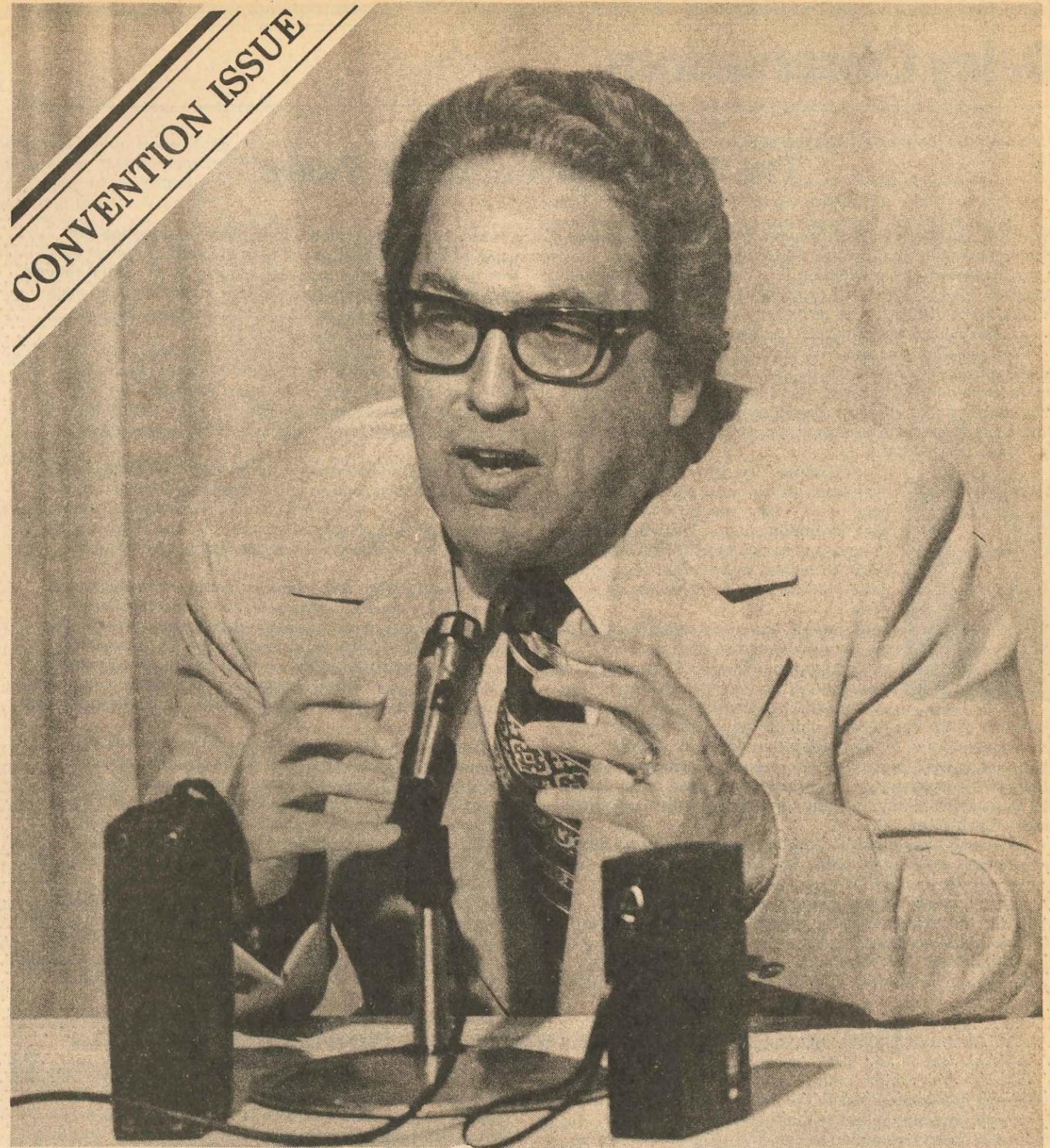


CONVENTION ISSUE



**New SBC President Jimmy Allen**

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**WESTERN RECORDER**

JUNE 23, 1977

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## The Best Convention in Years

The 1977 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City was the most wholesome in spirit and the most serious in commitment of any convention in recent years. No seriously divisive issues fragmented the messengers who responded with a spirit of urgency to proposals for accelerated efforts to confront the world now with the gospel.

The program was the best planned in many years and while routine business matters got necessary attention, there were more high moments of inspiration than usual. The sessions had excellent presiding in President Sullivan and Vice President Nelson and the conduct of the messengers was praiseworthy.



In Kansas City, we were sober in evaluating where we are and where we have to go. There was little boasting in past accomplishments. We were willing to have our hearts stirred with what we ought to be and to do rather than to be patted on the back for what we have done.

As usual, the messengers were in a mood to make known their feelings on all contemporary issues. The convention has agonized for years over how to assume the freedom of expression on

the floor of the convention without being left open for irresponsible and embarrassing harangue. We seem to have refined the process of offering and discussing resolutions to accomplish this. Messengers sounded off on issues all the way from human rights to homosexuality and equal rights for women.

A strong blow for more complete openness in all Baptist affairs was struck in Kansas City. For many years the outcome of voting on issues and candidates for offices has been announced without giving the actual tabulations. The messengers rejected an official recommendation that this policy be continued unless a majority of the messengers requested the actual count and adopted a policy of announcing the number of votes on all issues and elections.

## The Year of Opportunity for Southern Baptists

1977 will be remembered as the year of opportunity for Southern Baptists. Whether the future sees success or failure in ambitious undertakings, the 1977 convention in Kansas City presented Southern Baptists one of their greatest, if not their greatest, opportunity to take the gospel to every living soul on earth in this generation.

Denominational leadership received a dramatic assist from the most famous Southern Baptist of our day when United States President Jimmy Carter challenged fellow Southern Baptists to immediately put another 5000 missionaries on mission fields of the world.

Using the theme Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptist

Another spirited debate took place on a motion that salaries along with all fringe benefits paid executive directors of the convention agencies be printed in annual reports of their agencies. Opponents of this motion claimed such information is already available upon request but supporters of the motion questioned this.

