



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 11, 1985

85-42

SBC FORUM

Dallas Convention Center
June 10, 1985

- 1:30--Welcome, Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City
Scripture reading, E.W. McCall, pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church, LaPuente, Calif.
Invocation, Bill Daniels, pastor of First Baptist Church, Middlesboro, Ky.
Solo, Darrell Adams, musical artist, Louisville, Ky.
- 1:45--"Orthodoxy of Love," James Flamming, pastor, First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.
- 2:10--Solo, William R. O'Brien, Foreign Mission Board executive vice-president, Richmond, Va.
- 2:15--"Integrity in Proclaiming the Gospel," W. Randall Lolley, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.
- 2:40--Hymn, "All Creatures of Our God and King"
- 2:45--Concert, Ken Medema, musical artist, San Francisco, Calif.
- 3:05--"The Doctrine of First Things," Catherine Allen, associate executive secretary, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.
- 3:30--Hymn, "How Firm a Foundation"
Offering
- 3:40--"To Trust Again," Cecil E. Sherman, pastor, Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas
- 4:05--Concert, Cynthia Clawson, musical artist, Louisville, Ky., and Bob Bailey, musical artist, Nashville, Tenn.
- 4:30--"What They Don't Teach You at Baptist Preacher's School," William L. Self, pastor, Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta
- 5:00--Benediction, Joy Steincross, layperson, Second Baptist Church, Liberty, Mo.

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SBC Forum Returns
For Second Year

Baptist Press
4/11/85

DALLAS (BP)--The second annual meeting of the SBC Forum will be Monday, June 10, from 1:30-5:00 p.m. in the West Hall of the Dallas Convention Center.

Begun last year in Kansas City, Mo., the Forum offers in its second year an expanded program and doubled seating capacity. Organizers expected last year's attendance of over 2,000 to increase significantly this year.

Featured speakers and their messages include James Flamming, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., - "Orthodoxy of Love;" Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. - "Integrity in Proclaiming the Gospel;" Catherine Allen, associate executive director of Woman's Missionary Union - "The Doctrine of First Things;" Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas - "To Trust Again," and William Self, pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta - "What They Don't Teach You at a Baptist Preacher's School."

CBS Television news analyst Bill Moyers also is committed to speak if not called away on special assignment. Presiding for the second time is Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Featured musicians include Christian artists Cynthia Clawson, Ken Medema, Darrell Adams, and Bob Bailey, and Foreign Mission Board Executive Vice-President William O'Brien. Bill James, minister of music, Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas, will direct the afternoon's music.

Organizers of the meeting are continuing the Monday night fellowship for SBC messengers begun in Kansas City. This year's reception will be in the Reunion Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel from 7 to 10 p.m.

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St. Louis Baptists Buying
Low-Power TV Channel

By Trennis Henderson

Baptist Press
4/11/85

ST. LOUIS (BP)—Missouri and Illinois Baptists are joining to bring a Christian-oriented low-power television station to St. Louis.

The St. Louis Metro Association and Metro-East and Madison County associations in Illinois are in the process of purchasing a construction permit for Channel 56.

The construction permit is being purchased for \$9,500 from the Disciples of Christ Christian Board of Publication which laid the groundwork for the station but was unable to raise needed finances.

Harold Hendrick, pastor of Florissant's Parker Road Church and general chairman of the channel 56 project, told Word and Way (newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention) the FCC will allow them one year to get the station in operation following approval of the transfer. But leaders of the effort are optimistically looking toward going on the air by October. When the Missouri Baptist Convention will hold its annual meeting in St. Louis.

In an effort to raise \$250,000 within the next few months, several committees and subcommittees are already in place.

Part of the money will be used to purchase a transmitter, an antenna and a microwave (studio-tower link) system. Other costs will include broadcast equipment and studio operations.

One normal cost, renting or purchasing studio space, is expected to be eliminated thanks to an agreement with Missouri Baptist College. Pat Copley, president of the St. Louis-based college, said plans are underway for the studio to be located on the campus.

In addition to lowering costs for the station, it also will provide an opportunity for students, particularly communications majors, to work in the studio.

Although the construction permit will be in the name of the St. Louis Association, plans are underway to form a separate non-profit corporation for the administration of channel 56. The station will serve primarily as a translator base for the American Christian Tel vision System network and the corporation will use the permit as an assignee of the association.

Hendrick said once the station is operational, it will reach an estimated one million viewers in the St. Louis area. Calling it a "financially good ministry," he explained the low-power station will reach from 20 to 40 percent of the people a full-power station could reach, but at 10 percent or less of the cost.

The channel will begin with 100 watts of transmitting power, with plans to increase to 1,000 watts as soon as FCC approval is received. Hendrick said the increased wattage will approximately double the channel's range.

