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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 19, 1985

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Stanley, Dilday Meet  
Face To Face

By Timothy Tune

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—"The boat has been rocked," said Charles Stanley, and now Southern Baptists are "gonna be forced to sit down and face the issues and discover the truth and stop trying to cover it up."

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, made the statment during an interview at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth April 18. During the hour-long session, he and Southwestern President Russell H. Dilday Jr. differed openly on the source of the convention's infighting.

The issues are "basically theological" and involve liberal teaching in Baptist seminaries, said Stanley. Dilday, however, said, "There are no differences in us theologically." Dilday said the problem is in methods—"political strategies to control the boards" of SBC agencies.

The two were interviewed following Stanley's first appearance on Southwestern's campus since he was elected last June. Stanley, who earned the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern in 1957, preached to an overflow chapel audience and then fielded questions from a panel of students. Later, both leaders met with journalists.

"There were theological concerns raised" when the controversy began six years ago, Dilday said. But "if this issue were theological, then Southwestern seminary, acknowledged by Stanley as conservative, would be lifted up as the kind of school the critics would love to have.

"But the takeover effort of our convention is most visible right here (at Southwestern)," Dilday said. "The issue is (over) who will control our institutions and agencies.

"On one side are those leaders who are more at home with a (Jerry) Falwell independent kind of church" which supports its own missions rather than using cooperative methods, Dilday said. "On the other side, are people equally as conservative theologically, equally as serious about commitment to missions, but who have a clear record of support for Southern Baptists."

Dilday again reiterated his concern Stanley "has chosen to lead his church in causes outside the Southern Baptist Convention, which is his choice."

Stanley defended his church's support of independent missionaries and other ministries conducted by his church. "To brand me as an independent because I want to expand the ministry, because we don't do it the way everybody else does is very unfair and unjust," he countered.

Stanley said his concern is that "liberals" are occupying positions in denominational institutions. "There aren't many (liberals)," Stanley said. "The fight is over where these liberals are. They're in our seminaries," but "not in this one."

Stanley later spoke of Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and unnamed faculty members of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Dilday denied the seminaries are being influenced by liberal theologians.

Stanley's son, Andy, a student at Dallas Theological Seminary (which is not affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention), was among those present at the informal session. The younger Stanley asked Dilday how he could deny there is a "liberal encroachment."

Of the six or eight instances which have been presented to him, three or four may be "outside the realm of what Baptists believe, (but) they are not classical liberalism," Dilday said. "But there may be that many and we ought to deal with them. It is my position that we have a way within our convention of doing that."

This can be accomplished, Dilday said, "without destroying the whole convention." The younger Stanley asked how. "By means of raising that concern," Dilday replied, "having the boards deal with it."

"The traditional method doesn't work," the younger Stanley said. "It has worked," Dilday said, "and I've seen examples of people who have been fired, just as I tried to do it." Despite his being overruled by the seminary's trustees when he tried to dismiss a professor, Dilday said, "You still stay with the system. And the system will work."

The elder Stanley said his expressions of concern over liberal teachings have not been heard. "We kept saying, 'There's a problem, there's a problem,'" he said. "After a while what do you have to do? We've been by the process."

In answering a question at the earlier forum, Stanley said, "Some seminary professors have written enough to indict them." And he said he would consider liberal any professor who does not believe the first 11 chapters of Genesis is "historical fact."

During his recent visit to Southeastern, he said professors "wouldn't answer any of my questions. That raised a red flag with me." He told reporters, "I don't believe any Southern Baptist would say I don't have a right to ask" a professor what he believes. "If he's teaching my son, he's accountable to me if I'm paying his salary."

"I think you are going to find the heart of the whole battle right there," Stanley said. "Nobody has listened to us saying, 'There is a problem.'"

Stanley said his eyes have been opened by visits to seminaries. His Southwestern appearance was the second visit he's made to an SBC seminary since being elected. He was at Southeastern several weeks ago, and is planning a visit to Midwestern in Kansas City, Mo.