The original motion was divided into two parts. The part calling for annual publication of salary details was defeated. However, the second part providing for full disclosure by convention agencies of salary information to all responsible requests from individual Baptists was adopted.

This motion should never have had to be made. While detailed financial reports and budgets of Southern Baptist agencies are too lengthy and cumbersome for universal distribution, it is completely contrary to the Baptist spirit to even give an impression of concealing any fiscal information.

The real reason some Baptist leaders are reluctant to reveal salary details is that some lower income Baptists in the pews would not understand and would object. This is probably true but it is no justification for withholding information from those who provide the funds for denominational agencies. If the directors cannot justify and defend the salaries they approve, they should set salaries they can justify.

It is also true that some irresponsible persons will misuse such information. This is the price for openness. But it is far better to risk abuse of information by a few irresponsible persons than to deny responsible persons information which is their business.

The agency directors surely got the message. Any reluctance from now on to respond to responsible requests in fiscal information would be most unfortunate.

There will be more occasions to comment editorially on the 1977 convention. It is not even over as these words are written, but it's far enough along to be characterized as a convention calling for complete openness and for action to match our traditional talk of world evangelism.

leadership has been attempting to engage the masses of Baptist local church members in all out efforts to evangelize and congregationalize every person in the world by A. D. 2000. The results of these efforts have not been too encouraging until now.

Layman Carter challenged the Kansas City convention messengers by a video tape appearance following an exciting program presentation in which messengers in Kansas City and Baptist missionaries in Hong Kong joined in an around-the-world prayer meeting by bouncing each other's messages off a satellite hundreds of miles above the earth. It was 8:35 p.m. in Kansas City and 9:35 a.m.

the next day in Hong Kong. Convention messengers were amazed by this demonstration of modern communication capability of proclaiming the gospel to every corner of the earth at the same moment.

President Carter's participation in the convention was a last moment injection. It grew out of a luncheon at the White House as recently as June 7 when layman Carter shared his dream with several key leaders of the convention. His idea of 5000 volunteer missionaries giving at least two years of their lives to missionary service by 1982 caught on like wild fire. It bypassed ordinarily long planning channels for ideas to become official recommendations to convention messengers.

Not only is the idea exciting but that such spontaneity is still possible in the organizational structure of a 13-million member denomination is reassuring. As a veteran observer and participant in Southern Baptist life, I would

### Guest Editorial

## The Horror Remains

by Raymond Bailey, Pastor  
First Baptist Church, Newport

The initial shock is over. The sirens are not screaming and less and less news time and space are given to the "Beverly Hills" disaster. But the horror remains. Children without parents, entire family units dead, seriously injured persons still in hospitals, survivors wondering why they were so lucky and patrons, workers, friends, a whole community with psychological scars that will never completely heal. Now is the time for thinking through what happened, why it happened, what lessons can be learned from it.

One thing Governor Carroll said at the Memorial Service Sunday bothered me. He spoke of the victims having been "taken" by God. I don't believe that. God did not take those people although many of them were surely received by him. This was a man-made disaster. One that could have been avoided; one whose toll could have been lessened. Stringent safety standards are imposed on nursing homes, schools, churches, etc. Those same

have said such an idea could not have bypassed established channels and won approval.

The prayers of Southern Baptists for an open door to world evangelization in this generation have been amazingly answered. A Baptist deacon, unknown beyond his own community a few years ago but now living in the White House, has been used of God to give Southern Baptists their greatest visibility and opportunity in history. If we do not capitalize on this opportunity, we do not deserve another.

A refreshing wind of God's spirit stirred Baptists in Kansas City with renewed zeal and commitment. Pray God that it will be felt in every congregation in the land and that denominational machinery will not stifle it.

An editorial on church-state implications of President Carter's participation in the Southern Baptist Convention will appear in a coming issue of Western Recorder.

standards should be applied to and enforced on all places where large crowds of people congregate. There are too many fires and if one fireman is injured or one life lost that's too many. We need to cooperate more with the people in authority in safety education and demand of them enforcement of fire safety codes.

We need in an ultimate sense to think of the value of our individual lives. Are we using each day what is ours as a special gift? Is God and the promise of heaven a part of our thinking and an influence on our actions? Pat and I have been in the Beverly Hills a number of times — we might have been there that night. If you had been there, how would you have reacted? If you had been a victim, what would you have left behind? What could you look forward to? If you had lost someone there, would you have the grace of God to console you? Sometimes it is good to think of unpleasant things to work out ways to keep them from happening.

one of Southern Baptists' strengths.

Now I am a pastor and I try to teach Cooperative Program giving to the church. However, each year I am asked by my Baptist brethren to solicit special offerings for foreign missions, special offerings for home missions, special offerings for Kentucky state missions, special offerings for Long Run Associational missions, special offerings for children's homes, special offerings for Baptist hospitals, special offerings for Southern Seminary—all from SBC people for SBC causes, not to mention the Gideons, the Temperance Leagues, etc. Remember all of this is in addition to the Cooperative Program with an increase attempted each year.

Now, I ask: What ever happened to the real Cooperative Program?

R. E. Winstead, Prospect, Ky.

## Baptist Forum

I received a brochure from the Kentucky Baptist Convention this week entitled "Churches Ministering Through the Cooperative Program." It is an attractive and well illustrated tract. It relates that before the Cooperative Program, mission causes were supported individually. However, with the Cooperative Program came one appeal for the various causes—there were to be no more special campaigns—we would support missions and agencies through the Cooperative Program.

I have always been taught this and believe it has been

# Personnel Changes

## Winchester Calls Walker



Walker

David Walker has accepted the associate minister's position at First Baptist Church, Winchester. He will be in charge of education and outreach. Walker is a native of Atlanta, Ga., and holds degrees from Georgia Tech and Southern Seminary.

## Carter Leaves Beechland

Clay Carter has resigned as pastor of Beechland Baptist Church, Louisville, to become pastor of Westchester Baptist Church, Chappaqua, New York. In addition to serving the church Carter has been appointed by the Home Mission Board to serve as missionary pastor in the Westchester area.

