



BAPTIST PRESS

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May 8, 1989

89-74

Baptist musicians prepare
to 'sound word, share love'

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LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)--"Sound His Word ... and Share God's Love" will be the theme for the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference in Las Vegas, Nev., June 11-12.

Musicians from across the Southern Baptist Convention are expected to convene at College Park Baptist Church for their 33rd annual conference, to be held immediately prior to the SBC annual meeting, also in Las Vegas.

"Since we're meeting in Las Vegas, we're going to focus in on the part-time music minister -- the bivocational music minister -- and give him a Musicians-on-Mission conference," said conference President Hugh T. McElrath, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "We want to give support and encouragement to people who never attended our meeting before.

"Whereas our conference in San Antonio, Texas, (in 1988) was beaming in on the larger church, we're beaming in on several sessions on small churches and on how a small church can develop a music ministry."

For example, the meeting will include a panel discussion on music ministry in the small church, he said, adding that other discussion sessions will focus on equipping ministers of music in small churches.

"We're also missionary, and the 'Sound His Word' (portion of the theme) means singing and playing instruments and doing things to share the gospel," McElrath added.

"Another focus is worship," he said, noting Paul Duke, pastor, and Mark Lawson, minister of music, of Kirkwood Baptist Church in Kirkwood, Mo., will "demonstrate how a pastor and minister of music can work together in worship."

"We're also dealing with tensions in church music," McElrath said. "We'll look in the area of praise in worship, such as the use of choruses, in contradistinction to use of classic hymnody." Conference sessions will include presentations dealing with both approaches.

"We have a lot of tensions in church music," he said, "and we're trying to cover all the bases and support music ministry in all the churches."

The meeting also will feature racial and ethnic diversity, with program personalities hailing from various backgrounds, McElrath noted.

The conference will feature concerts by the Singing Illinoisans, ministers of music from churches in Illinois; Max D. Lyall, pianist and professor of church music at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.; the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Vocal Ensemble, directed by Phillip Landgrave, professor of church music; the youth handbell choir from First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Ala., directed by Norman Johnson, minister of music; the youth choir of First Baptist Church of Garland, Texas, directed by Duane Blakley, minister of music; soprano soloist Henrietta Davis of Oakland, Calif., accompanied by Lyall; and the Golden Gate Seminary Chapel Choir, directed by Richard Lin, professor of church music.

Panel discussion topics will be "Revitalizing Praise and Worship" and "Planning Creatively for Worship."

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Special-interest conferences will focus on "Music in the Small Church," "Teaching Choir Members to Read Music," "Building/Maintaining a Strong Youth Choir," "Handbells and the Small Church," "Learning from Small-Church Music in Africa," "Creative Approaches to Hymn Singing," "Perspectives on Choral Materials and Methods" and "The Uses of Electronic Music in the Church's Outreach."

The organization's three professional divisions will have separate meetings. The divisions and their programs are: local church, "Religious Banners," led by Jim Whitmire, minister of music at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.; denominational, "Re-thinking Associational Music," led by Danny R. Jones, associational music specialist from Jackson, Miss.; and educational, "Computer-Assisted Music Instruction," led by W. Daniel Landes, assistant professor of music at Belmont College in Nashville.

The meeting will conclude with a tribute to Mary June Tabor, associate music director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, who is retiring as the conference's secretary-treasurer after 20 years.

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Baptist Press
5/8/89

Southern Baptist Church Music Conference
College Park Baptist Church, Las Vegas, Nevada
June 11-12, 1989

Theme: "Sound His Word ... and Share God's Love"

Sunday Afternoon, June 11

- 1:01 Registration desk opens (remaining open throughout the conference)
- 1:16 Call to Order -- Hugh T. McElrath, SBCMC president, professor of church music, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.
Welcomes -- Bob Norvell, pastor, and Jim Griffiths, minister of music, College Park Baptist Church, Las Vegas; Rudy Duett, director, church services, Nevada Baptist Convention, Reno
- 1:21 Conference Hymn: "Share His Love"
- 1:26 Concert -- The Singing Illinoisans, Allen Mashbern, director, church services, Illinois Baptist State Convention, Springfield, conductor
- 1:51 Panel Discussion: Revitalizing Praise and Worship -- moderator: John N. McGuckin, director, church music department, California Southern Baptist Convention, Fresno; panel members: Danny R. Hill, pastor, and Bill Risinger, associate pastor in music, Temple Baptist Church, Redlands, Calif.
- 2:36 Worship in Spirit and Truth -- Mark Lawson, minister of music, Kirkwood Baptist Church, St. Louis, worship leader; Paul Duke, pastor, Kirkwood Baptist Church, preacher; Gail Scott, music associate, Kirkwood Baptist Church, organist; Max D. Lyall, professor of church music, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., pianist
- 3:21 Special-Interest Round-Robin Conferences -- Music in the Small Church; Teaching Choir Members to Read Music; Building/Maintaining a Strong Youth Choir Program Year After Year; Tintinabulations: Handbells and the Small Church
- 4:06 Exhibit Break
- 4:31 Special-Interest Round-Robin Conferences (Repeated)
- 5:16 Adjournment

Sunday Evening, June 11

- 6:14 Mini Concert -- Max D. Lyall
- 6:29 Mini-Concert -- Southern Seminary Vocal Ensemble, Phillip Landgrave, professor of church music, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, conductor
- 7:00 Evening Service of Worship and Celebration -- College Park Baptist Church: Bob Norvell, pastor; Jack B. Johnson, preacher; Harry E. Watson, associate pastor; Jim Griffiths, minister of music; Phillip Landgrave and Southern Seminary Vocal Ensemble, music
- 8:15 Reception -- Entertainment by Southern Seminary Vocal Ensemble

Monday Morning, June 12

- 8:31 Concert -- Youth Handbell Choir, First Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., Norman G. Johnson, minister of music, conductor

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- 9:01 Vignettes from our Hymnal History -- Clark Measels, assistant professor of music, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.
- 9:26 Winning Hymn of the Conference of Hymn Search
- 9:29 Annual Conference Business Session:
 - Report of the Secretary-Treasurer -- Mary June Tabor, assistant to the director, church music department, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City
 - Committee on Constitution/By-Laws -- Julian Suggs, director of church music, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood
 - Committee on Resolutions -- Harry Eskew, professor of music history and hymnology, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
 - Presentation of the W. Hines Sims Award (Dan C. Hall - Posthumous) -- Clark Measels
 - Miscellaneous Business
 - President's Address -- Hugh T. McElrath
 - In Memoriam (Eugene M. Bartlett Jr.) -- Mary June Tabor
- 10:01 Exhibit Break
- 10:26 Panel Discussion: Planning Creatively for Worship -- Mark Lawson, moderator; Bob Hatfield, minister of music, Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.; Mary Kay Wonner, minister of music, First Southern Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Steve Shoemaker, pastor, Crescent Hill Baptist Church, panel members
- 11:28 Adjournment

Monday Afternoon, June 12

- 1:01 Exhibits Open
- 1:36 Concert -- Youth Choir, First Baptist Church, Garland, Texas, Duane Blakley, minister of music, conductor
- 2:06 Divisional Meetings -- Local Church; Denominational; Educational
- 2:59 Exhibit Break
- 3:24 Concert -- Henrietta Davis, concert artist, Oakland, Calif.; Max D. Lyall
- 3:49 Dimensions in Christian Music Communication -- Roberta King, missionary and ethnomusicologist, Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa
- 4:26 Special-Interest Round-Robin Conferences -- Learning from Small Church Music in Africa; Creative Approaches in Hymn Singing; Perspectives on Choral Materials and Methods; The Uses of Electronic Music in the Church's Outreach
- 5:13 Special-Interest Round-Robin Conferences (Repeated)
- 5:59 Adjournment

Monday Evening, June 12

- 7:21 Concert -- Golden Gate Seminary Chapel Choir, Richard Lin, professor of church music, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., conductor
- 7:41 Worship in Spirit and Truth -- Mark Lawson, worship leader; Paul Duke, preacher; Gail Scott, organist; Max D. Lyall, organist; Golden Gate Seminary Chapel Choir, music
- 8:36 A Tribute to Mary June Tabor -- Speaking Tributes: Hugh T. McElrath and SBCMC past presidents; Singing Tributes: The Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma, Jim Woodward, artist-in-residence, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, conductor
- 9:06 Benediction -- Mark Edwards, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Nashville, new SBCMC president

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Hispanic pastors set rally,
conference for Las Vegas

By Joe Westbury

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Baptist Press
5/8/89

ATLANTA (BP)--Hispanic Baptists will gather in Las Vegas, Nev., June 10-12 for door-to-door witnessing, an evangelistic rally and a workshop prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The second annual meeting of Hispanics prior to the SBC will provide a time of evangelistic thrust and professional development among pastors, church staff members and laity, according to Bob Sena, pastor of First Spanish Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Sena is coordinator of the Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers Conference, formed to encourage Hispanics to take more active roles in Baptist associations and state conventions.

