



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 24, 1988

N-CO

88-98

President Vines issues
statement of commitment

By Dan Martin

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Jerry Vines, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has issued a statement of commitment to Southern Baptists.

In issuing the statement Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., told Baptist Press, the news service of the SBC, he intends to periodically issue statements of purpose and "proposals for reconciliation."

He added he is aware such statements from the SBC president have not been done before, but noted he believes the time has come to begin to heal some of the hurts of the SBC, which has been torn by strife for nearly a decade.

In the statement, Vines asks Baptists to renew their commitment to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget, to reach out to one another and to prepare for the 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., where evangelistic activities will precede the convention.

"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as president of the Southern Baptist Convention," Vines writes in his statement. "Already, I am aware of the tremendous prayer support on my behalf over the length and breadth of our convention.

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Baptists support
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By Marv Knox

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"I'm concerned about running advertisements from the homosexual community for several reasons," Shere told Baptist Press. "First, there is the matter of Christian conviction and belief that practicing homosexual lifestyle is contrary to God's law and society's standards.

"Both the Old and New Testaments condemn homosexuality. ... And in today's society, homosexual activity has been linked to a virus that is a virtual plague (AIDS) that no one has found a way to cure."

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David Easterly, president of the Cox newspaper division, was quoted by the Daily News and Editor & Publisher magazine as saying: "Personal feelings, religious or otherwise, cannot be allowed to override our obligation to treat people fairly. ... As newspaper people, it's our job to defend freedom of expression for all people, even when we do not condone their lifestyle or philosophy."

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Shere's pastor, Kenneth L. Mahanes, drafted the resolution approved by SBC messengers June 16 in San Antonio, Texas.

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However, after further investigation, Mississippi Highway Patrol Trooper Carl Brown of Brookhaven, said Martin's vehicle "was struck from behind and forced off the road" and then struck by a pickup truck, which also ran over Joy, who had been thrown from the van.

Trooper Brown said both the driver of the car and the pickup truck had been drinking. He said a blood test was taken from the truck's driver. The woman driving the car was not tested, he said, but witnesses later said she had been seen drinking prior to the accident.

Martin, who had been pastor of the Nashville congregation only a short time, was a prolific letter writer and had introduced three resolutions during the annual meeting. Ironically, one of the three dealt with drinking drivers.

The resolution, incorporated into a statement adopted by messengers, expressed "total opposition to the advertising, manufacturing, distribution, sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages." It also supported "stringent laws which will both deter drinking and driving and also ensure swift prosecution of those who are accused of such."

Martin, born in Las Cruces, N.M., grew up in Louisville, Ky. He was converted at age 18 in Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville. He attended Campbellsville College in Campbellsville, Ky., and graduated from Belmont College in Nashville. He was working on a master of arts in Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville at the time of his death. He had been pastor of churches in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Patricia Martin was a native of Louisville. She graduated from Durrett High School in Louisville and attended Sullivan Business College and Jefferson Community College. Prior to becoming a manuscript assistant at the Sunday School Board, she had been secretary for the Dyer Baptist Association in Dyersburg, Tenn.

Martin's letters frequently were printed in the Nashville newspapers and in the Baptist and Reflector, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. In a column memorializing Martin, editor W. Fletcher Allen quoted "one of the last letters" Martin wrote to the newspaper.

"I am sick of brother killing brother in the name of the Lord, sick of judging others who don't instantly conform to our exact specifications on issues or beliefs ... the world won't know we are his (Jesus') disciples by our traditions, systems, doctrines, but only by our genuine love for each other," Allen quoted Martin as writing.

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Coordinator appointed
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Hallock, a missionary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to Brazil from 1941 to 1986, was executive secretary of the local arrangements committee for the World Baptist youth conference held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1953 and president of the local arrangements committee for the 10th Baptist World Congress in Rio in 1960.

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He was a leader in coordinating evangelism crusades in Brazil and South America and worked with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in arranging crusades in Brazil in 1968 and 1974.

During much of his missionary career, Hallock was involved with Brazilian Baptist educational work, serving for 20 years as president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention's Board of Religious Education and Publications.

In his role as coordinator, Hallock will relate to the office of the BWA general secretary and act as BWA staff liaison with the host Korean Baptist Convention.

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Texans bring church
to apartment dwellers

By Ken Camp

F - Texas

Baptist Press
6/24/88

DALLAS (BP)--Veteran foreign missionary Tillie Burgin uses the same strategy in the apartment ministry she directs in Arlington, Texas, that she followed during 10 years in Korea -- take the gospel to people where they live.

"Every Sunday we have missionaries all over this city doing the same thing any Southern Baptist foreign missionary is doing in Africa or Korea or wherever," said Burgin, who has served since August 1986 as minister of missions at First Baptist Church of Arlington.

"There are a lot of people out there who don't feel comfortable in our churches for whatever reason," she said. "Since they won't come to church, we take church to them."

Currently, First Baptist Church sponsors outreach ministries at 30 apartment complexes throughout Arlington that involve more than 350 people in Bible study each week.

In less than two years, the apartment ministry of the Arlington church has resulted in 28 baptisms, some of which were performed in apartment swimming pools.

The church is one of about 50 Texas Baptist congregations designated as key churches for the Mission Texas emphasis on reaching people, developing believers, strengthening missions, growing in stewardship and praying for spiritual awakening.

Key churches are recognized as having the resources and mission opportunities to sponsor multiple missions and satellite congregations simultaneously. Each key church enters into a cooperative agreement with its local association and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Resources for the support of the key church program are provided by Texas Baptists through the Cooperative Program unified budget and the Mary Hill Davis Offering for state missions.

"The commitment of our lay people is the key," Burgin said. "They have a real vision of winning lost people to the Lord."

Even so, that vision can fade as workers invest months of work in an apartment only to see half their congregation move away or see the doors close due to a change in apartment management. Burgin combats burnout and discouragement by requiring the workers' involvement in weekly Sunday afternoon training meetings.

"It's a time of encouragement. We've become family to each other," she said, noting the training sessions include Bible studies in evangelism, prayer, counseling and discipleship. "We have to stay spiritually strong ourselves."

Burgin looks at the apartment ministry realistically, recognizing the difficulties involved in helping to grow the Bible study groups into self-determining congregations: "Some will never be more than outreach Bible studies of the mother church. Others will become their own autonomous congregations. One already has."

In less than two years, Park Springs Baptist Mission has grown from an apartment Bible study group to a church-style mission that soon will be self-supporting.

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One challenge facing the apartment ministry is creating a feeling of community among apartment complex residents, Burgin noted: "We use a lot of recreation and social activities. There are a lot of people trying to find a social group to be among. They want to be with someone who loves them.

"If we as Christians aren't there for them, somebody else will be," she continued, noting her workers are competing with cults for the hearts and minds of the apartment dwellers.

"We're taking the approach we believe the Lord would have us take by ministering to people," Burgin said. "Jesus didn't preach just within the four walls of the synagogue. He stayed out in streets where the people were.

"That's what we're trying to do. And as we share the love of God with people, we find that draws other people to us."

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Southwestern Seminary tunes
into Stebbins collection

By Scott Collins

F-60
(SWBTS)

Baptist Press
6/24/88

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's music library has acquired the 1,200-volume George Stebbins Hymnal Collection.

According to William Reynolds, professor of church music, the collection covers the "revivalist" period in American Christianity from 1875-1925. Stebbins was active during that time along with evangelists such as D.L. Moody, Ira Sankey and P.P. Bliss.

Reynolds said the collection is valuable because it "represents more than just hymnbooks. These are important documents from the revivalism era."

Stebbins was music director at First Baptist Church in Chicago and later spent 25 years in music evangelism, working with Moody and other evangelists.

But Stebbins is known best for his contributions to American hymnology, composing such hymns as Jesus Is Tenderly Calling, Have Thine Own Way and Throw Out the Lifeline.

The hymnals are Stebbins' personal collection, ranging in dates from 1750 to the time of his death in 1945. For 50 years the books were housed in the rare books collection of the National Cathedral in Washington.

Through the efforts of Reynolds and Carl Wrottenbery, director of libraries at Southwestern, the collection is now part of the seminary's A. Webb Roberts Library.

Wrottenbery said the collection is significant for Southwestern because of Stebbins' connection with Moody and the evangelistic movement in America.

In addition to the hymnbooks, the collection includes more than 100 notebooks containing copies of songs Stebbins collected. Many of the notebook pages carry handwritten notes by Stebbins about the hymns.

Wrottenbery said the library staff is in the process of checking bibliographic data in order to catalog the books and hymnals. However some of the hymnbooks do not have a catalog number and must be entered into the national data base, Wrottenbery said.

Wrottenbery said hymnals published before 1820 are considered rare books. Other books are considered rare because of their uniqueness and fragile condition, he said.