Although the ACTS network is already being broadcast by several cable companies in Missouri, channel 56 will be the first non-cable ACTS affiliate in the state.

Hendrick said the impact of the ministry can be expanded as local cable companies pick up the microwave signal and also broadcast ACTS. "We hope that once we're on the air, there will be a healthy pressure requesting channel 56 to be carried to local cable systems," he remarked.

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Sandinistas Give Approval
To Crusade, Relief Effort

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)—Top officials of Nicaragua's Sandinista government have granted permission to a Southern Baptist evangelist who combines preaching with relief efforts to conduct a crusade and distribute food, clothing and medicine in the war-torn Central American nation.

Larry Jones, president of Feed the Children, an Oklahoma City-based ministry, told reporters at a National Press Club news conference April 10 he received the assurances Easter weekend from Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega and Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

Jones said that in separate, private meetings with the two leaders April 8, he was "guaranteed that I could preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ without any restrictions in a public setting," and that "local participating churches would be able to give the food and clothing to those in need."

More than 200 evangelical churches, some of them Baptist, plan to participate in the April 18-20 crusade, he said. Following the crusade the churches will distribute all food, clothing and medicine he is able to take in, Jones added.

He said he attended three Easter Sunday services, one of them at Managua's First Baptist Church, and saw no evidence the leftist Sandinista government is doing anything to disrupt normal religious activities. The government's view, Jones said, is that "freedom of religion is a must," adding that to his knowledge the Sandinista regime is living up to its stated purpose of providing religious freedom for Catholics, mainline Protestants and evangelicals.

Noting the evangelical movement in Nicaragua is "very strong," Jones said he hopes to take up the matter of alleged denials of religious freedom in the future with Nicaraguan leaders.

The Oklahoma evangelist's assessment of the state of religious liberty in Nicaragua contrasts sharply with repeated charges by President Reagan and other American officials that the government of Nicaragua is engaged in a campaign of terrorism against the churches.

Jones also said Ortega and D'Escoto told him they want negotiations and peace with the United States. "They shared their concern for peace, not only in Nicaragua but for the rest of Central America," he said, adding: "Their hope for the future, President Ortega told me, is to hold a conference with President Reagan so that the differences between the two countries can be worked out."

Asked if he has meetings scheduled with U.S. State Department officials to review his conversations with the Nicaraguan leaders, Jones replied, "They have not contacted me."

He said, however, his mission in Nicaragua is spiritual, not political. "I'll leave that (politics) to the politicians," Jones declared. "I'm going as an emissary of love."

Jones' ministry has concentrated its evangelistic and relief efforts in Central America and Africa, including more than 20 missions to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and now Nicaragua.

The Bowling Green, Ky., native, a member of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., said he reevaluated his ministry five years ago after realizing "it doesn't make much sense to preach the Gospel of Jesus to a man whose children are dying of hunger and malnutrition."

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Brazil's Drought Region
Hit By Massive Floods

Baptist Press
4/11/85

FORTALEZA, Brazil (BP)—After more than five years of devastating drought, much of northern Brazil now faces massive flooding caused by continuous rain.

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Almost 300,000 people in at least eight northern states had fled their homes by April 9, according to Southern Baptist missionaries in the area. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released \$20,000 in early April to aid Baptists and other flood victims in Ceara and Rio Grande do Norte, two of the hardest-hit states.

"The Jaguaribe River is just like an ocean now," said missionary Verla Golston in Fortaleza, capital of Ceara state. "It's covering a huge area. And we have several cities that have been evacuated completely."

She said 133,000 people were homeless in Ceara alone, with the number rising daily. "It's really serious because even though they're getting a lot of government help, there's too many people," she reported. "And now they're getting malaria and children are dying because of dehydration. They don't have enough tents; they can't get enough in.... Some of them (th homeless) are out underneath trees because they don't have anyplace to put them. They'r just out on the road."

Missionaries are buying food for homeless Baptist families in seven Ceara citi s and towns. In Rio Grande do Norte, where a reported 20,000 people have lost their homes, missionaries requested \$15,000 April 10 to aid 700 flood victims in three towns with food, medicine and seed to replace lost crops.

The rainy season began in January and hovered at "near-flood" stage through February and March, according to missionary Jerold Golston in Ceara. Flooding began when the dams on th state's two large rivers overflowed. Flooding in the entire north reportedly stretches from Amazonas eastward to the Atlantic coast and at least as far south as Pernambuco state.

Golston believes the floods confirm the end of the worst drought in a century in northern Brazil. But drought will come again, he said. "We usually go through four or five years of hardly enough rain, then we get a year with too much rain or two years consecutively, then it floods. Then we'll go two or three years and it will go back into a drought again."

