

Light

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

MAY-JUNE, 1995

Manila Declaration on Pornography

More than 160 religious leaders from 37 countries and more than 40 faith groups met for a three-day conference on the problem of pornography, "Protecting Our Children's Future," in Manila, The Philippines. Organized by the broadly based Religious Alliance Against Pornography, it was attended by worldwide participants from the Baptist World Alliance, the World Council of Churches, the World Evangelical Fellowship, the World Pentecostal Con-

ference, as well as from the Southern Baptist Convention, The Salvation Army, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Roman Catholicism, and from many other organizations and faith groups concerned about pornography's growing number of victims—men, women and children. Experts from Christian, Sikh and the Muslim communities addressed the delegates. "The Manila Declaration on Pornography" was issued by the conferees at the meeting's conclusion.

MANILA, January 20, 1995

Recognizing a tragedy occurring on a global basis, we have gathered together to confront the problem of pornography. We join together out of a broad diversity of faith traditions, believing that unity in action is imperative if we are to protect our children's future—action that offers an increased measure of pro-

(Continued on Page 4)

(See Dr. Land's editorial on Page 2)



Left to right, Jim Henry, Richard Land and Morris Chapman.

CLC, SBC leaders voice opposition to surgeon general nominee Foster

By Norman Miller

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Announcing "vigorous opposition" to the nomination of Henry Foster as surgeon general, Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, said he "did not come to this decision lightly or without deep regret."

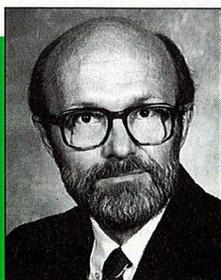
Flanked in a Feb. 22 news conference by Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry and SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman, Land extolled Foster as a man with "obvious talent and personal fortitude"

because he conquered the "formidable barrier of racial prejudice" in America.

"However, his prescription for addressing the problems which face our nation is very much in dispute," Land said. "Any doctor who is willing to deny the Hippocratic Oath and extinguish human life, rather than protect it, is an individual whose moral vision for America is fatally flawed."

Even before the news conference, the CLC stance had generated national news, including reports on

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Glen Stassen

Bane or Blessing?

50 years ago, the Atomic Age began



Harold Stassen

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'The Manila Declaration on Pornography'

By Richard D. Land

Pornography has become an international scourge which plagues the world's women and children. Religious leaders from across the world met in Manila Jan. 17-20, 1995 to address this terrible problem, which has become pervasive across the globe.

As *Time* magazine (June 21, 1993) has revealed, there now exists a worldwide industry in human flesh where "women and children are commodities traded on the street, products bartered, haggled over, smuggled and sold.... Souls do not count, only bodies, debased over and over, unmindful of social cost or disease." *Time's* 12-page report on this pornography-fed vortex of sexual abuse and exploitation estimated that as many as 30 million women have been sold into sexual slavery around the globe since 1975. *Time* concluded that "the cost in destroying lives has become a blight to rival any of the deprivations mankind has inflicted on itself." Even more terrible has been the growing epidemic of child prostitution. For example, the number of underage prostitutes in the following countries is: Thailand, 800,000; India, 400,000; Brazil, 250,000; and the Philippines, 60,000.

The international markets in child pornography and child prostitution are interrelated evils that feed on each other and have produced the ugly phenomenon of sex tourism, whereby millions of "tourists" travel on organized tours mainly to Third World countries to engage in heterosexual and/or homosexual sex with Third World women and children.

The Religious Alliance Against Pornography's International Conference Against Pornography in Manila attempted to deal with this catastrophic situation and the consequent sexual slavery and servitude it spawns.

I was privileged to serve on the drafting committee of the conference's "Manila Declaration on Pornography" which is reprinted in this issue of *Light*. The declaration reflected the conference's agreement that much tougher, universal legislation is needed if child pornographers are to be put out of business. The conference declaration also called on governments to:

- Prohibit all aspects of child pornography, including criminalizing its production, distribution and possession.
- Criminalize child sex tourism by holding their nationals responsible for any sexual conduct with children when traveling overseas, as well as at home. The United States, Australia and Germany have already enacted legislation to that effect.

Perhaps the most alarming news to come out of the conference was the ways in which computer technologies are providing unprecedented possibilities for the worldwide dissemination of hard-core pornography and for the development of international pedophile networks.

The heartbreaking tragedy of this terrible evil was brought home to me during the conference's first night. At the opening banquet the entertainment was provided by scores of beautiful Filipino boys and girls singing Christian choruses and performing Filipino folk dances. These beautiful brown-eyed children had all been rescued from the streets by the Salvation Army. All of them were potential victims of the evil empire of child pornography and prostitution. Their smiling faces and bright personalities put a human dimension to the magnitude of the evil we oppose and the great good we do in fighting this terrible trade in human flesh.

Church must uphold truth to win culture war, seminar speakers say

By Tom Strode

WAKE FOREST, N.C.— Christians must uphold the concept of absolute truth in order to win the war for a declining culture, speakers said at the 28th annual Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission seminar.

Because of the decline of Christianity as the predominant world view in America and the rest of Western Civilization, the culture and even the church have failed to cling to truth, speakers said. As a result, battles are fought in such arenas as the mind, the home, the inner city and the media and over such issues as homosexuality and the sanctity of human life.

The speakers challenged nearly 900 people to participate in the culture war during the seminar Feb. 27 to March 1 at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. A total of 892 registrants and guests attended the seminar. It was the second largest attendance at any CLC seminar. The seminar also was the first held on the campus of a SBC seminary.

The 1995 seminar, entitled "The War of the Worlds: The Struggle for the Nation's Soul," addressed the battle between Christianity and other world views.

Charles Colson and other speakers described the gravity of the struggle and the church's responsibility. After describing "signs of the times" which portrayed society's rejection of the Christian world view, the founder and chairman of Prison Fellowship said, "America's problems go much deeper than the distribution of condoms to teenagers and the appointment of [Henry] Foster as surgeon general. These events I have cited are all little skirmishes of a major war being waged not only for the heart and soul of America but for Western culture as well."

In the midst of this great chal-

lenge, the church too often "is papering the attic while the basement is on fire," said Timothy George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University.