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DALLAS (BP)--Veteran foreign missionary Tillie Burgin uses the same strategy in the apartment ministry she directs in Arlington, Texas, that she followed during 10 years in Korea -- take the gospel to people where they live.

"Every Sunday we have missionaries all over this city doing the same thing any Southern Baptist foreign missionary is doing in Africa or Korea or wherever," said Burgin, who has served since August 1986 as minister of missions at First Baptist Church of Arlington.

"There are a lot of people out there who don't feel comfortable in our churches for whatever reason," she said. "Since they won't come to church, we take church to them."

Currently, First Baptist Church sponsors outreach ministries at 30 apartment complexes throughout Arlington that involve more than 350 people in Bible study each week.

In less than two years, the apartment ministry of the Arlington church has resulted in 28 baptisms, some of which were performed in apartment swimming pools.

The church is one of about 50 Texas Baptist congregations designated as key churches for the Mission Texas emphasis on reaching people, developing believers, strengthening missions, growing in stewardship and praying for spiritual awakening.

Key churches are recognized as having the resources and mission opportunities to sponsor multiple missions and satellite congregations simultaneously. Each key church enters into a cooperative agreement with its local association and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Resources for the support of the key church program are provided by Texas Baptists through the Cooperative Program unified budget and the Mary Hill Davis Offering for state missions.

"The commitment of our lay people is the key," Burgin said. "They have a real vision of winning lost people to the Lord."

Even so, that vision can fade as workers invest months of work in an apartment only to see half their congregation move away or see the doors close due to a change in apartment management. Burgin combats burnout and discouragement by requiring the workers' involvement in weekly Sunday afternoon training meetings.

"It's a time of encouragement. We've become family to each other," she said, noting the training sessions include Bible studies in evangelism, prayer, counseling and discipleship. "We have to stay spiritually strong ourselves."

Burgin looks at the apartment ministry realistically, recognizing the difficulties involved in helping to grow the Bible study groups into self-determining congregations: "Some will never be more than outreach Bible studies of the mother church. Others will become their own autonomous congregations. One already has."

In less than two years, Park Springs Baptist Mission has grown from an apartment Bible study group to a church-style mission that soon will be self-supporting.

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One challenge facing the apartment ministry is creating a feeling of community among apartment complex residents, Burgin noted: "We use a lot of recreation and social activities. There are a lot of people trying to find a social group to be among. They want to be with someone who loves them.

"If we as Christians aren't there for them, somebody else will be," she continued, noting her workers are competing with cults for the hearts and minds of the apartment dwellers.

"We're taking the approach we believe the Lord would have us take by ministering to people," Burgin said. "Jesus didn't preach just within the four walls of the synagogue. He stayed out in streets where the people were.

"That's what we're trying to do. And as we share the love of God with people, we find that draws other people to us."

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Southwestern Seminary tunes
into Stebbins collection

By Scott Collins

Baptist Press
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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's music library has acquired the 1,200-volume George Stebbins Hymnal Collection.

According to William Reynolds, professor of church music, the collection covers the "revivalist" period in American Christianity from 1875-1925. Stebbins was active during that time along with evangelists such as D.L. Moody, Ira Sankey and P.P. Bliss.

Reynolds said the collection is valuable because it "represents more than just hymnbooks. These are important documents from the revivalism era."

Stebbins was music director at First Baptist Church in Chicago and later spent 25 years in music evangelism, working with Moody and other evangelists.

But Stebbins is known best for his contributions to American hymnology, composing such hymns as Jesus Is Tenderly Calling, Have Thine Own Way and Throw Out the Lifeline.

The hymnals are Stebbins' personal collection, ranging in dates from 1750 to the time of his death in 1945. For 50 years the books were housed in the rare books collection of the National Cathedral in Washington.

Through the efforts of Reynolds and Carl Wrotenbery, director of libraries at Southwestern, the collection is now part of the seminary's A. Webb Roberts Library.

Wrotenbery said the collection is significant for Southwestern because of Stebbins' connection with Moody and the evangelistic movement in America.

In addition to the hymnbooks, the collection includes more than 100 notebooks containing copies of songs Stebbins collected. Many of the notebook pages carry handwritten notes by Stebbins about the hymns.

Wrotenbery said the library staff is in the process of checking bibliographic data in order to catalog the books and hymnals. However some of the hymnbooks do not have a catalog number and must be entered into the national data base, Wrotenbery said.

Wrotenbery said hymnals published before 1820 are considered rare books. Other books are considered rare because of their uniqueness and fragile condition, he said.

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