

Evangelicals Planning Meet In Chicago

SAN BERNARDINO, CA. — The countdown has begun for a massive national conference for black evangelical Christians — perhaps the largest ever of its kind — scheduled for late December in Chicago.

Leaders of the gathering, "Chicago '81: a Critical Moment in Black America," believe that now is the time to "establish spiritual direction and new priorities for black America in the decade of the '80's."

A number of leading black evangelical spokesmen will address an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 conferees expected for "Chicago '81," December 27-31. Campus Crusade for Christ is coordinating the event.

"Denominationalism will play no role whatsoever," says the Rev. E.V. Hill of Los Angeles, one of the most influential pastors in black America today. "We simply want to seek to apply biblical solutions to some of the most plaguing problems of our society."

Besides Hill, an impressive lineup of speakers for the event includes Crawford Loritts, of Atlanta, a popular campus lecturer and national coordinator of Campus Crusade's Here's Life, Inner City ministry; Haman Cross, of Detroit's Afro-American Mission; Willie Richardson, founder and pastor of Christian Stronghold Baptist Church in Philadelphia, and Dr. Bill Bright, president and founder of Campus Crusade, which is based in San Bernardino.

While much of the content of "Chicago '81" will deal with crucial challenges confronting blacks in this decade, the conference is expected to have high artistic appeal, too.

Gospel musician Eddie

Robinson, a singer, composer, recording producer and arranger, and Deborah Maize, a talented soloist, will perform for conferees. Soul Liberation, a popular Dallas music group, will also be part of the program.

Portraying inner cities as "time bombs waiting to explode" because of chronic unemployment, racial strife and other ills, leaders of the interdenominational "Chicago '81" contend that efforts to deal with surface problems of blacks through legislation have met with disappointing results.

Thus, they say, blacks must be equipped to deal with root problems — through the enablement of the person of Jesus Christ.

"The deepest needs of black America are spiritual; therefore, the solution must be spiritual," notes a brochure that gives details of "Chicago '81."

Loritts, chairman of the conference planning committee, sees several developments that must occur in order for spiritual renewal to become a reality.

"Black America's future hinges on three things," he says. "First, receptivity on the part of the black church to the spiritual awakening God wants to send."

"Second, a responsiveness on the part of the unchurched to the proclamation of the gospel message. "And, third, the long-term commitment on the part of a significant number of black Christians to become a part of the missionary forces, both in this country and overseas."

According to Tom Fritz, "Chicago '81" program director, seminars will cover

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cost, purposes for each gun, frequencies of use and how the gun was acquired.

The study also called for further research that would measure the stock of firearms held privately; describe the firearms distribution system; evaluate the effects of alternative gun control legislation, and develop theoretical models for classifying firearms use in crime.

Finally, the study suggested that as knowledge about how guns are acquired, distributed, and used is "highly limited," Congress and state legislatures should be very cautious about making any underlying assumptions before passing any gun control legislation.

The complete project findings, results and recommendations are contained in a series of four technical research products and an executive summary report:

I. Weapons, Crime and Violence in America: A Literature Review and Research Agenda. II. Weapons, Crime and Violence in America: An Annotated Bibliography. III. Weapons Policies: A Survey of Police Department Practices Concerning Weapons and Related Issues. IV. Effects of Weapons Use on Felony Cases Disposition: An Analysis of Evidence from the Los Angeles PROMIS System. V. Weapons and Violent Crime: Executive Summary. Volumes I, II and V will be published by the Government Printing Office during the next several months.

Draft copies of the executive summary will be available on a loan basis from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Telephone 301-251-5500.



HONOREES pictured (l-r) are: Eric Tillman, Dr. Shirley Tillman, Robert John Lewis, Ms. Beth Jackson, Aaron Gilchrist, Mrs. Warnella Wiley, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Clara Lawson, Lionell Parker, Mrs. Martha Johnson, Albert Horry and Mrs. Catherine Stanback.



THE OUTSTANDING LAYMAN HONOREE was W.A. Marsh. He received an engraved plaque for his services on the Judicial Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and as one of the official delegates to the several conferences held by the denomination. Shown in the photo (l-r) are: Prof. J.H. Banks, Laymen's Day speaker; Mrs. Minerva Evans and honoree, Atty. W.A. Marsh, Jr., who received the plaque.

Two-Year Weapons and Violent Crime Study Still Leaves Unanswered Questions

WASHINGTON, DC — Policymakers looking for answers to fundamental questions about relationships between weapons, crime and violence are faced with "a near-total absence" of reliable research data on such issues, a federally funded study has concluded.

"In general," the researchers report said, "the published literature is more noteworthy for what it does not show than what it does. There is, it appears, scarcely a single finding in the literature that could be said to have been indisputably established."

"In part, this reflects the highly politicized nature of research in this area, but, more importantly, perhaps, it results from a near-total absence of sound and nationally generalizable data from which reliable information about weapons, crime and violence might be established."

Policy decisions are being made in what amounts to an "information vacuum," the study said.

The study, "Weapons and Violent Crime," was conducted over more than two years by Professors James D. Wright and Peter E. Rossi of the Social and Demographic Institute of the University of Massachusetts. Their work was funded by a \$287,203 grant from the National Institute of Justice of the U.S. Department of Justice.

One question that remains unanswered, the authors said, is whether the rise in violent crime has somehow been fueled by the rise in gun ownership.

"We conclude that there is little evidence to show that gun ownership among the population as a whole is, *per se*, an important cause of criminal violence," they said. They cautioned, however, that truly

decisive evidence "does not exist."

The study also said that evaluations of the 200,000 gun laws already on the books generally show their effect to be "modest or non-existent" and cited the wide variability of statutes across jurisdictions as a possible reason for their lack of success.

The research project estimated that there are now approximately 120 million guns in private ownership in the U.S. Between 25 and 30 per cent are handguns; the rest are "long guns" — rifles and shotguns.

The study added, however, that this estimate was subject to a plus or minus error of up to 20 million and emphasized the need for reliable national data on the private ownership of guns.

The project reviewed literature and research to determine what definitive evidence exists on issues relating to weapons, violence, and crime. It examined the amount and quality of criminal justice data available for future research on weapons through a national survey of 609 law enforcement agencies (70 per cent responded) and an analysis of court records on a sample of 5,000 felony cases processed by the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Based on its analyses, the project recommended a research agenda to close the more gaping holes in present knowledge about weapons and crime. Improvements in criminal justice system data recording procedures also were proposed.

The project found flaws in much of the existing research that it said limit the reliability of previously reported findings. Conclusions presented in the project reports are those "most justified by the present

state of knowledge," the researchers said.

In 1968, there were 80 million firearms in private and police ownership, the study estimated. By 1978, the number had risen to approximately 120 million. In that same period, the number of American households increased from 60 million to 75 million — a 25 per cent rise. This growth could account for 20 million, or one-half of the increase of 40 million guns owned in 1978, said Wright, the principal author.

Much of the remainder, Wright said, can be attributed to increased purchases by sport shooters, hunters and police.

The study said, for example, that the annual number of new hunters increased by 5.4 million from 1968 through 1978. It also cited a large increase in sport shooting in that period, and estimated that 10 million long guns and five million handguns were purchased for that purpose.

"This contradicts the common claim that handguns have 'no legitimate sport or recreational use,'" Wright said.

"In point of fact, no credible study of sport and recreational handgun use has ever been conducted, and the few fragments of evidence that do exist strongly suggest that handguns are as likely to be owned for sport and recreation as for any other reason."

The study said there was no persuasive evidence that people are buying guns out of fear of violent crime or that handguns are only being purchased for purposes of self-defense.

Survey evidence on the use of firearms for 1978 showed that in some 15 per cent of all gun-

owning households, someone had used a gun in self-defense at some time, with half this usage involving "defense against animals."

The study said about seven per cent of the nation's gun-owning adults say they carry handguns with them for protection outside the home. The proportion of American gun-owning adults who have actually fired a gun in self-defense appears to lie somewhere between two and six per cent, the study noted.

Other study findings included:

- The proportion of American families claiming to own guns has remained constant at about 50 per cent, according to various surveys taken since 1959. However, the fractional ownership of handguns among families claiming to own any weapon has increased. The project estimated an average ownership of 3.17 guns per gun-owning family in 1978.

- About three-fourths of privately-owned guns are used for sport and recreation. Most of the remainder are for self-defense.

- The project drew this profile of the typical gun owner: "male, rural, southern, Protestant, affluent and middle class." It added: "In all relevant studies, whether one's father owned a gun is the single best predictor of whether the respondent owns a gun."

- There are about 250,000 guns stolen each year. However, the study said there is no reason to believe that a very large percentage go into permanent criminal circulation.

- There are between 150,000 and 200,000 gun dealers licensed under the 1968 Gun Control Act. Less than one per cent of the applicants for licenses to sell guns are

rejected by federal authorities.

- The study said there is no hard evidence either to support or refute the theory that private gun ownership reduces crime by deterring offenders who fear getting shot.

The project estimated that about 30,000 deaths annually can be attributed to guns — accidental, homicidal or suicidal.

Detailing the magnitude of crime and violence and its relationship to guns, the study said that between 1960 and 1978 the homicide rate increased from about five to nine homicides per 100,000 population. The percentage of homicides committed with firearms also increased from 53 per cent to 63 per cent.

About three-fourths of the homicides committed with firearms involved handguns.

The number of robberies increased about 400 per cent over this same period, with between three-fifths and two-thirds being armed robberies. Among armed robberies, about 60 to 65 per cent involved a firearm.

Findings from the study's sample of Los Angeles court felony records showed that a gun was used in 13.9 per cent of the cases; another weapon in 9.8 per cent; and no weapon in 60.4 per cent. There were no data in 15.9 per cent of the cases.

Other court data showed a higher probability that the case would be accepted at initial screening if a gun was involved. Also, gun users were more likely to pass from a preliminary hearing to a formal arraignment and from a formal arraignment to trial.

The study said gun offenders were less likely to plead guilty than offenders using no

weapon, regardless of the seriousness of the charges and other offender characteristics.

Finally, the probability of a prison sentence for those either pleading guilty or convicted at trial was much higher if a gun was involved in the crime, and the average length of sentence was greater as well. The use of a gun by a convicted felon increased his average jail sentence by about 600 days. For the gun felon who pleaded guilty, the average increase amounted to 450 days.

The study recommended improving court procedures for recording weapons data, proposing that an existing data system called the Prosecutors Management Information System (PROMIS) should be expanded to include more weapons information than the single item currently recorded (whether a gun, other weapon or no weapon was used in commission of a crime).

The project's survey of police departments revealed that police administered an average of only 3.8 of 15 weapons regulations specified in the survey questionnaire. However, all local police departments reported stolen guns to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Some 83 per cent of the departments said they also would report a stolen gun to a regional or local weapons tracing system.

The study recommended that police departments establish uniform data recording procedures and a centralized reporting system for information on weapons used in the commission of crime.

The project proposed a national household survey that would gather information about the type of firearms owned, age, condition, purchase

cost, purposes for each gun, frequencies of use and how the gun was acquired.

The study also called for further research that would measure the stock of firearms held privately; describe the firearms distribution system; evaluate the effects of alternative gun control legislation, and develop theoretical models for classifying firearms use in crime.

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Mount Gilead Baptist Church

404 DOWD STREET
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701

DR. A. D. MOSELEY, D.D., MINISTER
J. C. TRUETT, ASSISTANT MINISTER

NOVEMBER 29, 1981

8:00 A.M. Morning Worship
9:30 A.M. Church School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship

TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED TO ALL SERVICES
Call 688-6052 or 682-8464 or 682-7160

ST. JOSEPH'S AME CHURCH

2521 Fayetteville Street, Durham, NC
W. W. Easley, Jr., Minister

NOVEMBER 29, 1981

8:00 A.M. Worship Service
9:30 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Regular Worship

Each Wednesday Prayer Service 12 Noon
Jr. Church — Wednesday — 6:00 P.M.

Mt. Calvary United Church of Christ

1715 ATHENS STREET
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27707
TELEPHONE: 688-5066

"On the Move for God"

Rev. J. Cecil Cheek, B.Th., M.Div. Minister

NOVEMBER 29, 1981

9:30 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
4:00 P.M. Church Anniversary

WEDNESDAY

6:30 P.M. Mid-Week Service

Bus Service for Church Sunday School and Morning Worship Services. Everyone is welcome to come and join us in all services.

White Rock Baptist Church

FOUNDED 1866
3400 FAYETTEVILLE STREET
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27707

LORENZO A. LYNCH, PASTOR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1981

9:30 A.M. Church School
10:55 A.M. Worship
Sermon The Pastor
On Cleaning (Working at) Our Windows (Eyes)
(Matthew 6:22-23)

Gospel Choir leading the singing
Mrs. V. W. Alston, Directress
Mrs. P. J. Holiday, Organist
Senior Ushers — Ushering