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The fellowship, which has pledged to work through established Southern Baptist agencies and not as a para-church group, has a second priority of leading Hispanic churches to increase their giving to the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget, Sena said.

A group of Hispanics will arrive June 10 to participate in two days of door-to-door visitation in a predominantly Hispanic section of Las Vegas, Sena said. The evangelistic thrust is part of the Home Mission Board's emphasis on reaching Las Vegas homes with the gospel.

More than 500 individuals are expected to attend a "Here's Hope Rally of Celebration" at 7 p.m. June 11 at West Oakey Baptist Church, Sena said.

The following day, about 200 Hispanic ministers and laity will hone their ministry skills at a workshop at First Baptist Church. Theme for the day-long seminar will be "Exalting Christ Through Ministerial Excellence."

Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will host a 12:30 p.m. luncheon for the group. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, will host a 7 p.m. banquet, including an ethnic commissioning ceremony for two couples who will serve overseas.

The complimentary meals will be the first time the two agencies have participated in the Hispanic fellowship's meetings and signal a growing relationship between Hispanics and SBC agencies, said Daniel Sotelo, pastor of Templo Bautista in Fresno, Calif., and president of the fellowship.

Sena said the rally and workshop indicate an emerging presence of Hispanics in the denomination. "We've come a long way, but the signs of the times indicate a positive acceptance of Hispanics by the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Hispanics are the nation's fastest growing ethnic community, increasing at a rate five times greater than the rest of the nation. In the past seven years the Hispanic population increased by 30 percent to 18.8 million members, Sena explained.

"We want to show Southern Baptists that we're no longer the insignificant, poverty-stricken, small mission across the railroad tracks. We are now an important part of the denomination and have much to give to and much to learn from the denomination."

A packet detailing the evangelistic visitation, rally and workshop has been mailed to the 1,800 Hispanic churches and missions in the convention, Sena said.

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Artistic-minded Baptists
invited to Las Vegas meeting

N-CO
(SBTS)

Baptist Press
5/8/89

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)-- Southern Baptists interested in using the arts in Christian service will convene during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., this summer.

The group will meet Wednesday, June 14, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in room 21 in the South Exhibit Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center.

The meeting will be hosted by the Center for Religion and the Arts at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; the special ministries department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta; the church recreation department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; and the National Fellowship of Performing Artists of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tenn.

William L. Hendricks, director of the Center for Religion and the Arts at Southern Seminary, said the meeting will serve as a forum to discuss the use of the arts in churches and will "explore the possibility of organizing into a structure that will promote the use of arts in the churches." The meeting is for people interested in any of the various art forms, including visual, musical, dramatic, puppetry, mime and banner making, he noted.

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"It is our hope to find, develop and encourage the performance of talent among Southern Baptists as a useful tool in witnessing and evangelism," Hendricks said.

For further information, contact the Center for Religion and the Arts, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky., 40280.

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Baptist workers in Lebanon
meet deadlines despite strife

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Baptist Press
5/8/89

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)--Intense artillery fire hasn't knocked Lebanese workers at Baptist Publications in Beirut off schedule.

Three religious education curriculum projects in Arabic were completed on time, despite recent artillery fire that has been the fiercest in Beirut in recent years. The curriculum units now are being tested in Jordan and Egypt and among Arabs in Israel.

Also, three new Christian books in Arabic came off the presses.

To complete the tasks, the staff artist, for example, took up residence in a bomb shelter beneath the new Baptist Center in Beirut, where the publishing house and media and correspondence ministries are headquartered. He was joined by some 65 other people -- Baptist workers and people who live nearby -- in taking refuge in the shelter.

One editor took an office computer home and several others took materials home in order to be productive when it was unsafe to drive to the Baptist building.

Apart from the artillery fire, one editor also had to spend considerable time with his father who was gravely ill.

"Once again this staff has done its best in the worst of circumstances," said Frances Fuller, Southern Baptist missionary now based in Cyprus who oversees the publications ministry. Fuller, a longtime missionary to Lebanon, and 23 other Southern Baptist co-workers were forced to leave the country after the U.S. State Department suspended passport privileges for Americans there in March 1987.

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