Referring to national surveys, Colson said a 1991 poll showed 67 percent of Americans rejected absolute truth. Three years later, the same poll revealed 72 percent rejected truth. The same surveys



Charles Colson

among evangelical Christians showed 52 percent in 1991 did not hold to absolute truth while 62 percent in 1994 did not hold to it, Colson said. "We are losing the battle for truth in our churches' pews faster" than in the realms of the "cultural elites," he said.

According to the Christian world view, Colson said, "There is truth. It is knowable. God has spoken. We place a higher premium on truth than on tolerance. The battle for Christian truth and world view must continue. It is our duty."

The culture war provides "an exciting time in the body of Christ," said SBC President Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla. "Don't hold the fort; turn it loose."

"The way to win the culture war," said Southeastern Seminary President Paige Patterson, "is to out-love, out-pray, out-forgive, out-study and out-work your opponents."

If Christians do not act as salt and light in society, it will be engulfed by a combination of "pagan moral views and technological expertise," CLC Executive Director Richard Land said. America faces either "a reformation or a new barbarism," he said.

The United States has lost its identity with the rejection of biblical values, said Steve Lemke of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. "We have become legion, a multiple world view personality disorder which has led to the psychological disintegration of the nation's soul," said Lemke, a philosophy professor at the Fort Worth school. "We no longer know who we are or what we believe as a culture."

Christendom's struggle with an often hostile media is a spiritual one, Mark Coppenger told participants. "What is the answer? I fear that awakening is our only hope," said Coppenger, the SBC Executive Committee's vice president for convention relations. "The situation is impossible, which is precisely the point at which God delights to show Himself mighty."

In addition to 14 plenary session addresses, the seminar also included eight workshops. The workshops addressed such issues as sex education, world population and pornography, as well as such battlegrounds as the home and college campuses.

Also contributing to this article were Greg Kingry, Dwayne Hastings, Norman Miller and Chele Caughron.

See related articles on Page 14.

The Manila Declaration on Pornography

(Continued from Page 1)

tection for those harmed by the evil of pornography throughout the world. We invite all persons of faith and of good will to join us in this great and good effort—that all persons, especially children, may live the lives for which they were created. Therefore, as religious leaders, together with all persons of faith and good will representing a broad cross-section of the world's faith communities:

I. WE BELIEVE:

1. Sexuality is a gift from God, to be enjoyed as a positive and fulfilling part of human experience within the boundaries designed by God. It is unique among God's gifts, enabling spouses to give themselves totally to one another in self-transcending love.

2. Pornography tragically distorts that gift. Although pornography is defined differently in different cultures and faith traditions, participants are unanimous in conviction that sexually explicit material which abuses, degrades or exploits another has destructive consequences for those who consume it or are implicated in its production and distribution. It destroys relationships and communities through sexual violence against women and men, child victimization, child prostitution, sexually transmitted diseases, addiction among men, and the harmful attitudes and the negative values it teaches toward women and children.

3. Pornography is born of attitudes of greed, selfishness, commercialism and exploitation. These attitudes are reflections of the broken human spirit, which calls for a spiritual response.

4. No longer strictly an issue of private morality, pornography has become a major economic force with vast communal ethical implications.

5. The important values of freedom of speech and increased international communication are not compromised by ensuring that chil-

dren, women and men are protected from sexual exploitation.

6. Individual cultures have the right to protection from international commercial enterprises which erode culture through the distribution of degrading, violent and destructive pornography.

7. We have too long been silent toward the scourge of pornography, offering little in preventive measures and counseling, reluctant to acknowledge the problem within our own communities of faith.

II. WE ACKNOWLEDGE:

1. Today the availability of pornography grows at an unprecedented pace. Pornography has become a multibillion dollar, international enterprise, with outlets in the broadcast and print media; in video, film, telephone, computers and television. Through advanced technology such as interactive CD-ROMs the formerly passive viewer of exploitation and abuse now becomes an active participant in the abuse of another. Exposure and involvement of children, in particular, has taken on unprecedented global dimensions; sex-related crime is now a global problem.

2. The content of pornographic material available throughout the world is increasingly explicit and abusive. Large quantities of pornographic material graphically depict domination, exploitation, and sex and violence as appropriate accompaniments to human intimacy. Child pornography, itself the pictorial record of child abuse, portrays children as appropriate partners for sex, leaving lasting physical and emotional damage.

3. Government regulation is often inadequate, antiquated and seldom enforced in many countries. Differences in legislation mean that no global and few national strategies for change have been coherently developed. Too often, prosecution is a low governmental priority, and pornography offenses are falsely perceived as "victimless crimes."

Consequently, punishment is often minimal.

4. International computer networks are increasingly becoming unlimited outlets for the worst and most dangerous forms of pornography. These networks are used as a marketplace by pedophiles to contact children for abuse and to quickly trade pictures of those already abused.

5. Sex tourism is a new growth industry, with a subsequent increase in the spread of pornography, which records the painful encounters for future use.

6. Increasingly, pornography export and distribution economically exploit people, especially the poor in developing nations.

7. Pornography distribution is often enmeshed in a larger web of criminal activity. Organized criminal networks in many parts of the world play a significant role in the creation and dissemination of this material, making the problem more pervasive in its reach and more difficult to eliminate.

III. WE PLEDGE ACTION THROUGH:

1. Pleading with those who actively participate in the pornography industry by production, distribution or consumption of its products to acknowledge the degradation of pornography and its offensive consequences for individuals, as well as human communities.

2. Prayer for both those who exploit and those who are exploited through pornography.

- Redoubling our efforts to improve the quality of intervention and care initiatives for pornography victims and addicts.

3. Sober reflection and reform within each faith community to:

- rigorously apply the due processes of law when dealing with offenders within the religious community;

- develop appropriate religious and ethical education;

- educate for change by in-

creasing awareness of pornography's effects;

- empower women, men and children to resist pornography's impact;

- continue researching the effects of pornography and its links with violent crime and the exploitation of women and children.

4. A concerted approach to the existing national and international bodies of which we are respectively a part to enlist their:

- spiritual, human and financial resources;
- moral authority within our diverse cultures;
- vast infrastructures;
- capacity to educate and their multimillion member constituencies for action.

