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April 8, 1991

91-52

EDITORS' REMINDER: To receive Baptist Press on CompuServe, you will need to use our new identification number: Herb Hollinger, ID # 70420,17.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Address by hostage, HMB reports, election
to be high points of WMU annual meeting

By Susan Todd

*N- CO
WMU*

Baptist Press
4/8/91

ATLANTA (BP)--An address by a former hostage in the American Embassy in Kuwait, the only full Home Mission Board report to be given during the Southern Baptist Convention and the election of a new national president will highlight the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting June 2-3.

The five sessions of the meeting will be held in the Ballroom of the Georgia World Congress Center beginning Sunday afternoon at 2:30. The Sunday evening session begins at 7:00 p.m. Monday sessions begin at 9:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Theme of the meeting is "Called to Mission."

Maurice Graham, a Southern Baptist missionary to Kuwait, will speak during the Sunday afternoon session. He was one of several Americans held hostage at the American Embassy after the Iraqi invasion last August. His release came on Dec. 9, the day Southern Baptists had been asked to pray specifically for Graham's release.

Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will bring the full home missions report he usually gives to the entire Southern Baptist Convention, during the Monday evening session of the WMU meeting. Normally a one-hour presentation to the convention, the home missions report time this year has been reduced to 10 minutes to make room on the SBC schedule for an emphasis on spiritual awakening.

During the report, five home missionaries will talk about the work each is doing: Mickey Mayfield, Lawrenceville, Ga.; Larry Martin, Newton, Mass.; Patty Lane, Dallas; Herminio Rios, Duncan, Okla.; and Sheila Black, Charlotte, N.C.

A new WMU national president will be elected during the Monday morning session to succeed Marjorie J. McCullough, the current WMU president. McCullough is in her fifth year as national president. WMU bylaws allow the president to serve five consecutive one-year terms.

Other features of the WMU meeting:

-- Foreign missions will be the emphasis of the first session of the annual meeting. Highlighting the work of the Southern Baptists around the world will be R. Keith Parks, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president.

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Describing what it is like to experience God's call will be people from four different walks of life: Allison Lee, a teen-ager from Columbus, Ga.; Dixie Hunke of Fresno, Calif., a recent foreign missions appointee; Robert and Diana Clark, missionaries who have worked in the Philippines a short time; and Laura Frances Snow, a veteran missionary to Chile.

-- Clayton Gilbert of Alexander City, Ala., will bring the message during the Monday afternoon session. Gilbert is the father of Mary Anna Gilbert, the FMB journeyman teacher who was killed in a plane crash in China last October.

-- A service of missions-centered music is slated for Sunday evening. Four choirs from the Atlanta area will bring special music in addition to congregational singing. The Atlanta Korean Children's Choir is one of the choirs to perform.

-- Dellanna W. O'Brien, national WMU executive director, will present her report during the Monday morning session. The president's address by McCullough is scheduled for Monday afternoon.

-- Theme interpretations will be presented by The Company, a dramatic group from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

-- A fashion show featuring children's clothing from mission areas around the world will be the highlight of a luncheon Monday. Children from the Atlanta area will model national dress from every continent where Southern Baptists have work.

The luncheon will be held in the Georgia World Congress Center. Tickets are \$18 and must be ordered by May 1 from: Annual Meeting Meal Tickets, Order Accounting, Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Ala. 35283-0010.

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Woman's Missionary Union

June 2-3, 1991

Ballroom, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta

Theme: "Called to Mission"

Sunday Afternoon

2:15 Mini Concert -- Image, Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla., Bob Burroughs, director

2:30 General Session

Theme Interpretation -- The Company, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, Dennis Parrish, director

Call to Order -- Marjorie McCollough, president, WMU, Alexandria, La.

Procession of Foreign Missionaries

Procession of Foreign Mission Board Staff

Prayer -- Betty F. Law, regional vice president for the Americas, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

Hymns -- Mary Alice Collier, director, Albuquerque, N.M.

