

THE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST REVIEW

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Jack Keep, Editor

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REPORT ON THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS

50th Annual Convention

February 13-16, 1993

Los Angeles, California

The National Religious Broadcasters was born in 1944. It was the National Association of Evangelicals that brought this Commission into existence. In some ways the NRB has outgrown and even outshines the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE). For 12 of the last 15 years the President (or Vice President) of the United States addressed the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) conventions. President Clinton was invited to this year's convention but ignored the invitation.

The NRB's member organizations represent approximately 800 radio and television stations. More than 3,000 were registered at this convention.

The President of the Union Rescue Mission, George Caywood, related at the All-Media Breakfast the fact that there are 65,000 homeless living on the streets of Los Angeles. At the entrances and streets near the Convention Center and hotels, the participants were met with many of the homeless who were begging for money. Meanwhile the NRB participants paid \$30 per person for the breakfast and \$50 per person for the dinner banquet. Pat Robertson was the keynote speaker at the anniversary banquet.

There appeared to be a number of paradoxes at this NRB convention. Let me mention several of them.

The theme of the convention was "We Proclaim Christ". However, one of the mainline speakers was a practicing Orthodox Jew who does not accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. When this reporter, at a press conference, asked the NRB Executive Director why Mr. Michael Medved was scheduled to speak at the evangelical convention, Dr. E. Brandt Gustavson responded, "Michael Medved has taken a position concerning traditional values which we want people to know and understand." He added, "We have no problem in inviting such non-evangelicals to our conventions."

Dr. Robert P. Dugan, Jr., director of the Office of Public Affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals, declared that permitting gays in the military was hazardous to the health and well-being of men and women in the various branches of military ser-

vice. He related that the life span of the average homosexual is only forty-one years and this is not bringing in the issue of AIDS.

At the Sunday night function, which was billed as "Hollywood Night", actress Angela Lansbury, who said her "career has always been driven by my faith in God", shared part of a poem. This poem had also been read at President Clinton's inauguration. Angela Lansbury brought "the gays and the straights" together as she spoke on the NRB platform.

The NRB program Sunday night was led by Lloyd Ogilvie and Jack Hayford, who are both pastors in the Hollywood area. Each of them introduced performers who spoke and sang. Pat Boone, Debbie Boone, Dean Jones, Debbie Rich, Carol Lawrence, Clint Holmes and Angela Lansbury were among the performers that night. The two pastors identified these actors, actresses and musicians as "missionaries to Hollywood".

While the NRB declares its opposition to the moral pollution pouring out of the cesspool known as Hollywood, its opposition is hollow and empty of power when it honors the representatives of the industry that produces the filth. Not once did anyone of the NRB urge these "missionaries" to leave such an environment. The prodigal son, when he came to himself did not remain in the pigpen. He left it to return to his father. The clear message Paul gave in Ephesians 5:11 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them" is conveniently ignored by the NRB.

Dr. Stephen F. Olford was the preacher at the Sunday morning service. He issued a clarion call for holiness of life. He concluded his message with the prayer of a bygone servant of Christ. That man's daily prayer was "Lord, make me the holiest person a saved sinner can be". Only a few hours passed and Carol Lawrence appeared to sing and to speak at this NRB extravaganza. The two pastors related that Carol Lawrence had sung in Red Square and Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral. Neither mentioned that this actress plays the role of Angela Eckert on "General Hospital". This is a program that promotes adultery, mate-swapping, homosexuality and promiscuity. Somehow that seems to be a far cry from the prayer, "Lord make me the holiest

person a saved sinner can be". This is another of the contradictions of this convention.

It is interesting to observe that the recipient of the NRB's coveted "Centurion Award" was Angela Lansbury. A January 26, 1993, news item reports she will be spicing up a future episode of "Murder, She Wrote" by pretending to be a hooker!

In November, 1992, a letter was sent by no less than eleven evangelical leaders to Dr. Gustavson requesting that the video "The Hard Truth" be shown at a General Session of the Los Angeles Convention. This is a nine-minute succession of pictures that documents the reality of abortion. The request was denied even though 4,400 children are slaughtered daily in abortion clinics all across the USA. The NRB gives "lip service" in its opposition to abortion on demand. However, its leadership refused to take just nine minutes to show this film that deals with something that is a curse upon our Nation.

Almost all of the music presented at this 50th anniversary was contemporary in style. The loud big beat was the order of the day.

The Milestone Award was given to Rudy Atwood - posthumously. This choice servant of Christ rejected the Contemporary Christian Music scene with its superficial message. Rudy Atwood had just finished playing "When They Ring The Golden Bells" in his local church when the Lord suddenly took him Home!

This reporter concludes that the National Religious Broadcasters fits squarely into the New Evangelical camp. The leadership speakers, musicians, participants and program support a broad base where Biblical separation is obviously not practiced. In an attempt, worthwhile though it may be, to keep the airways open for religious programs and to maintain high ethical standards, the NRB chooses to support the charismatics and compromisers who do not want to be known as Fundamentalists. Not even one time was a participant identified from the platform as a Fundamentalist. That terms seems to be anathema to the National Religious Broadcasters.

February 23, 1993
Reported by Dr. Ralph G. Colas
American Council of Christian Churches
Executive Secretary.

EDITORIAL

Officers of the Fellowship

Officers of the Independent Baptist Fellowship are elected annually with the exception of the Treasurer who serves two years. (That is purely a practical matter). Nominations are sent by members to the Secretary who is Dr. Tom Nieman, P.O. Box

5219, Kent, WA 98064. Officers are, Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer. The term of the current Treasurer, Jack Keep, expires this year.

Editor of the Newsletter

The Editor of the Independent Baptist Review is elected every two years by the membership at the Annual Meeting. The following is from the minutes of the organizational meeting at Oshkosh, WI, Oct. 1-3, 1990:

The need for a news publication was discussed with Allen Griffith making the motion that a news publication of 2-4 pages in length be distributed by the Fellowship.... Don DeBoer moved that the editorship of the publication be limited to two years with the possibility of re-election by the Fellowship at the end of the term.... (Both motions passed unanimously.)

I have had the privilege of compiling and distributing the paper since the meeting at Oshkosh in 1990. I have tried to present some voices from the past and present with personal thoughts confined to the Editorial column. The greatest challenge has been to fit everything into 4 pages! Mine has been the voice of an independent Baptist free from the control of any other individual and accountable only to you, the fellowship. I hope I have not overstepped my privilege.

Now you will have an opportunity to hear a different voice for the next two years. Thank you for putting up with mine.

Books And Periodicals

I receive some periodicals from various ministries who read our newsletter. Several are very informative and may be useful to our readers. I will mention a few.

The Discerner is a quarterly booklet which exposes heresy and cults. The Jan-March issue has an article on "Al Gore's Environmental Spirituality." Each issue also has several book reviews. The price is \$3.00 a year and the address is P.O. Box 806, Brainerd, MN 56401.

Another paperback comes from Canada. The title is The Assimilation of Billy Graham into the Roman Catholic Church. This is an interesting book of about 50 pages. It is easy to read and has 31 photographs supporting the text which documents Billy Graham's compromises with the church of Rome. The author, Wilson Ewin has been evangelizing Catholics for 40 years. You can get it for \$3.25 plus postage from Quebec Baptist Missions, P.O. Box 180, Norton, VT 05907.

Dr. George Dollar is the author of A History of Fundamentalism. If you haven't read it you should. I gave away a whole case of them when it was first printed. You can get it from George Dollar, PhD., 612 Peacock Trail, Haines City, FL 33844. The price is 6.95 postpaid.

ARE THE "OLD GUYS" ALL "WASHED UP?"

By Ernest D. Pickering, Th.D.

He had been a faithful pastor and church planter for over thirty years. But now he sank in seeming despair in a chair in my office. His remark? "I guess I'm getting old. What we used to do doesn't seem to satisfy people anymore. It seems that folks want something different all the time. I wonder if it's worth it anymore."

Officers of I.B.F. of N.A.

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He was an "old guy." It depends upon your vantage point in life. I first remember hearing the term from my son some years ago while he was still in high school. To him an "old guy" was anyone over forty. The wing tip shoes I was fond of were belittled as being for the "old guys." Was it blustery outside and should a high school boy consider donning a hat? "Oh, Dad, that's what you 'old guys' wear!"