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Stanley, Ziglar, Dilday
Address Texas Meetings

By Toby Druin

Baptist Press
4/11/85

SPRING, Texas (BP)—Comparing the Southern Baptist Convention's plunge into controversy over the last six years to Israel's sojourn in the wilderness, Russell H. Dilday Jr. said last week he hopes the promise of Bold Mission Thrust to win the world to Christ "hasn't been delayed a generation."

The denomination was poised "on the threshold of a providential moment" when more than 50,000 Southern Baptists knelt in prayer for Bold Mission Thrust at the 1979 meeting in Houston, Dilday said. But the current controversy erupted at the same convention, he noted, and "doubt, distrust of leaders and divisiveness moved in."

Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, spoke to 25-30 pastors and others from Tryon-Evergreen and Union associations at First Baptist Church, Spring. The night before at Castle Hills Church in San Antonio, SBC President Charles Stanley and First Vice-President Zig Ziglar spoke to more than 2,000 at a rally sponsored by the San Antonio Association Minister's Conference. Extra chairs had to be brought in to accommodate the crowd.

Stanley and Ziglar did not deal with the controversy in the SBC; Ziglar, a member of First Baptist Church, Dallas, giving his testimony and Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, speaking on knowing the will of God. Ziglar only lightly touched the controversy, referring once to his belief that any professor of religion should also try to win his students to Christ and to the fact that an all-powerful God should have been able to preserve an inerrant Bible.

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Dilday spoke at the invitation of the Tryon-Evergreen Pastor's Conference, said President Charles Bullock, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Pinehurst, because the pastors had heard Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, speak in January and wanted an opposing view. Dilday was invited to speak to the issues in the convention.

Dilday, who spoke for about 40 minutes and then responded to questions for more than an hour, challenged the contention of Patterson and Houston judge Paul Pressler that the SBC and its seminaries are in danger of "drifting toward liberalism."

While he acknowledged some statements are "liberal" and are outside the parameters of commonly held Southern Baptists beliefs, the "4, 5, 6, even 10 to 11" persons to which they are attributed do not constitute "drift" among more than 500 professors at the six SBC seminaries. Southern Baptists have always tolerated some diversity, he noted.

He said he did not know of a "classical liberal" in the SBC--that "our most liberal is fundamental by relative comparison."

While the controversy may have been initiated out of legitimate concern over inerrancy and liberal drift, that is no longer the case, Dilday insisted, noting every faculty member at Southwestern, himself included, is committed to the inerrancy of the Scriptures. In spite of that, he said, Southwestern has become the focal point of an attempt to gain control of SBC institutions, which is now the issue, and "there is no longer room for neutrality."

There are some positive features of the controversy, he said, and after it has been resolved, he said he believes there will be a renewed commitment to conservative, biblical faith; a renewed commitment to the convention method of doing business--to "cooperancy"; a new commitment of agency leaders to being responsive to their constituents; a greater participation by laypersons in the SBC; a new openness to what the Bible has to say about church/state matters, women and eschatology, and a renewed interest in the SBC heritage.

Several of the pastors and others at the meeting questioned Dilday at length. Bullock passed out a statement, which he said presented the SBC issue as he saw it. The brief statement noted the Scriptures were inerrant in the original autographs. Inerrancy is the issue, he insisted.

Responding, Dilday said he believes the Bible in existence today is inerrant.

The seminary president said the institution takes no position on ordination of women, but "We affirm women in ministry." He said he personally is "not comfortable with women in the pastoral ministry," but added he does not believe the Bible either affirms or denies it. He suggested the whole issue of ordination be restudied by Southern Baptists.

He said he believes in the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch where the Bible attributes it to Moses and added, "I don't know of any professor who doesn't."

He is opposed to political organizing on both sides of the issue, he said.

Harlan Caton, pastor of the host church, questioned Dilday about several things, including a statement he made about dispensationalism and premillennialism and heresy last July, which has been given wide circulation.

Dilday explained that his statement was in reference to a chapel address by a seminary professor. He regretted using the term "heresy," he said, but explained that "classical dispensationalism" is in conflict with the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

The seminary president said he is a premillennialist as are most of the seminary faculty.

Increased Efforts Urged In SBC
Toward Multi-Ethnic Denomination

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—While Southern Baptists have made progress in moving from paternalism to fraternalism with black members of the denomination, much more is needed, according to participants in an SBC agency strategy planning conference in Nashville, Tenn.

About 75 black Southern Baptist pastors and laypersons were invited to the two-day consultation. Representatives of 13 SBC agencies also attended the meeting, sponsored by the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

At present, the SBC—which has 37,000 churches—includes some 900 black congregations with 250,000 members.

Inclusion and visibility are two of the greatest needs of black Southern Baptists, Joe Ratliff, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church, Houston, said during a panel discussion on what blacks need from denominational agencies.