Message: A Ringing Call to Missions -- R. Keith Parks, president, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

Special Music -- Image

Missions Feature: Experiencing God's Call -- Allison Lee, acteen from First Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga.; Dixie Hunke, recent FMB appointee, Fresno, Calif.; Robert and Diana Clark, foreign missionaries, Philippines; Laura Frances Snow, foreign missionary, Chile

Hymn

Recognition of Foreign Mission Board Staff

Message: To What Does God Call Us Today? -- Maurice Graham, foreign missionary, Kuwait

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Benediction -- Minette Drumwright, director, international prayer strategy,
Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

Sunday Evening

6:45 Mini Concert -- Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga., Gary Kirksey,
director

7:00 General Session

Theme Interpretation -- The Company

Welcome -- Marjorie J. McCollough

Greetings -- Morris H. Chapman, president, Southern Baptist Convention, pastor,
First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas

Hymns -- Warren C. Fields, director, music department, Georgia Baptist Convention,
Atlanta

Scripture

Prayer -- Dorothy Pryor, executive director, Georgia WMU, Atlanta

Music -- Adult Choir, First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga., Irvin Pearre, director

Missionary Testimony -- Patricia Ervin, home missionary, Savannah, Ga.

Hymn

Music -- Atlanta Korean Children's Choir, Tom Song, director

Missionary Testimony -- Shelby Castlen, foreign missionary, Australia

Scripture

Hymn

Music -- Youth Ensemble, First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga., Irvin Pearre,
director

Missionary Testimony -- Terry Moncrief, home missionary, Atlanta

Music -- Atlanta Korean Children's Choir

Missionary Testimony -- Edna Lindholm, foreign missionary, Yemen

Scripture

Hymn

Music -- Choir, First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga.

Scripture

Hymn

Benediction -- Mary Alice Collier

Monday Morning

9:30 General Session

Theme Interpretation -- The Company

Hymns

Prayer -- Charlene Gray, associate WMU director, Tennessee Baptist Convention,
Brentwood, Tenn.

Recognition of Local Committee

Business

Second Century Fund Feature -- Mary Helen Dixon, development specialist, WMU,
Birmingham, Ala.

Hymns

Recognition of WMU Staff

Presentation of National Acteens Panalists -- Jan Turrentine, Accent editor, WMU,
Birmingham, Ala.

WMU Executive Board Report -- Dellanna O'Brien, executive director, WMU,
Birmingham, Ala.

Hymn

Special Music -- Image

Message: God Calls Us to Service -- Linda Johnson, home missionary, Orlando, Fla.

Hymn

Benediction -- Lawana Roberts, WMU consultant, Baptist General Convention of
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City

Monday Afternoon

2:00 General Session

Theme Interpretation -- The Company

Hymns

Prayer -- Johanna Dawson, president, New Mexico WMU, Albuquerque

Message: Responding to God's Call -- Myrtice Owens, foreign missionary,
Namibia/South West Africa

Special Music -- Image

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President's Address -- Marjorie J. McCullough

Hymn

Volunteers Respond to God's Call -- Sherry Roy, mission volunteer, First Baptist Church, Clever, Mo.; Ashley McCaleb, Baptist Women consultant, Mississippi WMU, Jackson, Miss.

Special Music -- Mary Alice Collier

Message: God Calls in Unusual Ways -- Clayton Gilbert, father of Mary Anna Gilbert, journeyman teacher killed Oct. 2, 1990 in China, Alexander City, Ala.

Hymn

Benediction -- June Farr, president, Colorado WMU, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Monday Evening

7:00 General Session

Theme Interpretation -- The Company

Procession of Home Missionaries

Procession of Home Mission Board Staff

Prayer -- Margrette Stevenson, vice president, services section, Home Mission Board, Atlanta

Hymns

Message: Home Missions: Giving People Hope -- Larry L. Lewis, president, Home Mission Board, Atlanta

Recognition of Home Mission Board Staff

Special Music -- Associational Hispanic Choir, Atlanta, Gilda Reyes, director

Missions Feature: Called to do Home Missions -- Mickey Mayfield, home missionary, Lawrenceville, Ga.; Larry Martin, home missionary, Newton, Mass.; Patty Lane, home missionary, Dallas; Herminio Rios, home missionary, Duncan, Okla.; Sheila Black, home missionary, Charlotte, N.C.

Presentation: Handing of Gavel to New WMU President

Hymn

Benediction -- New President, WMU

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Hundreds of Atlanta children
to stage 'Kids, Klothes and Kuisine'

F-HMB

Baptist Press
4/8/91

ATLANTA (BP)--Hundreds of children in the Atlanta area are joining together to help stage a fashion show and luncheon scheduled for noon June 3 at the Georgia World Congress Center.

"Kids, Klothes and Kuisine" will feature several nationalities of children in the fashion show. More than 25 children will model clothing representing Koreans, Chinese, Japanese, Germans, Egyptians, Nigerians and American Indians, among others.

Program covers are being designed and illustrated by children in Atlanta-area Southern Baptist churches.

Musical entertainment for the luncheon also will be provided by the children.

The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$18 and must be ordered by May 1 from: Annual Meeting Meal Tickets, Order Accounting, Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Ala. 35283-0010

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Graduation prayer case
seen as two questions

N-CO

Baptist Press
4/8/91

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptist Joint Committee and Christian Life Commission spokesmen quoted in a recent Baptist Press report were addressing different aspects of a graduation prayer case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court rather than disagreeing over the same question, according to BJC officials.

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The [redacted] presents two questions, or two sets of questions. One set deals with whether the Providence, R.I., School District's practice of including clergy prayers at promotion and graduation exercises violates the First Amendment's ban on government-sponsored religion. The second deals with the Justice Department's request that the Supreme Court virtually abandon its long-held judicial standard used to limit government's role in religion.

That standard, known as the Lemon test, requires governmental actions have a secular purpose, neither advance nor inhibit religion and avoid excessive entanglement with religion.

CLC Executive Director Richard Land's comments, in the March 21 story, addressed the first set of questions, arguing for the constitutional permissibility of ceremonial religion in graduation settings. While not specifically addressing the Lemon test, Land said he opposed "entanglement of church and state," a view consistent with the third prong of the judicial test.

Comments by BJC attorneys Oliver Thomas and J. Brent Walker were directed at the effort to jettison the Lemon standard. The replacement of the Lemon standard with a "coercion test" supported by the Justice Department, the two attorneys asserted, would lead to far more significant government sponsorship of religion than graduation prayers.

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Independent fundamentalists
protest fellowship name

By Herb Hollinger

N-CO
MO

Baptist Press
4/8/91

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP)--The editor of the Baptist Bible Tribune, representing independent, fundamentalist Baptist groups, has called upon the Southern Baptist moderate group, The Baptist Fellowship, to change its name.

Editor James O. Combs of the Springfield, Mo., paper of the Baptist Bible Fellowship, in a March 12 letter, asked Dan Vestal, chairman of the steering committee of the new Southern Baptist group, to consider changing its name. Vestal is pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in Dunwoody, Ga.

The Baptist Fellowship is a coalition of moderate Southern Baptists who have said they have felt displaced in the Southern Baptist Convention. The group plans its second convocation in Atlanta May 9-11 with some observers predicting the group will become a separate convention although Vestal said that is not "our intention."

Vestal told Baptist Press he would present Combs' request to the steering committee.

"I appreciated his (Combs) spirit and cordiality," said Vestal. "It is not our intent to hinder or hurt other Baptist groups." He declined to elaborate further.

In a news release, Combs said the fundamentalists' protest is "their viewpoints and ours are not fungible. We do not want people to confuse them with us."

"It seems to me that this moderate-liberal association would have been much wiser to choose a distinctive and different appellation, rather than almost preempt our long time public name, so closely identified with Baptist fundamentalism," Combs said. "In America the expression 'Baptist Fellowship' is practically synonymous with fundamentalism."

Combs said he was amazed a "moderate-liberal" group within the Southern Baptist Convention, a group which decries and derides the term "fundamentalist" would adopt the name which "has characterized fundamental Baptists for 60 years."

"Much of the public might confuse them with a staunch fundamentalist and separatist movement," Combs said.

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Step [redacted] reserve the name "Baptist Fellowship" have been taken with the Georgia secretary [redacted] state by independent fundamental Baptists, Combs said [redacted] In an April 10 editorial, Combs said since 1931 the growing independent, fundamental Baptist movement in America has popularized the term "Baptist Fellowship," often in contrast to terms like "convention" or even "association."

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ACTS awards ceremony
televised April 25

*N-CO
(2/28/91)*

Baptist Press
4/8/91

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The sixth annual American Christian Television System Awards Ceremony will be televised live nationwide on ACTS from Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, April 25.

The 8 p.m. (CDT) broadcast will feature singer-author Anita Bryant, who will host the event, and contemporary Christian artist Wayne Watson, who will provide musical entertainment. Also providing music will be Jubilation Brass, a sacred/gospel instrumental group from Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, which will present a concert.

The awards ceremony recognizes ACTS affiliates (cable television stations and churches) for innovative and creative ways they are reaching out to their communities. Awards will be presented in the areas of local television production in four spot and 11 program categories, said Michael Wright, executive producer. One local ACTS affiliate will be honored as the Affiliate of the Year.

ACTS is a satellite-delivered, 24-hour-a-day television network owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Convention's Radio and Television Commission.

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Graffiti art is means to
reach Chicago's gangs

By Mark Wingfield *F-KMB*

Baptist Press
4/8/91

CHICAGO (BP)--If members of Chicago's street gangs don't understand the gospel, Brian Bakke will draw them a picture.

Bakke, artist-in-residence at Uptown Baptist Church, uses graffiti art as a means of presenting the gospel to his neighborhood's street-wise kids.

He began with a 35-by-18 foot mural that now hangs inside the church. That led to a drawing on the side of the building where Bakke lives. Now he has plans to do four other murals this summer, including one on an outside wall of the church building.

The first mural, done on industrial strength banner cloth with spray paints, was designed by Bakke and Mario Gonzales, a well-known Chicago graffiti artist. Much of the painting was done by 4- to 12-year-old kids from the church.

Three words dominate the mural -- "Choose" and "New Flight."

Because of the ornate graffiti style, many people think the words read "Choose Jesus." That interpretation is fine by Bakke, because that's a message he hopes to get across.

But kids of all ages walking in off the street can read the correct words at a glance, he reports.

New Flight is the name of the art program Bakke directs through the church.

The word "choose" relates to two boxes on opposite sides of the mural. One box is labeled "good" and the other "bad." The children who painted the mural supplied the contents of each box.

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In the "bad" box are words like gangs, drugs, alcohol, stealing and killing. In the "good" box are words like sharing, friends, fun, art and love. Each box has a Scripture reference written on it.

In addition to being a teaching tool for the children who painted it, the mural helps neighborhood kids see the church's message as relevant, Bakke believes. "We wanted to say art is happening here and it's happening in a relevant street way."

The second painting arose more out of necessity than ministry, but has proved to be an effective tool for Bakke's witness.

Bakke, 27, has lived most of his life in Uptown Chicago. Throughout elementary and high school, he witnessed the brutal effects of gang violence and often felt some of the blows himself.

After going away to Wake Forest University on a football scholarship, he returned to his neighborhood determined to make a difference.

"My motivation (for the painting) was really selfish at first," he recalls. "I wanted to protect my own doorway."

"Gangs would literally sit in our doorway. They would do drug deals and run down the street with guns blazing. My own doorway was being used as a drug drop."

His corner building, which houses a couple of storefronts on the bottom level and apartments on the top level, sits on the border between rival gang turfs.

Bakke, who is an aggressive community activist, repeatedly painted over the graffiti "tags" identifying different gangs' claim to his building. Usually in less than a week, the graffiti would reappear.

Finally he got the idea for doing a mural on his building like he had done inside the church. After getting the landlord's permission, he talked to some of the gang members, who also approved of the idea.

The painting has two parts. One, done by Mario Gonzales in a graffiti style, says "Peace." The other, done by Bakke, says "Trust Jesus."

On the day Bakke painted the wall, elementary school children were the first to see it as they returned from school. He recalls the youngsters walking up to the painting, touching it and in awe saying, "Wow!"

"Who did this?" they asked.

"I did," Bakke replied.

"No you didn't," they said. Bakke showed them his painted-speckled hands, and they believed him.

Later that night, several gang members came to see the mural. Bakke began explaining its meaning to them, and then the police showed up, sirens blaring and wheels screeching. Soon the whole neighborhood was outside.

Bakke preached a sermon in the street, using the painting as his illustration of the gospel.

Bakke and Gonzales painted the wall just before Halloween last fall. Neighbors admired it but were skeptical that it would remain long. Speaking in a near run-on sentence, people repeatedly told Bakke: "Looks great, how long do you think it'll last?"

Six months later, the painting remains untouched, blemished only by the blood stain of an injured passerby.