What about my discouraged friend, the greatly-used servant of the Lord, who slumped in my office chair? Is there any room for "old guys" in God's work today? What do they have to offer? They have not become intoxicated with the wine of "church marketing" techniques lately trumpeted in the land. They were so busy visiting their hospitalized members they missed the latest seminar on "How To Build A Super Church Through Small Groups." They have not yet mastered the art of "chatting" instead of "preaching." They have not yet acquiesced to the fact that "yuppies" and "baby boomers" object to the demands of weekly prayer meeting. The latest volume on "How To Preach Without Offending Anyone" somehow failed to change their style. These "old guys" favor godly, scriptural music as over against religious racket. And, yes, they believe that church members should regularly attend all the services and be committed to the body of Christ. They're just not "with it!"

What good are these "old guys" anyway? Well, they love their people. You just can't beat that. They have walked with God for many years, learned much about Him, and seem to receive some special messages from His heart. They preach the Bible and sometimes they even weep over the great truths they have uncovered. And, yes, they have a lifetime of experience in dealing with the wiles of Satan, the hurts of the flock, and the spiritual problems of believers. They have wisdom and not mere knowledge. They are humble, content to be where God has put them and not ever alert for a better opportunity (especially with a higher salary). They are faithful shepherds, defending their sheep from the wolves, and (perish the thought) even calling some of the wolves by name. They are not afraid to be against something as well as for something. And, best of all, they have earned by their faithfulness to Christ the coveted biblical title, "man of God."

Maybe we ought to keep some of these "old guys" around!

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn - Downtown (I-95 at Atwells). The New England heritage is reflected in the decor of the Inn's 274 guest rooms. Rooms are available for \$62.00/single or \$67.00/group (up to five in a room). Parking is included for all guests. Meals are available at the hotel and other restaurants are within walking distance. Make reservations by calling directly (401-831-3900 or by Fax (401)751-007. Please identify that you are attending the IBFNA conference in order to obtain these special rates.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

(Tear off this Registration slip and mail it with the registration fee of \$10 per family to Pastor Jeff Bailey, 5 Sheridan Circle, Attleboro, MA 02703)

Name _____ Address _____
Phone _____ Number in party _____

Accommodation Plans Holiday Inn Downtown Camping Friends/Family

My children will participate in the children's program Ages of children _____

**The 1993 Annual Conference of
The Independent Baptist Fellowship of North
America**

Theme:

Reclaiming Our Baptist Heritage

*June 21 - June 23, 1993
Holiday Inn - Downtown
Providence, R.I.*

CONFERENCE HISTORIC TOUR

Included in the Conference will be a tour of historical Providence. This tour will emphasize Baptist history and will take place on Tuesday afternoon. You will see Brown University, the first Baptist college in the new world; Providence Athenaeum, oldest library in the United States; several Colonial, Federal and Victorian homes; the Baptist Meetinghouse; the meetinghouse built in 1775 which is the meeting place of the oldest Baptist congregation in the new world. Established in 1638 under the leadership of Roger Williams. You will also see the gravesite and memorial of Roger Williams.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

For those who wish to make the trip a memorable historical adventure, there are excellent tours of the area which you can take before or after the Conference. Some of those available are: Mystic Seaport, Connecticut; Old Salem, Gloucester, Rockport, Newburyport and Plymouth, Massachusetts; Old Sturbridge Village; Christian Heritage Tour and others. These tours are priced separately. Information about them will be sent upon your request. [If you would like to see the pew in which

Adoniram Judson sat at his ordination, it is in the museum at Peabody].

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday, June 21

4:00 P.M. Registration Begins

7:00 P.M. Opening Session

Tuesday, June 22

9:00 A.M. Morning Session

12:30 P.M. Lunch and Historical Tour

(This afternoon has been set apart so that you may take a historical tour at your leisure. The tour will be available several times during the afternoon.)

7:00 P.M. Evening Session

Wednesday, June 23

9:00 A.M. Sessions throughout the day

7:00 P.M. Closing Session

(Nurseries infant - 4 and children's programs [5-11] will be provided for all sessions.)

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