



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Marv Knox, 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. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

March 18, 1986

86-37

Chapel Soon To Close
Doors For Summer

By Karen Merrick

FLORENCE, Ariz. (BP)--The people of Caliente Florence Gardens Community Chapel won't despair when services are discontinued this spring; they know the mission ministry of First Baptist Church has a history of closing its doors as the desert air changes from mild to hot and resuming services as the weather cools again.

The community chapel is in its sixth year of providing ministry to winter visitors. Hundreds of retired men and women who live at least part of the year in Florence's adjoining Caliente Casa de Sol and Florence Gardens RV parks attend the 9 a.m. Sunday services. The weekly worship services are held November through April in the Caliente park's clubhouse.

Truman Webb, pastor of First church, Florence, heads the community chapel. He saw the need for this work while serving as director of missions for Gila Valley and San Carlos Associations, a position he held for 20 years. He noticed the RV area's development while driving by and decided to investigate the possibility of beginning services there.

Webb knew most of the parks' residents would not leave the trailer area to attend church. However, he also knew that "if you bring it to them...a great number will go."

The activities director at the Caliente park, along with her husband, who was chairman of the homeowners' board, gave Webb immediate consent to begin the work. The couple, both Christians, told the pastor that they had been contemplating the possibility of holding worship services in the park.

"It looked like the Lord just had it ready for us," Webb said.

Services began in Caliente's pool hall in December 1979, a month after the ministry was approved. With about 30 in attendance the first Sunday, the work "took off right from the start," Webb said.

Attendance at the weekly services now averages about 350, peaking at several hundred in mid-winter and measuring about 100 at the beginning and end of the chapel's six-month season, according to Webb. Attendance reached over 500 on this year's high attendance day, Feb. 23.

Although the people involved are all retired senior adults, they make up a diverse group. Their permanent homes are in a variety of locations--as far east as New Jersey and as far north as Canada--and, according to Webb, they represent every evangelical religious denomination.

Those of denominations other than Southern Baptist attend because of the convenient location of the services, said Webb, or because they enjoy the relaxed fellowship.

"A lot of people feel ill at ease in a formal church building," Webb said. They don't feel "threatened" in the relaxed clubhouse services, he added.

Some women of the congregation have told him that their husbands won't attend services "at home" but will participate in the park's services. And some people who spend a winter in the Florence RV area return specifically because of the trailer park ministry.

Webb's ministry to the part-time Arizona residents is not limited to once-a-week preaching. He makes his way to the RV area each Wednesday morning to lead a Bible study and to share lunch with the people of the congregation. In addition, he makes hospital visits and has held memorial services for people whose final winter was spent in Arizona.

--more--

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

The Caliente park management's response to the program has been favorable. Webb said the management is supportive and has told him it is the park's "best activity."

Many trailer parks, according to Webb, will not allow a group to conduct a continuous ministry. He explained that some parks require different denominations to be represented on different Sundays.

In Florence, however, "nobody has ever questioned why Southern Baptists have this work," he said.

Still, there are park rules under which Webb must operate. He is not allowed to give formal invitations during services, but he does present the gospel each Sunday. He includes a decision period in the services and encourages those making decisions to share them with himself or with congregation leaders.

One 60-year-old man who participated in the ministry became a Christian and surrendered to preach. Since then "the Lord's really used him" Webb said. The man now preaches on a supply basis and is in charge of the Florence church's senior citizen's work. He has also won his entire family to the Lord, the pastor said.

Another man, on his way to Los Angeles for a cancer operation, attended a Sunday morning service and became a Christian. He told Webb that morning that he had peace for the first time in his life and said, "Whatever happens, I know I'll be with the Lord."

Florence's community chapel provides more than simply once-a-week services for people who spend winter months in the Arizona town. The seniors who are involved, Webb said, feel it is "their church away from home."

"It's a life-changing ministry for many, many people."

--30--

(Karen Merrick is on the staff of the Baptist Beacon, newsjournal of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.)

Moral Values Begin At Home
Says Country Music Legend

By Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist Press
3/18/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Moral values instilled in youth at an early age by their parents will not be forgotten, advised a self-described "hillbilly comic trying to do right."

