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Atlanta SBC to focus
on spiritual awakening

By Herb Hollinger *N-CO*

ATLANTA (BP)--Calling a denomination and a nation to prayer for spiritual awakening will highlight the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Georgia World Congress Center, June 4-6.

"Jesus...There's Power in His Name" is the theme for the 134th session. All the business, reports and sermons of the annual meeting are planned but also a special session designed as a call to spiritual prayer for spiritual awakening in America.

"(The program) is one of the best in a long time," said Danny Watters, pastor of Beulah Baptist Church in Douglasville, Georgia, and chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business.

The Wednesday evening session will be an emphasis on the spiritual, Watters said, with President Morris H. Chapman calling the denomination and America to special prayer for an "encounter with God."

Last year Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, appointed a 10-member spiritual awakening committee which will coordinate the two-and-a-half hour period. The Home Mission Board relinquished its slot on the program for the emphasis.

"This has been on (Chapman's) heart for a long time," said Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida, and chairman of the spiritual awakening committee. "This will be an evening the Holy Spirit moves in his people to launch a spiritual awakening both in the Southern Baptist Convention and across America.

The session will feature calls "to a fresh encounter with God, to confession and humility, to the cross and sacrifice, to celebration and to renew our covenant with God. It includes prayer groups, scripture readings, presentations of banners and crowns, special music and messages.

A concert by a Patriotic Festival Choir, representing three Georgia churches, will begin the special evening session.

Keynote speeches during the three-day meeting will be Chapman's presidential address at the conclusion of the first session Tuesday morning and Tom D. Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., will bring the annual convention sermon Wednesday morning.

Elections for officers will begin Tuesday afternoon. Unlike recent conventions, there does not appear to be opposition to Chapman who is eligible for another single year term. Most observers speculate the attendance may be down from the recent record numbers attending the annual meeting, primarily because of diminishing public confrontations between moderates and conservatives in the convention.

The Foreign Mission Board will close the Tuesday evening session while a special "Baptist Hour" 50th anniversary presentation by the Radio and Television Commission will close the annual meeting Thursday morning.

About four hours of business will be spread across the three days beginning Tuesday afternoon. Messengers will vote on a proposed \$140,710,282 1991-92 Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, a 2.46 percent increase over the current year.

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Votes will also be taken on a proposed merger of the convention's public affairs committee and the Christian Life Commission, bylaw changes and elimination of at-large and local trustee slots for three agencies.

Although the Wednesday evening session will be special it is not to be seen as a precedent, according to Watters. He said it will probably be a "one time" special emphasis and was not planned as a precedent for future conventions.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

June 4-6, 1991

Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta

Theme: "Jesus ... There's Power in HIS Name"

Scripture: " ... thou shalt call his name Jesus:
for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21)

Tuesday Morning, June 4

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration -- First Baptist Church Choir, Wichita Falls, Texas, John Mark Benson, minister of music
- 8:30 Call to Order
Congregational Singing -- Jack Price, convention music director, Garland, Texas; Billy Jack Green, associate, Marietta, Ga.
- 8:35 Prayer -- Ray Fowler, pastor, Bel-Air Baptist Church, Augusta, Ga.
- 8:40 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention -- Lee Porter, registration secretary, projects consultant, Sunday school youth-adult department, Sunday School Board, Nashville
- 8:45 Committee on Order of Business (First Report) -- Danny E. Watters, chairman, pastor, Beulah Baptist Church, Douglasville, Ga.
- 8:50 Welcome -- James N. Griffith, executive director, Georgia Baptist Convention, Atlanta
- 8:55 Response -- Vander Warner Jr., pastor, Grove Avenue Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.
- 9:00 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
- 9:05 Radio and Television Commission Report -- Jack B. Johnson, president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 9:15 Home Mission Board Report -- Larry L. Lewis, president, Atlanta
- 9:25 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) -- Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer, Nashville
- 10:25 American Bible Society Report -- Fred A. Allen, church relations director, New York
- 10:35 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 11:05 Annuity Board Report -- Paul W. Powell, president, Dallas,
- 11:15 Congregational Singing -- Billy Jack Green; First Baptist Church Choir, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 11:20 Music -- Chris Chapman, college minister, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas
- 11:25 President's Address -- Morris H. Chapman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 12:00 Benediction -- Bernie Moraga, pastor, Camino Real Baptist Mission, Rockwall, Texas

Tuesday Afternoon, June 4

- 1:00 Music for Inspiration -- Metropolitan Baptist Church, Houston, Dick Hill, minister of music; Babbie Mason, concert/artist, Marietta, Ga.; TRUTH, Mobile, Ala., Roger Breland, director; Trent Sizemore, minister of music, San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas
- 2:00 Congregational Singing -- Dick Thomassian, minister of music, Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.