Stanley said he became involved in convention matters because of his concern over what is being taught at SBC seminaries. "When my son was starting to seminary, I thought, 'What's he going to be taught?'" Stanley said. "I went to a Baptist institution and a professor stood up and said he didn't believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ."

While at Southeastern seminary he said students told him: "'We don't know a man on this faculty who believes in the historical validity of the first 11 chapters of Genesis,'" Stanley said. "As I have traveled around this year, I've had my eyes opened," he said, by stories of students who "bailed out (of seminary) because their faith was destroyed. Now we've got to face the issue. It is true."

Dilday agreed with Stanley that if charges of liberalism are true then something needs to be done to "correct" the situation. "We're together," Dilday said.

When reminded Dilday unsuccessfully tried to dismiss a professor, Stanley discounted the idea that opposition to the recommendation was a takeover attempt by the 12 members of the board who voted against it.

At the trustees meeting in March, Dilday and the academic affairs committee brought a recommendation to dismiss Farrar Patterson, associate professor of preaching and communications. The motion failed to gain the two-thirds majority needed with a 19 to 12 secret ballot.

Six specific charges were brought against Patterson, who has been at Southwestern for 16 years. Stanley said he's "heard some of these fellows (who voted against the dismissal) agree that if a man has been doing that all these years he shouldn't have been here. Why are we waiting until now to get rid of him?" Dilday responded that the seminary was "attempting to be redemptive and work with" the professor.

Wrap-up

Board Lauds Cauthen Leadership;  
Expands Work To Zaire, Reunion

By Bob Stanley

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—It was the way Baker James Cauthen would have wanted it.

At its April meeting, which began in Nashville just a few hours after Cauthen's death, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board expressed gratitude for the man who led it for 26 years, and then moved ahead with major actions.

The board voted to open work in Zaire and Reunion, elected Sam James to succeed George Hays as director for work in East Asia and created a new Cooperative Services International office. This new unit will respond to rapidly expanding opportunities for professional and social service in China. Eventually it may seek service opportunities in other countries closed to missionaries.

The board also appointed 37 new missionaries before an estimated crowd of 10,000 who filled the downtown Municipal Auditorium Arena, bringing the total missionary force to 3,520.

Many had not heard of Cauthen's death early April 15 at his home in Richmond, Va., until Board President R. Keith Parks made the announcement at the service. The crowd stood as Parks, Cauthen's successor, led a prayer thanking God "for blessing our generation with Dr. Cauthen."

In a special tribute at the business meeting the next morning, Winston Crawley described Cauthen as "one of God's great, good gifts to his people." Crawley, now vice-president for planning, worked closely with Cauthen in key roles throughout his tenure as the board's chief administrator.

The board also stood to honor Catherine Walker, retiring in May as special assistant to the president for intercessory prayer. Board members approved a resolution by Kenny Lewis of Brownsville, Texas, describing her as the "First Lady of Prayer" for foreign missions. Walker took on the prayer assignment in 1981 after retiring from 34 years' missionary work in China and Indonesia. In the past four years she has mobilized more than 200,000 Southern Baptists to pray for foreign missions.

Minette Drumwright, assistant to the executive vice-president, will succeed Walker.

At the same time it assigned missionaries to Zaire and Reunion, the board dropped Sudan from its list of mission fields. The new country count, effective May 1, will be 106.

Jeffrey and Mary Polglase of Arizona and Texas, respectively, were appointed April 16 to develop churches in eastern Zaire, probably from a base in the town of Uvira on Lake Tanganyika. In the central African country the couple will work with congregations originally begun with the help of Baptists from neighboring Tanzania. The Polglases will arrive on the field late next year or early in 1987 after missionary orientation and language study.

Work on Reunion, an island east of Africa in the Indian Ocean, will be done by Gary and Barbara Baldrige, who will transfer from Zambia. Baldrige, a general evangelist, will work in evangelism and church development in Reunion, an overseas region of France. Southern Baptist missionaries already have work in the nearby island nation of Mauritius.

