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86-55

Winfred Moore Announces  
Four-Point SBC Peace Plan

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP)--Winfred Moore, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has announced a four-point "peace plan" calling for "fairness" in the 14.4-million member denomination.

Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, would not say he is willing to be nominated as convention president when the SBC meets in Atlanta next June, but added, "As far as I know, I've never run out on a friend or a cause I believe in."

Moore was in Atlanta to preach at First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga. He also met with several Atlanta-area pastors, attended a luncheon sponsored by a dozen laymen, and held a small news conference following the luncheon.

In none of the meetings or news conference did he publicly list the four points of his "peace plan," although he covered all four points in detail during the news conference. Moore disclosed his four-point plan in a telephone interview with the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press after the meetings.

Moore's plan is:

1. There must be a fairness in the distribution of power and the inclusion of small churches by allowing no more than two individuals from the same church being asked to serve on SBC boards and agencies.
2. There must be a fairness in the appointment process by asking each state convention president, WMU president, executive director and chairman of the state convention executive board for names. The SBC president and officers should make appointments from these suggestions.
3. The people asked to serve on SBC boards and agencies should be from churches who have shown a history of support for Southern Baptist Cooperative Program efforts.
4. There must be a fairness in the conducting of business at our national conventions by calling for an official parliamentarian and requesting proper identification when the ballots are received by the messengers.

Moore said he did not plan to present his four-point proposal to the SBC Peace Committee, of which he is a member, because the committee has too much to do between now and the convention. "I just hope everyone will take a look at the idea and come to the convention in Atlanta with a more peaceful approach."

Moore said he covered all four points in his meetings with Atlanta area pastors and laymen "who share my philosophy," but that he did not list them one-two-three-four until his interview with Baptist Press.

"I'm not a politician," he insisted. "I'm a novice at this sort of thing, so I probably didn't handle the press conference very well."

Although he repeatedly denied he is a candidate for SBC president, Moore said "it is very important that we have a change in style of leadership in the SBC."

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"We have two different philosophies of how you do church in the SBC," Moore added. One is that the pastor is a ruler who makes the decisions for the church; the other is that the church should have a "shared ministry" between pastor, church staff and laity, he added. Moore strongly advocated the second philosophy, but said the SBC presidents for the last several years have followed the first philosophy.

Saying he was not surprised at the announcement that Adrian Rogers is willing to be a candidate for SBC president, Moore added he felt Rogers is "misusing" the statement on theological diversity issued by the SBC Peace Committee.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and also a Peace Committee member, said in his announcement the Peace Committee's "diversity statement" has "clearly said" there is a theological problem in the SBC.

Moore, however, denied that the Peace Committee statement is a so-called "smoking gun" proving there are theological problems. "That's not what the Peace Committee voted to say," said Moore. "We were just acknowledging what everyone has known all along---that we have diversity in the SBC."

Moore said he feels "our diversity has been a great part of our strength" in the SBC. Emphasizing his own theological conservatism, Moore said, however, he did not want to make everyone fit into the same mold.

"I've said all along if someone is teaching heresy, we ought to deal with that person on a one-to-one basis; but we shouldn't throw a cloud of suspicion over everyone," Moore said. "We need teachers in our seminaries who expand our minds; not who walk in the same ruts we are in."

Amplifying the points in his "peace plan," Moore said he felt amendments to the SBC Bylaws and Constitution should be adopted by the convention in Atlanta to limit the power of the SBC president in appointing the SBC Committee on Committees.

"That's too much concentration of power and too much responsibility to be on the shoulders of one man," said Moore, immediate past president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He suggested that the SBC use the process of the Texas convention, in which the Committee on Committees is appointed jointly by the convention officers, after suggestions from many leaders.

Moore said he and SBC second vice president Henry Huff of Louisville, Ky., had met with SBC President Charles Stanley of Atlanta on the previous Friday to talk about SBC committee appointments. Moore said he and Huff had made suggestions to Stanley on committee appointments, but that Stanley said he would add their suggestions to the computerized list along with names suggested by others. "We'll have to wait until the committee appointments are announced (by Stanley) to see if our suggestions were taken seriously," Moore said.

Moore said Stanley had asked him and Huff to preside during business sessions of the SBC at two of the overflow auditoriums in Atlanta's World Congress Center. "I don't think I'll be asked to preside over any of the business in the main hall on Tuesday," Moore said.

Moore said there has been no change in his plans declining to publicly announce his candidacy for SBC president. "I've hoped all along someone would rise to the occasion and emerge as a strong candidate to bring the convention together, but that has not happened."

"If I were to become a candidate I would want to see wider representation of smaller churches in the SBC" and appointment of committee members "who have shown a history of support of what we do together through the Cooperative Program," Moore said in the press conference.

Although he said he did not like "labels" used to describe political factions within the SBC, he was comfortable with the terminology suggested by Peace Committee Chairman Charles Fuller calling the two groups "moderate-conservatives" and "fundamental-conservatives." Moore described himself as a "conservative" who is also a "denominational loyalist."

Although the divisions "are very real," Moore said they are not enough to split the convention. He added that neither the moderate-conservatives nor the fundamental-conservatives will fade away.

Chinese Visitors Introduced  
To Gospel During Trip To U.S.

By Orville Scott

AUSTIN, Texas (BP)--Twenty-four Chinese will return home to the People's Republic of China in April after being introduced to the gospel during the Good News America simultaneous revival at Anderson Mill Baptist Church in Austin, Texas.

They were involved in a technology exchange with the company where Bob Barlett, Anderson Mill Sunday school director, is manager of computer systems.

Barlett, who had been able to talk with some of the Chinese about Christ, invited them to attend the simultaneous revival. When they all accepted his invitation, Barlett told his wife, "We'd better get them Bibles in Chinese and English."

"We felt they would read these Bible more, if only to help them learn English," said Barlett.

The Barlett's were able to secure enough bilingual Bibles for the group from Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin and a bookstore. Afterward, the Barletts invited the Chinese to their home, where they discussed what they had experienced during the service.

The Chinese visitors attended a second service and afterward one of their interpreters said, "I prayed in my heart to Jesus."

"How did you know to pray?" asked Barlett.

"I've been reading the Bible you gave me," she replied.

Barlett said Anderson Mill Baptist Church is praying that when the Chinese return home, they will share their Bibles with others.

The Chinese expressed surprise people besides Christians were invited to church. "They said they didn't expect Americans to be so open and caring," added Barlett.

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Church Struggles Through  
Second Major Transition

By Sherri Anthony Brown

Baptist Press  
4/16/86

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--East Baptist Church has come full circle. Twice it has committed to stay in its transitional neighborhood--first in the late 1950s when the church suffered from white flight, and currently as low income housing gives way to Yuppie condominiums, near downtown Louisville, Ky.

For the past 13 years, home missionary Jim Holladay, who is pastor of the church and director of Baptist Center, housed in the same building, has been the stabilizing factor in the seemingly ever-changing community.

The congregation, in the same location since 1842, pledged to be a neighborhood church when the first change came. With the onset of subsidized housing, the church began weekday ministries to neighborhood children, including building a gymnasium.

As urban renewal swept the area in the late 1950s, the church was required by the city to make \$500,000 repairs or tear the building down. With no other choice, members opted to demolish the building and rebuild on the same property. They incorporated their church, their weekday ministry center and offices of Long Run Baptist Association in the same building.

In 1973 Holladay went to Louisville to study at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. For his field placement experience, Holladay signed up with East Baptist Church. For \$50 a month he worked with the campus minister; on weekends he coached basketball at the local YMCA. After seminary graduation, he became associate pastor of East Baptist Church and in 1979 he was appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as pastor/director.

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Between 1975 and 1983 the community lost 75 percent of its residential population because four hospitals and a regional medical center were built in the neighborhood.

"This meant that our ministry had to once again change radically," explains Holladay. "When I first came here, ministry was primarily for underprivileged children. Now about 90 percent of our children have one or more parents in the medical field."

The church recently evaluated the needs of its changing community. This summer one of its findings will be put into effect. Instead of offering traditional children's day camp, members will conduct a summer program for senior adults to reach several hundred elderly people in nearby Dosker Manor, a government housing project for senior adults and handicapped people.