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- 2:05 Prayer -- Claude Thomas, pastor, Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, Okla.
 2:10 Messenger Information Survey -- Martin B. Bradley, director, corporate planning and research department, Sunday School Board, Nashville
 2:20 Business
 Committee on Order of Business (Second Report) -- Danny E. Watters
 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
 2:30 Election of Officers (First)
 2:45 Executive Committee Report (Part 2) -- Harold C. Bennett
 3:30 Congregational Singing -- Dick Thomassian; Metropolitan Baptist Church Choir, Houston, Dick Hill
 3:35 Committee on Nominations Report -- James W. Richards Jr., Southminster Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.
 3:50 Christian Life Commission Report -- Richard D. Land, executive director, Nashville
 4:00 Congregational Singing -- Dick Thomassian
 4:05 Business
 Committee on Order of Business (Third Report) -- Danny E. Watters
 Committee on Committees Report
 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
 Miscellaneous Business
 4:45 Election of Officers (Second)
 5:00 Benediction -- Chester H. Holmes Jr., pastor, Hampton Heights Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C.

Tuesday Evening, June 4

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration -- First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga., Irvin Pearre, minister of music; and Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., Aubrey Edwards, minister of music
 7:00 Congregational Singing -- Bob Reeder, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
 7:05 Prayer -- John H. Traylor Jr., pastor, First Baptist Church, Monroe, La.
 7:10 Election of Officers (Third)
 7:20 Baptist World Alliance Report -- Denton Lotz, general secretary-treasurer, McLean, Va.
 7:30 Congregational Singing -- Bob Reeder; combined choirs
 7:35 Bold Mission Thrust Report -- Harold C. Bennett
 7:45 Brotherhood Commission Report -- James H. Smith, president, Memphis, Tenn.
 7:55 Stewardship Commission Report -- A.R. Fagan, president, Nashville
 8:05 Woman's Missionary Union Report -- Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director, Birmingham, Ala.
 8:15 Congregational Singing -- Bob Reeder; Sonny Stroud, minister of music, and Dana Stroud, Calvary Baptist Temple, Savannah, Ga.
 8:20 Foreign Mission Board Report -- R. Keith Parks, president, Richmond, Va.
 9:15 Benediction -- Michael S. Hamlet, pastor, First Baptist Church, North Spartanburg, S.C.

Wednesday Morning, June 5

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration -- Festival choirs/orchestra with soloist John Montgomery, minister of music, Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.; Colonial Heights, Jackson, Miss., Larry Kulche, minister of music; Calvary Baptist Church, Wilmington, N.C., C.L. King, minister of music; Indian Springs Baptist Church, Kingsport, Tenn., Michael Morgan, minister of music; Lakeside Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., Mabry Holt, minister of music; Central Baptist Church, Hixson, Tenn., Don McCary, minister of music; Northside Baptist Church, Anderson, S.C., Phil Sizemore, minister of music; Abilene Baptist Church, Martinez, Ga., Terry Williams, minister of music; AIDA Orchestra, John Gage, director, Atlanta; Camp Kirkland, Jacksonville, Fla., conductor/arranger
 8:50 Congregational Singing -- Joe Estes, minister of music, New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga.
 8:55 Prayer -- Ron Hardin, layman, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
 9:00 Election of Officers (Fourth)

- 9:10 Education Commission Report -- Arthur L. Walker, executive director, Nashville
- 9:20 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Report -- Landrum P. Leavell II, president, New Orleans
- 9:30 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report -- Milton Ferguson, president, Kansas City, Mo.
- 9:40 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Report -- William O. Crews, president, Mill Valley, Calif.
- 9:50 Commission on American Baptist Seminary Report -- Arthur L. Walker, secretary-treasurer, Nashville
- 9:55 Congregational Singing -- Joe Estes; festival choirs with soloist Archie K. Jackson, minister of music, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 10:00 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report -- Russell H. Dilday, president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 10:10 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Report -- Roy L. Honeycutt, president, Louisville, Ky.
- 10:20 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Report -- Lewis A. Drummond, president, Wake Forest, N.C.
- 10:30 Presentation of Past Presidents
- 10:40 Public Affairs Committee Report -- Albert Lee Smith, chairman, First Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.
- 10:50 Congregational Singing -- Joe Estes
- 10:55 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:00 Business
 Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report) -- Danny E. Watters
 Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
 Miscellaneous Business
- 11:55 Music -- Don McMinn, minister of music, and Mary McMinn, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- 12:00 Convention Sermon -- Tom D. Elliff, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- 12:30 Benediction -- Anthony Jordan, pastor, Northwest Baptist Church, Oklahoma City

NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Wednesday Evening, June 5

- 6:00 Music for Inspiration -- PATRIOTIC FESTIVAL CHOIR -- Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., Roger Christian, minister of music; First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga., Rick Forbus, minister of music; New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga., Joe Estes, minister of music; Denny Dawson, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Franklin, Tenn., conductor. SOLOIST -- Terry Franklin, artist, Nashville; NARRATOR -- Keith McBroom, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Ellenwood, Ga.; Sonny Stroud; Dorman Huggins, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Redan, Ga.; Ragan Vandegriff III, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
- 6:30 Congregational Singing -- Ragan Vandegriff III
- 6:35 Prayer -- Ron Hanie, pastor, White Oak Hills Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, Ga.
- 6:40 Business
 Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report) -- Danny E. Watters
 Election of Convention Sermon Preacher and Alternate, and Music Director, 1992
 Denominational Calendar Committee Report -- Newman N. Antonson, pastor, Tyler Road Southern Baptist Church, Wichita, Kan.
- 6:45 Presentation of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 6:50 CALL TO PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN AMERICA -- Introduction -- Jim Henry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
 CALL TO A FRESH ENCOUNTER WITH GOD -- Morris H. Chapman, Scripture reading -- Philippians 2:5-11; Message -- Charles F. Stanley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta; Music -- First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Presentation of Banners and Crowns

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CALL TO CONFESSION AND HUMILITY -- Philippians 2:5-7 -- Henry T. Blackaby, director, prayer and spiritual awakening, Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Roy J. Fish, professor of evangelism, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Avery Willis, manager, leadership development section, discipleship training department, Sunday School Board, Nashville; Special music -- Ron Owens, associate to director, prayer and spiritual awakening, Home Mission Board, and Pat Owens, Atlanta; Life Action Singers, Buchanan, Mich.; Babbie Mason

CALL TO THE CROSS AND SACRIFICE -- Philippians 2:8-9 -- David Ring, evangelist, Orlando, Fla.; Daniel J. Yearly, pastor, University Baptist Church, Coral Gables, Fla.; Special Music -- Life Action Singers

CALL TO CELEBRATION -- Philippians 2:9-11 -- Mike Huffman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Aurora, N.C.; Congregational Song of Praise -- Ron Owens

CALL TO RENEW OUR COVENANT WITH GOD -- Philippians 2:12-16 -- Minette W. Drumwright, director, International Prayer Strategy, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; Jim Henry; Morris H. Chapman; Larry L. Lewis; Congregational Singing -- "All Hail the Power"

9:30 Benediction

Thursday Morning, June 6

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration -- Combined choirs/orchestra -- Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown, Tenn., Jim Watson, minister of music; Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., Billy Jack Green
- 8:50 Congregational Singing -- Roger Christian
- 8:55 Prayer -- Wayne McCraw, pastor, Old Forest Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va.
- 9:00 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 9:05 Southern Baptist Foundation Report -- Hollis E. Johnson III, president, Nashville
- 9:15 Report on Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group -- Larry L. Lewis
- 9:25 Denominational Press Report -- Herbert V. Hollinger, vice-president for Baptist Press, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville
- 9:35 Historical Commission Report -- Lynn E. May Jr., executive director, Nashville
- 9:45 Congregational Singing -- Roger Christian; combined choirs
- 9:50 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report -- James M. Dunn, executive director, Washington
- 10:00 Baptist Sunday School Board Report -- Lloyd Elder, president, Nashville
- 10:20 Congregational Singing -- Roger Christian; combined choirs
- 10:25 Business
Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 10:45 Recognition of Outgoing Officers -- Harold C. Bennett
- 10:50 Radio and Television Commission "Baptist Hour" 50th Anniversary -- Jack B. Johnson; Joel Gregory, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas,
- 11:20 Benediction

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Government shakeup, Ramadan
delaying Kuwait survey team

By Art Toalston

N-FMB

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A survey team planning to assess opportunities for Christian ministry in Kuwait has been delayed in entering the ransacked country. A shakeup of Kuwait's government and the Muslim holy month of Ramadan are contributing to the delay.

"We are prepared to leave on a moment's notice," said John Cheyne, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board administrator for human needs ministries. However, Cheyne said Kuwaiti officials have given no indication when visas will be issued to the survey team.

