facts and let you decide"--was first distributed at the Baptist General Convention of Texas, which met in Dallas in October. Copies were to be distributed at the Kentucky and Tennessee state Baptist conventions, which meet the second week of November.

The publication carries editorials, commentaries and articles--some of which are reprinted from agency publications--by some SBC agency executives and outspoken moderate leaders. Included is an editorial by Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., reprinted from The Tie, and an editorial by R. Keith Parks, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., reprinted from The Commission.

Other editorials or commentaries are by C.R. Daley, retired editor of the Western Recorder, Baptist state paper in Kentucky; Lewis Lee, director of associational missions for the El Paso, Texas, Baptist Association, and T.B. Maston, professor emeritus of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Additionally, information is provided on travel and housing arrangements for the SBC Convention in Dallas, including information on reduced fares offered by Delta Airlines.

Larry Dipboye, pastor of Buechel Park Baptist Church, Louisville Ky., is listed as editor of the tabloid, and Gregory Hancock, pastor of Latonia Baptist Church in Covington, Ky., is identified as managing editor.

According to the lead article, "the crisis in the SBC came to a head in Kansas City this year. Democracy got kicked out the window by a narrow faction of leaders who have lost touch with what it means to be a Southern Baptist." The article is unsigned and carries no byline. However, Hancock said the article is "directly attributable" to himself and to Dipboye.

"Frankly, we are fed up with spending hundreds of dollars to attend a convention run by novice Southern Baptists with an axe to grind against our agencies. We are tired of the domination of a political machine that organizes a block of voters for the convention; puts people in charge who are attending their first convention and have never served on an associational committee; elects a president whose church barely supports the Cooperative Program, and passes resolutions without giving the floor an opportunity to discuss their substance or amend their contents," the article continues.

"We are biased by our conviction that God is giving Southern Baptists the great opportunity in history to share Jesus Christ with the world. And we are wasting it with endless bickering about who believes the most."

--more--

Hancock said at least 60 people from about 10 Kentucky Baptist churches—including pastors and laymen—provided the funds to publish the first issue. He would not name any of the financial backers, saying they preferred to remain anonymous.

The number of future issues will depend on the amount of contributions received from an appeal for money, printed in *The Call*, Hancock said. Contributors are asked in the publication to send their gifts to First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. Dipboye said the treasurer, although not listed in *The Call*, is Richard Bridges, pastor of the church.

At least one more issue will be published, probably in January, Hancock added.

Dipboye and Hancock purchased their mailing list from SBC Today, a national autonomous publication for Southern Baptists. Dipboye is on the editorial board of SBC Today.

Although Dipboye and Hancock are the only editors credited in the first issue of *The Call*, Dipboye said they are gathering other commitments, and a full editorial board is planned.

"We're primarily interested in urging people to attend the SBC in Dallas," Dipboye said. Both he and Hancock emphasized they "don't intend to dictate any votes," nor are they "trying to take over anything."

"If the Southern Baptist Convention is represented—if all churches are represented—then there's going to be a strong voice on the part of the people to stop the takeover of the convention by the fundamentalist leaders," Hancock said.

"I have been concerned, as several other Southern Baptist pastors have, about the announced takeover of the denomination," he said. "I am a little upset that we tend to be losing sight of the primary ideals of the Southern Baptist Convention."

He said a movement by fundamentalists to gain control of SBC leadership positions, and thus gain appointive powers for SBC committees and boards, "seems to have snowballed every year." When the SBC president can "stack the boards" by his appointive powers, "he is disenfranchising many Southern Baptists," Dipboye said. "I do not believe we can sit still and watch the convention be stolen by a group of people who have a very narrow theology."

In his editorial Daley charges some of the fundamentalist leaders with being dishonest. For some of them, he said, "falsehood is as moral as truth if it accomplishes the desired end. Fundamentalists, calling themselves 'inerrantists', say the Bible is their infallible guide, but they ignore its teaching on honesty."

Examples abound, he claims: "They range from unkept promises by convention presidents to outright lies. President Adrian Rogers and President Bailey Smith, in his second term, promised publicly to be presidents of all Southern Baptists, only to proceed to name the most one-sided committees in the history of the convention."

Parks' editorial appealed for renewed support of "cooperative missions"—the traditional method of supporting Southern Baptist mission work. He warned some Southern Baptists "seek to move outside the system through which they have been trained and have served. Their approach is to solicit support from churches or other groups and carry on missions outside the way we Southern Baptists have committed ourselves to work."

Honeycutt urges "action-oriented persons to use every ethical means necessary to eliminate the disruptive fragmentation which is disintegrating our fellowship; and to stop the internal hemorrhaging which is sapping the life from our larger body."

He asked every person identified with Southern seminary to "rally to this emergency." Honeycutt said: "Plan now to be in Dallas next year; deliver the convention from the bondage of its political exile; recover an open convention process and the priority of our historic commitment to cooperative missions, evangelism and education."

Accompanying Honeycutt's article is a copy of the resolution passed Oct. 9 by Southern seminary trustees pledging their support of Honeycutt and affirming his outspokenness in the denominational conflict.