Sarah Cannon, known worldwide as Grand Ole Opry Star Minnie Pearl, addressed more than 350 participants during the opening session of a national seminar on "Recovering Moral Values." The meeting at Nashville's Music City Sheraton was sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In her address, the 73-year-old country music legend cited her own experience as a Christian, saying her moral values were instilled by a "godly mother and father."

She acknowledged there were times in her career when she learned about the lack of moral values. "And yet, at the same time, just like a beacon, those moral values my mother and father instilled in me brought me back every time," she said.

Cannon expressed concern about the lack of contact between today's youth and their parents. Mothers and fathers must teach their children moral values, she urged, because if they don't, the children will not learn them. No matter how hard Sunday school teachers try, they cannot compensate in a short time for what parents fail to do at home, she said.

She pointed out parents today are not totally to blame because they often are following the patterns established by their own parents. "It comes down over the generations, and until we turn around and get back to moral values, this country is still going to be in the shape it is," she said. "And, thank goodness, there is now more of a feeling that in order to keep our country together, we've got to turn to God."

Southwestern Seminary Board
Approves \$18 Million Budget

By Mark Wingfield

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, met in mid-March to adopt an \$18.3 million budget.

Trustees also elected three faculty members and approved forms for certifying current students' involvement in local churches.

The 1986-87 budget represents an 8 percent increase over the current year's budget of \$16.97 million. The SBC Cooperative Program will provide \$7.5 million, 41 percent of total revenue.

Hubert Martin, vice president for business affairs, pointed out as the budget increases, the percentage supplied by the Cooperative Program decreases. The 41 percent of the new budget provided by the Cooperative Program compares to 43 percent given for the current budget.

Increases for faculty and staff salaries, along with normal annual adjustments, will result in a 5 percent raise for most. Other funding priorities in the new budget are capital needs, supplemental faculty, new staff positions, library services and escalating liability insurance.

Among the three faculty additions which were approved, Bob R. Ellis was named instructor in Old Testament. He moves from the faculty of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. Ellis holds degrees from Hardin-Simmons University and Southwestern and is a candidate for Southwestern's Ph.D. degree.

R. Allen Lott was named instructor in music history. He currently is a research assistant at the City University of New York, where he is a candidate for the Ph.D. degree. Lott also holds degrees from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and the City University of New York.

Lynda Poston-Smith was elected assistant professor in voice. She has been an instructor in voice at Southwestern since 1982. Poston-Smith holds two degrees from the Manhattan School of Music in New York City. Her husband, Robert Smith, is assistant professor of piano.

The student endorsement forms are part of a previously-approved plan to certify each student's involvement in a local church. Trustees reviewed the forms, which were developed in consultation with local pastors.

In other action, trustees:

--Approved two new courses, "Issues in New Testament Theology" and "Spring Evangelism Practicum;"

--Named Music School Dean James McKinney distinguished professor of voice;

--Approved establishment of the Huber L. Drumwright Lectures in New Testament and the R. Hooper Dilday Chair of Religious Education when fully funded;

--Heard a report on plans for a new conference center; and

--Heard a report from President Russell H. Dilday on the recent visit of the SBC Peace Committee subcommittee.

Dilday said the meeting of the four-member group was open and positive. After the visit, he said, subcommittee chairman Jim Henry assured him Southwestern "stands in the mainstream of Southern Baptist life."

Trustee Ron Lewis, senior consultant with Church Growth Designs in Nashville, Tenn., spoke in chapel. Lewis challenged the seminary family "to keep the main thing the main thing."

Baptists' main business should be God's agenda of seeking and saving non-Christians, he said, noting, "God has always been in the business of seeking people."

Such a "search theology," Lewis said, will develop vision in churches. "If you are ever going to lead a church beyond marrying the wed and burying the dead, it must start with a sense of vision," he added.

While numbers may not be everything to the church, Lewis said, "every person whose name is on a census role is going to live forever--somewhere."