Sudan dropped from the countries where Southern Baptists have missionaries as the board approved the transfer of Sam and Ginny Cannata to Zimbabwe. The Cannatas helped translate the New Testament into the language of the Murle tribe of Sudan. They began the project in Sudan but were forced to finish it in Kenya because of increased Sudanese rebel fighting.

James' election as director-elect for East Asia takes effect June 1. A former missionary to Vietnam and field associate for East Asia, he has worked since 1980 as director of the missionary learning department. He was instrumental in developing the new Missionary Learning Center at Rockvill, near Richmond.

After Hays' retirement Dec. 31, James will assume responsibility for almost 500 missionary personnel in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao and Okinawa.

The board terminated the missionary service of Anne Sliger of Greenville, S.C., as a missionary to Zimbabwe, effective Feb. 13, 1985. Sliger, on leave of absence since 1982, claimed the board had not treated her fairly or compensated her adequately for what she described as a disabling throat illness she said she contracted on the mission field. The board, however, said it paid about \$3,600 in medical bills submitted by Sliger.

In February the board's Eastern and Southern Africa Committee, acting upon a diagnosis by an independent throat specialist who examined Sliger, decided the diagnosis did not substantiate her claim. It gave her until the April meeting to submit a resignation. When no resignation was received by the time of the board meeting, the board terminated her service.

During its meeting the board approved 69 young adults for two years' journeyman service assisting career missionaries overseas. Their employment is pending medical clearance and completion of training July 19.

The board also approved selection of three new field associates to area directors: George S. Lozuk of Ecuador, for western South America; Bill E. Phillips of Zambia, for a newly created central Africa region, and James N. Westmoreland of South Africa, for southern Africa.

Parks announced a three-year contract to bring one of the world's top mission research specialists, David Barrett, to Richmond beginning April 29. Barrett, who has been directing a Foreign Mission Board study of the world's cities since 1983, will make available all of his research to assist the board in making mission strategy decisions.

Barrett, a missionary and research officer based in Kenya for the Anglican Communion, has been concerned the massive research he has accumulated be used to evangelize the world rather than become information of scholarly interest, Parks said. Barrett was editor of the 1,101-page "World Christian Encyclopedia," a survey of world Christianity, and visited 212 nations during the 14-year project.

Parks said it was providential that, at the same time the board was working out arrangements with Barrett, it also was approving major expansion of its computer information and data systems.

The board appropriated \$880,000 for the first phase of this system expansion, which will enable board administrators to gather and analyze information as they work with other Baptists related to Southern Baptist work overseas in planning a strategy for world evangelization.

"This expansion is designed for the long-range support of Bold Mission Thrust objectives," explained Homer Beaver, vice-president for administration. It will supply information systems and services to all offices of the board. The computer systems will be coordinated by a new Data Systems Development Department, created in December.

In other actions the board reelected by acclamation Harrell R. Cushing, Gadsden, Ala., as chairman; Mary Maddry Strauss of Hagerstown, Md., first vice-chairman, and Wayne E. Varner, Lynchburg, Va., second vice-chairman. It elected Mary Dalton, Asheville, N.C., as recording secretary to succeed Betty Moore, Hope, Ark., who held the maximum two years in this office.

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

Cauthen Had Prayed For  
Baptist Unity, Wife Says

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press  
4/19/85

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Baker James Cauthen prayed for unity among Southern Baptists. He would want others to do the same, his mission co-workers and friends were told at his funeral.

James Flammig, pastor of First Baptist Church of Richmond, said to more than 800 people at the April 18 service: "He would want me to say to you, 'Please pray for the unity of the faith in Jesus Christ...that we will once again see our purpose bound up in the word mission.'"

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Cauthen, executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board from 1954 to 1979, would want fellow Baptists to realize anew that their missionary calling is "from the Lord Christ who said, 'As the Father has sent me, so send I you,'" Flammig said in his memorial message.

Cauthen, 75, died April 15 of an apparent stroke. He suffered an earlier stroke last October but had worked to resume an active life and had been attending Sunday services at First Baptist in Richmond, where he was a longtime member.

Flammig's comments were based on what Cauthen's widow, Eloise, told him.