He cited "simple, surface things" such as art work and illustrations depicting black and white persons, an increased awareness of the cultural heritage of blacks and efforts to utilize black persons as conference leaders in multi-ethnic settings.

Ratliff said black churches which are aligned only with the SBC suffer a "subtle penalty" in that they become isolated from black conventions and are ignored by the SBC. He called for "intentionality, design and deliberate effort" in making changes. "It can be done and we are the ones to do it," he said.

Lavert Taylor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Va., said the historical position of white Southern Baptists has been one of "kindness, paternalism and giving help to black Southern Baptists."

Noting the denomination mirrors a racist society, Taylor said the problems for blacks in the denomination today could be characterized as "unintentional racism, institutional racism and paternalistic racism. How many board members are black? How many agency heads are black? Why are blacks only hired in administrative positions that relate to blacks?" he asked.

Sam Beene, director of Christian social ministries, San Jose (Calif.) Baptist Association, said multi-ethnic ministry is no longer an option for Southern Baptists. "We must strive to become a people of the rainbow," said Beene.

During a dialogue session with Lloyd Elder, president of the Sunday School Board, and Gerald Palmer, vice-president of the Home Mission Board, participants raised a wide range of issues including employment opportunities for blacks in SBC agencies, images conveyed in denominational literature and ways to utilize blacks to minister to the cities.

Samuel Simpson, pastor of Wake Eden and Bronx Baptist Church, Bronx, N.Y., presented seven recommendations calling for efforts to make black pastors feel more a part of the convention, aggressive campus ministries to work with black students and improved training for black pastors.

He also said black pastors need to become more evangelistic and move aggressively to start new churches, as many as 500 by 1990.

Finally, Simpson said, black Southern Baptist pastors in the cities should be used to help the denomination become more effective in urban ministry. "Those of us in the cities have something to offer. Join with us. Let us help you," he said.

Responding to suggestions and questions, Elder pledged to take follow-up actions. "My intent is to do something about what happens here. I do intend for this meeting to have an impact," he said.

Palmer said, "Our progress is good, but it's good only in comparison with where we were, not in comparison with where we ought to be.

In the closing session, E.W. McCall, pastor of St. Stephens Baptist Church, LaPuente, Calif., said Southern Baptists will be able to achieve the goals of Bold Mission Thrust only through the committed efforts of all persons, including blacks.

"I'm not satisfied with three foreign missionaries (the number of blacks currently serving with the foreign Mission Board). I'm not satisfied with 900 black Southern Baptist churches. I'm not satisfied with the Cooperative Program giving of many of our churches. I'm not satisfied with untrained leaders," said McCall.

"There are new frontiers to be possessed," he added. "Our mission must be bold, but our thrust must be right."

In an address on philosophical discussion areas for developing ministry strategies, Sid Smith, consultant in the BSSB ethnic liaison unit, said improved relationships and ministries with blacks will require hard choices.

"It challenges the very best in us. It may be difficult but we'll need to maintain our Christian integrity and be who we are for the cause of Christ."

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Positive Signs Seen
Despite 'Immaturity'

By Leisa A. Hammett

Baptist Press
4/11/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Black and white Southern Baptists must continue to exhibit Christian love despite existing racial and cultural immaturity, a black Southern Baptist leader told SBC agency heads and 75 black Southern Baptist pastors.

Emmanuel McCall, director of black church relations at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said although racism still exists in the Southern Baptist Convention, not enough attention has been directed to the "positive things happening in the SBC."

McCall said SBC work with blacks has not been well publicized, adding: "It is a reality (that) had we told all we are doing, some churches would have withheld their Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong gifts. To have publicized our activities would have invited the spiritually and socially immature to counter productive activity.

"We are still wedded to our culture sometimes more than to obedience to Christ."

Publicizing work with blacks, he added, would have also appeared boastful. "No one wants to be ministered to and then used as an example in someone else's bragging. Christian maturity demands we minister in love without expectation of recognition and reward."

McCall noted SBC involvement with the black community includes the support of administration and faculty in 48 black institutions and colleges, financial responsibility for American Baptist College, scholarship programs for blacks entering full-time Christian service and funding for national conferences, among others.

HMB black church relations currently has 62 missionaries and 38 seminary interns working with blacks, in addition to black missionaries in ministries such as chaplaincy, Christian social ministries and others, according to McCall.

"The whole philosophy of Southern Baptist ministries has undergone radical transformation since 1968—a turning point in SBC life," he said. The SBC desperately needs "more black pastors to become actively involved in denominational life."

However, he warned black pastors should not be involved in the SBC just for political purposes. "Politics is what the great furor in our convention is all about. If you're not concerned for missions, then get out of the way."

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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION