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May 15, 1986

86-73

Bennett: Schools Should Teach
Judeo-Christian Tradition

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)--If American students are ignorant of the Judeo-Christian tradition, they may become indifferent to religious freedom, Secretary of Education William Bennett told members of the American Jewish Committee gathered in the nation's capital.

Bennett called the Judeo-Christian ethic--along with the democratic ethic and work ethic--central to America's "common culture," which he described as the nation's "moral imagination" and to which he said "most American men and women, of all races, religions and backgrounds subscribe."

In discussing how the nation's public schools handle those central ethics, Bennett said it is understandable "that many educators wish to avoid controversy, especially in an area as sensitive as religion." But he added if the desire to avoid controversy "means that our students will grow up ignorant of the role of religion, of religious freedom and religious faith in American life, then surely we will have badly failed them."

The secretary of education asserted "the vitality of religious freedom is itself tied to the vitality of the Judeo-Christian tradition."

Bennett cited surveys he said show most Americans today believe in "the father of all mercies." He said whether or not individuals hold such a belief, those mercies--"rights, freedoms and liberties"--are "the extra gift of our common culture" and "belong to us all."

"It is the heritage of our common culture, grounded in the Judeo-Christian tradition, that helps support not just religious liberty, but our free society as a whole," Bennett said. "Again, one does not have to assent to the religious beliefs that are at the heart of our common culture to enjoy its benefits."

"Whatever one's personal views, the religious tradition at the heart of our culture does require, in our time, common acknowledgement, respect, attention, nurture and defense."

During his address, Bennett mentioned criticism he received following his statement last summer that "Our values as a free people and the central values of the Judeo-Christian tradition are flesh of the flesh, blood of the blood." He said he was called "an Ayatollah" and "taken to task by a number of groups."

He specifically mentioned criticism he received from Americans United for Separation of Church and State. He added, however, the conclusion of a recent survey published by that organization corroborated his argument about "the tendency to neglect the centrality of the Judeo-Christian tradition."

Bennett stressed the importance of defending and teaching the nation's common culture, calling the present situation one in which "some of the essential elements of the common culture are in danger of not being adequately transmitted in the schools."

"We know that in the real world the main alternative to the common culture of the U.S. is the common culture of Qaddafi and company," he said. "We know that our common culture is at once a precious historical legacy and a vulnerable one. And we know that our common culture deserves to be defended."

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Nashville, Tennessee**

German, U.S. Baptists Study
Uses Of Media In Evangelism

By Todd Deaton

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptists may have started something with their recent "Good News America, God Loves You" emphasis that may have repercussions across the Atlantic.

This spring, 27 German Baptists witnessed Southern Baptists' national simultaneous revival campaign while representatives of the two denominations joined hands to explore how to bring good news to Germany--and Europe--through media and evangelism.

Robert Don Hughes, assistant professor of mass media and communications at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., welcomed 11 representatives of the German Baptist Union interested in establishing a media ministry in their own country.

The group of three pastors and eight laymen participated in a three-week tour that also included visits to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, both in Fort Worth, Texas, and the Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN) of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn.

The media ministry workshop at Southern Seminary introduced the Germans to all aspects of television production.

The group began with a preproduction planning session to discuss formats, equipment, technical personnel, expenses and talent. After a brief glimpse at proper techniques for using a studio camera, they were supervised through mock production and editing procedures.

In less than a week, the group had produced its first 12-minute video in German, "Media Work: A New Way of Sharing the Gospel." The video features interviews with the participants, what they have learned during the week-long workshop and how they hope to use television as a ministry in Germany.

They plan someday to produce quality Christian programs for public broadcasting. But for the moment this dream is blocked by the government, which controls both the national and regional television networks.

Herman Woock, pastor of Goettingen Baptist Church, has other plans for the immediate future. "We can already use media in many of our 380 German Baptist churches," he said. "In formats similar to BTN programs, television can prepare lay persons for ministry to youth, elderly and sick."

But Woock is concerned. Presently only 65,000 people in Germany are Baptists, or about one person out of every 100. "Our primary objective in coming to America is to discover how we can use media as an outreach tool," he explained.

"The church needs to demonstrate what it is doing in the community," he said. "Media can be used to explain to the unchurched why we are in church and how it can meet their needs."

Axel Waschke of Hamburg, Germany, is a layman interested in media ministry. He was excited about seeing ACTS (American Christian Television System) and BTN while in the United States.

"Time on public channels is becoming more available as the government relaxes its hold on the networks and cable arrives in many areas. Our task is to make programs with Christian emphases to fill these times," he noted.

Waschke, a television technician, has a vision of designing a television system for the church. He is pioneer in this field and wants to focus the camera on church members and their lifestyles rather than on pulpit figures.

"While at Southern Seminary, many of our group learned for the first time the basics of how to make a television program," he explained. "Now we can return to Germany on the verge of transcribing the good news from the Bible into television programs."

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"Perhaps the most important thing we have gained so far is the creation of a common bond," he continued. "Pastors, laity, television technicians and journalists have come together as a team to bring Christian media to Germany."

Southern Baptists also helped German Baptists develop strategies for urban evangelism in a simultaneous conference for the other 16 other Germans hosted by Lewis A. Drummond, Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Seminary. The evangelism group's study tour included the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board and Sunday School Board.

Among this group was Bernard Suderman, a Russian immigrant now living in West Germany, who wants to discover urban evangelism techniques to combine with his media ministry. He operates a Transworld radio station in Monte Carlo, just south of France, that transmits Christian programs in German, English and Russian, across the borders of the Soviet block.

"People in Russia have no way for fundamental information of Christianity to reach them; they need to hear the good news," Suderman explained.

Southern Baptists aid Suderman's ministry through the Foreign Mission Board and the Cooperative Program. Along with programs sponsored by the German Baptist Union, the "Radio Bible School," a five-minute Bible program in Russian funded by Southern Baptists, is broadcast several times daily.

"The radio station is successful with its international ministry," he said. "Only a few letters are reaching us, but the ones we get are strong testimonies from towns with no Baptist churches.

"After broadcasting in these areas, the letters tell of churches that are being established as a result. It is our hope that we can implant the Christian faith in Russia in 10-12 years," he said.

Hughes, leader of the media workshop, understands what Southern Baptists can learn by exchanging ideas with German Baptists. On the last night the German group was at Southern Seminary they attended a Good News revival at Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville. Hughes witnessed an event during the service that capped the week's work.

"Sitting next to me was Helmut Schlender, who needed a translator," Hughes recalled. "At the close of the service, he sang the invitation hymn, 'Just As I Am,' in German.

"Helmut's singing was inspiring to Americans sitting near him. What we are doing is the same thing, sharing Christ with others, despite our language and cultural differences," Hughes concluded. "In Christ there is no East or West, and in him we are really all one."

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(Todd Deaton is a freelance writer, student at Southern Seminary and intern at the Western Recorder, newsjournal for Kentucky Baptists.)

HMB Appoints Missionary
To Work With Diplomats

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5/15/86

ATLANTA (BP)--Ron Meron of Huntsville, Ala., has been named as minister among international diplomats at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's ministry at United Nations in New York, effective June 1.

Meron is currently a language missionary with the Madison Baptist Association in Huntsville.

He will fill a vacancy left by the retirement and death of Elias Golonka, pioneer in the United Nations Ministry sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Born in Israel of German parentage, Meron is fluent in four languages. He and his wife, Amy, a native of Singapore, are concert pianists.

Meron is a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

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Meron will join Theodore Mall in coordinating Southern Baptist witness, Bible distribution and ministry among diplomats at the United Nations.

The United Nations ministry is a companion to the SBC Home Mission Board's ministry among international diplomats in Washington, led by Mario Acacia.

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Rose Retires
After 19 Years

Baptist Press
5/15/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Morton F. Rose, vice president for church programs and services at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has announced his retirement effective Oct. 1, 1986, after 19 years at the agency.

Rose, 59, has been a vice president at the board since 1979, supervising the programs of Sunday school, church training, church music, national student ministries, family ministry, church architecture, church media library, church administration, church recreation and Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers.

In announcing his retirement, Rose said he has "the utmost confidence and appreciation for the leadership provided by President Lloyd Elder. I pledge my prayer and support to Dr. Elder and the entire administration of the Sunday School Board."

Rose added he has planned for nearly 10 years to take early retirement and is "deeply impressed of the Lord to make plans now to retire this fall." He said he will make an announcement in the next few weeks about a retirement ministry which will start in October 1986.

Elder called Rose a "committed Southern Baptist and a trusted friend. During my three years, I have come to know him and depend upon his knowledge of the board and wisdom in denominational matters. Even though his early retirement will be a personal loss for me, he and Ruby have my enthusiastic support and best wishes."

James W. Clark, executive vice president of the Sunday School Board, said Rose "has served well in a myriad assignment that is board-wide. He is a Christian gentleman and officer of the board who will be difficult to replace."

Rose, a native of California, is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Before being named vice president for church programs and services, Rose was director of the office of planning, assistant to the director of the church services and materials division and program design consultant.

Prior to coming to the Sunday School Board in 1967, he was co-director of the missions division at the Missouri Baptist Convention. Earlier he was pastor of churches in Louisville, Ky.; Ava, Mo.; and Spokane, Mo., and associational director of missions in Wright County, Mo.

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

ACTS Recognizes
Work Of Affiliates

By Lynn P. Clayton

Baptist Press
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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)— The American Christian Television System prepared to launch its third year of full operation by recognizing outstanding achievements of its affiliates during 1985, its first year of local-program broadcasting.