5. Charging this vast and diverse interreligious coalition to make common cause, both nationally and internationally with other organizations devoted to the well-being of the world's people and communities, including:

- law enforcement authorities,
- child welfare organizations,
- other coalitions active in the campaign against pornography and sexual exploitation,
- women's organizations,
- governmental departments responsible for welfare of children. (Internationally such organizations include, for example, UNICEF, ECPAT, World Health Organization, Interpol, International Catholic Child Bureau, European Union, etc.)

IV. WE URGENTLY NEED:

1. A new religious initiative.

- We call upon the governing body of each faith group to make the protection of children and adults from sexual abuse and exploitation linked to pornography a priority—in their educational and social concerns efforts.

- We advocate the establishment of national religious coalitions to combat pornography in every nation.

2. New and stronger legislation.

- We call for every nation to prohibit all aspects of child pornography, including criminalizing its production, distribution and possession.

- We call for every nation to outlaw abusive adult pornography, for instance, those materials depicting prurient sexual violence.

- We call for every nation to criminalize child sex tourism and to hold its nationals responsible for sexual conduct abroad involving children.

3. Coordinated international action against the use of new technologies for pornography distribution and consumption.

***Our confidence
derives not from ourselves,
but our faith conviction in the
power of moral right
and the persuasiveness of enlightened
self-interest.***

- We call for international regulation and increased law enforcement against those who would use new channels of communication to exploit and abuse children, women and men through pornography.

- We call on the creators and suppliers of these technologies to address the use of their products and services to market pornography, violence and sexual exploitation.

4. Recognition by governments of the seriousness of this problem.

- We call for those countries that export pornography to devote special resources and attention to the destructiveness of their trade and attempts to stop it.

- We call on governments to devote a ministry, department, secretariat or unit to conduct research to measure the problem, and secure the rights of children to a safe environment, by enforcement of laws

and regulation of pornographic media within each nation.

- We call on judiciary branches of government to examine the adequacy of their policies and practices of sentencing and rehabilitating of those who commit sex offenses, especially against minors.

5. Increased cooperative international law enforcement efforts.

- We call on law enforcement agencies to reallocate human and financial resources to units assigned to child exploitation and pornography offenses so that adequate finances and experienced personnel might address enforcement concerns.

Many, we know, will doubt the viability and feasibility of our ambitious plans and question the capacity and energy of faith communities to pursue them. Yet, we recall that it has been just such efforts that have prevailed on a world scale in the past. The abolition of child labor, while not universal, has been globally embraced, in large measure with leadership from faith communities. Many other such examples might be cited.

Others will scoff that such matters, while distasteful to some, have little serious or widespread consequence. So, too, did cynics once disparage environmental, drunk driving and anti-smoking campaigns. Despite disdain, each of these has proven its case, asserted its moral claim, captured public opinion and resulted in concrete change to the betterment of all. So, too, will the battle against pornography and sexual exploitation be won.

To sustain and expand this effort, we will look toward a "world congress to end pornography" that will usher in an era of change. With faith groups and others, this congress will provide a venue and resource to bring to resolution a campaign now undertaken.

Our confidence derives not from ourselves, but our faith conviction in the power of moral right and the persuasiveness of enlightened self-interest. So, too, is it founded in our traditions of faith that brought us to this day.

By Louis A. Moore

My school's team had not played in a Cotton Bowl game in more than 40 years. But on a cold day in 1969, at halftime the Southwest Conference Sportsmanship Committee presented our college with the conference's sportsmanship trophy. Even though we had not been victorious that year on the playing field, we were winners in the bleachers!

That moment is replayed in my mind each time I read biblical admonitions about living at peace with others. God doesn't care who wins a football game, but He does care about the attitudes and actions of people playing on the field and cheering in the stands. It is the same in all of life's pursuits: Success is not as important to God as is the means used to achieve it.

This is what the author of Hebrews meant when he said "Follow peace with all men." How we play the game is more important than whether we win or lose.

The King James Version of the Bible uses the word "follow," but other versions use the word "pursue," which more clearly illustrates the point. "Pursue" is an active verb, because peace does not come naturally to us. Sin disturbs, destroys, hurts and troubles our world. Therefore, when we pursue peace, we seek that which is not easily attainable.

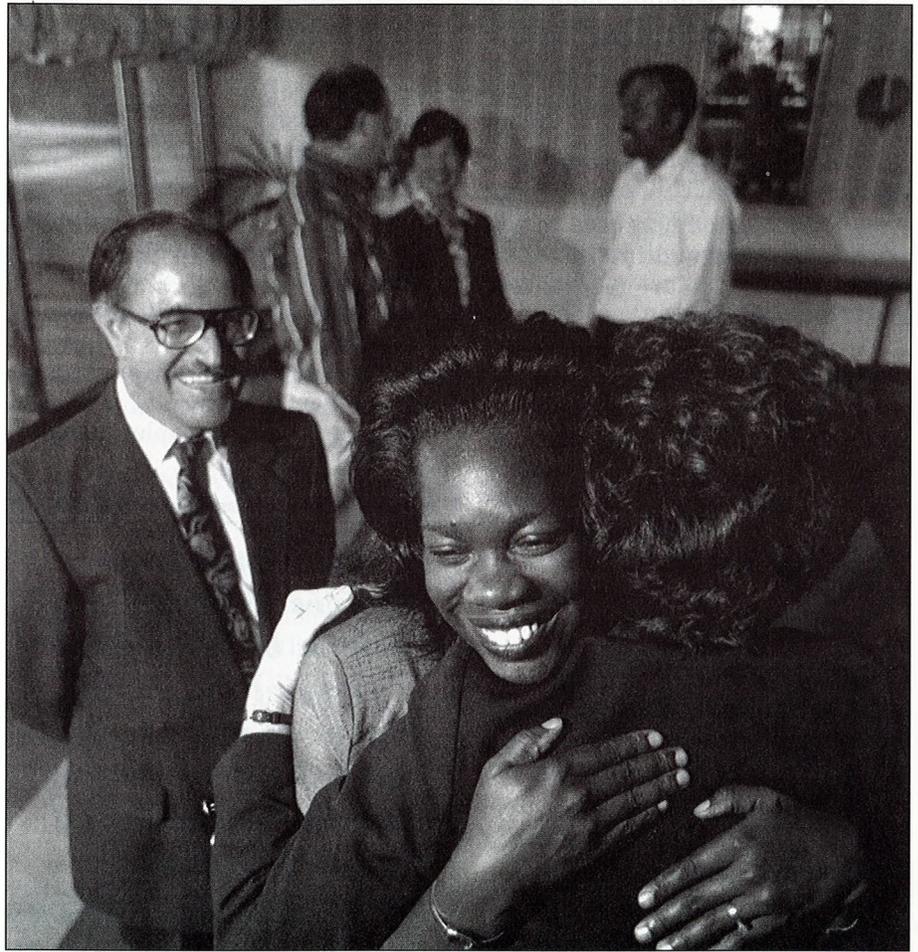
Peace begins in the heart. It starts with accepting Jesus Christ as one's personal Lord and Savior. We cannot live at peace with others until we first make peace with God through Christ. Once we experience God in our hearts, the Bible tells us we are to live in new ways as God's people in the world.

