

(BP)**- - BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 30, 1987

87-66

Graham To Highlight
Meeting's Final Day

N-60

ST. LOUIS (BP)--World-renowned evangelist Billy Graham will highlight the final day of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, June 16-18, in St. Louis.

Graham's sermon will be at 11:10 a.m. Thursday, June 18, in Cervantes Convention Center. He will be one of four Southern Baptist vocational evangelists who will interpret the convention theme, "To Know Him ... To Make Him Known."

"We are recognizing Southern Baptist evangelists by asking them to do the theme interpretations," said Stan Coffey, chairman of the SBC Order of Business Committee and pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas.

"Dr. Graham is the foremost Southern Baptist evangelist, and we have asked him to speak on making Christ known through world evangelization," Coffey noted. "This has been his ministry for so many years; he has spoken literally around the world.

"We hope that in his challenge to us, it will keep Bold Mission Thrust (the SBC program to present the gospel to the whole world by the year 2000) alive or give more emphasis to it. We hope it will give more emphasis on evangelism and missions and undergird our thrust there."

Graham's appearance is expected to draw a larger-than-average crowd to the meeting's next-to-last session, Coffey said: "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 this challenge for missions and evangelism."

The other evangelists who will present theme interpretations are Manley Beasley of Bedford, Texas, "Know Him in Prayer;" Ron Dunn of Irving, Texas, "Know Him Through the Word;" and Eddie Martin of Lancaster, Pa., "Make Him Known."

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N-FMB

Sri Lanka Violence Spurs
Call For Personal Witness

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press
4/30/87

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (BP)--In the wake of recent violence, Southern Baptist missionary Jarrett Ragan urged Baptist worshippers in Sri Lanka to put greater emphasis on personal evangelism.

He made his comments during an April 26 service in a housing area of more than 2,000 homes in the Colombo area, after nearly 250 Sri Lankans died and others were maimed as the result of recent terrorist attacks. The violence came from rebel Tamil groups who want to establish a Tamil state in one part of the nation, which is about half the size of Georgia.

Ragan, of Toccoa, Ga., and his wife, Charlotte, of Louisville, Ky., are the only Southern Baptist missionaries living in Sri Lanka -- an island formerly known as Ceylon off the southeast coast of India. A bitter rivalry between the Buddhist Sinhalese majority and the Hindu Tamils has existed for centuries, dating from the Tamils' migration from India and their collision with the Sinhalese, who ruled the island.

Assuming that the people who died were an average mixture of Sri Lanka's general population, which is only about 5 percent Christian, "95 percent of these who were actually killed were lost people" or non-Christians, Ragan told the Baptist group, which included one Tamil couple. "We ought to be more urgent in our seeking to bear witness to people all around us."

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Ragan was referring to a car bomb that exploded during commuter rush hour April 21 at a bus station less than a mile from his house and to massacres in northern Sri Lanka that began four days earlier. He said 113 people died in the bombing and 130 were massacred. Adding government retaliations, Associated Press and United Press International reports said nearly 400 people died in a six-day period. Ragan said as far as he knew, none was Baptist.

The Ragans were shopping when the blast occurred in Colombo. They first realized something was amiss on their way home when they were detoured around the accident ward of the hospital near their house as emergency procedures began for about 300 wounded people.

Baptists in Sri Lanka show a love for each other that transcends racial prejudice, but both Sinhalese and Tamil believers are uneasy about the situation, Ragan said.

The Ragans work with the Sri Lanka Baptist Society, offering a sort of mini-theological program of 18 leadership training courses to Baptist workers and laypeople. The Ragans were missionaries in Singapore and Malaysia for 18 years before coming to Sri Lanka in 1983.

In mid-April Baptists observed the 175th anniversary of the first missionary contact. Britishers from the Baptist Missionary Society of London first came to the island April 16, 1812, when the Indian government would not allow them to stay there.

After growing to 50 preaching points and churches, Sri Lanka Baptists saw some tough times, Ragan said. But excitement has been renewed, and now the society claims 20 churches and 11 outreach points.

Baptists' new life is evidenced in part by spirited participation in the leadership training program the Ragans were asked to implement. One layman plans to leave a responsible position in the juvenile court system to become a full-time Christian worker. He has three teen-age daughters.

