

POLITICS

EVANGELICAL LEADERS CALL ON PRESIDENT

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STEVE HELBER — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

White nationalist demonstrators walk through town after their rally was closed down near Lee Park in Charlottesville, Va., on Aug. 12.

Religious heads ask Trump to condemn white supremacy

By **Yonat Shimron**
Religion News Service

A who's who of Southern Baptist leaders and some other evangelicals have written a letter to President Trump calling on him to do more to condemn white supremacists.

It was a particularly strong critique from a constituency that voted for him in overwhelming numbers.

"We request upon you to join with many other political and religious leaders to proclaim with one voice that the 'alt-right' is racist, evil, and antithetical to a well-ordered, peaceful society," reads the letter first published by CNN.

The signers — including Southern Baptist Convention President Steve Gaines, former SBC President Fred Luter, and prominent African-American evangelical

leaders T.D. Jakes and Tony Evans — reproached Trump for failing to speak out against the so-called alt-right.

"This movement has escaped your disapproval," the letter reads.

Without naming names, it further states: "It concerned many of us when three people associated with the alt-right movement were given jobs in the White House."

The letter came more than a month after one person was killed and 19 were hurt when a speeding car driven by a white supremacist slammed into a throng of counter-protesters in Charlottesville, Va. Two Virginia State Patrol troopers were killed in a helicopter crash as they were responding to the clashes.

While Trump initially condemned the violence and renounced "white nationalists, white supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis and other hate groups" he later said there were "some very fine people" on both sides of the demonstration.

None of Trump's evan-

gelical advisers — who have met with the president on numerous occasions and, with the exception of one member who stepped down, have shown unwavering support and confidence in Trump — signed the letter.

A black pastor and a white seminary executive — both Southern Baptists — drafted the letter. The Rev. Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, and Keith Whitfield, vice president for academic administration at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., wrote and revised the letter with feedback from other signers before sending it at the end of September.

Danny Akin, president of Southeastern, said he was glad to sign on when asked.

"I believe that God created all persons in his image," Akin said. "Any inkling of racial superiority with any ethnic group I find totally distasteful, unacceptable and contrary to the very nature of how God made human beings."

The letter concludes by imploring Trump to do more to unify a fractured nation.

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COURTESY RELIGION NEWS SERVICE



COLUMN

We are delivered from being slaves of sin to heirs of Christ

If God is not your master, then sin controls your life. We are all slaves to that which controls us. Nevertheless, God has given us the power to overcome sin. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful;

he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it" (NIV).

While Jesus walked on this earth for 33 years, he did not sin once — and he was tempted just like we are each and every

day. After being baptized by his cousin John the Baptist, Jesus was led by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights and was hungry afterward (Matt. 4:1-11).

It was then that the devil tempted Jesus three times. Jesus responded to each test with a Bible verse. The first test in the desert pleads to the humanness of Jesus and being hungry. The devil told Jesus to turn stones into bread if he was indeed the Son of God.

Jesus responded saying, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matt. 4:4 NIV).

This was not only a test of hunger, but a test of pride, too. Jesus knows he is the Son of God. There is no reason for

him to prove it to the devil. Jesus' pride could have gotten in the way and caused him to fail this test, just to prove the devil wrong.

Jesus was able to pass each test in the wilderness because he completely trusted in God and remembered God's promises, as we should.

Once Jesus overcame the devil's final temptation, it says in Matt. 4:11, "Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him." Even Jesus needed to be ministered to after being tempted by the devil. The devil's temptation can be one of the hardest things to overcome in this world, but make no mistake — it can be done.

To rise above the devil's daily temptations, we must remember three things. First, we must

have a never-ending thirst for God and the Bible. We must read the bible, have it in our hearts, and apply it to our lives. Jesus used God's promises to overcome the devil and we must do the same.

Second, remember that God never puts more on us than we can bear. If he allows the devil to tempt us, it's only because he knows we can pass the test; rather it be on the first or fifth try.