This newness includes how we relate to other people. It is especially important to note that the theme verse says to "pursue peace with all men." It doesn't say "pursue peace with only those whom you like personally," or "pursue peace with only those who fit into your particular ethnic, racial or economic category." The context implies all people.

One of the strangest ironies of life is that it is often easier to make

'Follow peace with all'

(Hebrews 12:14)



**Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace
August 6, 1995**

peace with strangers than with those closest to us. We are to seek to make peace with all, regardless of whether they live next door or in a faraway country.

As followers of Christ, we are to be different from others. The Bible tells us this difference is earmarked by the characteristic of love. We are to love others because God loves us.

Love is the opposite of hate. Hate seeks to destroy, to tear down. Love seeks to support, to build up. Biblical love seeks that which is best for the one being loved. Yet, it is not a universal endorsement of all that another person does or says. Beyond the theological, the practical question is how do we pursue peace with all?

People who recognize God's sovereignty over their lives are not arrogant or self-consumed. They strive to live as God would have them. God gives us a love for others that wants the best for them. We are to treat others as we ourselves wish to be treated. We are to stand for righteousness yet do it in a loving, genuinely kind-hearted fashion.

As Southern Baptists observe the Day of Prayer for World Peace this year, let us each commit to follow the Bible's direction to pursue peace with all people.

Louis Moore is associate vice president for communications and director of news and information for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

RESOURCES

Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace August 6, 1995 ORDER RESOURCES TO COMBAT GAMBLING AND PORNOGRAPHY

Quantity	PEACE RESOURCES	Price	Total
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	New Poster for Day of Prayer for World Peace (undated, color)	.95	
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	Pamphlet - The Bible Speaks on War and Peace	.17	
	Pamphlet - Issues and Answers: War and Peace	.17	
	Guide - Peace with Justice Awareness/Action Guide	1.40	
	Guide - Day of Prayer for World Peace Planning Guide	1.10	
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	Pamphlet - Pornography: Biblical Insights	.22	
	Pamphlet - What to Do About Pornography	.22	
	Pamphlet - Issues & Answers : Pornography	.17	
	Pornography Resource Set (one of each above)	.75	
	Book - <i>Final Report of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography</i>	10.95	
	Video: Southern Baptists Confront Pornography & Sexual Exploitation 1/2" VHS, 30 min.	13.95	
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By Glen Stassen

While my father was on duty in the Pacific in World War II, we heard (wrongly, it turned out) he had been killed. We cried the hot, bitter tears of families whose loved ones have died in war.

I love my father greatly. We agree on most everything. I am very proud of him for the sacrifices he made in the war. We want to be a model for debating the emotional issue of the atomic bombing of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki while holding each other in the highest respect and love.

My father and others were preparing for a possible ground invasion of Japan three months later, in November. Anyone can understand why U.S. troops felt enormous relief at Japan's surrender. I surely did.

But no ground invasion was going to happen.

We now have new, declassified information. A month before Hiroshima, the report for the Allied Chiefs of Staff said Japan was a vulnerable island, blockaded from

President Truman... could have first tried the alternatives and called for surrender. He could have avoided bombing a city full of God's loved ones and a second city only three days later, before a Japan in shock could understand and surrender.

getting oil and supplies, its Navy and Air Force destroyed, and defenseless against daily U.S. bombing, "which has already... destroyed from 25% to 50% of the built-up areas of Japan's most important cities." Afterward, a top secret U.S. intelligence report revealed the Japanese Emperor had

No, we should not have dropped The Bomb



The Bettmann Archive

Nagasaki — Before

already told the cabinet to prepare to surrender. It concluded "the war would almost certainly have terminated when Russia entered the war against Japan" August 9.

President Eisenhower (then Supreme Commander in Europe) wrote that when the Secretary of War told him "that our government was preparing to drop an atomic bomb on Japan..., I voiced to him my grave misgivings, first on the basis of my belief that Japan was already defeated and that dropping the bomb was completely unnecessary, and secondly because I thought that our country should avoid shocking world opinion by the use of a weapon whose employment was, I thought, no longer mandatory as a measure to save American lives.... Japan was, at that very moment, seeking some way to surrender with a minimum loss of 'face.'"¹

Admiral Leahy, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote: "It is my opinion that the use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender."²

No U.S. president, having atomic bombs to use, would have ordered the deaths of thousands of Ameri-

cans and Japanese in a drawn-out ground invasion. He would have announced we had the bombs, or used one against a military target or a less populated area (or against a city), or said we would allow the Emperor to stay, or waited three days until the Soviet Union declared war—and then demanded Japan surrender. The alternative to the surprise atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was not a ground invasion but a surrender achieved by less destructive means.

For at least 15 centuries, Christian ethics has taught a clear rule of war: You must aim at military targets, and never aim to kill civilians. Civilians are God's children, created in the image of God. God loves them so much He gave His only-begotten Son for them. They have families—like my father and mother, sister, wife and children—who cry hot tears of pain like we do. This is about the sacredness of human life. Now with a world of intercontinental nuclear missiles, we have additional reason to pray that our enemy never targets U.S. cities full of civilians.

I wonder if President Truman was taught this essential rule in Christian ethics by his Southern

(Continued on Page 10)

By Harold E. Stassen

The continuing debate about the decision of President Truman to drop atomic bombs on Japan's Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the carrying out of that momentous decision with a large loss of civilian lives, has many varied facets seen differently by sincere and intelligent men and women.