## Bailey Moves to Florida

Raymond Bailey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Newport, has resigned to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Plantation, Fla. The last Sun-

day for Bailey at Newport will be July 10. He is a native of Texas and a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

## Jackson Accepts Hospital Position in Oklahoma City

Walter C. Jackson, director of pastoral care at Kentucky Baptist Hospital, has resigned to accept a similar position with the Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. Jackson has also served as an instructor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he earlier received his training. Jackson will leave Louisville in mid-August and begin his new responsibilities in Oklahoma City on September 1.

## Herndon Takes Associate Post at Louisville Church

J. D. Herndon has retired as superintendent of missions for Christian County Association. The Herndons have returned to Louisville where he will serve as associate pastor of Clifton Baptist Church.

The Herndons are well known in the state having served with the Kentucky Baptist Board of Child Care and pastorates in Horse Cave and Owensboro.

## Leigh Resigns Pastorate

Odell Leigh has resigned as pastor of Lynn Acres Baptist Church, Louisville. He will continue to live in Louisville and has announced he is entering business with his son as consultant in church building and construction work.

Leigh formerly served pastorates of Bullitt Lick in Nelson Association, Second Baptist Church, Greenville and First Baptist Church, Danville.

## Revivals

### Licking River Church Reports 30 Conversions

Licking River Baptist Church, Royalton, conducted a mid-May revival effort that resulted in 30 professions of faith, three baptisms and many rededications. Alan Sheriff, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Meadow Bridge, W. Va., was the guest evangelist. Bobby Petrey is the pastor at Licking River.

### Brown in Maryland Effort

Bob W. Brown, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Lexington, recently conducted revival services at Belaire Baptist Church, Bowie, Md. Bill Burkett, former Kentucky pastor, is the Bowie pastor.

## Double Exposure

Southern Baptists' new leader for the coming year is Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex. He was elected last week in Kansas City to head the 13-million member denomination. Western Recorder attempts this issue to digest several hundred newsworthy stories (pictorial and written) growing out of the convention and present a comprehensive account of events for our readers. A 79-member SBC press staff, plus Western Recorder's own editorial and reportorial team, combined efforts to produce it. The full account begins on page 10.

Vol. 151, No. 25



# Sunday School Lessons

Lessons for July 3, 1977

by H. C. Chiles, Murray, Ky.

## International Series

### Called Into Covenant

God protected the children of Israel from their enemies and from the plagues, provided for them the basic needs of water and food, provided for them a great leader in the person of Moses, delivered them from bondage in Egypt, chose them for a specific purpose and guided them by a pillar of cloud or of fire.

#### God's Covenant Was Offered — Exodus 19:2-6

Three months after the Israelites had left Egypt, they arrived at that mountain called Sinai. God summoned Moses into his presence on Mount Sinai, and there assured him that he had great and numerous blessings in store for the children of Israel, provided they would obey him. God charged Moses, the mediator between God and the chosen people, to inform them that if they were disobedient to him they would not have any right to claim or to expect his blessings upon them. Compliance with the divine will constituted the basis upon which they might become the recipients of his blessings.

God commanded Moses to remind the people of his coming to them in their slavery and helplessness, and swiftly delivering them and bringing them into an actual covenant relationship with him. His covenant with them was both a pledge to sustain and to protect them, and a challenge to them to be faithful in their obedience to him. In this respect they were favored far more highly than any others. Because love is a much greater motive for action than anything else, God reminded them of how he had provided food and drink for them when they were facing death from starvation and thirst, lovingly and tenderly exercising painstaking care over them in a manner far surpassing the eagles which bear the eaglets on their

wings. Consequently, they were obligated to do their part by exercising a redemptive ministry for the world, out of appreciation to him who had done so much for them. There were two sides to the covenant, namely, what God would do and what the people would do.

#### God's Covenant Was Accepted — Exodus 19:7-9

After God declared his ownership of all the earth, revealed that he had chosen the Israelites for a specific ministry, and made it known that he expected them to respond with a cheerful and ready obedience, Moses descended the mountain and conveyed God's message to the elders and they in turn to the people. Without any hesitation the people pledged to do what God through Moses had commanded them. The people said: "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do."

#### God's Blessing Was Conditional — Deuteronomy 11:8-9, 18-19

In preaching to the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land, Moses reviewed the terms of God's covenant which was given at Sinai with which the new generation was not familiar. In his rehearsal of the promises which God had made with their fathers, Moses reminded his listeners that if they would obey God's commandments, and be loyal to him and his standard of righteousness, he would enable them to enter and to possess the Promised Land. He warned them in advance that if they should disobey God by plunging into idolatry and other religious abominations they need not expect him to permit them to enter the Promised Land and to retain it over a prolonged period. The future of the Israelites was to be determined by their attitude toward God.

## Life and Work Series

### A Covenant With God

The focal passages from the Old Testament in this Sunday's lesson are Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-2. An interpretation of these is included in the International Series lesson on this page.

#### Hebrews 8:10-13

The old covenant did not achieve the purpose for which it was made, but God was not the cause of its failure. God regarded the Israelites as a peculiar treasure, but they refused to be a dedicated people and to continue in faithfulness to God as they had promised when they entered into the covenant at Sinai. Therefore, they were the cause of the failure of the old covenant. Readily these disobedient people claimed their privileges, but they refused to assume their responsibilities.

The first covenant could not meet the needs of sinners. The Mosaic covenant was never intended to save sinners. Its purpose was to reveal to man his inability to live a life

that is pleasing to God. When Christ forgives and saves sinners, he brings them into spiritual fellowship with God. Under the old covenant this proper relationship with God could be kept only by obedience to the law. Under the new and better covenant, that which could not be achieved by human efforts was made possible through the grace, love and mercy of God. It is the privilege of God's children to have a true knowledge of him based on and as an outgrowth of a personal experience of fellowship with him.

Under the new covenant every believer in Christ is a priest, and it is the task of everyone to share his knowledge of God with those who do not know him. Superior to all others, and yet extremely sympathetic with those who have human infirmities, Christ is sufficient for all of our needs. His sinlessness, strength, sympathy, sufficiency and supremacy make him worthy of our highest admiration and praise, and of our most faithful obedience and loyalty.

## Western Recorder

"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."—Jude 3.