Finally, if Jesus can overcome the devil's temptation, then we can too. Jesus was made of human flesh when he was tempted. So don't think you will never pass the tests.

When you are no longer a slave to sin, you become a slave to righteousness. However, since Christ died for us on the cross we are free from

being slaves and become that which God intentionally created us for: heirs to His throne. Being an heir to the throne means we have the privileges of our father. We can live where he lives, in heaven. We can live forever and not worry with sickness, as he does. I'd rather be an heir to the throne of Christ, than a slave to sin; no matter how much temporary joy it brings.

When facing your next test keep in mind Galatians 5:1, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (NIV).

Malissa Martin is a freelance writer and a member of the City Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Detroit.

HOUSE OF WORSHIP



COURTESY MARINER'S CHURCH

The Mariner's Church was moved to its present location in 1955 to make room for the Detroit Civic Center.

Mariners' Church celebrates another 25 years in Detroit

The "musty old hall in Detroit" has turned 175, and the people who call the Mariner's Church their parish couldn't be more proud.

The Detroit church, which draws congregants from all around the metro area, is celebrating its birthday with events this weekend, including a dinner Friday, an open house Saturday and worship with Anglican Bishop Peter Beckwith at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 22. The Mariners' choir will sing at the 11 a.m. service.

Mariners' Church of Detroit, known as "The Maritime Sailors Cathedral," is an independent Anglican church on East Jefferson Avenue near the entrance to the tunnel to Windsor. Even if you're not familiar with the church, you may know it was name-dropped in Gordon Lightfoot's ballad "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald."

Mariners' Church was established in 1842 with a bequest by Julia Ann Anderson, who envisioned it as a "House of Prayer for All People," and "the best Mariners church in the world."

Anderson was the widow of John Anderson, who served Detroit in the War of 1812 and became Commandant of the Detroit branch of an early version of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, according to church history. The Andersons had enjoyed attending Mariners churches on the East Coast and wanted to establish one

in Detroit.

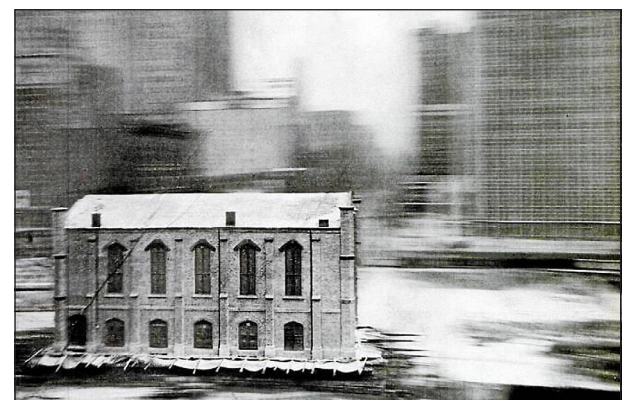
It was built in 1849 at the corner of Woodward and Woodbridge streets, and was financially supported by rent from other enterprises, including the Detroit Post Office. It also was the last stop for escaped slaves traveling to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

Mariners were forced to move to 170 E. Jefferson Ave, Detroit in 1955 to make room for the Detroit Civic Center. The 3,000-ton limestone structure was lifted onto steel I-beams atop rollers for the move, which took three months despite being only 880 feet long. The event was chronicled in an April, 1955, issue of Life Magazine.

The structure was dressed up with stained glass windows depicting seafaring life as well as images of many of Detroit's founders and most influential citizens. Its Compass Rose window above the organ and choir loft symbolizes Mariners' mission to serve Great Lakes sailors.

"Mariners has had a distinctive, important, colorful and beautifully religious history helping all who ever entered the church over the past 175 years," Beckwith said in a press release. "It has withstood the test of time and has been a safe haven to any who have asked while at the same time providing a religious center for its parishioners and its family."

— Nicole M. Robertson



LIFE — JOHN ZIMMERMAN — MARINER'S CHURCH

The Mariner's Church appear to speed past the Detroit skyline in this timed exposure from Life magazine.