In an interview after the funeral, Mrs. Cauthen said, "It was a great burden on my husband's heart to see that the convention he loved had become a battleground of 'we' and 'they.' He so yearned for it just to be 'us.' He felt so keenly a sorrow over the fact that motives and actions (among Baptist factions) have been so unfriendly in so many ways.

"For weeks, he hardly ever offered a prayer that did not include prayer for the convention, that the issues would be resolved, that factions might be broken down, that we might be united in the one business of the convention—to get the gospel out to the world."

Mrs. Cauthen said her husband felt "it was the devil's trick to take our attention off...the Lord's command (to evangelize)." A lack of brotherly relationships or a split among Baptists is "exactly what would make the devil laugh at us and make the world laugh too."

"Some people have felt that maybe we are too big and that, if we'd split, it would be all right, but he (Cauthen) didn't see it that way," his wife said. "He felt that we ought to acknowledge that not everybody interprets the Scripture in the same way, but we all love the Lord in the same way, we believe on him in the same way and we ought to be about his business in the same way."

Although he had an urgency in prayer for the convention, she said, "I wouldn't say the issue killed him, but it has hurt very deeply. He wanted to be a bridge. He had so many friends of all types (of outlooks), and he didn't want to be anything but a unifying factor.

"He was not worrying himself to death over the situation, but he realized that God could do something about it," Mrs. Cauthen said.

Jesse Fletcher, president of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, and author of "Baker James Cauthen: A Man for All Nations," paid tribute to Cauthen during the funeral. He said, "It wasn't for the memories of men that this man labored so long. His focus was on the mind of God.

"He led us as a people to affirm who we are. Cauthen had a way of saying to us, 'God made us a missionary people,'" said Fletcher, who held various Foreign Mission Board administrative posts from 1960 to 1975.

Sydney Goldfinch Sr., a retired missionary to Latin America who was appointed with the Cauthens in 1939, attended the funeral and said, "I always think of (Cauthen) as the spokesman for God to lead us out to the ends of the earth...the prophetic voice of Southern Baptists challenging them to meet the needs of the lost world."

For the cause of missions, Goldfinch said, Cauthen "walked close to God and helped us to do the same."

Yet at the graveside, when Mrs. Cauthen was given a plaque with a Foreign Mission Board resolution lauding Cauthen's work, she said, "He would be sure to say, 'Remember, it was a whole team.' He didn't do it alone."

Fund Raising Effort  
OK'd By RTVC Trustees

By Toby Druin

ARLINGTON, Texas (BP)—A \$6 million loan and a fund-raising campaign to produce a similar amount were approved by trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

The fund raising campaign, which eventually would spread to 37 cities, would be launched in four "key" cities. RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen said the initial campaign, expected to take about 11 months, would be targeted at bringing in \$3 to \$6 million. He declined to name the four "key" cities, although he told one reporter Houston is not one of them.

Leading the campaign will be Cargill Associates of Fort Worth. Cost of raising the \$3 to \$6 million would be as much as \$740,000 or about 25 percent if the minimum is raised.

Allen described the fee as "not unusual in the industry" and noted the percentage would drop if the goal is exceeded. The fee can be reduced, he said, if the RTVC provides support services, such as office staff and printing.

The fund raising campaign will be among individuals, not churches, he noted, beginning with potential major contributors and "moving outward in an ever expanding circle."

The fund drive was approved in February by the SBC Executive Committee. The commission had sought approval for a \$10 million loan over 10 years and a \$12.5 million fund raising effort. Executive Committee or convention approval is required under the SBC Business and Financial plan for loans which cannot be "repaid out of anticipated receipts for current operations within a period of three years."

The Executive Committee approved a three year, \$6 million fund drive and delayed action on the full amount of the loan until the commission's audit was completed. The audit is expected to be completed soon, Allen said, and will be reviewed by an Executive Committee subcommittee May 10 in further consideration of the loan request.

Trustee Fred Roach, a Dallas businessman and certified public accountant, told reporters the commission will receive a "clean audit" as of Sept. 30, 1984.