Published 50 times per year by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43401, Middletown, Ky. 40243. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

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# Christian Education

## Eight Kentuckians Get Degrees From Union

Eight Kentuckians were among the 200 students who received degrees from Union University, Jackson, Tenn., during graduation ceremonies June 4.

Those receiving degrees and their home towns were:

Bachelor of Science: Gregory A. Schroeder, Owensboro; Earl Hunt Wiman, Mayfield; James W. Wooten, Clinton; Anthony Lee Jordan, Greenville.

Bachelor of Arts: Charles E. Cavanaugh, Corydon.

Bachelor of Music: Wayne A. Day, Paducah.

Associate of Arts in Nursing: Mary Margaret Beville, Vine Grove; Mrs. Alice N. Nickias, Fulton.

## Mrs. Jennings Honored

Carolyn Jennings, a staff member at Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, was recently recognized by the Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency for her volunteer work in adult corrections. Mrs. Jennings taught a nine-week cake decorating class at Chenoa Forestry Camp.



Mrs. Jennings

She is the wife of Lewis Jennings, who is pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Brodhead.

## Moody Named Teacher For World Conference

Dale Moody, professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, is one of three Bible scholars chosen to lead studies at the second World Conference of Baptist Men, scheduled for Indianapolis, Ind., April 5-9, 1978.

The first world conference, which is sponsored by the Men's Department of the Baptist World Alliance, was held in Hong Kong in 1974.

Each of the three major North Ameri-

can Baptist bodies are represented on the panel of Bible study leaders with Moody serving as the Southern Baptist representative. Other study leaders are: Gerald L. Borchert, professor of Biblical studies, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Fall, S. D.; and Robert C. Campbell, executive secretary of American Baptist Churches, Valley Forge, Pa.

## Student Officers Elected At Campbellsville College

Campbellsville College has elected its student government officers for the coming school year.

Those selected were: president—Vernon Miniard, Monticello, senior business administration major; vice president—Eddie Wright, Campbellsville, junior political science major; secretary—Judy Davenport, Paducah, junior voice major; treasurer—Peggy Pipes, Louisville, junior recreation major; chief justice—Larry Bubb, Erlanger, senior Bible major.

## On Belmont Honor Roll

Pamela Jane Prince, Mayfield, has been named to the honor roll for the spring semester at Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn.

Miss Prince, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Prince, had a perfect four-point average for this semester's work.

## C-N Signs Kentuckian

Kent Steer, 6'6, 185-pound senior from Louisville's Westport High School, is the first basketball player to sign for the 1977-78 season with Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

Steer, who averaged 17 points and 10 rebounds per game, holds the school scoring record.

## Scholarship Recipient

Miss Jane Yount, Avon Lake, Ohio, has chosen to attend Union University, Jackson, Tenn., after receiving a National Merit Scholarship. Miss Yount is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Yount. Mrs. Yount is a former Kentucky Baptist Convention employe.

## Midwestern Grads Give To Lebanon Seminary

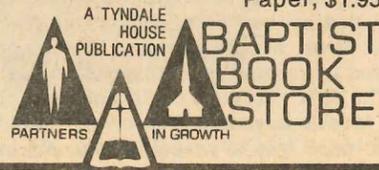
As its class gift, the 1977 graduating class of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is collecting money for the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon. The students' goal is \$1,000.

The Arab International Seminary, begun in 1960, trains pastors and church leaders who serve in Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Palestine. The seven-acre campus is 10 miles from the center of Beirut.



**MORE THAN A CARPENTER.** Josh McDowell, popular Campus Crusade speaker and author of *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, once thought Christians must be "out of their minds." He put them down. He argued against their faith. But, he eventually saw his arguments wouldn't stand up. Josh focuses this book upon the person who changed his life—Jesus Christ. He really was much more than a carpenter. Every reader will be challenged by Josh McDowell's message.

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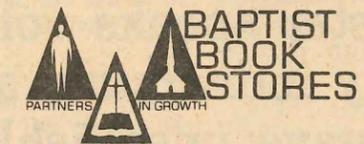
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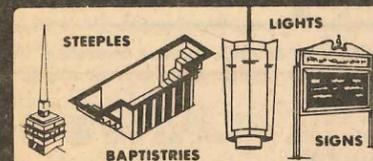
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CRITICAL TIME



Today's Baptists may be in the most opportune position for witness in our history. The presidency of Jimmy Carter, an active Baptist, has brought us into sharp focus before the world. Many who previously never gave us a second thought now have a live curiosity as to who and what we are — our beliefs and practices. Mr. Carter's clear racial stand has tended to overcome a former image that our deep south identity tended to give us. The world is taking a new look at the people called "Baptists." It is especially important, just now, that we stand as a well-poised Christian people.

Yet, at this very same hour, we have some red-hot controversial subjects arising among us that have to do with our internal affairs as a denomination. I pray that we won't stand in today's

spotlight as a people fighting among ourselves. How tragic if we should drop the ball that destiny has passed to us at this strategic moment.

I am deliberately avoiding specific mention of the controversial subjects themselves. Rather, I am pleading with people who delight in breaking precedents; and doing things that no one has done before, to exercise moderation toward revolutionary extremes, about which there are sharp differences in our general fellowship. It is an unwise time for us to have strife. Let's not see how controversial we can be at the moment of history in which we have been thrust to center stage. People won't board a train whose engineers abandon the throttle to fight in the baggage car. Let us not carelessly provoke, or start, or join in fighting. "Let your moderation be known to all men, the Lord is at hand." (Phil. 4:5)

May I appeal also to the best spirit of people who feel antagonized by Bold Barrier Breakers. Let's not get up too much heat over differences and fan destructive flames. Let us stand tall in this great moment of our history, so the watching world may see us well-poised, even amidst differences. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." (Matt. 5:9)

**Kentucky Baptists at Work**

*Bethany Baptist's  
Christian  
Citizenship Day  
Celebration  
Features  
Candidate Forum*

by Nick Nixon, Staff Writer

A Southern Baptist church might seem to be an unusual place for an important political confrontation. But that's what is happening as Louisville's Bethany Baptist Church celebrates Christian Citizenship Day, July 3.

The confrontation comes about because incumbent Jefferson County Judge Todd Hollenbach, a Democrat, and his Republican challenger Mitch McConnell have both agreed to participate in the morning Sunday school hour and then be available all afternoon to mix and mingle with the crowd.

Several other activities are scheduled. The Army, Navy, Marines and Kentucky Air National Guard will be there in full uniform and with assorted displays. County government will be represented by police, fire and rescue squad members and their equipment. The county K-9 corps will even be there.

The idea for Bethany to celebrate Christian Citizenship Day in such a big way was the brainchild of education director Harry Nurse.

"We invited Governor Julian Carroll to speak, but he was unable to come due to schedule conflicts," Nurse said. "So we decided to invite both McConnell and Hollenbach to participate in a forum. Both men accepted almost immediately."

The confrontation between Hollen-

bach and McConnell is important because they are contending for the head governmental position in Kentucky's most populous county (Jefferson) and one of the most influential elective offices in the state. Also, this is the first head-to-head meeting between these two men in what is expected to be a very close and extremely heated campaign that has national overtones.

The church has also invited all of the local candidates from both parties to attend as well as Republican and Democratic office holders on the local, state and national levels.

"We believe it is vital that every Christian vote intelligently," Nurse stated. "And it is important that voters consider the spiritual dimension of the candidates before making their choice. Thus we invited these two candidates, not as an endorsement for either of them, but rather as a forum for both to present their ideas."

Nurse said that McConnell, an Episcopalian, and Hollenbach, a Roman Catholic, would each be given 15 minutes during the Sunday school hour to present whatever the candidate desired. They would be followed by Bennett Bratcher, a deacon at Bethany and the church moderator, who would present a wrap-up.

H. Lloyd Stormont, Bethany's pastor, will conduct the morning worship hour with the service centered on the theme "Uplift America." A dinner on the grounds will follow the morning worship.

Nurse stated that Craig and Beth Singleton, the husband-wife team who serve as Bethany's co-directors of music, have planned "an American

musical smorgasbord for that afternoon. There'll be something for everyone's musical taste," he added. "We'll have some gospel music, bluegrass, some patriotic tunes and even a barbershop quartet."

McConnell and Hollenbach have agreed to spend the entire afternoon at Bethany. Nurse hoped to be able to arrange a question-and-answer session with the candidates for the afternoon. A straw-ballot will also be taken.

Despite the carnival atmosphere and all the hoopla, the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ is the primary reason for this celebration.

"We hope to have 1000 people here that day," Nurse commented. (Bethany averages about 300 each Sunday). "We believe this celebration will give us an opportunity to present the gospel to people who have never heard it before."

"If the church wants to get the attention of non-churchgoers, they are going to have to do it by appealing to their interests," he added. "This isn't false advertising because we're going to do just what we say we will. But we're going to put it in a Christian context."

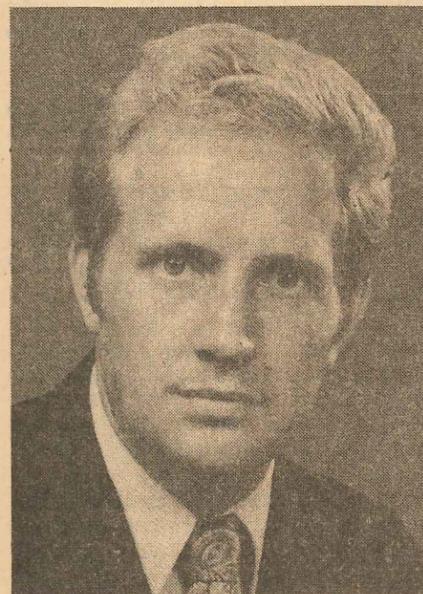
"Christianity can deal with a number of things the public is interested in and look at them from a Christian perspective," Nurse concluded. "This is what the church ought to be."

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST SCHOOL  
Wishes to Thank  
KENTUCKY BAPTISTS**

Your generous help in Eastern Kentucky's recent flood disaster speaks volumes of genuine Christian love. Many individuals and churches from all over our state gave unselfishly in relief efforts, and the Clear Creek Baptist School wants you to know how much you are appreciated.



**Clear Creek Baptist School  
D. M. Aldridge, President  
Pineville, Kentucky 40977**



Todd Hollenbach



Mitch McConnell

# Convention News

## SBC Steers Central Course On Business, Mission Task

Steering a central course between debate over business matters and inspirational preaching and presentations, the 120th Southern Baptist Convention concluded three days of meetings with a resounding challenge to devote major energies to the cause of world missions and evangelism at an accelerated rate.

In major business, the some 16,128 registered messengers elected a new president, Jimmy Allen of San Antonio, Tex.; adopted a record budget of \$63.4 million; approved a proposal to help Baptist churches in Canada; voted to disclose vote counts on convention action and the salary structures of SBC agencies; and refused to limit the convention president to a one-year term.

Adopting 14 resolutions after sometimes heated debate, the convention spoke out against homosexuality, reaffirmed its position against abortion on demand and opposed child pornography, television programming involving violence, obscenity and profanity and a dozen other concerns.

The missions challenge came from the two most famous Southern Baptists in the nation — evangelist Billy Graham and President Jimmy Carter.

In the convention's closing sermon, Graham urged Baptists to be models of purity and to radiate their faith to everyone they contact. Graham's message came during a session urging Baptists to respond to volunteer mission opportunities.

President Carter, in a videotaped presentation shown on the convention's image magnification system, had earlier challenged Southern Baptists to send out 5,000 lay people as volunteer missionaries to reinforce the efforts of 5,000 career and short-term missionaries appointed by the SBC Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board.

Calling on Baptists to be bold and aggressive, President Carter urged Baptist families to pay their own expenses in such volunteer mission projects, or for their home churches to do so and underlined his plea by declaring he will personally support a volunteer for two years. A special

committee was appointed to coordinate the effort.

Although the major emphasis of the convention was on missions and evangelism, the messengers hotly debated several resolutions and motions during business sessions.

Hottest debate came on two motions to disclose the vote count on all motions, including election of officers, at the convention and to disclose salaries of top executives and salary scales for SBC agencies.

The SBC Executive Committee had recommended a change in convention procedure to disclose the vote count on all issues before the convention, but not on the election of officers.

After lengthy debate, messengers strongly approved an amendment offered by Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, asking for the vote count on all issues and elections to be disclosed.

Later, the convention elected Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church of San Antonio, Tex., as their new president by a vote of 5,136 to 3,319 over Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

Other officers are Olan Runnels, pastor of Swope Park Baptist Church, Kansas City, first vice president; Richard Sutton, orthopedic surgeon from Topeka, Kan., second vice president; Martin Bradley, manager of the Research Services Department of the SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville, recording secretary; Lee Porter, senior adult consultant for the Sunday School Board, registration secretary and Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, treasurer.

After a 50-minute debate in two successive days, the messengers narrowly defeated a request for SBC agencies to publish in their annual report the salaries and fringe benefits of all SBC agency heads, but approved a motion to instruct the agencies to provide "full information concerning any specific staff position" and its salary scale to any inquiring Southern Baptist.

Messengers also debated resolutions

concerning homosexuality and abortion, but both were adopted essentially as the resolutions committee recommended them.

The resolution on homosexuality commended "Anita Bryant and other Christians in Miami, Fla., for their courageous stand against the evils inherent in homosexuality."

It also reaffirmed the 1976 convention resolution on homosexuality which urged Baptist churches not to ordain or employ homosexuals, and affirmed "the biblical truth regarding the practice of homosexuality as sin."

The convention refused to change its 1976 statement on abortion although a messenger from St. Louis sought to amend it to express opposition to the 1973 and 1976 Supreme Court decisions on abortion, and to urge a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion.

Other resolutions dealt with world hunger, conservation of energy and natural resources, human rights and torture.

The messenger also commended two ministers who saved the life of a drowning boy, opposed efforts by government agencies to define the mission of a church or force a Baptist theological seminary to comply with equal employment opportunity regulations, and commended the host city, convention officers and American Bible Society.

Finally, the messengers approved the report of the SBC Christian Life Commission which recommended five proposals to help harness television's potential for moral good and check its potential for evil.

The messengers referred to the Christian Life Commission a motion asking for the commission to develop a program to help local churches deal with the homosexuality problem.

In other business, the convention voted down a proposed constitution amendment which would limit the term of the president to one year after Herschel Hobbs, former SBC president and retired Oklahoma City pastor, opposed it.

"We don't elect men to this office to honor them, but to give them a place of responsibility," Hobbs said in opposition to a proposal to pass the honor around. Hobbs explained that any SBC president who feels he is not physically

or otherwise able to serve beyond a single year can decline re-election like Sullivan did this year.

The record \$63.4 million Cooperative Program budget adopted by the convention represents an increase of \$8.4 million. The budget includes \$54,000,000 for operations, \$1,080,000 for capital construction and \$8,320,000 in "bold advance" budget funds to be distributed if the basic and capital needs budgets are surpassed.

Adopting five proposals from the SBC Stewardship Commission, the convention sought to provide the financial clout necessary for its bold mission programs during the next 23 years. The recommendations included doubling total Cooperative Program gifts from \$150 million to \$300 million by 1982, and to \$1.2 billion by the year 2000.

Spurred by a proposal from President Carter, the convention also voted to create a new volunteer mission program and call for 5,000 lay missionaries, along with necessary financial support, by the year 1982.

The action called for creation of a workgroup of key Baptist leaders from every level to complete plans for the new volunteer effort by September.

President Carter made the proposal in a videotaped presentation flown to Kansas City from the White House. "This is the best time we will ever have for a quantum step forward in our effort to be leaders in a much needed worldwide spiritual program," President Carter said.

United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young urged Baptists to heed President Carter's challenge to organize large numbers of volunteers to do missionary work. Young praised both Carter and the convention for their concern about Christian reconciliation.

The outspoken ambassador said that Christians are at least partly "responsible for much of the trouble in the world today" because they instilled in people everywhere the desire for freedom by teaching them to read and write and giving them the Bible.

In the keynote address, Atlanta pastor William Self pointed out that Baptists stand at a critical juncture in national life, and that the denomination has an opportunity to respond to two basic needs in the world—the loss of a sense of meaning, and life reduced to a effort to survive.

The messengers voted to request Jesse C. Fletcher, pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., to preach the annual convention sermon

next year, and to meet for the 1981 convention in Los Angeles, June 9-11. Next year the SBC will meet in Atlanta, Ga., on June 13-15.

## Text of President Jimmy Carter's Videotape Presentation to Southern Baptist Convention

I am proud of our Southern Baptist Convention, our spirit, our growth and our accomplishments. But this is not a time for pride or self-congratulations.

Compared to our great potential, our achievements are small indeed. Our total gifts are much less than 3 percent of income. Contributions to the Cooperative Program during the last few years have dropped from 14 percent to less than 9 percent of church collections.

Although Foreign Mission Board assignments reached a new high in 1976, the net missionary personnel gain last year was only 48. It now takes 5,000 Southern Baptist church members to support one foreign missionary family.

There is an immediate documented need to increase the number of foreign missionaries by 50 percent, but our official approved goal for the rest of this century is only 2 1/2 percent net growth per year. Once we set such modest goals, it is highly unlikely that we will greatly exceed them.

Can we do better? With God's help, there is no doubt that we can. Others do. One much smaller denomination in our country now has more than 26,000 missionaries who are volunteering for at least two years of full time service. We have only 172 Journeymen under a similar volunteer mission program.

More missionaries are available. Seminary professors, graduate students, church staff members and pastors can be encouraged to do volunteer missionary work as a routine part of their full time careers. Many young people, widows and retired persons will go and serve if an opportunity and guidance is provided. Often these Christian servants could provide much of their own financing for this volunteer work. There is no doubt that every major church can recruit and finance a full time missionary family, above and beyond their present missionary effort.

Can we afford this greatly increased program? Of course we can. I have done very little compared to others, but I can and will support a volunteer missionary for two years. My pastor has agreed to do the same. Many other individuals and church groups can more than match this effort. Training time and costs can be minimal. Many Baptists, even lay members, have been training for a lifetime. An adequate foreign language course can be completed in three months. Before my mother went to India she received such language training and learned very difficult dialects at the age of 68.

I hope that we Baptists will accept the challenge that has long been given to us by the executive directors of our mission boards, the leaders of the Woman's Missionary Union and our men's Brotherhood. This is the best time we will ever have for a quantum step forward in our effort to be leaders in a much needed worldwide spiritual program.

I hope that we will not be timid. Every commitment of our church life should be reexamined and magnified, and we should seek God's guidance and support. I am sure that together we will not fail.

# Convention News

## Six-Man Contest Yields Allen As SBC President

Messengers to the 120th session of the Southern Baptist Convention elected Texas pastor Jimmy Allen as their president in a runoff election with Alabama pastor Jerry Vines.

Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., succeeds James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Sullivan, elected last year at the convention in Norfolk, declined the traditional second term, citing "ceaseless air travel, constant physical and emotional strains and extended absences from home" as reasons for his decision.

Allen and Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, and outgoing president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, were among six men nominated for the post.

The newly-elected president was nominated by H. Edwin Young, pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbia, S. C.

Before becoming pastor of the 9,000-member San Antonio church in 1968 Allen was executive secretary of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Other nominations for the presidency were Clifton W. Brannon, evangelist from Longview, Tex.; Dotson M. Nelson, pastor of Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.; Warren G. Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.; and Richard A. Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

## Allen Faces Variety Of Issues with Press

Newly-elected Southern Baptist Convention president Jimmy Allen in a press conference Tuesday night endorsed equal rights for women but rejected the rights of homosexuals to serve as models for children in public schools.

Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, also fielded reporters' questions in the wake of resolutions presented earlier Tuesday on equal rights and singer Anita Bryant's crusade against equal employment and housing opportunities for homosexuals

in Dade County, Fla.

He sees the issue of ordaining women as a matter a local congregation must determine for itself.

"I'm not as excited in the ordination of women as in freeing them for useful service. The question is, 'Are they allowed to be decision makers?'"

But Allen said he doesn't see the current efforts by militant homosexuals in the same light as women's rights.

Asked his theological stance, Allen described himself as a theological conservative and a social application progressive.

"I believe in the authority of the Word of God, in the Bible...I believe in putting the fundamental truths of God into healthy application in the power of the Holy Spirit to change human nature."

## Mental Illness Recalled By SBC President's Wife

Wanda (Mrs. Jimmy) Allen of San Antonio, wife of the newly-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is as honest as Texas sunshine and as beautiful as courage always is.

She is honest about her emotional breakdown—caused by the pressures of the pastorate. "Those pressures fed the rebellion I had over my husband's going back into a church situation."

They were living in Dallas where he was executive secretary of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission "and I had my own identity as a teacher. After our boys had gotten older I had begun teaching second grade in the Dallas Independent school district and I loved it.

"I'll be honest. I didn't want him to go back into the pastorate, but he felt it was God's will. It took us a great deal of time to work through this but our church was wonderfully supportive of us both during this time."

Mrs. Allen is courageously candid about her illness and recovery after 19 months of hospitalization and psychotherapy.

A striking brunette with a quick smile, Mrs. Allen has a vivacious manner and the ability to meet and react to total strangers with ease and warm acceptance.

"But I am still in the process of finding myself as a pastor's wife," she said openly. "I am me, Wanda Allen. I

Asked about the racial makeup and programs of the church he pastors, Allen said First Baptist, San Antonio, "sort of looks like a little United Nations with black and brown and Oriental and Caucasian," he said. "The church has Mexican American deacons and teachers of ethnic background."

The church ministries include a medical clinic, a literacy program, ministries to internationals, a street ministry and counseling service and a community ministry which feeds 150 people a day.

Asked if Carter's involvement is a violation of church and state, Allen replied, "I see President Carter as a very sincere churchman. There must be some place in the life of a public official to be the Christian participant his convictions lead him to be."

don't teach a Sunday school class and I pick the WMU meetings I am interested in to attend, and people like and accept me as me.

"I want my church life and my marriage to be independently dependent. I was not called to be the pastor. I just happen to be married to the man who is called to be the pastor."

"I think the breakthrough in my spiritual recovery was psychotherapy but I do not recommend psychotherapy for everyone. In my case, however, it gave me an insight on how to pray."

She also cited the book, "When All the Bridges Are Down" by Ida Nell Holloway as "another breakthrough" in her recovery.

"One of the things that happens to you in this kind of an illness is a loss of self-confidence," she continued. "I do not say I'm well now, but I am able to share some of my experiences with younger pastor's wives."

Wanda Allen, who met her future husband while she was a freshman at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Tex., (he was a senior) did not expect to be a pastor's wife when she was growing up.

Her other loves include the couple's three sons, Michael, 25, who lives in San Antonio; Skip, 23, a student at Houston Baptist College, and Scott, 21, at Baylor University in Waco, Tex.

## Jimmy Carter at SBC Via Videotaped Message

A videotaped message from the White House and a prayer via satellite television hookup between Hong Kong and Kansas City propelled the Southern Baptist Convention into plans to reach all people everywhere with the gospel by A. D. 2000.

Baptist layman Jimmy Carter convinced 16,000 of his fellow Southern Baptists to launch a new plan for massive use of volunteer missionaries.

Speaking in a brief videotaped message during the SBC's annual session Carter promised personally to support a volunteer missionary for two years.

"I am proud of our Southern Baptist Convention, our spirit, our growth, and our accomplishments. Compared to our great potential our achievements are small," Carter told the Baptists. "This is the best time we will ever have for a quantum step forward in our effort to be leaders in a much needed worldwide spiritual program."

Carter challenged the "messengers" to launch a program to put youths, widows, retired persons, seminary professors, pastors and others into short-term volunteer missionary work as a routine part of their careers. Carter himself has done volunteer missions work.

Following the address, messengers willingly approved a recommendation from the SBC Executive Committee that calls for 5,000 new short-term volunteer missionaries to be enlisted by 1982, along with necessary financial support.

The recommendation also urged major increases in the Cooperative Program (the SBC's plan for denominational and missions support).