Burton Chosen To Edit
Baptist Men's Materials

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Jim Burton has been named editor of Baptist Men's materials for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Prior to his employment at the Brotherhood Commission, Burton was a staff photographer at the Dallas Morning News in Dallas. He also has been staff photographer on newspapers in Topeka, Kan., Owensboro, Ky., and Jackson, Tenn.

He has earned a bachelor of arts degree in photojournalism and a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

He also earned the master of divinity in communication arts degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Burton, 30, and his wife, Kim, have a year-old son, Jim.

--30--

Author Of Sullivan Principles
Calls For Christian Involvement

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
3/18/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn (BP)—Worldwide social and political upheaval threaten the very existence of democracy, international religious leader Leon Sullivan told participants at the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's annual seminar.

Growing hunger, unemployment and deprivation in developing nations are combining with the specter of apartheid in South Africa to imperil world stability, warned Sullivan, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia and author of the "Sullivan Principles" which have been adopted by scores of multinational corporations regarding business practice in South Africa.

Addressing Third World poverty, Sullivan said: "In much of the world today, human needs are greater than they have ever been and the prospect for the world's masses are not bright.... Estimates are that of the 4.7 billion in the world today, approximately one billion are now living between bare subsistence and disaster."

Up to two billion people will lie in "constant hunger by the year 2000," Sullivan predicted, citing statistics which show Third World poverty will escalate.

"Looking ahead to the next century, the world can expect ever-increasing social and political upheaval that, in time, will threaten the existence of democratic institutions," he said. "The question is what to do about the situation, because if we fail to find answers, all of our free enterprise and capitalistic theories and systems and preaching about Jesus Christ to the poor will go down the drain."

He advocated aid to developing nations which will empower people in those countries to help themselves. He called for churches and businesses to provide Third World inhabitants with "a skill that can be used to build the nations from the bottom up—how to use the hands, to be a carpenter, a bricklayer, a plumber, an electrician, an automobile mechanic and on and on, for nations are built, not from the top down, but from the bottom up."

"The church must gear itself to a new mission—food and skills for the hungry now, not milk and honey in heaven but some ham and eggs on earth," he said.

Turning to apartheid—the system of racial segregation in South Africa, which he called "a blight on civilization"—Sullivan also called for churches and businesses to stand up for poor people and change an "evil system."

"Somehow, through the help of God, there must be found a way to build a bridge between the white and the non-white population in South Africa before havoc overtakes that country and further spills out over all of Africa and into the rest of the world," he pleaded.

--more--

The seeds of unrest which are planted in that country's unjust system are so fertile they can bear rotten fruit--riots in America, nuclear confrontation between the superpowers, unrest in scores of countries--around the globe, he said. Sullivan, who has worked with business and church leaders around the world to end apartheid, added he is "among the minority in the world that believes apartheid can end without vast war. I believe God still lives."

But he challenged Christians to be God's instruments in bringing about an end to the system of racial injustice.

The Sullivan Principles, which he developed in 1977, have guided business in their dealings with the government of South Africa. They push for such ideals as equal pay for equal work, allowing the existence of black trade unions, placing blacks in positions of management and providing fair housing schemes.

He expressed displeasure that congressional moves to provide sanctions against the government of South Africa and companies whose policies support apartheid failed last year, noting President Ronald Reagan's executive order in regard to apartheid "was weaker than I had hoped."

"We must keep up the pressure," he said, urging Christians to contact Reagan, their senators and representatives, as well as companies which do business in South Africa.

"If the Sullivan Principles and other equal rights codes are implemented and monitored, they can make a difference in South Africa towards meaningful change," Sullivan said. He called for no expansion of American businesses in South Africa, no new bank loans and no sales to South African government agencies which would benefit oppression until apartheid is ended.

Sullivan's timetable for the abolition of apartheid in South Africa is May of 1987. With that deadline in mind, he called for concerned individuals as well as businesses, churches and other groups to "stand up and be counted."

"Time is running out," he said. "People are being killed daily in South Africa, and South Africa is on the threshold of revolution. The gauntlet must be laid. The evils of apartheid must come to an end. When that time comes...I hope there will be those of the great Southern Baptist Convention who will stand with me."

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS

901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

LYNN MAY HO
- HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE
NASHVILLE, TN 37203

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION