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March 27, 1991

91-46

Pastors' Conference theme
is 'Lord, Send Revival'

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ATLANTA (BP)--The 1991 meeting of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference will focus on revival -- in the home, heart, land and church -- June 2-3 at Atlanta's World Congress Center, according to Richard G. Lee, conference president.

The theme, "Lord, Send Revival," will be the focus of 14 messages by pastors, evangelists and others during four sessions, said Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Church, Tucker, Ga.

"We are praying that this year's Pastors' Conference will lead us to refocus our aim toward strengthening our homes, personal repentance, pointing our land back to God, and building soul-winning churches," said Lee. "Thus we are expecting a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit during these two dynamic days of music and preaching."

The conference can be the catalyst for a "sweeping revival" within the Southern Baptist Convention, Lee said.

Speakers for the conference, one of more than a dozen meetings scheduled in advance of the annual meeting of the SBC, include a number of familiar pastors as well as an evangelist, a college president, and three nationally recognized author/speakers.

W.A. Criswell, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas and former SBC president, will conclude the conference Monday evening with his message.

Other pastors scheduled are Jerry Vines, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Ed Young, Second Baptist Church, Houston; Adrian Rogers, Bellevue Baptist Church, suburban Memphis, Tenn.; Jimmy Draper, First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas; Darrell Gilyard, Victory Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas; and Jack Graham, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas. Vines, Rogers and Draper are former SBC presidents.

Current SBC president Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, will bring a welcome Monday evening, said Lee.

Lt. Col. Oliver North, central figure in congressional hearings several years ago on aid to contras in Central America; Tim LaHaye, author and speaker; and Chuck Colson, author and speaker on prison ministries, will bring messages Monday afternoon.

Other speakers include: Tony Evans, Oak Cliff Bible Church, Dallas; Bailey Smith, evangelist from Atlanta; Bill Stafford, evangelist from Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Paige Patterson, president, Criswell Bible College, Dallas.

Choirs from Rehoboth Baptist Church, Atlanta; Metropolitan Baptist Church, Houston; and First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, will begin each session with mini-concerts. Musical selections will also be given by concert artists Kendra Cook, Lynchburg, Va.; Janet Paschal, Reidsville, N.C.; and Larnelle Harris, Nashville.

Other special musical selections will be presented by Mike and Faye Speck, music evangelists from Owasso, Okla., and The Stone Brothers, music evangelists from Jacksonville, Fla.

In addition to Lee, officers of the 1991 conference are Ruffin Snow, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., vice president, and David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, La., secretary-treasurer.

Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference

June 2-3, 1991

Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta

Theme: "Lord, Send Revival"

Sunday evening

- 6:00 Music -- Joyful Praise Choir, Rehoboth Baptist Church, Tucker, Ga.
- 6:15 Welcome and Prayer -- Richard Lee, pastor, Rehoboth Baptist Church
- 6:20 Music -- Joyful Praise Choir
- 6:25 Message -- Jerry Vines, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 7:05 Congregational Singing -- Jim Van Matre, minister of music, Rehoboth Baptist Church
- 7:10 Music -- Joyful Praise Choir
- 7:20 Message -- Ed Young, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston
- 8:00 Presentation by Broadman Publishers
- 8:05 Congregational Singing -- Jim Van Matre
- 8:10 Offering & Prayer -- David Hankins, conference secretary/treasurer, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, La.
- 8:15 Music -- Joyful Praise Choir
- 8:25 Message -- Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, suburban Memphis, Tenn.
- 9:05 Benediction -- Ruffin Snow, conference vice president, pastor, Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

Monday morning

- 8:30 Music -- The Worship Choir, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 8:50 Scripture and Prayer -- Gene Williams, president, Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 8:55 Congregational Singing -- John Mark Benson, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 9:00 Music -- Mike and Faye Speck, music evangelists, Owasso, Okla.
- 9:05 Message -- Bill Stafford, evangelist, Chattanooga, Tenn.
- 9:40 Congregational Singing -- Phil Ferguson, minister of music, Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.
- 9:45 Music -- Janet Paschal, concert artist, Reidsville, N.C.
- 9:50 Message -- Paige Patterson, president, Criswell College, Dallas
- 10:25 Offering & Prayer -- Joe McKinney, pastor, First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M.
- 10:30 Music -- The Stone Brothers, music evangelists, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 10:40 Message -- Jimmy Draper, pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas
- 11:15 Congregational Singing -- Phil Ferguson
- 11:20 Message -- Darrell Gilyard, pastor, Victory Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas
- 11:55 Benediction -- Everett E. Tolbert, evangelist, Spartanburg, S.C.

Monday afternoon

- 1:15 Music -- Metropolitan Choir, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Houston
- 1:30 Congregational Singing -- Dick Hill, minister of music, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Houston
- 1:35 Scripture and Prayer -- Rick Gage, evangelist, Atlanta
- 1:40 Message -- Oliver North, Washington
- 2:05 Congregational Singing -- Sonny Stroud, minister of music, Calvary Baptist Temple, Savannah, Ga.
- 2:10 Music -- Metropolitan Choir
- 2:20 Message -- Jack Graham, pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas
- 2:50 Offering and Prayer -- Jay Strack, evangelist, Dallas
- 2:55 Congregational Singing -- Dick Hill
- 3:00 Election of Officers
- 3:15 Music -- Kendra Cook, concert artist, Lynchburg, Va.
- 3:20 Message -- Tim LaHaye, author, speaker, Washington
- 3:50 Music -- Kendra Cook
- 3:55 Message -- Chuck Colson, author, speaker, Washington
- 4:30 Benediction -- Len Turner, pastor, Calvary Baptist Temple, Savannah, Ga.

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Monday evening

6:10 Music -- Joyful Praise Choir, Rehoboth Baptist Church, Atlanta
6:30 Congregational Singing -- Jim Van Matre, minister of music, Rehoboth Baptist Church
6:35 Scripture and Prayer -- Robert McGee, president, RAPHA, Houston
6:40 Music -- Larnelle Harris, concert artist, Nashville
6:50 Message -- Tony Evans, Oak Cliff Bible Church, Dallas
7:20 President's Welcome -- Morris Chapman, president, Southern Baptist Convention,
pastor, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
7:25 Presentation of Broadman Publishers
7:30 Congregational Singing -- Jim Van Matre
7:35 Prayer and Offering -- Lewis Drummond, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological
Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.
7:40 Music -- Janet Paschal, concert artist, Reidsville, N.C.
7:45 Message -- Bailey Smith, evangelist, Atlanta
8:20 Music -- Larnelle Harris, Joyful Praise Choir
8:30 Message -- W.A. Criswell, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas
Introduction of New Officers
Benediction -- New Pastors' Conference President

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Ministers' Wives to hear
Charles Petty at luncheon

N-CD

Baptist Press
3/27/91

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives organization will hear Charles Petty, a Christian family humorist from Raleigh, N.C., at their annual luncheon June 4, according to the group's president, Carole Hughes of Independence, Mo.

The ministers' wives' group holds its luncheon each year in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. This year the luncheon will be in the Grand Ballroom of the Omni Hotel in Atlanta.

Tickets may be ordered before May 20 by sending a check for \$17 to Margaret Murchison, 3235 Ramsgate Road, Augusta, GA 30909. Tickets will be \$19 at the door.

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Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives' Conference

June 4, 1991

Grand Ballroom, Omni Hotel, Atlanta

Theme: "Heart of the Hearth"

Tuesday afternoon

12:15 Luncheon

Address -- Charles Petty, family humorist, Raleigh, N.C.

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Accreditation still intact,
say Southeastern officials

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WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Despite some concerns and even the possibility of probation, officials of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary are adamant the seminary is in no danger of losing accreditation.

Southeastern is presently on warning status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and will have this status reviewed in December. In addition, the Association of Theological Schools recently has requested separate reports from the faculty, administration and trustees. Reportedly, the reports will show why Southeastern should not be put on probation in June, seminary officials said.

"We are going to give ourselves unreservedly to keep accreditation," said President Lewis A. Drummond. "We are addressing point by point the concerns of our accrediting agencies."

Roger Ellsworth, trustee board chairman, urged students not to give up on the seminary.

"We are going to make progress, and we still offer a quality education. ... We are still hopeful of satisfying both SACS and ATS, but prudent planning requires we take into account every eventuality and prepare for it."

"Many students are concerned about the accreditation of Southeastern. Some have even asked whether or not the events at Southeastern will affect future opportunities for service with the Home and Foreign Mission Boards. These are reasonable questions, but I have reason to believe we will be successful in resolving all matters of concern to our accrediting agencies," said Russ Bush, vice president for academic affairs.

Bush said he did not believe the two mission agencies would exclude or bypass Southeastern students because of the matters the school faces with accreditation agencies.

"(We) have a good relationship with both boards and will actively maintain that relationship. Southeastern is working closely with the boards to keep them informed of its status," said Bush.

Faculty members also see the seminary's accreditation problems being worked out.

"The faculty have worked very hard to ensure the school keeps its accredited status with both accreditation agencies. We intend to continue working hard to see our accreditation is kept," said Fred Grissom, president of the seminary's chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Officials also stressed that students should understand their degrees from Southeastern are fully accredited now. If probation is announced it does not equal loss of accreditation, nor does it immediately or inevitably lead to loss of accreditation.

"Southeastern would lose its accreditation at the end of the probation period only if it fails to take appropriate steps," said Bush. "Normally only if we did not take appropriate steps after a second year on probation would our accreditation be lost."

The probation period is a way of granting an institution time to resolve its problems, said Drummond. Bush said there are procedures by which Southeastern could appeal negative decisions should the school feel this necessary.

"Our accreditation self-study is now in progress. Our trustees, at their last meeting, adopted a process for developing plans for the seminary for the next 10 years," said Bush. "They adopted new procedures for evaluation. They have asked the president to present a plan for establishing the financial integrity of the institution. All of these actions address accreditation concerns."

"The accreditation issues we face at Southeastern are not due to a lack of academic excellence in instruction. Southeastern students have every reason to be proud of all work accomplished here," said Bush.

Texas hospitals provide \$4 million
in supplies for Peru cholera victims

By Terry Barone & Ken Camp

N
Texas

DALLAS (BP)--Texas Baptist hospitals have provided more than \$4 million in financial assistance and medical supplies to help treat victims of a cholera epidemic in Peru.

The total list price of goods secured through Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, previously cited at a half million dollars, now is about \$4 million, according to Gary Collins, director of the Baylor pharmacy department.

The medical center negotiated with several vendors, including Abbott Pharmaceuticals of Austin, Texas, and Lyphomed Pharmaceuticals (a subsidiary of Fujisawa U.S.A.), Collins said. Baylor also enlisted Bergin Brunswig Wholesalers to contact several of its suppliers.

Baptist Memorial Hospital System in San Antonio has secured donations of about \$40,000 worth of medical supplies. The supplies, primarily to help start I-Vs for dehydrated children, were secured after an appeal to Texas Baptist hospitals from the Human Welfare Coordinating Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas to help alleviate the epidemic in Peru.

Willard Powell, director of Central Services at Baptist Memorial Hospital System said Ryan Medical, Inc., of Brentwood, Tenn., donated more than 30,000 blood collection units and almost 12,000 I-V unit starter kits for children. Also, Southwest Medical Packaging, Inc., of Houston donated various supplies used in I-V starter kits.

Three other Texas Baptist hospitals -- Baptist Hospital of Southeast Texas in Beaumont, Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene and High Plains Baptist Health Systems in Amarillo -- collectively gave \$5,000 for the effort which is being coordinated by the Texas Baptist Men organization and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"This is an outstanding example of how our Texas Baptist hospitals respond to hurting people in missions and ministry," said Dwayne Martin, director of the Texas Baptist human welfare coordinating board.

"This cooperative effort by our hospitals is a clear demonstration that their hearts are in helping hurting people not only in their immediate areas, but also around the world."

Texas Baptist Men Executive Director Bob Dixon said the financial contributions from the hospitals will be used to defray shipping costs of donated supplies and for water purification in Peru.

More than 400,000 pounds of medical supplies were scheduled to be shipped from Houston on March 29 en route to Peru, according to Dixon. The Foreign Mission Board, which has approved \$60,000 from relief funds for the Peru project, will cover shipping costs.

Additional supplies were secured by Danny Shaver, a ham radio operator and layman at Calvary Baptist Church, Pilot Point, Texas. Working closely with Texas Baptist Men, Shaver sent about 100 cases of medicine and medical supplies by American Airlines on March 1 and 8.

A CSA military transport plane loaded with about 130,000 pounds of the most urgently needed medical provisions was slated to leave Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio on April 2.

Cholera is a bacterial infection of the intestines that can cause violent diarrhea, vomiting and rapid dehydration. If untreated, it can cause death within hours or days.

Since the outbreak of the epidemic in the seaport town of Chimbote in late January, there have been 98,000 reported cholera cases nationwide, according to Hayward Armstrong, administrator of the Southern Baptist missions organization in Lima, Peru. More than 600 deaths due to the disease have been confirmed, but unofficial estimates run up to 1,200.

Initially, health officials estimated the epidemic would peak sometime in April or May at about 300,000 cases. Now projected cases number 500,000 with no end in sight through December.

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More than 90 percent of the supplies sent by Texas Baptists to date have been distributed, Armstrong said, adding, "The need is so great you don't hold onto it very long."

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Sider says ignoring
poor people is 'liberalism'

By Pat Cole

N-CO
(SKTS)

Baptist Press
3/27/91

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Churches that ignore biblical teachings about God's concern for the poor are guilty of "theological liberalism," warned one of evangelical Christianity's best known social justice advocates.

"There is just as much in the Bible about God's concern for the poor as there is about the resurrection," said Ronald J. Sider in an interview at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "I think denying the resurrection is heresy and a terrible theological mistake, but if the Bible is our norm, then surely it is just as serious to ignore several hundred verses on the poor."

Sider, professor of theology and culture at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, spoke in chapel and lectured in several classes during a March visit to the Louisville, Ky., school. He is the author of 18 books, including "Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: A Biblical Study" which has sold 250,000 copies and been translated into five languages.

Sider said he is puzzled by churches that claim a high regard for biblical authority yet often neglect the Bible's teachings on social responsibility: "We should have thousands and thousands of Southern Baptist churches as well as other churches that are evangelizing, leading dozens of people to Christ every year and at the same time be just as active in ministering to the poor, the needy, people with AIDS, working for peace and so on."

Christians, he said, have allowed "surrounding society rather than biblical teachings" to shape their attitudes toward the poor.

Christians in Europe and North America too often buy into "the tragic materialism that popularly tells us that we get fulfillment through things," Sider said. "We know as Christians that isn't true, but we so often live that way anyway."

Once people overcome their materialism, they can begin to spend less on themselves and share more with others, he said.

Sider cited America's over-consumption of fossil fuels as an example of the nation's self-indulgence. "The U.S. burns twice as much fossil fuel per capita as Japan," he said. "The Japanese live just as well as we do. But we waste fossil fuels, spend a lot more on ourselves in the process and then destroy the environment."

Individuals could help solve the energy problem by driving smaller cars, keeping their homes cooler during the heating season and insisting on a national energy policy that emphasizes conservation, he said:

"It's absolutely outrageous that in the middle of the war in the Middle East over oil -- or at least related to oil -- the President would propose an energy policy which focuses on finding more oil."

While he will take a position on particular political issues, Sider said he will not categorize himself as a political liberal or conservative. "I have no commitment to the left or right," he said. "I am committed to Jesus Christ and the Scriptures and I have tried to let the Scriptures be decisive in everything I think and do. I don't pretend to pull it off perfectly. I am sure I am shaped by other influences, but that's what I try to do."

Sider, who is executive director of Evangelicals for Social Action, noted the group's positions cut across ideological lines. Evangelicals for Social Action has opposed abortion and supported sanctions against South Africa, he said. The group also favored the Bush administration's child care proposal that stressed vouchers and tax credits, he said.

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A "crucial" category" for Evangelicals for Social Action is justice for poor people, Sider said.

"That doesn't mean that you simply throw money at it (poverty). You've got to figure out how really to enable them to have the resources to earn their own way. What you can't do is simply ignore it. You've got to be there saying that justice for the poor is one of the crucial ways that you measure whether society is in any way just."

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Chapman 'profoundly touched'
by mission needs in America

By Jim Newton

N - Hmb

Baptist Press
3/27/91

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (BP)--Returning from a whirlwind coast-to-coast missions awareness tour, Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman said he and his wife were "profoundly touched" by the vast needs in the United States.

In four days, Chapman and his wife, Jodi, visited missions work in Boston, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and the greater Los Angeles area on a tour sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

It was the first time Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, had experienced a mission awareness tour, and the first time he had visited the Boston area.

In an interview after the tour, Chapman said the greatest need he saw was for money and manpower to start new churches and evangelize unreached people in America.

"I am praying Southern Baptists will double their efforts in financially supporting missions work in the United States," Chapman said. "I am trusting God to call from our ranks many young adults to go where the harvest is so great in America."

Chapman said the mission tour had triggered "a passion to reach America for Christ" while there is still time.

"We are losing America to a pagan and secular society," Chapman said. "We Southern Baptists are the largest evangelical denomination in America, and if we don't do something now, who else will do it?"

He pointed out research done by the HMB has indicated there are 172 million unsaved people in America. There are more unchurched people in America than in every country of the world except three: China, the Soviet Union and India.

Chapman said the mission tour made him highly conscious that foreign missions has come home to America with the tremendous influx of immigrants and refugees from other countries.

"Jodi and I were deeply touched by the all-consuming dedication of our church planters and missions personnel" supported by the HMB. "They are doing so much with so little.

"Our church planters and mission pastors could easily feel they are drowning in a sea of unsaved people," Chapman said. "Their task is almost overwhelming. Except for their confidence in God's call, and the strength of the Lord's care, I'm sure some of them would often feel like quitting."

He commended Southern Baptists for praying for home missionaries and for their financial support through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, saying this support "is a big boost and encouragement to those supported by the Home Mission Board." He added if Baptists could see the needs the way he did on the mission awareness tour, they would do much more to pray for and support home missionaries.

Chapman said he was moved to tears by the needs of a Haitian church planter in Fort Lauderdale, Tony Martin, who shares God's love from his heart and his pocket. Chapman said Martin exists on a meager annual salary, yet often provides money to poor Haitian immigrants because he cannot stand the thought of any of his people going hungry.

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Chapman said he was "overwhelmed by a new world of ethnic, racial and cultural diversity" law among Southern Baptists in Boston, Fort Lauderdale and Los Angeles.

"I was touched by the resolve I saw in ethnic pastors to establish a strong identity, language and cultural awareness with people of other lands," Chapman said.

He said he was deeply moved by the story of John Parks, pastor of Miracle Land Korean Baptist Church in Cypress, Calif., who went up into the mountains to pray that God would touch the heart of a developer to sell a piece of property the church wanted to buy. Although the developer previously had refused to sell, Parks told Chapman the developer changed his mind and offered the land at an affordable price.

Chapman said he came away from the mission tour convinced this problem is so widespread that acquisition of land for church construction is beyond the financial reach of many churches in America.

"In some instances, only a miracle of God will make it possible," Chapman said. "God is going to have to touch the hearts of unbelieving developers for land to be acquired."

Chapman said he was inspired by the way many Southern Baptist churches are sharing facilities with multiple congregations to utilize buildings to the maximum.

"This tour was a very special week for Jodi and for me," he said. "Our hearts have been deeply touched, and God has spoken to me on this trip. I am praying and searching for how to best lead Southern Baptists as president of the convention to reach America for Christ."

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Barbara Denman of the Florida Baptist Convention and Brenda Flowers of California Baptist College also contributed to this story.

(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press