The first annual ACTS Awards Ceremony recognized 22 recipients selected from more than 200 ACTS network affiliates.

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"The awards honored outstanding achievements by local ACTS affiliates for superior local programming, promotion of the ACTS network and stations, affiliate management and community service," said Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission and its subsidiary ACTS.

"One of the keys to the effectiveness of the ACTS network is locally originated programs," Allen said. "The awards ceremony gave an almost electrifying demonstration of the talent, commitment and effectiveness of local groups ministering to their own neighbors."

A key to ACTS' effectiveness is "the fact that small churches as well as large ones can find ways to use television as a tool of ministry," he noted.

As an example of what Allen meant, 77-member Sublette Baptist Church of Sublette, Kan., was honored with the Best Local Promotion Award. The church's pastor, Ken Smith, told the 1, 000-plus audience, "ACTS gives a small church like ours an opportunity for a big ministry."

Arranger/composer Buryl Red of New York and Nashville, Tenn., received the Creative Arts Award for his musical contributions to the ACTS network. ACTS of Jackson, Miss., Inc., received the Cable Affiliate of the Year Award, and UHF Channel 20, Anchorage, Alaska, received the Broadcast Affiliate of the Year Award. The Alaskan station produced more than 300 locally-originated programs during 1985.

R. Chip Turner, state ACTS director for Louisiana, received the State Promotion Award.

Two Fort Worth, Texas, churches, Broadway Baptist and Travis Avenue Baptist, were honored. Broadway's special Mission Service Award was for its program "Quite Enough Love--Journey to the Northwest." Travis Avenue's 30-second promo, "Skyline," received the Best Television Spot of the Year.

Mark Grover of the Fort Smith, Ark., local ACTS board received the Best Promotional Spot Award and the Best Christian Message Spot. Mark Snowden of the Kentucky Baptist Convention won the State Mission Service Award.

ACTS of Katy, Texas, (cable) and ACTS of Lubbock, Texas, (broadcast) received Community Service Awards. First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, took Program of the Year and Becks Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., won Best Musical Program. Immanuel Baptist Church of Pine Bluff, Ark., received Best Human Interest Program and United Methodist Communications of New York produced the Best Network Program.

In addition, five History Maker Awards were presented to honor some of the "firsts" connected with the inauguration of the ACTS network. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, on whose campus the ceremonies were conducted, was lauded for establishing the first Christian Communication Center in the SBC.

Others recipients were: Ralph Tacker, first Mission Service Corps volunteer to work with ACTS; American Television and Communications Corp. of Denver, first ACTS multiple system operator; the local ACTS board in Clarendon, Texas, the first local ACTS board formed, and Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, first "Baptist Hour" preacher on television.

The first President's Award was presented to ACTS President Jimmy R. Allen.

ACTS is now available to 4 million viewers nationwide through 9 broadcast affiliates and 225 cable systems.

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Honeycutt Urges SBC To Elect
President Committed To Heritage

Baptist Press
5/15/86

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Southern Baptists should go to Atlanta this summer and elect a convention president "committed to be the president of all the people, not merely to the constituency which may elect him," Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has urged.

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Honeycutt made his exhortation in his column in *The Tie*, Southern Seminary's publication sent to 55,000 alumni, donors and other "friends" of the seminary.

He stressed the importance of attending the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta, June 10-12. He particularly encouraged attendance at the Tuesday session, June 10, when most major decisions will be made. "The Committee on Order of Business has effectively made Atlanta a one-day convention," he noted.

Referring to a recent peace proposal issued by Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, and expected to be a candidate for the convention presidency, Honeycutt expressed hope "that whoever is elected to lead us in the future will pledge himself to this kind of fairness."

Moore's proposal includes spreading board and agency trustee appointments to more churches, adopting a nominating process that draws on nominations by state convention leadership, making appointments from churches which are strong Cooperative Program supporters and using fairness in conducting convention business.

Honeycutt also urged convention messengers to elect a president "who affirms the priesthood of all believers," including the role of laypersons in church leadership.

He encouraged Southern Baptists to recognize and support "our authentic diversity." Noting the SBC Peace Committee subgroups found no Southern Baptist seminary teaching outside of its statement of faith, he indicated this offers hope for peace within the denomination.

"So long as our diversity remains within our common confessional statements, we can affirm one another in love and maintain our priority on missions, evangelism and education as a tripod on which the convention rests," he said.

Honeycutt called for prayerful support for Peace Committee members, including creation of "a context for their work which encourages peace."

Calling on the SBC annual meeting's theme of "Love Never Fails," Honeycutt expressed hope for the Atlanta convention if messengers will make love a priority.

"Such love as we experience in our relationship with Jesus Christ will not fail us in Atlanta or in the months afterward as we Southern Baptists seek reconciliation," he asserted.

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