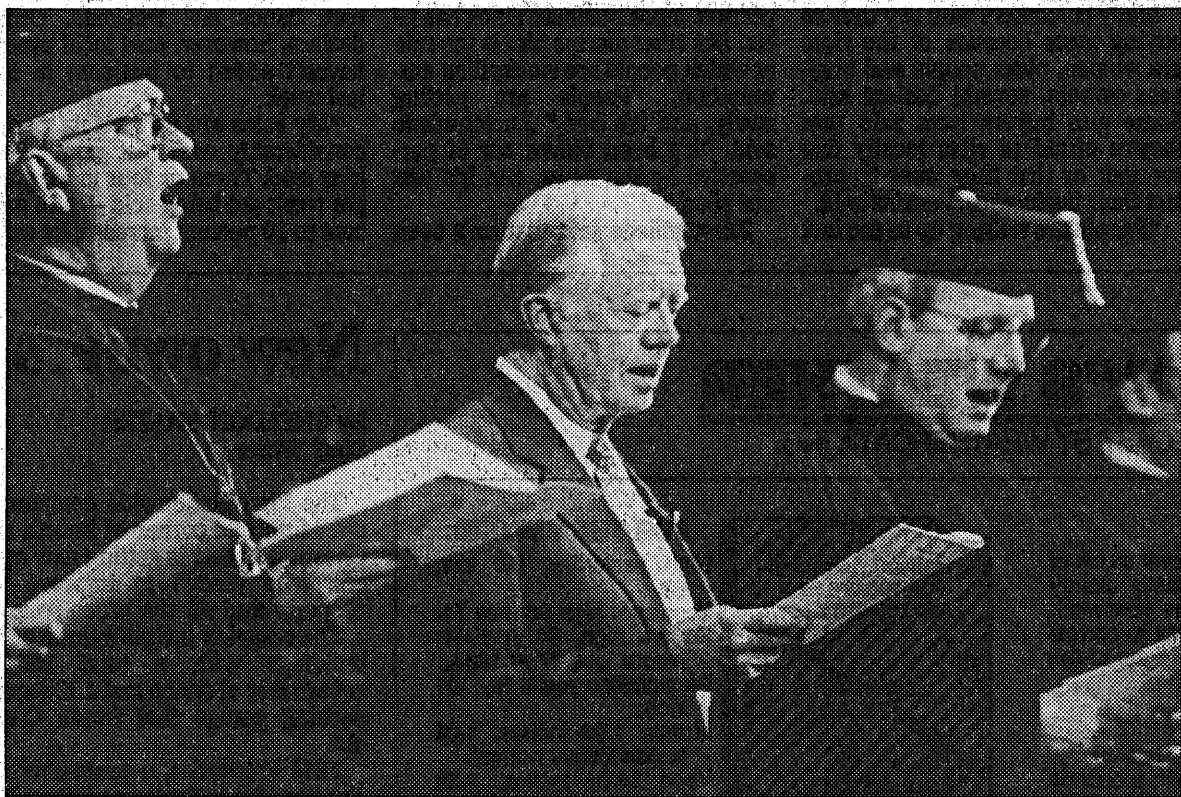


METRO



Former President Jimmy Carter was flanked by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt, left, and Provost Larry L. McSwain as they sang yesterday in Louisville.

STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL HAYMAN

Help the poor, Carter tells graduates of Baptist seminary

By BILL WOLFE
Religion Writer

Former President Jimmy Carter encouraged about 240 students graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary yesterday to help bridge the gulf between the rich and the poor, saying such service holds the key to uniting the Southern Baptist Convention.

Carter, speaking at the 169th commencement of the Louisville seminary, said he is a "lifetime Baptist" and has been "a Sunday school teacher since I was 18 years old."

But in recent years, when he speaks of his religious affiliation, it's treated "as a joke," he said. "Southern Baptist has become equated with schism or division or incompatibility," Carter said "all Baptists, regardless of ultra-conservatism or extreme liberalism," can come together to help "the poorest among us."

Carter is believed to have accepted the speaking invitation because the pastor of his Plains, Ga., church, the Rev. Dan Ariail, was receiving a doctoral degree in ministry from Southern. Carter's wife, Rosalynn, was also present.

Because of the large audience expected, commencement was held at the Kentucky Center for the Arts auditorium and most seating was reserved for graduates' families, seminary faculty and invited guests. About 2,250 attended.

Carter told the gathering that Christians should follow the example of Jesus and work to improve the lives of poor people.

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Former President Jimmy Carter

race, because of religion (is) very important. But I think that the main discrimination that afflicts us, and indeed the entire world, is the discrimination of the rich people against poor people," he said.

"Who are the rich people? Everyone in this room is a rich person. A rich person is one who has a home, who has a family . . . who has a modicum of education, a decent chance for a job, enough to eat, some degree of health care, some hope for the future."

Unfortunately, Carter said, "many people have none of those things," and organized religion does far to little to help.

"I tell you this, and you won't like it, politicians do a lot more to end discrimination against the poor than the churches do."

He said the competition for

election is a "driving force" leading government to help poor people. "Where is the competition between one church and another to alleviate the suffering of the poor?" he asked. Churches instead compete to increase their budgets and membership rolls, Carter said.

Carter said he "would be the last one to hold myself up as a model, because I've been guiltier than you have." But he said his work with the Carter Center of Emory University in Atlanta in recent months made him look at "the other Atlanta that the Chamber of Commerce doesn't want to talk about."

In the city's poorest neighborhoods, he said, "I have been confronted by a whole broad community of people who are totally different from me. I don't mean just racially, but totally different from the wealthy status of my life."

Young schoolboys "feel that their only avenue to success . . . is to own a semiautomatic weapon," he said. Pregnancy is a tremendous problem among sixth-grade girls who are targeted by pimps because of their youth and vulnerability and because "they're not as likely to have AIDS."

He said poor people are unfairly blamed for their problems. He said wealthier people say, "If they had vision and ambition, if they worked hard like us, . . . they wouldn't sleep in a pasteboard box, under a plastic sheet or in home with a holey roof."

Carter said he has worked side

See GRADUATES

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Many graduate from seminary

These people were candidates for degrees yesterday from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary:

Master of Social Work

Anita Lyn Acevedo, Herlinda Lucia Marquez Aleman, Mary Ann McElveen Bradshaw, Kenneth Howard Burke, Dorcas Camacho, Laura Briscoe Carey, David William Campere, David B. Davis, Christopher Bedford Egbert, Glauco Gil, Carolyn Denise Ivey Johnson, Steven Michael Jones, Donna Kay Lanford, Jo Nell Law, Frank Wilson Martin, Robert Alan McDonald, Sally Renee Shipley McLean, Angela Thornton McNeal, Sharon Denise Morgan, Cathy Furr Robertson, Anthony Justin Shults, Alice Leah Tennis, Pamela Ganey Toler and Elizabeth A. Waters.

Master of Arts in Christian Education

Charles Martin Ashton Jr., Eileen F. Bartlett, Terry Joe Bowen, Susan D. Burks, Tony Edward Camp, Amanda Jo Chaney, Kenneth P. Chaney, Angela Sharlet Clark, Cynthia McLaney Collins, Wendy Johnson Dever, Joel Alan Emerson, Carl E. Gallion Jr., Anthony Eugene Gilbert, Christopher L. Harris, John Wesley Hill II, Mitchell Scott Karnes, Jeffrey Kenneth Newbery, Nkem Charles Okorie, J. Edwin Pettibone, Lori Mechelle Ridall, Paulo Roberto Luiz Rosa, Stephanie L. Shaw, Gihwang Shin, R. Samuel Smith, Kendal Cleveland Stubbs, Kenneth Mason Tramel, Deborah Michelle Vincent, Terri Lynn Wedding-Benson, Kevin Blake Westbrook, Judy McIntosh-Smith and Charles C. Smith III.

Master of Divinity in Christian Education

Antonio Juan Aja, David Eugene Banks, Thomas Eugene Causey Jr., John Thomas Coleman, Linda Sue Henson Enoch, Arthur Lee Hardin, Elizabeth Arnold Johnson, Steven George Johnson, Clarissa Noelani Kahakuo, Stephen Paul Law, Sherry Lynne McGlaughlin, Francis Bernard O'Donnell III, Dawn Michele Osteen, Charles L. Qualls, Susan Alane Quisenberry, Michael W. Ramsey, Margaret Anne Spragens, Kenneth Robert Standley, Alan Lydell Thomas, Pamela Denise Thrift, Marie Lynn Toler, Erik Monroe Wilkins and Mary Claire Kelly.

Master of Church Music

Julius W. Anderson, Mark S. Andrist, Timothy Wesley Beam, Teresa Lynn Beard, Glen Dale Bohannon Jr., Andrew E. Bumpus, Belinda Mai Butler, Richard Wayne Calcutt Jr., Thomas William Clatts, Scott Emerson Corbin, Charles Edgar Eiland, Charles Spence Freeman, Timothy Brian Galvan, Jeffrey Alan Johnson, Billy Gene Luttrell, George A. Lyons, Mark S. Mathias, Randall Kevin Mitchell, John Theodore Opsata, Carl M. Peters II, Robert Steven Rudy, Anne-Marie Spalinger, Peryda Maria Stotz, Herbert Floyd Torrence Jr., David B. Watts Jr. and David Allen Williams.

Master of Divinity in Church Music

Paul Edward Dakin and Gary Welba Morrison.

Diploma in Theology

Leslie Robert Burke.

Master of Divinity

Gary Wayne Adams, Paul Nelson Arnold, Mary Ann Barnett, Charles Henry Barrineau, Rhonda Yvette Biller, Samuel R. Bryan, Gregory Wayne Burriss, James Robert Bush, Bruce Reid Campbell, William Gregory Carey, James Edward Chevalier Jr., Seong Tae Chung, Charles B. Cole, James Foy Corley, Craig Allen Caster, Jeffrey Darryl Curtis, Jon A. Dainty Sr., Anthony H. Daniels, George Brown Davis Jr., David R. DeKlaven, Clark Gregory DeLoach III, Angela Claire Dennison, Katherine J. Donley, Charles John Ellis Jr., Scott Earl FitzSimmons, Brent D. Garvin, Sandra Fruland George, Bruce T. Gourley, James Chalmers Grier III, Robert Harvey Haener III, LuAnn G. Hale, Christopher B. Harbin, Karen E. Goforth Harbin, David Neal Hargrove, Brenda K. Harris, Laura Lynne Harris, Roy Kevin Head, Roger A. Henderson II, James Andrew Hicks, Jacob Hamilton Huffman III, William George Jackson, Michael Keith Jenkins, John Timothy Johns, Rick Johnson, Jasper Greg Kelly, Gary W. Keown, Byunghak Kim, William Alexander King, Jeffery LaShun Knight, Charles Edward Lawless Jr., Donna M. Lebel, Jenny Manciaso Lowery, Alan D. Lyons, Mike Madding, Michael Gene May, Mary Ann McCann, David Boyce Shipley McLean, James Ricky Meade, Bruce Edwin Moore, Roosevelt Morris, Stephen Ray Morris, Judith A. T. Moss, Jerry Dean Mull, Dianne Louise Oliver, John Scott Orr, Roger C. Outler, Mary Lynn Arnold Pate, Joni Margill Paterson, Carl Alan Pierce, Paula Fontana Qualls, Vaughn Hircanus Raser, William Judson Reasons, Richard Dix Ross Jr., Janae E. Shatley, Bradley Evan Shaw, Karen Rae Simmons, Richard Standish Smith, Terry Wade Stallard, Mark Gregory Station, Sherri Tabaka-Morrissey, Glenn Marvin Taylor, Gordon Charles Tennis, Roger Scott Thomas, Andrew Caldwell Toler, Martin Ray Travelstead II, Andrew Franklin Travis, William Charles Trent, Christine H. Tullis, Lisa Ann Turner, Jeffrey Marshall Twyman, Kenneth R. Walker, Mark Duane Wesler, James Houston Wilkerson, Wayne Douglas Wilson, Michael Wade Wimberly, Patricia Louise Butler Wirth, Michael Adair Wynd-

ham, Stephen M. Allen, Kimberleigh Jane Buchanan, Sara Mae Damron-Brown, Scott D. Hopkins and Saison Jennifer Lee.

Master of Divinity in Pastoral Counseling

Norman Roy Flowers.

Master of Theology

Alton Lee King, Paul Ford Knight, Timothy Donald Fletcher Maddox, Lydia Tan Pang and Wu, Wang Tsuey Chen Genie.

Doctorate of Ministry

Daniel Gilbert Ariail, Emmitt Steven Ayers Sr., Arthur Bernard Beasley Jr., John Vernon Horkey, Stanley Benjamin Johnson, Robert Preston Jolly, Victor Sam Lyons, Ralph Mikels Jr., Danny L. Owens, Howard Eugene Wilson and John Mark Wakefield.

Doctorate of Musical Arts

Patricia Jeanes Bracken, Youngmi Song Kim and Paul Edward Peak.

Doctorate of Philosophy

Richard Dwight Axtell, Jill Suzanne Bierwirth, Gregory Keith Brooks, Terry Lynn Burden, Wade Alston Horton, Richard R. Lloyd III, Yichou Shr, William Clay Smith and Raymond Duke Wheeler.

Graduates asked to help the poor

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by side with the poor as a volunteer building houses for the charity Habitat for Humanity. "And the most startling thing about it is they're just as intelligent, just as hard-working, just as ambitious, love their kids just as much as I do," he said.

There was little political content in Carter's talk, but he made one gentle swipe at Ronald Reagan, who defeated him in the 1980 presidential election. Carter said that when he ran for president, few gave him any chance of winning but thought that, as a Southerner, "at least he has a few funny stories to tell. What they didn't realize that it was my successor in the White House who was a great storyteller."