Maston called the current denominational conflict "the most serious that the convention has faced in my lifetime." It is unfortunate, he said, that some "well-trained and effective pastors are permitting themselves to be used or manipulated by the relatively few who are in basic control of the (fundamentalist) movement. This, to me personally, is the most serious disappointment in the whole matter. Some of these pastors are doubtlessly my former students."

He predicted "unless there is a split within the ranks or a change of leadership of the movement to take over the Southern Baptist Convention, the ultimate results of the takeover would be a disaster for and to Southern Baptists."

--30--

New Churches Honored
By Northern Plains

Baptist Press
11/14/84

RAPID CITY, S.D. (BP)—Some 70 new church-type missions which have come into existence in North and South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming since Jan 1, 1982, were recognized during special ceremonies during the annual meeting of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention.

In 1972, the Northern Plains convention set a goal of establishing 84 new churches by the end of 1984. The campaign was called Focus '84. During the celebration, Lou Sherrill, WMU president, called the name of each new work, along with its sponsoring church. Those started since the 1983 meeting received banners of recognition from John Baker, executive director.

The Northern Plains convention now has 124 churches and 32 missions, participants were told. Since the first of 1984, the NPBC has been composed of North and South Dakota and Montana. During 1983, the Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention was constituted.

During the annual meeting, a budget of \$1,041,383 was adopted, of which \$307,263 will come from the congregations of the convention. Other major sources will be the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board.

The convention voted to give 13 percent of the undesignated funds to world missions through the Cooperative Program, a one percent increase. Should receipts from the churches exceed the \$307,263, all monies beyond the 13 percent shall be applied to SBC Cooperative Program causes until the Northern Plains' contribution reaches 15 percent.

John Miller, Mandan, N.D., was reelected for a second term as president; McDonald Held, Hinsdale, Mont., was elected first vice-president, and David Berryhill, Sturgis, S.D., second vice-president.

The convention adopted a recommended new church annuity plan to be effective January 1988.

The convention adopted resolutions expressing gratitude to the host church and area churches for their assistance; expressing thanks for having John Baker return as convention executive director; thanking the convention staff for faithful service during trying and uncertain times; expressing thanks to God for the work done by the churches on Focus '84; acknowledging the growth of the convention by continuing to undergird the efforts of the two fellowships through prayer and encouragement, and encouraging the churches to fulfill the HMB requirement for convention status—giving at least 10 percent for world mission through the Cooperative Program.

The NPBC administrative committee and six members elected by the Montana Fellowship will comprise a search committee responsible for recommending a candidate to be Montana Fellowship director. The budget included the position of a Montana director, effective Jan. 1, 1985.

The 1985 annual meeting will be Oct. 23-24, in Emmanuel Baptist Church, Billings, Mont.

--30--

Seminaries Involve 8,769
Through SEED Ministry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Bivocational pastors, persons in preparation for ministry roles and lay persons seeking new ways to be involved in ministry were among the 8,769 persons who received training through Seminary External Education Division (SEED) during 1983-84.

Operated jointly by the six Southern Baptist seminaries, SEED provides off-campus theological study opportunities through its two departments, Seminary Extension and Seminary Studies. Its programs are designed for individuals who have been unable to attend a seminary, even though they already may be on a church staff.

The great majority of SEED's students (8,517) took either pre-college or college-1 v 1 courses through the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. Some 2,099 of these participated in correspondence study through the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. Another 6,418 were enrolled in classes in the 394 Seminary Extension centers in operation around the country.

Graduate-level courses, offered in seven strategic locations through the Seminary Studies department, were taken by 252 persons. Credits earned in this program may be applied toward a degree at one of the Southern Baptist seminaries.

Between one third and one half of the Seminary Extension students were in a ministry role or preparing for ministry. Not surprisingly, 93 percent of the Seminary Extension students were Baptist.

North Carolina continued to lead all other states in its degree of involvement with Seminary Extension. A total of 89 extension centers were operating in the state, and 1,369 students enrolled for 2,425 courses.

Second most active among Baptist state conventions was Texas, with 35 centers and 1,092 students. Florida and Tennessee each had 27 centers. Although Florida outpaced Tennessee in number of students with 717, Tennessee's 603 students represented a 27 percent growth over the previous year. California reported 19 centers and 510 students. Tennessee, California and Michigan were the only states to report increases in all three statistical areas: number of centers, students and enrollment.

Students in 24 other countries accounted for 131 of the Seminary Extension curriculum for use in non-residential training.

Seminary Studies programs during the year were located in Baltimore; Chicago; Detroit; Jackson, Tenn.; Little Rock, Ark.; New York City, and Orlando, Fla. The programs in Chicago and Orlando were opened for their first year, adding 51 students to the year's total.

--30--

CORRECTION: In (BP) story mailed 11/12/84, "Bangalore Residents Spared Much Of Indian Violence," please change the spelling of the assassinated prime minister's name from Ghandi to Gandhi throughout the story.

Thanks,
Baptist Press



BAPTIST PRESS

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

PB
L
CND
980

LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE NO
NASHVILLE TN 37234