Cheyne will make the trip to Kuwait with Maurice Graham, Southern Baptist worker who was held hostage in the U.S. Embassy there for more than four months, and Jerry Zandstra, pastor of the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait who was in the United States when Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2. Graham was associate pastor of the church after he and his family arrived in Kuwait last summer.

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Kuwait Prime Minister Sheik Saad Abdulla Al-Sabah's dissolution of his cabinet March 20 adds to the uncertainty over when the government will issue visas, Cheyne said.

The process is slowed by the Muslim world's current focus on Ramadan, the holy month of daytime fasting and prayer that will last until mid-April.

Once in Kuwait, the survey team will look for unique opportunities Southern Baptists and other Christians may have for meeting physical and emotional needs of people such as the laborers from numerous Third World countries who were displaced or faced other traumas and hardships during the Iraqi occupation.

In announcing plans to step up ministry in the region, Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks said, "I want us to think big and plan big so the creative energy of Southern Baptists can find heartfelt expression in reaching out to the many needy people of this region."

Toward that end, a "response unit" has been formed at the Foreign Mission Board to work during the remainder of 1991 as a catalyst and "an umbrella of coordination" for projects in the region, said its leader, Tim Brendle, Foreign Mission Board associate vice president for mission personnel. Cheyne and Mary Bullock, an FMB administrative assistant, also will be part of the response unit.

The response unit will seek to be creative yet cautious, given the still-volatile Middle East situation, "to help unleash as much of Southern Baptists' resources as we can during this brief window of opportunity," said Brendle. The response unit also will tap the expertise and skills of Southern Baptist representatives assigned to the region, as well as the help of other Baptists and evangelicals concerned for the Middle East, he said.

"We hope to build new bridges to the peoples of the Persian Gulf ... to allow us to demonstrate our love and compassion," Brendle said.

The response unit already has begun exploring possible avenues of involvement for military personnel who have gained a personal interest in helping the people of the region, retired Middle East Baptist representatives fluent in Arabic, medical personnel, business people, English-language teachers and others.

In addition to the response unit, another Foreign Mission Board task force of seven key administrators has begun work on a comprehensive postwar strategy for Baptist efforts in the Middle East. The task force is headed by Isam Ballenger, FMB vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

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Lowry: 'narrative sermons
move from itch to scratch'

By Brenda J. Sanders

F-CO
(MO)

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KANSAS CITY Mo. (BP)--Narrative sermons should move "from itch to scratch," Eugene L. Lowry recently told students at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"The sermon should move from disequilibrium to resolution -- from 'itch' to 'scratch,'" he said. "In narrative preaching, our role is to help people move from illness to health, from fragmentation to wholeness, from death to life."

Lowry was guest speaker for the annual H. I. Hester Lectureship on Preaching to the Kansas City, Mo., seminary. He is the William K. McElvaney professor of preaching at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. He has been a member of the faculty at the Methodist institution since 1962.

Narrative preaching is "the shape a sermon may take," Lowry maintained. "It is an umbrella category, which may include story sermons, episodic sermons or inductive sermons."

Lowry shared a five-step process he developed to serve as a structure for narrative sermons.

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The first step is to "upset the equilibrium" of the listener, the professor said. "The preacher must presume that people are 'in neutral' at the outset of a sermon. It is the preacher's responsibility to get things off balance quickly enough to gain the attention of the listener."

A narrative preacher can accomplish this task by beginning the sermon with a problematic issue, a conflict -- an "itch," Lowry pointed out.

Next, the narrative sermon must "analyze the discrepancy" which has been presented to the listener. "The purpose of stage two is to explore more thoroughly what is going on behind the wrong we see," he noted.

"The gospel deals with the causes behind human behavior," Lowry expounded, "I need a gospel that gets deep within me, at the very source of who I am. My behavior will turn out all right if my soul finds healing through the gospel."

The third step in a narrative sermon is "discovering the clue to resolution." Lowry said, "It is a moment of surprise, when an unexpected revelation points the listener to the good news of Christ."

The fourth step is when the sermon leads the listener to "experience the gospel," the professor shared. "The redemptive act of God in Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of a sermon -- not what we're called to do, but what God has done."

The final step in the process is to "anticipate the future."

"Once the listener has experienced the gospel, he or she can then anticipate what the future holds in light of God's empowering grace," Lowry said.

"The gospel is a mystery to be evoked," he added, "and the role of the sermon is to help evoke it. ... We must hear through the Spirit the freshness of the word of God, and present the sermon as an offering of the gospel."