The layman, Kingsley Perera, is "giving up a whole lot," Ragan said. "Full-time (Christian) workers make very little, but he feels the Lord is going to take care of them, and so do we." During Perera's first course in leadership training, he began taking his Bible to work with him and presenting the gospel, something that has been unusual in Sri Lanka, Ragan said.

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Senior Adults Challenged
To Missions Involvement

By Linda Lawson

N-BSSB
Baptist Press
4/30/87

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--"We believe the old adage, 'you can't teach an old dog new tricks,' was spoken of dogs, not people," Carolyn Weatherford told participants in the first Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention.

Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, and representatives of six other Southern Baptist agencies outlined their commitment to senior adult ministry and challenged senior adults to greater involvement in missions and ministry during one session of the the three-day convention April 27-29.

In addition to WMU, speakers included representatives from the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, Brotherhood Commission, Sunday School Board, Annuity Board and Christian Life Commission.

"We have discovered that we don't need only a ministry to senior adults but that senior adults need a ministry of mission," Weatherford said.

Cameron Byler of the Brotherhood Commission said Baptist senior adults are involved in disaster relief, lay renewal, building churches in newer convention areas and all types of mission action.

"Perhaps now more than any other time in your life God can use you in missions," said Byler.

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While some 10,000 senior adults currently are involved in volunteer missions efforts through the Home Mission Board, at least 100,000 more are needed, said B.J. Dier Jr., HMB national consultant for senior adult ministry.

"Every possible skill is represented among senior adults," said Dier, who cited critical needs in ministering to senior adults in the inner cities and providing housing for the elderly.

"For-profit housing people are making money doing what we should be doing for love," said Dier.

A call for 10,000 senior adults to volunteer for ministry on foreign mission fields was sounded by Ron Boswell, director of volunteer ministry programs for the Foreign Mission Board.

He said a common question asked by volunteers about foreign missions service is whether their safety would be endangered. "You're safe at home in your living room and in your church. But, folks, that's not what we're saved for," said Boswell.

"In the years ahead we may be squeezed out of 100 countries where missionaries are not allowed to serve. But you can go into those countries and use the skills of your profession in service to God," he said.

Lloyd Elder, president of the Sunday School Board, said a major focus of the church program and publishing board is to provide resources and programs to enable senior adults "to keep on in faithful service to Jesus Christ."

Larry Baker, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, said his agency is committed through addressing a variety of aging issues to helping senior adults experience "opportunities for freedom we may not have been able to take hold of earlier in life."

Darold Morgan, president of the Annuity Board, challenged senior adults to be advocates in their churches for providing good retirement programs for their pastors and church staff members.

The three-day convention attended by more than 12,000 senior adults was sponsored by the family ministry department of the Sunday School Board.

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Christians Must Confess Wrongs
For Revival, SBC Speakers Say

By Leisa A. Hammett

N-HMB
Baptist Press
4/30/87

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Christians must pray and admit their wrong-doing if America is to experience spiritual awakening, evangelists repeatedly told participants in the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's seventh annual prayer for spiritual awakening conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Several speakers referred to the Jim and Tammye Bakker scandal without calling their names, stressing Christians must confess their sins as the first step toward revival. The Bakkers have been implicated in a sexual and financial scandal that has rocked their PTL television/theme park ministry.

Manley Beasley, an international revivalist from Euless, Texas, told 250 Southern Baptists attending the conference that Christians must be totally honest with God, admit wrong-doing and be willing to be corrected.

J. Edwin Orr, president of the Los Angeles-based Oxford Association for Research in Revival, warned: "Judgment from God precedes blessing. ... It (revival) begins like judgment day for the church, with a lot of weeping and confession of sin among pastors and people. After things are settled, there is blessing abounding." Orr died of a heart attack the morning following his address.

Glenn Sheppard, president of International Prayer Ministries and former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board special assistant in spiritual awakening, cited five steps Christians must take before spiritual awakening can occur.

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First, he explained, Christians must declare God is "boss" and pray for what God wants -- spiritual awakening. "Most people pray more about themselves, their family, neighborhood and denomination -- what matters most to them."

Christians must also pray for forgiveness. "The greatest single hindrance in churches," said Sheppard, "is unclean lives and inequity."

The third step, Sheppard added, is to be willing to do what God wants, before he asks. This grates against human nature and the American culture, Sheppard said: "Revival doesn't make human sense. But we need to trust God, pray and quit looking for revival, but look to Jesus instead."

When Christians say yes to Jesus, Sheppard continued, they will experience an onslaught of evil forces. Some of those forces include the temptation for leaders to be on television and have their names in bright lights, instead of retreating to their prayer closets, he explained.

Last, Christians must have faith, wait patiently and cultivate a hearing heart, even when they do not hear anything, Sheppard said.

Revival is not an option and is desperately needed in America and around the world, he concluded.

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Moody Urges Senior Adults
To Use Spiritual Influence

By Linda Lawson

N-55B
Baptist Press
4/30/87

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--"The spiritual Holy Spirit power of senior citizens will bring a revival in this country that will blow the socks off the devil," Jess Moody told participants attending the first Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention at Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

About 12,000 senior adults from churches throughout the country attended the three-day convention sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

"You're the people who put the moral spine in this country," said Moody, pastor of First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, Calif. "Sixty percent of all the moral power in America is in the people who are 60 years of age and older.

"I'm a senior citizen myself now," said Moody, 62. He explained he wanted to talk informally "about America and folks and what family means" and challenged senior adults to be the catalyst for revival and morality.

"Senior adults aren't looking to death; they're looking to life, and there's a lot to be done," said Moody. He urged participants living in Texas to get actively involved to defeat a statewide lottery currently under consideration in the state legislature.

"God's on the move in this country," Moody exclaimed. "Teach those grandchildren God's going to change the world. Teach America to take God's word off the pages of the Bible and put it in the lawyers' offices, places of business and on the streets."

He exhorted the senior adults to use their influence in their families, communities and churches.

"It's the old-fashioned deacons, Sunday school teachers, mommies and daddies who carried their children to church who built this country, and I want them to keep on doing it," said Moody.

He recounted a childhood experience when, at age five, his two best friends were tragically killed in accidents within one week of each other. He said the ministry of a preacher, his father and especially his mother enabled him to overcome the scars of the deaths of his friends.

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"By the power of Jesus Christ that old girl (mother) put me back together, and I preach Jesus Christ because of mother power and grandmother power," he said.

"Let's get on the upbeat side — gray power, Holy Spirit power, senior adult power in America. I believe it's going to happen," Moody concluded.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers from Fort Worth by the BSSB bureau of Baptist Press.

Banks Urges Missionaries
To Discern God's Will

By Joe Westbury

N-HMB

Baptist Press
4/30/87

ATLANTA (BP)—Missionaries must be men and women of high character who constantly discern the will of God for their ministries, said Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Executive Vice President Bob Banks during a service commissioning 93 new home missionaries for service in 22 states, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Banks, who for the past 10 months has been the chief administrative officer of the agency that supports 3,637 missionaries, compared the missionaries to the "mighty men" of battle who were gathered to help the biblical character David become king of Israel.

"As the men were prepared to do battle for God, so are you called to a like task — that of service, of ministry, in God's army. God works in mysterious ways as he prepares us for service, and we have heard your testimonies about his working in your lives," Banks told the missionaries. "I urge you to be a lifelong student in discerning God's ongoing will for you in his ministry.

"As missionaries you may occasionally find yourselves in difficult circumstances," he added. "You may be successful, and you may fail at times; you may be serving in places where you struggle with loneliness. But in spite of seemingly insurmountable odds, you must look to God for your strength."

Banks challenged the missionaries to be leaders in their areas of responsibility, adding: "We don't need lazy missionaries. ... There is a task to be done and a work to be accomplished. We must be fervent in our work."

He warned the missionaries they could not choose where God would perform his work because God cannot be controlled. However, they can discern his presence and shift their priorities to his timetable.

He also cautioned the missionaries against serving their ego and self-satisfaction. "I urge you to honor God at all times as the source of your call and not to praise yourself, your abilities or your talents," he said.

Banks concluded by charging them to be the right kind of examples at all times. "Remember that you represent 14 million Southern Baptists who have complete confidence in you as you serve God," he stressed.

During the service at Atlanta's Druid Hills Baptist Church, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, praised the missionaries for being faithful to God's call and led in the prayer of dedication.

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Baptist Women Should Model
'Southern Lady' Leader Urges

By Karen Benson

N-CO
(WAT)
Hist Comp

Baptist Press
4/30/87

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—If women are to make their mark in the Southern Baptist Convention, they need to follow the footsteps of the "southern lady," according to Carolyn Weatherford, national executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

The book "The Southern Woman, from Pedestal to Politics" by Anne Firor Scott traces the development of the southern lady who "had to step down from her pedestal to enter the real world," Weatherford said. "While this is uncomfortable, it is very necessary. We cannot be waited on hand and foot while we are waiting on others."

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Weatherford spoke April 21 during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society, held at the national WMU headquarters in Birmingham, Ala. Focus of the meeting was on "Women in Southern Baptist History."

WMU has been the major shaper of leaders among Southern Baptist women, a fact Weatherford claimed is "without contest."

"Woman's Missionary Union and women in Southern Baptist life are synonymous. If women had leadership roles outside Woman's Missionary Union, history is silent," she said.

What women have accomplished within the churches and at every level of Southern Baptist life has been structured "within the prevailing attitude toward women at that time and in that place," she said.

Histories of Southern Baptist churches and of state or national Southern Baptist conventions are "markedly male histories," she said. Even Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Leon McBeth's recent history of Baptists, "The Baptist Heritage," mentions women on only 8 percent of the text's pages, she said.

McBeth, professor of history at the Fort Worth, Texas, school, also spoke at the SBC Historical Commission annual meeting.

To see what "our foremothers did," Weatherford said, "we Southern Baptist women today must look primarily to WMU literature."

While Southern Baptist women do have leadership functions and positions beyond WMU, those positions are few, Weatherford said.

Consider these statistics, she urged:

-- Only seven members of the 70-member SBC Executive Committee are women. One of those is Marjorie J. McCullough, who, by virtue of her position as national WMU president, is an ex-officio member.

-- The 85 trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board include only 13 women. At the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta, five women who rotated off the board were replaced by five men.

-- Of the 49 members of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, none are women.

-- Two Southern Baptist seminaries — Southwestern and New Orleans — have no women trustees. At the others, Southeastern has one, Midwestern and Southern has two and Golden Gate has four.

-- The Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, the Southern Baptist Foundation and the American Baptist Theological Seminary have one female trustee each.

-- The Southern Baptist Education Commission has two women trustees; the Christian Life Commission, three; and the Historical Commission, seven.

-- The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has no women board members.

"The powerful Committee on Boards has two women members of the 54," Weatherford reported, and the SBC Peace Committee has only two women among its 22 members.

The pattern is repeated at the state convention level and at the associational level, she said. It gets even worse at the local-church level, where women feel they are bypassed "because they are women," she added.

A survey of these few women who do serve in Southern Baptist leadership positions showed an overwhelming majority, 138 of 200 respondents, listed WMU as having the "major impact on their leadership development," Weatherford said.

Many cited the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer as the most important contribution that the SBC as a denomination has made in their lives, she said. "Right along with that is the mission emphasis, with cooperative missions and the Cooperative Program unified budget."

Almost every respondent said the convention had been a "channel for expressing her commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to his work," Weatherford said.

WMU, in turn, is the "largest single channel through which women are employed in the denomination and in which they lead in the churches and associations as volunteers," she said.

"The best descriptive words for the shape of today's Southern Baptist women leaders are missionary, supporter, associate, volunteer, underpaid, strong commitment," Weatherford said.

Many Southern Baptist women feel "personally wounded by resolutions, bypassed for promotions and under- or unemployed," but movements in behalf of women have failed to "galvanize the women of the convention," she said.

While Southern Baptist women have been receiving ordination for almost 30 years, there are few women pastors. As the number of women receiving theological degrees constantly grows, there is not a parallel surge in efforts to lower barriers."

But efforts to lower barriers must be balanced with caution, she warned: "Theologically trained, we must not lose the simplicity of faith of our foremothers. Finally granted a voice and a vote, we must not forget the humble service of the silent past."

It would be tragic if by hindsight we realized that in choosing to be assertive, we forgot how to be meek, or teachable; in choosing to be aggressive, we forgot how to be peacemakers; in choosing to be managerial, we forgot mutuality; in choosing to be equal, we lost the only models of submission; in learning to be competent, we lost the ability to be shaped; or that in learning to be independent, we lost the capacity for intimacy."

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Defend Religious Liberty,
Thomas Urges Seminarists

By C. Lacy Thompson

N-10
(LA)

Baptist Press
4/30/87

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Baptists must stand up and be zealous in their defense of what "may well be (their) greatest contribution to the development of Western civilization," Oliver S. Thomas told seminary students in New Orleans.

"Church-state separation has been a Baptist distinctive for over four centuries," Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said during a chapel address at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"We Baptists have always understood that when government promotes religion, not only does government suffer, not only does democracy suffer, but religion suffers as well," Thomas insisted. He stressed separation of church and state is not the separation of God and government or the separation of religion and politics.

Instead, "church-state separation is the recognition that the institutions of church and state are separate and distinct," he noted. "Each is important. Each is divinely ordained. But each has its own peculiar role to play in society, and neither controls the other."

As a BJCPA staff member, Thomas, serves on a religious liberty watchdog group funded by the Southern Baptist Convention and eight other Baptist groups.

The words of Jesus in Matthew 22:21 still "echo through the ages as the foundation of what we Baptists know as the separation of church and state, 'Render unto Caesar therefore the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's,'" Thomas said.

The state is God's answer to the chaos of anarchy, providing order and stability to society, he noted, adding, the church is "the conscience of society." It relies solely on the power of truth and the persuasion of the Holy Spirit, recognizing "authentic religion, like authentic love, must be voluntary."

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"The decision to love God must be wholly uncoerced. People come to Jesus Christ voluntarily, one at a time, freely or not at all. We Baptists call this soul freedom ... soul liberty. The separation of church and state is the institutional guarantor of this religious liberty."

England offers evidence of what happens when the institutions are not separate, Thomas said. In England, religious exercises abound in schools, but only 10 percent of the population claims church affiliation, he said. In the United States, polls show about two-thirds of the population has church affiliation, and 40 percent of Americans attend church weekly.

"Those statistics are a dramatic evidence of one of the harshest lessons of history: When church and state are mixed, the state does not become more moral and more ethical. ... But what happens is the church becomes more secular and more worldly. We trade our gospel for a civil religion that won't bring one person into the churches," he emphasized.

Baptists, because of past persecution, should understand the danger of mixing church and state, Thomas said. With their history, he added, it is small wonder Baptists have championed religious liberty.

Today, however, Baptists are rich, powerful and number in the millions, he pointed out: "We're now in a comfortable majoritarian position in society, and I wonder if we're still committed to the biblical concept of soul freedom and soul liberty. Will we fall prey to the temptation to use government to try to accomplish our spiritual goals? Or will we just sit passively by in apathy and indifference while our religious liberty is slowly chipped, chipped, chipped away?"

Thomas contended he is not an alarmist, noting, "The whole concept of church-state separation is being challenged today in this country by both religious and political groups."

He noted several areas of concern related to the issue:

-- Ministers are being compelled to testify against church members regarding past acts confessed in pastoral counseling, "disrupting the biblical process we affirm of repentance, confession and regeneration."

-- The state is trying to regulate the hiring and firing practices of churches and church institutions.

-- Ministers are being sued for "clergy malpractice." It is probably only a matter of time before court tries to create a standard for ministers, he predicted.

-- Church members who have been disciplined, often in accordance with the New Testament, are suing their former congregations for violation of privacy. Some are winning. Regardless of whether one considers church discipline to be a good or bad idea, Thomas noted, churches need to have the right to discipline their members if they so desire.

-- Disaffected church members who have renounced their faith are suing their former congregations for false imprisonment by mind control. "How is any judge going to be able to evaluate whether the conversion was legitimate or illegitimate? Was it mind control? Was it brain washing? Or did the person really have an encounter with God? Do you feel comfortable allowing a judge to make that decision?" Thomas asked.

-- Home Bible studies are being attacked in some areas on the basis of zoning laws. "You can have a cocktail party in your home; you're not a bar. You can have a poker game in your home; you're not a casino. But in some cities, if you have a Bible study, you're a church, and if you're in a residential area, you're in trouble."

-- The Reagan administration, in a recent brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court, asked the court to scale back what Thomas called "the most important protection of (free exercise in) the last three decades." The request would effectively gutted the current protection for the free exercise of religion by limiting that protection to cases where the government intended to discriminate on the basis of religion.

— Government agents are infiltrating churches in a matter that involves more than the sanctuary movement, Thomas noted. When one church challenged the invasion, the judge ruled it had no legal standing to file suit.

Thomas warned Baptists must not take a partisan view of religious liberty but must see the principals involved. Despite one's opinion about someone like Sun Myung Moon, legally his church is a church like any other church, he added. "And if they can sue Rev. Moon for mind control, they'll sue you next."

Some Christians are bringing problems on themselves by accepting government money for church schools, centers and shelters, he said, noting, "When you ask for government money, ... watch out, because regulation will inevitably follow."

Also, Christians are asking the state and employees of the state to function as ministers and lead children in religious exercises, "apparently mindless of the fact that many of these employees may not be Christian, much less Baptist."

In an interview, Thomas added: "How do you draft a prayer, for example, that everyone can get behind? It's not going to be prayer. It's going to become just a ritual. So what we want to protect is the right of students themselves to pray their own prayers, to have their own Bible clubs, but we certainly don't want the state promoting or leading religious exercises."

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N-10

Baptist Press
4/30/87

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Omni International Hotel—St. Louis, Mo.
June 13-15, 1987

THEME: Partners In Ministry

Saturday Afternoon, June 13, 1987

- 1:00 Elective Seminar: Disorders of Character: A Challenge to Religious Educators — Wayne Oates, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, University of Louisville, Ky.
4:30 Adjourn

Sunday Afternoon, June 14

- 2:00 Registration
3:30 Opening Session — Lloyd Householder, SBREA president and assistant vice president for communications, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, presiding
Worship: Partners With Christ
Facilitator — Jack Causey, pastor, First Baptist Church, Statesville, N.C.; Music Leader — Lonnie Stewart, minister of music, First Baptist Church, West Monroe, La.; Drama — Melody Morris, Christian dramatist, Chicago; Prayer — Robert A. Proctor Jr., professor of Christian education, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; Planners and Directors — Billie Pate, management support group director, Sunday School Board; and Marshall Walker, communication services section manager, Sunday School Board
4:15 "Christ: Our Model as Educators" — Calvin Miller, pastor, Westside Baptist Church, Omaha, Neb.
4:50 Reflections
5:00 Adjourn for Dinner
5:00 New Member Box Supper and Orientation — Irene Bennett, minister of education and youth, Evans (Ga.) Baptist Church, and Lloyd Householder

Sunday Evening, June 14

- 7:00 Plenary Session
Worship: Partners in Helping My Hurting World — Jack Causey; Lonnie Stewart; Melody Morris; Joe Collins, minister of education, Elizabeth Baptist Church, Shelby, N.C.; Billie Pate; Marshall Walker
7:30 "Freely Give ... Freely Receive" — Wayne Oates
8:15 Reflections — Bill O'Brien, executive vice president, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

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8:30 Fellowship Hosted by Missouri Baptist Convention -- Willard Zeiser, program coordinator, Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City

Monday Morning, June 15

8:30 Plenary Session

Worship: Partners in Vocation -- Jack Causey; Lonnie Stewart; Melody Morris; Don Trotter, Sunday School administration group director, Sunday School Board; Billie Pate; Marshall Walker; Jerry Chiles, minister of education, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Carrollton, Ga., convener

9:00 Staff Dialogue: First Baptist Church, Sylvania, Ga. -- William G. Henderson Jr., pastor, and David G. Smith, minister of education and youth; First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn. -- Charles Page, pastor; Carolyn Jenkins, minister of youth; and Jimmy Dunn, minister of education and administration.

Interviews by Linda Lawson and Gomer Lesch, NewScene co-anchors, Baptist Telecommunication Network, Nashville.

10:00 Cash Break

10:30 Vocational Groups

Ministers of Education/Administration -- Hoyt Wilson, minister of education and administration, Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

Ministers of Education -- Gene Lovelace, minister of education, Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville

Ministers of Education -- Larry Heslip, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Ponca City, Okla.

Ministers to Senior Adults -- Bob Cook, family life department director, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville

SBC Leadership -- Bob Bingham, services vice president, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta

Associational Leadership -- Jim Freedman, director of missions, Union Baptist Association, Houston

State Leadership -- Katie Grogan, leadership training director, Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, Lutherville, Md.