I respect and understand those who have these different views.

I respect and admire and am proud of my son, Glen. He has done very significant pioneering work on developing the seven principles for Peacemaking with Justice.

But I do have a different opinion on this atomic bomb issue than he has.

I also recognize that my views are influenced by my own unusual, long, life experience.

In 1945 I was on duty on the United States combat battleship, the *U.S.S. Missouri*, as Assistant Chief of Staff to Admiral Halsey. We were in the Pacific Ocean south

My opinion then, and my opinion now, is that President Truman was right in his decision to drop the bombs. This not only brought about the prompt decision of the Emperor of Japan to end the war; it also assured the complete acceptance by the Japanese military leadership.

of Tokyo when those atomic bombs were dropped.

I said a silent prayer of thankfulness that our scientists and military leaders had developed this weapon, and not the Japanese or German scientists and military

Yes, we should have dropped The Bomb



UPI/Bettmann Newsphotos

Nagasaki — After

leaders. The German and Japanese military efforts had developed the techniques of missile attacks, surprise attacks and kamikaze attacks. I was thankful they were not the first to develop atomic weapons.

Four days later I was the duty officer when the message came that World War II was ended by the decision of the Emperor of Japan to surrender and end the war. Acting under Admiral Halsey's orders, I called back our pilots and planes from the air, en route to bomb Tokyo. These facts are all in the official Navy logs and the history books.

I have read writings of those who express other views, and I respect their views:

1. That the bombs should have been dropped on uninhabited islands or mountains, for demonstration.
2. That we could have defeated and occupied Japan without dropping those atomic bombs.
3. That Japan was ready to surrender before those bombs were dropped.

My opinion then, and my opinion now, is that President Truman was right in his decision to drop the bombs.

This not only brought about the prompt decision of the Emperor of Japan to end the war; it also assured the complete acceptance by the Japanese military leadership of that decision. The Japanese military leadership was a powerful force in Japan, to a large extent independent of civilian control, and proved able to block the government from surrendering for a long time. Dropping the bombs resulted in less loss of life in the United States and for Japan than continuation of the tragedy of World War II. Each day, more people were dying from the bombing raids, the firestorms and the battles on the islands.

It also caused the entire world to recognize the catastrophic potential of any Third World War.

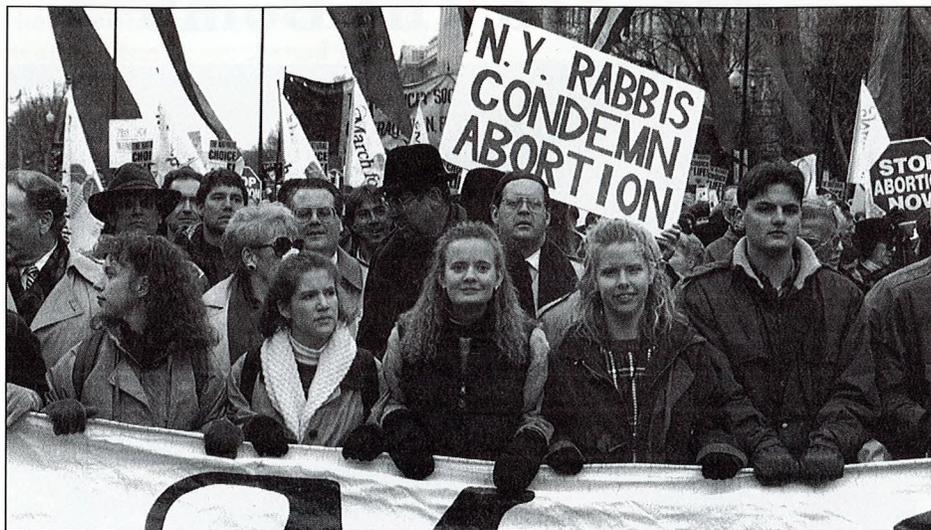
The peoples of the world went through the extreme tragedies of World War I from 1914 to 1918, and World War II 20 years later from 1939 to 1945.

The combination of vivid knowledge of atomic bombs and the intelligent establishment and operation of the United Nations organization have together prevented World War III.

The challenge for thorough and intelligent attention now should be

(Continued on Page 10)

22nd annual March for Life



WASHINGTON — Richard D. Land, executive director, and James A. Smith, director of government relations of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, participated in the forefront of the 22nd annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 23 along with 45,000 marchers. Land is standing directly under the abortion sign, and Smith is the second person to the left of Land.

Point

No, we should not have dropped The Bomb

(Continued from Page 8)

Baptist church, and whether we are teaching it now to future leaders. He could have first tried the alternatives and called for surrender. He could have avoided bombing a city full of God's loved ones and a second city only three days later, before a Japan in shock could understand and surrender.

All sin and go astray. In this, President Truman was no different from you and me. He was the leader of a nation forced into the momentum of war and the development of the bomb, and caught up in

hatred of Japan and obliteration bombing of other cities (first by Hitler and then by us).

Having experienced the cruelty of world war, my father dedicated himself to preventing another one. He served as a U.S. representative to the United Nations Charter-writing Assembly, and the reporters from all over the world voted that he and the Australian ambassador did the most for its success. He served in President Eisenhower's cabinet, beginning our country's work on nuclear arms control and disarmament.

We agree: What we should learn most from Hiroshima and Nagasaki is to work on being peacemakers for the future. That is just what Jesus calls us all to do.

¹Dwight D. Eisenhower, *Mandate For Change* (Garden City: Doubleday, 1963), pp. 312-313.

²Leahy, *I Was There* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1950), p. 441.

Glen Stassen is professor of Christian ethics, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Counterpoint

Yes, we should have dropped The Bomb

(Continued from Page 9)

on finding and carrying out solutions of problems without violence.

For example:

1. Restructuring the United Nations organization to better serve our children and grandchildren.

2. Peacefully financing and establishing a homeland sovereignty and flag for the Palestinians in Northern Lebanon.

3. Curbing and moderating Serbian violence and Russian violence in the former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union.

4. Extending permanent Security Council seats to Japan and Germany.

5. Developing creative ways to provide full employment with worthwhile jobs in democracies.

6. Decreasing the world level of nuclear weapons and nuclear

weapons fuel, and expenditures for other offensive weapons.