They also are trying to discover ways to reach the young urban professionals moving into the area. "But that's going to be difficult since the management of the condominiums and apartments won't allow us to visit door-to-door," explains Holladay. He is trying to find a couple who will volunteer their time to live and work among the Yuppie community.

Holladay admits the changes have caused a personal struggle. "I find myself no longer working with street people and other underprivileged people--both of which are concerns of mine," he says. "I'm concerned about indigent health care, too. Here we are surrounded by four hospitals, but they're all private."

However, Holladay still champions some concerns. At one time the church's child development center was challenged. The center cares for 105 children, five days a week, from two months to five years old. Almost 90 percent of the center's budget comes from child development center fees. "But some people felt that child development center was a service, not a ministry," says Holladay.

As he began to study child care and evaluate the program, "I discovered we're planting seeds of love and trust in children. During their first five years of life, children develop feelings about other people. We're making it easier for a child to trust other people, and for that child to respond to God.

"Sometimes it's hard work fighting battles and struggling to discover the right things to do, but every now and then I see that we're making a little difference in someone's life and I can keep going," says Holladay.

His favorite memory is of a trip to the movie with his wife and six 10-year olds. On the way home one of the girls said, "I can't wait till Christmas Eve. I'm going to look up in the sky all night long 'till I see it."

"You mean Santa and his reindeer?" Holladay asked.

"No dummy," she retorted. "Jesus' star."

"That makes it all worth it," says Holladay.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press

Chaplains Take Gospel  
Where People Work

By David Reid

Baptist Press  
4/16/86

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--When a poultry processor in Hope, Ark., needs to talk to someone about problems at home, a Southern Baptist chaplain is there to listen.

"I can go down the line and just say, 'Hi,' and they have an open door to share with me whatever good or bad things are happening with them," says chaplain Dean Newberry.

As a chaplain for Hudson Foods, Newberry is among 20 Southern Baptists who are full-time corporate or industrial chaplains.

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Although based at the company's headquarters in Rogers, Ark., Newberry divides his time between plants in Hope, Noel, Mo., and Springfield, Mo.

"Most of my counseling is done on the line," he says. "Very few of our employees make an appointment or come to my office."

Newberry considered corporate chaplaincy after an evangelism conference speaker challenged him to become more involved in ministry outside the church building. "I heard the statement that 95 percent of Christian activities occur inside the four walls of the church," Newberry recalls. "I began to look at what I was doing and realized that was true. So after 29 years in the pastorate I walked into Hudson Foods and said, 'I want to be your chaplain.'"

Gil Stricklin, a chaplain in Dallas, figures his ministry is about the same as that of a pastor. "What's unique about it is who I do it for and where it's done," he says.

Stricklin is founder and president of Marketplace Ministries, a non-profit corporation which supplies chaplains by contract to several companies in Texas and Oklahoma. Marketplace Ministries employs seven full-time and two part-time chaplains.

Stricklin considers himself "a minister to people who do not have a minister," he explains. "People still get sick and they still have crises and they want a minister there."

His philosophy is to minister to people where they spend the largest portion of their waking hours--at work. "Instead of waiting for them to come to church, we take the ministry to them," he says. "They don't have to go to church, but they do have to go to work."

So Stricklin and his associates do on-the-job counseling and lead morning Bible studies before work at some companies. They also perform weddings and funerals and are frequent visitors in hospitals.

A former associate evangelism director with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Stricklin says his main concern is to see people accept Christ and join a local church where they can be discipled.

Both Stricklin and Newberry say management considers the ministry to be productive. "When I walk down the line and talk to an employee who is having problems, if I can calm him down I not only help him, but he's going to be more productive," Newberry says.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern seminary.

Davis Elected President  
Of Computer Users Group

Baptist Press  
4/16/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Don Davis, lead systems analyst in the Baptist Sunday School Board's systems department, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Computer Users Association, during their recent meeting in Dallas.

The 14-year-old organization includes computer users from SBC agencies, state conventions and churches.

Other officers are Terry Bratton, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, program vice president; Fran Wayton, Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., membership vice president; Pat Moore, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., secretary; Jim Oliver, Buckner Baptist Benevolence, Dallas, treasurer; Norman Holcombe, Foreign Mission Board, newsletter editor; and Mike Overcash, Sunday School Board and Jim Morrison, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., program committee.

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