Singles Ministry -- Randy Germann, family ministry department associate director, Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City

Teaching Ministry -- Bill Rogers, dean, school of religious education, Southern Seminary, Louisville

Children/Preschool Ministry -- Janice Haywood, children's consultant, North Carolina Baptist Convention, Raleigh

Adult Ministry -- Jim Walters, professor, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

Youth/College Ministry -- Robin Nicholls, youth consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention, Jackson

12:00 Lunch Break

Monday Afternoon, June 15

1:30 Plenary Session

Worship: Partners in Future Building -- Jack Causey; Lonnie Stewart; Melody Morris; Billie Pate; Marshall Walker; Diane Smith, children's Sunday school work director, Baptist General Association of Virginia, Richmond, convener

1:50 Religion in Our Changing World -- George Gallup Jr., president, American Institute of Public Opinion, Princeton, N.J.

2:30 Directions 2000 -- Reginald McDonough, executive director, Baptist General Association of Virginia, Richmond

3:00 Reflections -- Bill O'Brien

3:15 Break

3:30 Business Meeting -- Lloyd Householder, moderator

Reports from Committees -- Chairpersons; Report from Board of Directors -- Elmer Bailey, retired minister of education, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., chairman; Report from the Task Force -- Don Trotter; Report from Executive Director -- Elaine Dickson, president, Life Transitions, Inc., Brentwood, Tenn.

4:15 Adjourn

Monday Evening, June 15

6:30 Annual Awards Banquet -- Willard Zeiser, convener
 Invocation -- David Strawn, minister of education, Plymouth Park Baptist Church, Irving, Texas
 Entertainment -- Beverly Condray, opera singer, Kirkwood, Mo.; The Psalmsmen Quartet, Kirkwood (Mo.) Baptist Church
 Speaker -- Jimmy Albright, pastor, Wyatt Park Baptist Church, St. Joseph, Mo.
 Presentation of Officers -- Lloyd Householder
 Closing of 32nd Annual Meeting -- Irene Bennett, new SBREA president

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SBC Religious Educators
 To Focus On Relationships

N-60

Baptist Press
 4/30/87

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Religious educators from across the Southern Baptist Convention will focus on interpersonal relationships when they meet in St. Louis June 13-15.

"Partners in Ministry" will be the theme for the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association annual meeting, to be held at the Omni International Hotel immediately prior to the SBC annual meeting, also in St. Louis.

"We're going to deal with interpersonal relationships. This is a time when a lot of people on church staffs are hurting," said Lloyd Householder, the association's president and assistant vice president for communications at the SBC Sunday School Board in Nashville.

"We're going to work on healing," Householder said. Ministers' identity, their short tenures in churches and church-staff relationships are areas of concern, he added.

This issue will be the subject of two addresses by Wayne Oates, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Louisville in Louisville, Ky.

"Disorders of Character: A Challenge to Religious Educators" will be presented in an elective seminar Saturday afternoon, June 13. This seminar will focus on "disruptive factors in congregations and the larger partnership between ministers and people," Householder said, noting the content comes from Oates' research for a new book. His second address, "Freely Give ... Freely Receive," will be presented Sunday evening, June 14.

Other major conference speakers will include:

-- Calvin Miller, author and pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb., who will speak on "Christ: Our Model as Educators."

-- Pollster George Gallup Jr., president of the American Institute of Public Opinion in Princeton, N.J., who will address "Religion in Our Changing World."

-- Reginald M. McDonough, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia and formerly executive vice president of the SBC Executive Committee, will describe Directions 2000, the plan for implementing the denomination's missions and evangelism goals through the end of the century.

The conference also will feature panel discussions using the staffs of First Baptist Church of Sylvania, Ga., and First Baptist Church of Nashville. "These will help us see how members of these staffs, one urban and the other primarily rural, relate to one another and how they have bridged changes in leadership," Householder said.

Registration for the annual meeting is free to SBREA members. Registration for the premeeting seminar featuring Oates is \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members. Reservations for a banquet Monday evening, June 15, are \$18.50 per person.

Preregistration for all events is necessary, Householder said. To register, make checks payable to SBREA and write to SBREA, 8218 Alamo Rd., Brentwood, Tenn. 37027.

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