I reemphasize, *let us turn our thoughts and analysis toward the future well-being and quality of life of the children of the world.*

Harold Stassen assistant chief of staff to Admiral Halsey in the U.S. Navy in 1945 at the time the atomic bomb was dropped.

SBC leaders voice opposition to Foster

(Continued from Page 1)

major network telecasts the previous night.

Land said Foster's own resume "describes him as the 'principle investigator' for clinical research trials funded by the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company." These experiments attempted chemically induced abortions on 59 women and girls, one of whom was 15 years old, Land said. He also commented on a 1978 transcript of an ethics advisory board of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The transcript quotes a Dr. Foster saying he has performed nearly 700 abortions. Foster has denied the statement.

Related article on Page 12

"Dr. Foster's views of teen sexuality and abortion are not a surprise to us, given his longtime association with the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and other affiliated organizations," Land said as he cited a range of objections to Foster, who served Planned Parenthood in a "number of capacities: as a board member, on the National Committee to Keep Abortion Safe and Legal, and as a public policy advocate."

Land noted Foster's "I Have a Future" program is touted as "abstinence-based, yet there is no mention of abstinence in the program's promotional brochure and fact sheet." He said the program gives "condoms and other contraceptives to minors."

Citing Foster's participation with the Nashville affiliate of Planned Parenthood in a suit against a Tennessee law requiring consent of both parents to allow a teenaged daughter to have an abortion, Land said, "It is outrageous that President Clinton would nominate" Foster despite the "overwhelming percentage of Americans who favor parental consent laws."

Land emphasized his objections to Foster were not racially based.

"It would be obscene and obnoxious if Dr. Foster were disqualified

News conference gains attention

When the Christian Life Commission announced in a Feb. 22 news conference its opposition to the confirmation of surgeon general nominee Henry Foster, the attention from the media surpassed any the agency has received in at least several years.

Among the media carrying reports were: "NBC Nightly News," ABC's "World News Tonight," CNN, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, Associated Press Radio, CBS Radio, CNN Radio, National Public Radio, USA Radio, Family News in Focus, Standard News Radio, and probably hundreds of newspapers through news services like AP, Reuters and Religion News Service.

C-SPAN telecast the news conference in its entirety.

because he is an African-American," Land said. "We share Dr. Martin Luther King's dream that one day in America individuals will be judged according to the 'content of their character' as opposed to the 'color of their skin.'"

When asked why the CLC is publicly opposing Foster, Land explained he is bound by the program statement assigned to the agency by the SBC. He said he "did not speak for" Southern Baptists but rather "to Southern Baptists" about issues of moral and religious liberty concerns.

One reporter reminded Land "abortion is legal." Land said, "Just because something is legal, that does not make it right. Smoking is legal. Can you imagine appointing a surgeon general who smoked?"

SBC President Jim Henry said, "I regret having to oppose this nomination. I have met with President Clinton in the recent past during which time I have communicated

the opposition of Southern Baptists to abortion. ... Additionally, Southern Baptists are deeply troubled by the 'safe sex' campaign being waged by our government at the local, state and federal level through the public schools."

Henry said he believes Foster "deserves to be heard" but said "close scrutiny" by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee should lead "the full Senate to reject his nomination."

Responding to questions about their regrets in opposing Foster, Land answered for himself and Henry, saying, "We have a multitude of regrets, the biggest one being our regret that Foster is being nominated by a Southern Baptist."

Norman Miller works in the news and information office of Southeastern Baptist Seminary.

Time remains to voice concerns

Concerned Southern Baptists and others apparently have time to express their convictions about Henry Foster to members of the U.S. Senate.

The confirmation hearing for President Clinton's surgeon general nominee probably will not be held until May, according to reports from the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R.-Kan., is chairman of the committee which will conduct the hearing.

Other members of the committee are: Republicans - James Jeffords, Vermont; Dan Coats, Indiana; Judd Gregg, New Hampshire; Bill Frist, Tennessee; Mike DeWine, Ohio; John Ashcroft, Missouri; Spencer Abraham, Michigan; Slade Gorton, Washington; Democrats - Edward Kennedy, Massachusetts; Claiborne Pell, Rhode Island; Christopher Dodd, Connecticut; Paul Simon, Illinois; Tom Harkin, Iowa; Barbara Mikulski, Maryland; Paul Wellstone, Minnesota.

CLC names Merrell media director

By Tom Strode

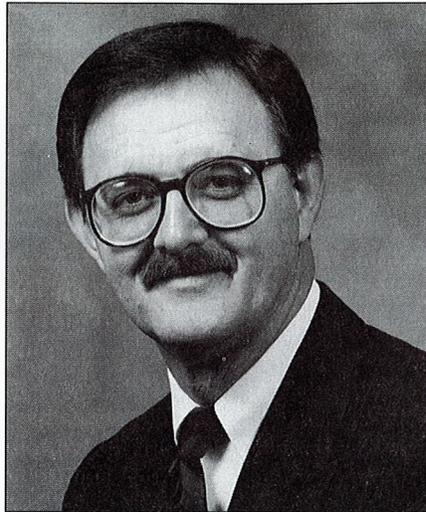
Oklahoma associational director Bill Merrell will join the Christian Life Commission staff as director of media and product development.

The trustees voted unanimously March 3 to call Merrell, 51, to fill the media vacancy in the agency's Nashville, Tenn., office. The CLC board acted during its semi-annual meeting in Raleigh, N.C.

Previous media director Louis Moore left the CLC in November to become associate vice president for communications and director of news and information at the Foreign Mission Board.

Merrell, who is director of the Comanche-Cotton Baptist Association with offices in Lawton, Okla., said he regularly has addressed moral issues as a pastor and associational director. He has attempted to speak to a culture "that has lost its way," Merrell said.

CLC Executive Director Richard Land told the board the agency needed not only a good communicator but someone who can handle some of the agency's issues in order



Bill Merrell

to relieve the work load on other program staff members. Merrell also provides the CLC with a chance for "better communication with pastors and churches," Land said.

The CLC's director of media and product development maintains relations with news journalists, writes articles for Baptist Press and supervises the production of pamphlets, tracts, videotapes and other materials. It will be determined lat-

er what issues Merrell will have in his portfolio, Land said.

Merrell served as pastor of seven churches for 27 years before accepting the associational position in 1991. After serving in six Texas churches, he was pastor of Country Estates Baptist Church in Midwest City, Okla., from 1982 to '91.

He has a bachelor degree from Dallas Baptist University, a master of divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctor of ministry from New Orleans Seminary.

Merrell was a founding board member of two pro-life crisis pregnancy centers. He assisted in the early history of Southern Baptists for Life, a pro-life organization which existed when the CLC took a pro-choice position or did not actively oppose abortion. The CLC became fully pro-life when Land became its director in 1988. Merrell also has served on committees or boards in the national and state conventions.

Merrell and his wife, Sharla, have three children and four grandchildren.

NBC's Moyers rips SBC leaders' stand

When Southern Baptist Convention leaders announced their opposition to U.S. surgeon general nominee Henry Foster, news commentator Bill Moyers decided they acted more like political partisans than Baptists, and he told viewers of "NBC Nightly News" so on Feb. 23.

Such a response from Moyers, a frequent critic of Southern Baptists, should have been expected and signifies the announcement hit its target, said a Christian Life Commission spokesman.

Moyers' comments, which are a regular feature of NBC's weeknight news program, came one day after CLC Executive Director Richard Land announced the agency's opposition to Foster. SBC President Jim Henry expressed his opposition in the same Nashville news conference.

"The free exercise of conscience is the heart" of Baptist faith, Moyers said. "No one can speak for all Baptists. But in the last decade, the Southern Baptist Convention was captured by a political posse allied with the Republican Party. Their hierarchy wants to impose conformity on the churches.

"Suddenly, the 39 legal abortions performed by Henry Foster, which he says he did reluctantly, are a theological sin and a political opportunity," Moyers said. "Despite studies showing Southern Baptists hold varying opinions about abortion, the hierarchy has pronounced all 15 million of them opposed to Foster's nomination."

Moyers also said, "Suppose that instead of reading *National Review*, *New Republic* or the *Nation*, God

reads only the human heart and looks with mercy on mortals like Henry Foster making hard choices in the anguished trenches of life. Would God then vote yea or nay on the nomination? I don't know, and neither does any other Baptist."

The CLC's James A. Smith said, "The empire strikes back. Apparently our action has caught the attention of people in high places. I am encouraged that the opposition is so concerned by our action that they felt compelled to have one of their friends in the media attempt to discredit us. We wear their scorn as a badge of honor."

Henry and he did not attempt to speak for all Southern Baptists in opposing Foster, and their statements make that clear, Land said.

— Tom Strode

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Mohler: Church has faltered on homosexuality

By Dwayne Hastings

WAKE FOREST, N.C. – Homosexuality is the first offspring of a people who have corrupted the knowledge of the one true God, said Al Mohler during the Christian Life Commission's annual seminar.

"The first, foremost and clearest example of what happens when a people worship the creature instead of the creator is homosexuality. This is the human creature corrupting and perverting the knowledge of God," said Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky.

"Homosexuality is the creature shaking his fist in the face of God and saying, 'I do know best, I will do what I want.'"

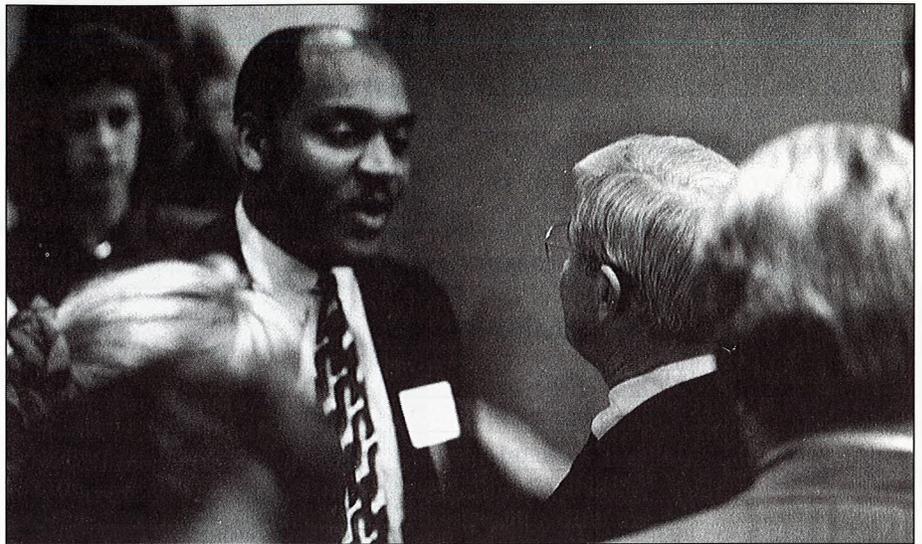
It does not take an astute person to sense the ground has shifted, Mohler said Feb. 28 on the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary campus. "We are living in a time of great confusion: a collision between the worlds that is unfortunately not the figment of some science fiction imagination."

Yet, Mohler said, the "homosexualization" of culture has occurred while the church has slept: "The church has hardly responded to the homosexuality issue with a certain sound. If the church of Jesus Christ is not now the most powerful countercultural force in the midst of society, we are not true to the gospel and we are not true to our Lord."

Believers must be genuinely compassionate, he said.

"The first act of compassion is telling the truth. How is it compassionate to tell sinners they are not sinners? How is it compassionate to tell persons who are in peril that there is no danger?" Mohler asked.

Dwayne Hastings works in the news and information office of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Gary Frost and Jim Henry, second vice president and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, respectively, visit during break between seminar sessions.

Racism stifles church's witness in inner cities, Frost says

WAKE FOREST, N.C. – The reality of racism has made the struggle for the soul of the inner city an almost unwinnable fight, said Gary Frost, pastor of Rising Star Baptist Church, Youngstown, Ohio, during the annual seminar of the Christian Life Commission.

"The paralyzing sin of pride manifested in racism has in many cases rendered the witness of the corporate church almost totally ineffective," said Frost, an African-American who was elected second vice president of the SBC in 1994. "Until this racism is biblically and publicly dealt with amongst believers, there is no hope of a sweeping revival of the magnitude that is necessary to save our cities."

There are no easy answers to the urban crisis: "New programs, more money, larger staffs, by themselves, are not going to win the day. There are foundational issues that must be addressed in believers' hearts before we will see victory in the city."

Bitterness among black Americans is rooted in the injustices of the past and can only be remedied spiritually, Frost said Feb. 28 at Southeastern Seminary.

He said a measure of bitterness stems from the cold indifference white evangelicals displayed when black Christians sorely needed their support in the 1960s. "When African-Americans were struggling to gain an identity and a voice, their evangelical brothers did not answer the cry for help. Yet liberal religionists were right on the scene."

The result was an unequally yoked marriage between Bible-believing blacks and liberal social activists who denied the foundations of the faith, Frost said. He said society now is witnessing the offspring of that unholy matrimony.

Frost said his visits with black and ethnic Southern Baptists have uncovered a form of systematic racism within the denomination itself. "There is a need for healing in the Body of Christ. I have found a recurring concern being voiced by some: that while ethnic communities are being impacted by decisions made by SBC leaders, these communities feel extremely isolated from the decision-making process," he said.

– Dwayne Hastings

Light from the Capital

Vice president hosts homosexual activists

A recent reception for homosexual activists at the vice presidential home offers more evidence of a White House "out of touch" with the country's moral mood, a Christian Life Commission staff member said.

Vice President and Mrs. Al Gore held a reception March 3 for 150 homosexual activists. Most were officers or members of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the country's largest homosexual political organization.

Four days after the Gores' reception, House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich, R.-Ga., expressed opposition to school programs which present homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle and to legislation which would grant homosexuals the right to sue based on employment discrimination.

"The Clinton administration is looking for love in all the wrong places," said Michael Whitehead, the CLC's general counsel, about the vice presidential reception. "It seems oblivious to the mistakes of the past and to the message from conservative voters in the fall election. This could be a snapshot of a one-term presidency, out of touch with the moral mood of America."

The vice president told Human Rights Campaign Fund members

"we understand very well why it is so important to have an organization that fights for the rights of Americans to be free of discrimination," Associated Press reported.

"We very deeply share your vision of a society that is fair and free of discrimination for gay and lesbian people, and we want you to know that," Tipper Gore said, according to AP.

Whitehead said, "What's wrong with this picture? Rich and powerful homosexuals feasting on a buffet of vice presidential delicacies, offering millions of dollars if the White House will support 'gay rights' laws to protect them from discrimination and economic disadvantage. Obviously, homosexuals already enjoy equal opportunity under our Constitution and law. What they want is government-coerced legitimacy, creating a legal and moral equivalency between sodomy and a person's race or gender.

"What else is wrong with this picture? Forgetting how badly his boss was burned by flirting with gays in the military, the vice president is caught embracing the homosexual lobby in his home," he said. "The second lady is unashamed to be portrayed as sharing 'very deeply' in the homosexual vision."

A spokesperson in the vice president's communications office declined comment on the reception.

The reception "came about quickly" and was not prompted by anything in particular, said David Smith, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign Fund. The reception reflects "how the administration will reach out to all constituencies in this country and not, as you say it, [just] the homosexual community," Smith told Baptist Press.

HRCF Executive Director Elizabeth Birch told AP, "Evenings like tonight and reaching out in significant ways between now and 1996 will be absolutely necessary gestures as part of an overall calculation for political victory. I think the president feels extremely unappre-



ciated, and whether or not the administration has legitimate reasons for feeling that, the fact is that gay and lesbian people are somewhat disenchanted."

Homosexuals received credit for donating \$3.5 million to the 1992 Clinton-Gore campaign but have expressed disappointment with the administration, including its failure to overturn the ban on homosexuals in the military.

A day after his half-sister, Candace, lobbied Congress on behalf of homosexual rights, Gingrich said he opposed people "in first grade explaining that homosexuality is a reasonable alternative lifestyle," according to an AP report.

He is "very cautious about the idea that you want to have active homosexuals in junior high school and high school explaining to young people that they have all these various wonderful options," Gingrich said March 7.

The speaker also opposes legislation which would protect homosexuals from discrimination in the workplace.

"I am not prepared to establish a federal law that allows you to sue your employer if you end up not having a job because of a disagreement that involves your personal behavior," Gingrich said, according to AP.

- Tom Strode

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Seminar registrants respond

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Overall a wonderful seminar. This is my first, and I most definitely will attend next year! I was very impressed with all the staff and especially with Dr. Land. He seems to be just the right leader for this day and age and what we are up against. Christianburg, VA

Although I have attended a state Baptist convention, this was my first SBC meeting. Much of the information imparted by the various speakers was inspirational, informative and challenging. I especially liked, Jim Henry, Chuck Colson, Gary Frost and Mark Coppenger's messages.

Registrant

Speakers were great! Chapel was too hot! The 3 provided meals were quite good. The seminar was well organized but not enough time was allotted for workshops.

Registrant

This was my first CLC conference in its history. Until recently, I was not interested in the program due to its liberal slant. This conference was refreshing and served to undergird what I have been saying as a pastor. It made me realize anew that I am not alone in my convictions. Continue to plan this kind of program and I feel confident that the attendance will grow even more.

Registrant (drove 425 miles)

This was my first time to attend your yearly seminar and I really enjoyed the conference. The speakers were excellent and motivated me through the Holy Spirit and God's Word to stand up for the truth we have in Jesus to my community. We will make a difference if we stand up first in our homes, neighborhoods, churches, cities and beyond to stop the movement of Satan in our world. Thank you CLC for making a difference in me and our world.

Manteo, NC

Overall, I have been extremely blessed by this conference. Not only have I been taught many things on a variety of topics, I can say assuredly that God spoke to me in a powerful way. Thank you so much for your being used by God to better equip me to "reach the world for Christ."

Roxboro, NC

I was proud to be able to attend such a conference at Southeastern Seminary. It was a very good and informative experience. We are proud of our Christian Life Commission. Keep up the good work. I have been a Southern Baptist 30 years and the older I get the more thankful and proud I am to be that We thank the Lord for you all.

Jacksonville, FL

The overall conference was excellent, both drawing my eyes to God, but also challenging me to look at myself in the mirror of God's Word. The issue here was truth not power (which is seldom heard at issues and ideas rallies). My only criticism and fear is that often we rest our hope in our arguments, our movement and our zeal instead of God who holds not only the king's heart in His hand, but the world.

Southeastern Alumni