Roach also said the audit will show the commission "\$4 to \$5 million in debt," basically caused by the \$4.3 million the commission borrowed earlier in 1984 to provide "startup costs" for the American Christian Television System (ACTS) network.

Allen said the \$10 million loan requested at the February meeting of the Executive Committee, is necessary to finance production costs until the ACTS network reaches "viability" with advertisers. Viability, he explained, will be achieved when the fledgling network is available to 12 to 14 million households. When that is achieved, the network will be able to attract enough advertising to pay the production costs, Allen said.

The network is now available to about 3.5 million households, Allen reported.

Allen told the Executive Committee in February the network has "cash flow" problems and the loan is necessary to pay off \$4 million previously borrowed and provide \$5 to \$6 million for production through fiscal 1986, when it is hoped ACTS will be generating enough revenue to pay its own way.

It was announced last week ACTS will expand from 7.5 hours of programming to nine hours per day on June 3, adding a one hour "interactive" call-in show and a half hour program on "psychiatry and you". The network is on the air 24-hours per day, repeating some programming.

The \$6 million loan will be taken in increments over three years, the first \$1 million on April 1, 1985, the second \$1 million on May 1, the third \$1 million on Sept. 1, another on Jan. 1, 1986, and the final \$2 million on Sept. 1, 1986.

Interest paid will be at prime plus 1.5 percent. Collateral will be a first mortgage on commission properties and equipment. Allen said the property is appraised at \$6.5 million and an appraisal is being made on equipment.

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Elected chairman of the commission trustees was T.W. Terral, pastor of Lani r Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La. He succeeds John Roberts, editor of the Baptist Courier, newsjournal of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Roberts, who has been a trustee seven years, announced during the meeting he was declining a second full term and would retire from the RTVC.

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(Druin is associate editor of the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.)

Catholics, Baptists Told  
To Reject Nuclear 'Idolatry'

By Ben McDade

Baptist Press  
4/19/85

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)—A challenge to "choose life" was issued by C. David Matthews, chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, during an inter-church peacemaking conference in Columbia, S.C., April 12-13.

"As in the days of old, God, the Lord, continues to set before us life and death," said Matthews, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C. "The risky adventure moves on. He sets before us life and death and though he will not override our freedom, he prompts quietly within us: choose life."

Matthews, former president of the general board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, joined Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, on the conference's two-day program in Columbia's Township Auditorium and First Baptist Church.

Some 750 persons attended the conference labeled by Catholic leaders as the first of its kind in the U.S. The conference was sponsored by the Christian Action Council of Columbia, an interdenominational organization composed of 18 religious groups. The South Carolina Baptist Convention is a member of the Christian Action Council.

The purpose of the conference was to provide information about peacemaking subjects and to encourage participants to become peacemakers.

"One of the most spectacular denials of Lordship (of Christ) in all time is the monstrous Babel-building we know as the nuclear arms race," Matthews said. "Our prophets have correctly seen, I think, that this awesome amassing of destructive power is a manifestation of a fundamental idolatry. A culture like ours does not trust much in God."

Matthews called on conference participants to commit to be peacemakers.

"We must begin (to be peacemakers) where we are: with ourselves, with our nearest neighbors, with God," said Matthews. "We must begin where God begins—with us—where his love begins to transform our hostilities and convert our energies into life forces."

Bernardin, a native of Columbia, called for "cold realism" rather than a "crusading mentality" in arms negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union. "We are adversaries," he said. "But at the same time the establishment and maintenance of world peace depend on the super powers."

The conference also included 12 workshops focusing on peace-related subjects as well as other speakers. Two other speakers were Bishop Frederick Calhoun James, bishop of 7th Episcopal District, AME church, South Carolina, and Jean Patterson Boone, coordinator of state and local affairs for the Children's Defense Fund, Washington.

At the end of the conference, denominational leaders or their representatives joined in signing a faith commitment to peacemaking statement which calls for major religious denominations and their church members to "accept God's call to be peacemakers."

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(Ben McDade works for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.)



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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION