



- - 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

April 10, 1986

Peace Committee Discusses
Politics, Ally Enlistment

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

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention politics occupied much of the sixth meeting of the SBC Peace Committee, but the 22-member body began to inch forward in an effort to enlist the protagonists in the peace process.

"Early in this meeting, it was like we turned a page in the ledger and stamped 'Politics' at the top," said committee chairman Charles Fuller. "We moved rather abruptly into the same kind of confrontation and exchange which occupied our second meeting, when we began our discussion of theological differences."

Despite sharp exchanges between committee members, Fuller said the committee agreed on a process designed to "enlist some people who have either been subjects of the controversy or have been leaders in it as we work toward bringing about some reconciliation."

"In this meeting, we approved a process where we will ask these people to come and help us or at least to come and spend time with us and allow us to spend time with them," he said.

A keystone in the process will be a prayer retreat, tentatively scheduled for September or October, to bring together members of the Peace Committee and "those involved in denominational life and agency leadership."

While the recommendation did not specify who will attend the retreat--expected to be held in one of the Southern Baptist Conference Centers--those participating will include at least leaders of the 11 agencies visited by Peace Committee visitation subcommittees--the six seminaries (Southwestern, Southern, Southeastern, Midwestern, New Orleans and Golden Gate), the Baptist Sunday School Board, Home and Foreign Mission Boards, Christian Life Commission and Historical Commission.

Also part of the process will be meetings of the five-member subcommittee on political activity, which will meet, in the next few weeks, with leaders of the groups which have been politically active and with representatives of denominational and independent news media.

Charles Pickering, committee vice chairman and a Laurel, Miss., attorney, said the meetings of the subcommittee will focus on "gaining information and suggestions, conveying concerns of the committee and others and enlisting their support in the peace effort. This is part of the process the subcommittee must go through before we can make recommendations to the Peace Committee and eventually to the convention."

"It is not easy. If it were, there would be no reason for the Peace Committee to exist. There are major issues before the committee that have not been resolved. We will be working and talking and praying," Pickering added.

Fuller referred to the planned subcommittee meetings and the prayer retreat as "progress." He explained, "We have adopted a strategy designed to utilize some of the people who have been principals in the controversy to become principals in the peace process. That doesn't look like a whole lot on paper, but if it comes to fruition, if it produces what we want it to produce, then we will have made a considerable amount of progress."

Much of the sixth meeting of the Peace Committee was given over to meetings of two subcommittees Fuller appointed prior to the early April session. One of the groups discussed the effects of negative designations on overall Cooperative Program giving and the other began discussing political differences and organizations in the 14.4-million-member denomination.

The negative designation subcommittee is chaired by Robert Cuttino of Lancaster, S.C. Members are Christine Gregory of Danville, Va.; Ray Roberts of Asheville, N.C.; Albert McClellan of Nashville, Tenn.; and Daniel Vestal of Midland, Texas. During the meeting, Fuller added Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla., to the group.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified giving plan. Funds come from churches to state conventions, which retain a portion of the contributions, and then go to the SBC. Currently, only funds which are "undesignated"—used to support all programs of the SBC—are referred to as Cooperative Program funds.

Some persons have suggested a way to end the hostility in the denomination is to allow churches to support causes they favor and to be allowed to decline to support other agencies with whom they disagree.

However, after discussion, the subcommittee reported it does not recommend the Peace Committee offer a system of selective support (or negative designation) as a means to temper the controversy "at this time."

The political activities subcommittee is chaired by Pickering. Members are Jodi Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas.; Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City; Ed Young of Houston; and John Sullivan of Shreveport, La. During the meeting, Fuller added Cecil Sherman of Fort Worth, Texas.

"We spent a great deal of time discussing political organization, voter registration and balloting. There is certain information that we must get, and the subcommittee meetings in the next few weeks are designed to help us do that. We must have that kind of information before we can make any kind of report to the Peace Committee," Pickering said.

In summarizing the meeting, Fuller said: "The atmosphere of diversity has never left the Peace Committee during the nine months we have been meeting. The problems we have confronted as a convention for the past several years are, by and large, still there.

"We have restated these problems every way we know how and have tried to analyze them, to understand them and to find ways to deal with them. It can become frustrating but we know the Peace Committee came into being to transfer this fray from the denomination at large to 22 people. That is our assignment and we have accepted it."

In addition to approving the recommendation of the negative designation subcommittee and the direction of the political activities group, as well as the prayer retreat, the body also moved toward formalizing its report to the annual meeting of the SBC, June 10-12 in Atlanta.

Fuller said he and Pickering "feel the responsibility of reporting something of substance in June," and added he has been authorized to appoint a subcommittee to begin the process of drafting an outline to be presented when the body meets in mid-May in Atlanta. After that meeting, a full report will be drafted which will be acted on when the group meets in Atlanta prior to the June annual meeting.

Fuller said the "assignment we have continues to bring pressure to bear on us but we must keep faith with Southern Baptists who are concerned about the controversy and about the problems that we have. If we are going to keep faith, we must investigate all of these matters and find out whether they are real or not.

"It takes time to hear and think of these things through and to try to talk about all of them. We must do these things. But, at the same time, we have spent nine months in discussion, exchange, evaluation and investigation. Constantly, we have been faced with some new facet of this whole controversy," he said.

"All that we have done has been in an effort to be true to the Southern Baptists who have a genuine concern and have told us to investigate the sources of the controversy. Those things are legitimate, but at the same time, we are aware of the responsibilities we have to give Southern Baptists some conclusions and some help," he said.

He added he expects the committee to make a report "of substance" to the 1986 SBC, but to continue in its deliberations, making a final report at the 1987 annual meeting in St. Louis.

CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST EVANGELISTS
 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ATLANTA
 June 11, 1986
 THEME: Back to Soul-Winning

- 12:50—Prelude of Praise—Tony Curtis, pianist, music evangelist, St. Louis; John Bos, organist, music evangelist, Orlando, Fla.
 12:55—"God Bless America"—G.P. Comer, music evangelist, Dallas
 1:00—Praise Through Music—Dick Barrett, music evangelist, Bremen, Ga.
 1:10—Miraculous Melodies of Praise—Jim McNeil, music evangelist, St. Louis
 1:55—Message in Music—Madeline Jones, music evangelist, Longview, Texas
 2:00—Greetings from Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists' president—Larry Taylor, evangelist, San Antonio, Texas
 --Prayer—Bob Kendig, evangelist, Memphis, Tenn.
 2:05—Message in Music—Squire Parsons, music evangelist, Leiceister, N.C.
 2:10—Testimony of a Transformed Life—Daniel Gage, evangelist, Houston
 2:25—Presentation of New Officers—Larry Taylor
 2:30—Message in Music—Leon Westerhouse, music evangelist, Birmingham, Ala.
 2:35—Testimony of a Transformed Life—Delton Dees, evangelist, St. Louis
 2:50—Special Recognition of Evangelist George Havens—Rudy Hernandez, evangelist, San Antonio, Texas
 --Special Recognition of Evangelist Felix Snipes—Wayne Bristow, director of evangelism, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City
 3:05—Message in Music—The Calvary Singers, music evangelists, Plano, Texas
 3:10—The Spoken Word—C.E. Autry, retired evangelism director for the SBC Home Mission Board, Pensacola, Fla.
 3:40—Praise Through Music—Jackson Cox, music evangelist, Milledgeville, Ga.
 3:55—Greetings from SBC President—Charles Stanley, Southern Baptist Convention president and pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta
 4:10—Message Through Music—Vernard Johnson, music evangelist, Fort Worth, Texas
 4:15—The Spoken Word—Ed Young, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston
 4:50—Benediction—President-elect of Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists

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Evangelists' Meeting To Focus
 On Conversion Of Non-Christians

Baptist Press
 4/10/86

ATLANTA (BP)—Preachers and singers will seek to encourage fellow Christians to lead more people to faith in Christ when the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists convenes in Atlanta June 11.

The event is scheduled during the Wednesday afternoon break in business sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, also scheduled for Atlanta June 10-12. The evangelists will meet at the city's First Baptist Church, beginning at 12:50 p.m.

"Our theme is 'Back to Soul-Winning,'" said Larry Taylor, evangelist from San Antonio, Texas, and president of the evangelists' conference. The theme relates to the Good News America—God Loves You simultaneous revivals being held across the Southern Baptist Convention this spring, he said.

"Because of the Good News America emphasis, most state convention evangelism directors want to win more people to Christ and baptize more people this year," Taylor explained. "All of us who are evangelists are trying to win more souls this year than ever before." With those factors in mind, the evangelists decided to coordinate their theme with the SBC-wide evangelistic emphasis, he said.

Featured will be 12 music evangelists or groups and messages from four speakers, as well as greetings from Taylor and SBC President Charles Stanley of Atlanta. Special recognition will be paid to evangelists George Havens of Fort Worth, Texas, and Felix Snipes of Atlanta.

While the annual meeting will be the centerpiece of the organization's activities, four related events are planned, all to be held in the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel.

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The organization will host a reception for all full-time vocational evangelists and state evangelism directors and their associates Monday night, June 9, following the SBC Pastors' Conference. The conference's annual business meeting will be held at 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 10. And on Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 p.m. to midnight, the group will host "Festivals of Praise" featuring full-time music evangelists.

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Fields, FMB Head
BPRA Award Winners

By Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist Press
4/10/86

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Although the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board dominated awards competition of the Baptist Public Relations Association, the awards night belonged to Wilmer C. Fields.

Fields, vice president for public relations for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and a BPRA member since 1959, was attending his last BPRA meeting as a "working" member. He will retire April 1, 1987.

In recognition of his years of service and his contributions to denominational public relations, BPRA members voted to rename their annual awards competition "The Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition."

During the awards ceremony, however, it was the Foreign Mission Board which stood above the crowd, capturing 33 of 100 awards. The SBC Home Mission Board was next with 11 winners, followed by the SBC Brotherhood Commission with nine.

Joanna Pinneo, Foreign Mission Board (FMB) staff photographer, led the way with eight awards, including the Fon H. Scofield Award for exceptional achievement in publication photography. Robert O'Brien, FMB overseas news coordinator and senior communications consultant, received six awards for news and feature writing, including the Frank Burkhalter Award for exceptional achievement in writing. O'Brien, along with his wife, Shirley, also won a second-place award in the public relations project category.

Grand Award winners, in addition to Pinneo and O'Brien, included--David Clanton, director of public relations, Baylor University, the Arthur S. Davenport Award for exceptional achievement in public relations and development; James M. Saul Jr., assistant to the president for personnel, Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, the M.E. Dodd Award for exceptional achievement in audiovisual productions; and Tim Seanor, editor, Pioneer Royal Ambassadors, SBC Brotherhood Commission (BC), the Albert McClellan Award for exceptional achievement in publications and print media.

First-place winners included--Clanton, total public relations/development program; Jennifer Gordon, Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, Texas, public relations project; Alan Compton, FMB, motion picture film; Dutch Bickley, Annuity Board, filmstrip and/or slide presentation and multi-image media presentation;

Phil Hester, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, audio production; Saul, TV video special or limited series; Ronald J. Lawson, Home Mission Board (HMB), TV or video series; Pinneo, black and white single news photo, black and white news photo story, color single feature photo, color feature photo story, black and white general photo and color general photo;

Don Rutledge, FMB, color single news photo, color news photo story and black and white single feature photo; Mark Sandlin, HMB, black and white feature photo story; Dwight Reid, Gardner-Webb College, advertisement single; Michael Blackwell, Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, advertisement series (tie), folder and editorial/opinion writing;

Nan Dickson, Baptist General Convention of Texas, advertisement series (tie); Betty Ensminger, Buckner Baptist Benevolence, annual report (tie); John E. Seelig, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, annual report (tie); Mike Dudit, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, academic catalog (tie); Eddie Owens, Wayland Baptist University, academic catalog (tie);

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Ben Harbin, Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB), product catalog; Winston Beard, Hendrick Medical Center, brochure; C. Mark Smith, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, poster; Mary Jane Welch, FMB, external newsletter; Charles Willis, BSSB, internal newsletter; Seanor, magazine; Trennis Henderson, Missouri Baptist Convention's Word and Way, weekly news publication;

Pat Cravens, HMB, special publications and direct mail campaign; James Preston, Missouri Baptist Convention, two-color letterhead; Herschel A. Wells, BC, two-color logo; Stephen Mosley, Oklahoma Baptist University, four-color logo; Mary Ann V. Price, HMB, two-color general print media design and two-color catalog/book design; Bill Latta, BSSB, four-color general print media design; Roy White, BC, four-color catalog/book design; James Hornsby, BC, two-color publication design;

Daniel Beatty, FMB, four-color publication design; Karen Benson, Baylor University, news story; Art Toalston, FMB, news series; Leland Webb, FMB, interpretative/investigative reporting; Erich Bridges, FMB, magazine feature story; and O'Brien, news feature story, magazine feature series and news feature series.

Second-place recipients included—Robert and Shirley O'Brien, public relations project (tie); Seanor, public relations project (tie); Bickley, motion picture film; Owens, filmstrip and/or slide presentation; Carol Garrett, Woman's Missionary Union, multi-image media presentation; W.C. Woody, JDK Communications, Inc., audio production;

Michael O. Britt, HMB, TV, video special or limited series; Ben L. Sherman, HMB, TV or video series; Rutledge, black and white single news photo, black and white news photo story and black and white feature photo story; Pinneo, color single news photo and black and white single feature photo; Chris Hansen, Baylor University, general color photo;

Steve Higdon, BSSB, advertisement single (tie); Seanor, advertisement single (tie); Gordon, advertisement series; Ray Furr, Annuity Board, annual report (tie); Seelig, academic catalog (tie), brochure and special publications; Dudit, poster;

Dan Euliss and Barbara Denman, HMB, folder; Jim Lowry, BSSB, external newsletter; Roy Jennings, Baptist Memorial Hospital, internal newsletter; Webb, magazine; Al Shackelford, Connie Davis and Charlie Warren, Tennessee Baptist Convention's Baptist and Reflector, weekly news publication; Michael Largent, HMB, direct mail campaign; Kenneth R. Parks, First Baptist Church, Grapevine, Texas, two-color logo;

Pat Cravens, HMB, two-color general print media design; Lynda Kokel, Baptist General Convention of Texas, four-color general print media design; Sharon Goodwin, BC, four-color catalog/book design; James Hornsby, BC, four-color publication design; Art Toalston, FMB, news story (tie); Bob Stanley, FMB, news story (tie); Ken Camp, Baptist General Convention of Texas, news series; Pamela A. Parry, Word and Way, interpretative/investigative reporting; O'Brien, magazine feature story and editorial/opinion writing; Laura Bullock, Louisiana College, news feature story; and Martha Skelton, FMB, magazine feature series.

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Veneman Joins BSSB
As Photojournalist

Baptist Press
4/10/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—James R. Veneman has been named photojournalist in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's office of communications.

Veneman, 33, came to the board from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., where he had been an instructor in photojournalism and telecommunications and associate to the director of public relations.

Earlier, he held part-time positions as development associate and photographer at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

A native of Arkansas, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern seminary.

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901 Commerce #750
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LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE
NASHVILLE, TN 37203

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