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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committ:
901 Commerce #7
Nashville, Tennessee 372
(615) 244-23
Wilmer C. Fields, Direc:
Dan Martin, News Edit:
Mary Knox, Feature Edit:

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. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

February 3, 1987

87-14

Raglands Leave West Beirut
In Heavily Armed Convoy

By Art Toalston

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)---First in a bulletproof car surrounded by heavily armed militiamen, then in a convoy guarded by militiamen and Lebanese soldiers, Southern Baptist missionaries Jim and Leola Ragland left West Beirut Saturday morning, Jan. 31.

"Tomorrow will be our 33rd year here," Leola Ragland said in a Feb. 2 telephone interview from East Beirut, their temporary residence.

The Raglands described their departure as "very sad." Their careers have been devoted to the Beirut Baptist School, his as superintendent and hers as director of the preschool program. The Raglands hope to remain in East Beirut to help the school, which now is being operated by a committee of three Lebanese teachers.

On Jan. 28 the U.S. Department of State ordered all Americans in Lebanon to leave within 30 days.

Ragland said he was notified by telephone at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30, that arrangements could be made for him to leave West Beirut the following morning at 7:30.

"We were told by the embassy that ... that might be the last time they could do anything for us," Ragland said. "It was a very rushed-up thing."

West Beirut has been the site of numerous kidnappings of Americans and other foreigners the past two years. After the most recent kidnappings, militia guarding the area doubled the guards on the Raglands' street.

Soon after the call, Mrs. Ragland said, breaking into tears, "local people just massed in the house to tell us goodbye. It was quite a sad farewell."

The Raglands placed a call to the 950-student school Feb. 2, when students and faculty members learned of the departure. "They told us it was really a sad occasion at school today," Mrs. Ragland said.

The bulletproof car was provided by the militia in control of the neighborhood where the school is located. Several of the militia's leaders have children in the Baptist school, which has more students from Muslim families than Christian families.

The car took the Raglands to the barren U.S. embassy in West Beirut. After a three-hour unexplained wait, the Raglands then were taken in separate cars tucked in a convoy to East Beirut.

Two armed guards were in each car with the Raglands. The Raglands said the guards were quite tense, fearing a possible attack, especially each time the convoy came to a stop in heavy traffic.

In East Beirut, a U.S. embassy official remarked, "I can't believe we got him (Ragland) out safely."

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"Please remember that the Lebanese people are very wonderful people, and we love them," Mrs. Ragland said. "It's so sad that a few have just ruined the country" during Lebanon's 12-year-old civil war. "There are so many wonderful people who are having to suffer — so much pain and suffering that you just can't imagine."

Other Southern Baptist missionaries remain in East Beirut waiting for word from the U.S. State Department about the possibility of exemptions that may allow some of them to continue working there.

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

Baptist Press
2/3/87

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
Cervantes Convention Center, St. Louis, Mo.
June 16-18, 1987
Theme: To Know Him ... To Make Him Known
Scripture: Philippians 3:10

Tuesday Morning, June 16, 1987

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Bellevue Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra, Jim Whitmire, director, Memphis, Tenn.
- 8:50 Call to Order
Congregational Singing, John McKay, convention music director, Fort Worth, Texas
- 8:55 Prayer, Paige Patterson, president, Criswell College, Dallas, Texas
- 9:00 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention
- 9:05 Committee on Order of Business
- 9:10 Welcome, John Ashcroft, governor of Missouri (Roy D. Blunt, alternate)
- 9:15 Response, Wallace E. Jones, pastor, Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo.
- 9:20 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions and Tellers
- 9:25 Theme Interpretation and Prayer Time, Manley Beasley, evangelist, Bedford, Texas, "Know Him in Prayer"
- 9:40 Executive Committee Report (Part 1), Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer, Nashville, Tenn.
- 10:45 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 11:15 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 11:20 Music, Bellevue Baptist Church and Orchestra
- 11:25 President's Address
- 12:00 Benediction, David Rogers, Memphis, Tenn., student, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Tuesday Afternoon, June 16

- 1:00 Evangelistic Singers, Pat Roper, evangelistic music director, Greenville, S.C., moderating
- 2:00 Congregational Singing, Pat Roper
- 2:05 Prayer, Ernie Eudy, evangelist, Fort Myers, Fla.
- 2:10 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 2:20 Report of Nominations, Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees, T.C. Pickney Jr., retired Air Force general, Alexandria, Va.
- 2:35 Theme Interpretations and Prayer Time, Sam Cathey, evangelist, Oklahoma City, "Know Him Through the Word"
- 2:50 Election of Officers (First)
- 3:00 Executive Committee Report (Part 2), Harold C. Bennett
- 3:55 Congregational Singing, James Burlison, First Baptist Church, Geyer Springs, Ark.
- 4:00 Messenger Information Survey, Martin B. Bradley, recording secretary, manager, research services department, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- 4:10 Business -- Report of Nominations, Committee on Committees, Miscellaneous Business
- 4:45 Election of Officers (Second)
- 5:00 Benediction, Roy Moody, director of evangelism, Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, Topeka, Kan.

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Tuesday Evening, June 16

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration, Choir and Orchestra, Denny Dawson, director, First Baptist Church, Dallas
- 7:00 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 7:05 Prayer, David Spriggs, pastor, Eastside Baptist Church, Haines City, Fla.
- 7:10 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:25 Bold Mission Thrust Prayer Launch
- 7:45 Congregational Singing, Robert Wesley, director of church music, Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, Mo.
- 7:50 Foreign Mission Board Report, R. Keith Parks, president, Richmond, Va.
- 8:50 Peace Committee Report, Charles G. Fuller, chairman; pastor, First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.
- 9:20 Benediction, Mary Wilson, realtor, Falls Church, Va.

Wednesday Morning, June 17

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Choir, Rick Stone, director; and Orchestra, Camp Kirkland, director, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 8:50 Congregational Singing, Steve Taylor, evangelistic music director, Greenville, S.C.
- 8:55 Prayer, Stephen Rogers, minister of music, Riverside Baptist Church, Fort Meyers, Fla.
- 9:00 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:15 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Roy L. Honeycutt, president, Louisville, Ky.
- 9:25 Education Commission Report, Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director, Nashville, Tenn.
- 9:35 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Russell H. Dilday Jr., president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 9:45 Theme Intrepretation and Prayer Time, Eddie Martin, evangelist, Lancaster, Pa., "Make Him Known"
- 10:00 Christian Life Commission Report, N. Larry Baker, executive director, Nashville, Tenn.
- 10:10 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Landrum P. Leavell II, president, New Orleans
- 10:20 Brotherhood Commission Report, James H. Smith, president, Memphis, Tenn.
- 10:30 Congregational Singing, Bill Cole, San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas
- 10:35 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Report, William Crews, president, Mill Valley, Calif.
- 10:45 Woman's Missionary Union Report, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Birmingham, Ala.
- 10:55 Southern Baptist Foundation Report, Hollis E. Johnson III, executive director, Nashville, Tenn.
- 11:05 Annuity Board Report, Darold H. Morgan, president, Dallas
- 11:20 Business -- Election of Officers (Fifth), Committee on Resolutions (First Report), Miscellaneous Business
- 11:55 Congregational Singing, Gary Mathena, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- 12:00 Music, Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
Convention Sermon, Jerry Vines, co-pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville.
- 12:30 Benediction

NO AFTERNOON SESSION

Wednesday Evening, June 17

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration, The John McKay Family with Vernard Johnson, evanglistic musician, Fort Worth
- 7:00 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 7:05 Prayer, Gerald Taylor, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, El Dorado, Ark.
- 7:10 Business -- Election of Convention Sermon Preacher and Alternate and Music Director, 1988
- 7:20 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee
- 7:25 Presentation of Past Presidents
- 7:30 Presentation of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 7:35 Sunday School Board Report, Lloyd Elder, president, Nashville, Tenn.
- 8:05 Planned Growth in Giving Report
- 8:15 Congregational Singing, Pat Roper
- 8:20 Home Mission Board Report, Robert Banks, acting president, Atlanta
- 9:20 Benediction, Ruffin Snow, pastor, Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

Thursday Morning, June 18

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Choir and Orchestra, Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., Mike Burt, director
- 8:50 Congregational Singing, Dick Thomassian, Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.
- 8:55 Prayer, Byung Kook Ahu, president, Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches in North America, Annadale, Va.
- 9:00 Business
- 10:00 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, W. Randall Lolley, president, Wake Forest, N.C.
- 10:10 American Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Arthur L. Walker Jr.
- 10:20 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Milton Ferguson, president, Kansas City, Mo.
- 10:30 Report of Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group
- 10:40 Congregational Singing, Dick Thomassian
- 10:45 Historical Commission Report, Lynn E. May Jr., executive director-treasurer, Nashville, Tenn.
- 10:55 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report, James M. Dunn, executive director, Washington
- 11:05 Recognition of Outgoing Officers
- 11:10 Message, Billy Graham, evangelist, Montreat, N.C.
- 12:10 Benediction, Stephen A. Davis, pastor, First Baptist Church, Russellville, Ark.

Thursday Afternoon, June 18

- 2:00 Music for Inspiration -- the Powell Brothers, Enid, Okla; the Don Baltzigler Family, Griffin, Ga.; and Jane Green, Morristown, Tenn.
- 2:25 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 2:30 Prayer, Harold Finch, retired businessman, Mission Hills, Kan.
- 2:35 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 2:40 Committee on Denominational Calendar Report, Fred Powell, chairman, senior associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta
- 2:50 Denominational Press Report
- 3:00 Radio and Television Commission Report, Jimmy R. Allen, president, Fort Worth
- 3:10 Baptist World Alliance Report, Gerhard Claas, general secretary, McLean, Va.
- 3:20 American Bible Society Report
- 3:30 Business
- 4:30 Benediction, Joe McKinney, pastor, Gracemont Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

Convention Officers

- Adrian P. Rogers, president; pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
- Jack Stanton, first vice president; director, institute of evangelism, Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.
- Ray E. Roberts, second vice president; retired state convention executive; Asheville, N.C.
- Martin B. Bradley, recording secretary; manager, research services department, SBC Sunday School Board; Nashville, Tenn.
- Lee Porter, registration secretary; design editor, Sunday school department, SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- Harold C. Bennett, treasurer; president, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.
- Wilmer C. Fields, press representative; vice president for public relations, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.
- John McKay, music director; music evangelist, Fort Worth, Texas

Committee On Order Of Business

- Stan Coffey, chairman; pastor, San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas
- Thomas D. Elliff, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- Reed Larson, organization executive, Annadale, Va.
- W.A. (Pat) Patterson, savings and loan officer, Overland Park, Kan.
- Adrian P. Rogers, SBC president; pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
- Jay Strack, evangelist, Fort Myers, Fla.
- John B. Wright, pastor, First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark.

SBC Messengers To Focus
On Discipleship, Missions

By Marv Knox

ST. LOUIS (BP)—A focus on discipleship and missions — two historical themes of Southern Baptist life — will beckon messengers to the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 16-18 in Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis.

"To Know Him ... To Make Him Known" will be the theme for the meeting, announced Stan Coffey, chairman of the SBC Order of Business Committee, which is responsible for planning the event.

"We wanted a theme that would call Southern Baptists back to our main priority of missions and evangelism," said Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas. He explained the theme's first phrase, "To Know Him," highlights the importance of discipleship and personal spiritual growth, and the second phrase, "To Make Him Known," illustrates commitment to missions and evangelism — telling the world about the gospel of Christ.

The scripture reference for the theme is Philippians 3:10: "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death ...".

The theme will be interpreted by four evangelists, Coffey said. The evangelists and their topics are Manley Beasley of Bedford, Texas, "Know Him in Prayer;" Ron Dunn of Irving, Texas, "Know Him Through the Word;" Eddie Martin of Lancaster, Pa., "Make Him Known;" and Billy Graham of Montreat, N.C., who will speak on the importance of missions and evangelism.

The St. Louis meeting will be the first one in which all theme interpretations will have been presented by full-time vocational evangelists, Coffey noted. He added the decision was made deliberately and is directed toward all vocational evangelists, "to affirm them and the work they do and involve them in the life of the convention."

Graham's sermon will be at 11:10 a.m. Thursday, June 18, and Coffey said his committee expects a larger-than-average crowd to hear the internationally known evangelist during the convention's next-to-last session: "Any time Dr. Graham preaches, a lot of people want to hear him. It will be good for the convention to hear him and get his challenge for missions and evangelism."

In addition to the four speeches, the theme will be interpreted by a hymn written especially for the 1987 annual meeting by John McKay, convention music director and music evangelist from Fort Worth, Texas. The song, "To Know Him ... To Make Him Known," will be sung during each session of the meeting, Coffey said.

"We hope this theme will really put our hearts and minds back on Bold Mission Thrust," the SBC campaign to present the gospel of Christ to the whole world by the year 2000, he noted. "We hope this will renew our commitment to Bold Mission Thrust and to what the Lord has called us to do."

Bold Mission Thrust will be the topic of another convention highlight, he added. The "Bold Mission Thrust Prayer Launch," scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, at 7:25 p.m., will "kick off an organized way to involve churches in consistent prayer for Bold Mission Thrust and missions," Coffey said. "We've asked people to pray, but this will be asking people to make a commitment, sort of like a prayer chain in a local church."

Other highlights Coffey listed include the convention sermon, by Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., at noon Wednesday, June 17; the president's address, by Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., Tuesday morning; and two "mountain peaks" — the mission boards' reports — on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

The June meeting also will feature what is scheduled to be the final report of the SBC Peace Committee, created in 1985 to help end theological and political controversy within the 14.6-million-member convention. The Peace Committee report is set for Tuesday night, from 8:50 to 9:20.

The Order of Business Committee considered several factors as it determined when to locate the Peace Committee report, Coffey said. "We felt we needed to have sufficient time for it," he explained, noting the report is at the end of an evening session, so time for discussion can be extended most easily. If it were conducted earlier in the day, pressing matters such as elections and fixed orders of business would make extension of time almost impossible.

Further, convention planners wanted to have the report on Tuesday, the meeting's busiest and most highly attended day, so as many convention messengers as possible can participate in the process. It also was placed immediately following the SBC Foreign Mission Board report, one of the meeting's most popular features. "We knew there would be a high interest for both reports, and by placing them back-to-back, the Peace Committee can address the largest number of messengers," Coffey said.

As with the 1986 meeting in Atlanta, the 1987 SBC in St. Louis will feature a large percentage of its business on Tuesday, the Amarillo pastor said: "We're trying pretty well to get a lot of the major business done on Tuesday. We feel until we get a lot of those things out of the way, they'll be on people's minds. We also want the best participation possible."

The St. Louis meeting is not expected to be as large as the two previous annual meetings -- both, with more than 40,000 registered messengers apiece, almost twice as large as the next-largest meeting, Coffey said. But SBC '87 is expected to be large and crowded.

"We have the capacity of seating about 30,000 messengers, and we expect that many. We expect it (Cervantes Center) to be filled to capacity," he said. "Interest still is running high in the convention, and we think it will be a full house."

The main hall of the convention site will seat 27,000 messengers, and two overflow halls will hold 1,500 each.

Because of the crowded conditions, access to meeting halls will be limited to registered messengers, program participants and press, at least through Wednesday morning, Coffey said.

"We don't like to do that, but it's just necessary to see that those who are voting messengers get a seat," he explained. The rule also will apply to children of registered messengers, he added: "We'll have limited child care, and that probably will have to be on a first-come, first-served basis. We feel that even though it's a difficult thing, we'll have to follow the policy we had last year (of only children who are messengers themselves allowed in the convention hall). If they are messengers, that's a different story, but some are too young to be messengers."

Anticipating crowded conditions, Coffey advised messengers to plan to come early and stay put. Doors to the convention center will open at 7 a.m. each day, an hour and a half before the morning sessions start, and he suggested messengers who want to get good seats should arrive early. "When people go (to the center), they need to plan to stay," he added. "It will be that crowded."

Coffey requested the prayers of Southern Baptists as his committee finishes plans for the annual meeting and supervises it to completion: "Our committee asks prayer for us. We want to do everything we can to help the messengers and be as fair as we can to everyone."

Genesis Commission Head
Responds To Statements

By Marv Knox

HOUSTON (BP)—The leader of Southern Baptists' newest missions organization has responded to "not factual" statements that have linked his effort to the "resurgence of the conservatives" within the denomination.

The Genesis Commission, formed by two Southern Baptist pastors and a layman late in 1986, has come under attack by people who do not understand the purpose and function of the organization, Executive Director Bill Darnell told Baptist Press.

"Many statements have been made recently concerning the Genesis Commission," Darnell said. "Those linking the commission with the resurgence of the conservatives in the Southern Baptist Convention are not factual.

"The Genesis Commission, which derives its name from the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the Old Testament term for 'beginning,' has a dual mission of soul-winning and church planting," Darnell said, reiterating the purpose he stated when the commission was announced.

The Genesis Commission will recruit and finance pastors to start Baptist churches, primarily in foreign countries. It has drawn criticism from some Southern Baptists who maintain the commission will compete with the SBC Foreign Mission Board, particularly for funds.

"In no way is the Genesis Commission a foreign mission society. There is no anticipation of appointing missionaries," Darnell countered. "No effort will be made to secure gifts which would have gone to our Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program of world missions."

The commission's endeavor "is perfectly in keeping with other previous efforts" within the SBC, he added. As examples, he cited World Evangelism Foundation, created by former SBC missionary W.H. "Dub" Jackson, "which was eventually subsumed by the Foreign Mission Board;" Global Outreach, organized by the late Owen Cooper, a former SBC president; and the Oldham Little Church Foundation, started by Baptist layman Morris Oldham.

The Genesis Commission "also is in keeping with the cherished Baptist principle of the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the various entities in Southern Baptist life," he said. "The founders of the Genesis Commission see the work of the commission as an augment to the excellent work already being done by various Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

"Every attempt is being made to avoid interfering with other evangelistic organizations," Darnell promised. "However, the founders believe there is an imperative need for an aggressive, dynamic effort to begin hundreds of new churches."

The commission particularly is targeting Mexico, where the need for new churches is apparent, he added: "Mexico's present economic and political climate make them (the people) vulnerable to many dangerous influences. Therefore, the Genesis Commission is making rapid strides toward launching a major effort to spread the gospel and plant new churches in Mexico.

"The founders are convinced and resolute that the commission can make a significant and lasting difference upon our Latin American neighbors," he said.

Along with Darnell, who formerly was pastor of Kirby Woods Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., the other founders and members of the "official board of directors" for the commission are John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Baptist Church in Houston, and Randy Best, a layman and member of Second Baptist Church in Houston.

The commission also has received advice from Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, who was quoted in the original Baptist Press article that announced the formation of the commission.

Darnell said people who would like further information about the Genesis Commission can write to him at the organization's offices: 515 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 500, Houston, Texas 77027.

Maston Shares Wealth
Of Advice With Youth

By Terri Lackey

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Anyone who has lived nearly a century and gained the wisdom and knowledge serving God can award deserves the right to bestow a bit of advice on others.

In "God's Will: A Dynamic Discovery," author T.B. Maston, professor emeritus of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, gets a chance to do just that.

Christian youth and their church leaders comprise the majority of people who benefit from the 89-year-old Maston's information on discovering God's will. His book will be released in April.

The book is a remake of his 1964 book, "God's Will and Your Life," which will go out of print with the circulation of the new book. With 72,530 copies sold, "God's Will and Your Life" is considered the most popular of the 25 books Maston has written to date.

The youth section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department has adapted the book as part of its DiscipleLife Centers, a source of undated materials for youth.

"Knowing God's will is not God's responsibility, but our responsibility," Maston said in a recent interview. "We have to be able to be willing to know God's will, and an obedient heart allows us to know his will."

Maston voiced his views on finding God's will in five 15-minute segments on a Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN) broadcast which will air April 15 and 21. In the televised preview for youth and youth leaders who plan to study his book, Maston shared a sometimes emotional look into his past and how he arrived at the conclusion he was to give his life to God.

Maston said as a young man he had a "terrific struggle knowing what the Lord wanted me to do. I did not want to be an ordained preacher, yet I felt a call to preach.

"So, I became a teacher," Maston quips. "I started teaching at Southwestern in 1920, and I have been there ever since.

"I think we come to stages of our lives where we must say to our Heavenly Father, I think this is your purpose, but if I am wrong, give me an additional light or stop me," Maston said. "And he never stopped me (from teaching)."

God will not place a person who seeks his will into a career he or she cannot be comfortable with or enjoy, Maston said: "God's will for our life's work will be in harmony with our ability. In other words, God doesn't call us to do something that we don't have the ability to do."

Maston said he believes people who seek God's will should do so "in every area of life" and not just in their careers. For example, choosing a "life's companion" is a major decision in which God should have a part.

Maston recalled he was always a very timid person, never having dates in high school or college until he met a "young woman from Chattanooga" who arrived on campus his sophomore year.

After a few dates and a lot of prayer, "increasingly I knew she was the one," Maston said of Essie Mae McDonald, his wife of 65 years and the woman he now affectionately refers to as "Mommie."

But, Maston said, placing one's life in God's hands and seeking his will does not mean life will always be smooth sailing.

Maston wiped his tears as he began talking about his eldest son, Tom Mac, who was born with cerebral palsy, and who still lives with Maston and his 88-year-old wife.

"Tom Mac has sat in a wheelchair for 61 years, and he never gets out except when Mammie and I put him to bed. We feed him every bite he eats. He cannot talk, but he can communicate. He's a great guy, and we love him," Maston said.

Maston said when a person seeks God's will, he must have a "willing heart and he must look beyond the problem. --"God uses difficult situations to strengthen our compassion and ministry. I want to encourage young people not to blame God for everything that happens."

Clyde Hall, supervisor of the youth church training section, said: "'God's Will and Your Life' is one of the classic books written on the subject of God's will. It has been helpful to many youth in the past, and we felt that youth today could benefit from Dr. Maston's wisdom."

Hall said group and personal learning experiences have been added for the 1987 edition.

In the first part of his book, Maston offered advice on seeking God's will in vocation, a marriage partner and making daily decisions. In the second half, Maston described how finding God's will comes from personal resources, counsel of others, studying the Bible, praying, responding to the Holy Spirit, having a willing heart and looking beyond the problems.

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

Bush Asks Evangelicals
To Beware Of Intolerance

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press
2/3/87

WASHINGTON (BP)--Vice President George Bush, who plans a bid to succeed Ronald Reagan in the White House, warned the nation's religious broadcasters Feb. 2 their political activism should be characterized by tolerance of differing views.

In a major address at the annual gathering of the National Religious Broadcasters, Bush first commended evangelicals for their political activism during the Reagan era. Then he added: "But a dilemma is at hand. And I raise this as a friend who believes deeply in your involvement. Initially, you sought freedom. In the process, you gained power. And with power, a small minority now want control. There are those who would seek to impose their will and dictate their interpretation of morality on the rest of society."

The vice president singled out "those who would forget the need for tolerance" in demanding removal of literary classics such as "Huckleberry Finn" and "The Diary of Anne Frank" from public schools. "Closing our children off from the outside world will not protect them," he said, adding, "To that small minority, I say, 'Please, don't take away generally accepted books now that you have greater influence. Remember what it was like.'"

Although elsewhere in his address Bush again endorsed the practice of prayer in public schools, he also asserted he accepts separation of church and state. "Always respect that we are one nation under God, but at the same time, we believe in the separation of church and state," he said. "Be out front in your views, but respect those for whom religion is so personal they find public witnessing difficult. We must be vigilant but not overzealous."

Although Bush lamented what he described as a 100-year absence from the political arena on the part of evangelicals -- from the end of the 19th century until recently -- he observed that pastors of black churches "to their credit ... took another route. They saw that political involvement could be of enormous importance in bettering the moral and spiritual life of their parishioners. They led the struggle for full civil rights for black Americans."

Among values that should be taught to all American schoolchildren, he elaborated, is that racial hatred "has no place in American life," adding, "The Ku Klux Klan is an embarrassment to Christ, whose gospel is love, and an embarrassment to our nation, whose gospel is freedom."

In references to recent incidents of racial violence in the borough of Queens in New York City and Forsyth County, Ga., Bush declared: "There's no county, no borough, no area of this country that is off limits to any American. Any American should be able to walk anywhere in this land in dignity and freedom."

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Besides Bush, the broadcasters heard from two other administration officials and watched a videotaped message from President Reagan.

Reagan repeated many of the themes set forth in his recent State of the Union message to Congress, including an appeal for a constitutional amendment to return officially sanctioned prayer to public school classrooms. But unlike his omission of the subject in the Jan. 26 message, he asked the religious broadcasters to help him in banning legalized abortion.

U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, the nation's chief public health official, brought his warning about AIDS to the broadcasters, asking them to join him in alerting the American people to the fatal disease's potential impact.

Koop cited Otis R. Bowen, secretary of health and human services in the Reagan cabinet, who likened the potential spread of AIDS to the arrival and spread of smallpox and the bubonic plague in Europe during the Middle Ages. Koop warned that by the end of 1990 as many as 250,000 Americans will have contracted the new disease.

Long associated with conservative causes, Koop also defended himself against recent attacks for advocating sex education in the schools as an essential element in alerting younger Americans to the danger of AIDS. Asserting he continues to advocate sexual abstinence for the unmarried and "a faithful, monogamous relationship" for the married, Koop said he stands by a recommendation for sex education in his recently released report to the nation on AIDS.

"You can't teach a child anything about AIDS unless he or she has some basic sexual education," he said. "So clearly, education about human sexuality should come first and thus provide the necessary context for the specific material about AIDS that should come along later."

Noting that those most critical of the 92-word section in the report dealing with sex education are conservatives, Koop retorted, "I've been attacking sex education curricula that just teach technique and don't mention responsibility or morality ... and I took that position before some of my critics knew there was such a thing as sex."

Koop insisted the kind of sex education he advocates "can and should be non-threatening ... it can teach good values ... it can help develop the child's own sense of personal responsibility ... and it can strengthen the concept of the family."

Another speaker, Under Secretary of Education Gary Bauer, also concentrated his remarks on the public schools but addressed issues more commonly heard at the annual religious broadcasters' convention.

He attacked public school textbooks for failing to explain the nature of "totalitarianism," particularly that of the Soviet Union. Decrying what he called "relativism," Bauer said some textbooks do not present the values of the U.S. Constitution as superior to those of the Soviet system.

The 40-year-old Bauer recently was named President Reagan's new domestic policy adviser, a role that will take him from the Department of Education to the White House.