Finally, it established a workgroup of state convention secretaries, representatives of the Executive Committee, representatives of the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood, and Sunday School Board, and others to complete plans for the new volunteer effort by September.

Carter's address was introduced by his Sunday school teacher, Fred L. Gregg Jr., an insurance executive who caught Carter's interest in plans resulting from the convention's mission

challenge report adopted last year.

At Carter's request Gregg arranged a White House luncheon June 7 with SBC missions leaders and laypersons. Carter urged the group to put more boldness in their plans and they arranged for Carter's challenge to the convention.

## McClellan Tells Educators To Follow Carter's Lead

Albert McClellan, program planning director for Southern Baptist Executive Committee, encouraged religious educators to follow the example set by President Jimmy Carter.

"I think Mr. Carter represents something that is latent in all of us, and that is, a certain kind of enthusiasm that, if it burns brightly enough, will catch the world on fire," McClellan said.

McClellan said, "Many of our churches have become so preoccupied with the business of building churches at home, that they have given little regard to what is happening abroad."

"We cannot survive as the missionary Baptist church in that way—there is just no future apart from the missions task."

## How's It Feel to Have Carter in Your Class?

Fred Gregg, teacher of a couples' Sunday school class at First Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., seldom has a problem finding a substitute teacher. He has a volunteer every four to six weeks.

The volunteer substitute in this case is the President of the United States.

"The greatest thrill I've had in my church life was introducing the President as teacher of that class," said Gregg in an interview between sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"But once he begins to teach the class, you forget he is the President," Gregg added.

President Carter intersperses his lectures with questions to the class. Though soft spoken the President says what he thinks, Gregg observed.

"He grins when he likes something and his eyes focus in when he's serious. He is extremely well prepared

when he teaches."

The President and Mrs. Carter read the upcoming lesson the Sunday before the President teaches. Then they talk about it at meals and various other times throughout the week.

"He closes each lesson with a very strong appeal for class members to have a deeper relationship with God," said Gregg. "I believe the number one concern on his heart is that everyone would have a personal relationship with God."

The President is quite a joker in class, according to Gregg who feels the class enjoys this.

"But teaching this class is quite a responsibility for me. I have to prepare 20 to 30 hours because of the many different kinds of people who are now a part of our class," said Gregg. "This is an awesome responsibility to many people who would otherwise never hear the Word of God."

Gregg said he also feels a great responsibility to prepare a good lesson for the President because he believes President Carter needs and wants that time of spiritual uplift.

"It keeps me on my knees," said Gregg. "I talked with a friend about my hesitancy over this tremendous responsibility. The friend advised me to strive to please God; not the President. That's what I'm trying to do."

Gregg says the President is the most dedicated Christian he's met besides his own father.

"I can assure you he is a reborn Christian, and the class members love to have President Carter teach," said Gregg. "He's flat good."

## \$63.4 Million CP Ok'd

Messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted without opposition a record Cooperative Program budget of \$63.4 million.

Included in that figure is a basic budget of \$54 million, more than \$1 million for capital construction and \$8.3 million in "Bold Advance Budget" funds. Bold Advance monies will be distributed to convention boards and agencies if the basic budget and capital needs budget are surpassed.

The 1977-78 budget is \$8.4 million above the present one.

## Would Not Join BFM Fellowship, Says Smith

Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., was elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

He succeeds Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church of Mobile, Ala.

In a post-election interview, Smith said he feels the primary responsibility of the president is the conference. "I hope to have one which will encourage and prepare pastors for the greatest responsibility in the world. I hope the conference will bless and equip them to go back and do the jobs they have," he said.

Asked if he sees the position as having a broader scope, Smith said: "I suppose that anybody elected to the office has some kind of influence. If I have any, I would want to lead our churches toward evangelism and the preaching of the word and the building up of the local church."

Smith said he is not a member of the conservative Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, and in fact said he declined to write an article for the BFMF publication, Southern Baptist Journal, and to speak at a BFMF Conference in Arkansas.

"I appreciate these people, but I am content to preach the word within the context of the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

"I would not join their group," he said, while noting he believes the members of BFMF are a "cross-section of Southern Baptists."

## BFMF Cites Profs

The president of the directors of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship called on the fundamentalist organization to concentrate on a main target and not diffuse its energy on a wide variety of issues.

Laverne Butler of Louisville also attacked at least three Southern Baptist Convention seminary professors but declared as well, "God did not call me to save Southern Baptists, or to march and carry a protest sign."

About 35 persons attended the two-hour session in a cafeteria.

At one point Butler also criticized Baptist state paper editors for criticizing the BFMF.

Bill Powell of Buchanan, Ga., editor of the organization's monthly periodical, Southern Baptist Journal, announced he will issue a book on Aug. 15 called *The SBC Issue & Question*. He said he would cite by name between 250 and 400 denominational personnel in the book, but added he would agree with some and disagree with others.

In presidential remarks Butler defended Powell in relationship to two professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He contended the professors were attacking Powell by name. Butler asked, "Have you seen where Bill Powell attacked anyone personally?"

## Who Will Follow Routh?

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention set in motion the machinery to select a successor to executive secretary-treasurer Porter W. Routh.

Routh is scheduled to retire from the chief administrative post of the 12.9 million-member denomination Aug. 1, 1979.

The action authorizes Executive Committee chairman W. Ches Smith III to name a committee of six by no later than next year's SBC meeting in Atlanta, scheduled for June 13-15.

The committee will suggest guidelines to be followed during the search for approval by the full Executive Committee by no later than its September 1978 meeting, with a successor to be named by no later than February 1979.

A layman, Routh has held the position as executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee since 1951.

In other Executive Committee actions, all current officers were elected to second one-year terms as permitted under the organization's bylaws.

Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tifton, Ga., was reelected chairman. Also reelected were vice chairman Rufus Spraberry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Vernon, Tex., and secretary Mrs. Claude Kirkpatrick, a homemaker from Baton Rouge, La.

## KBC Head Jogs at SBC

Before the sun came up, and before most everyone else was up, and even before the Southern Baptist Convention was convened, one group of messengers was raring to go early Tuesday morning. And, go they did!

They were the 56 who took to the track in Tuesday's early morning cool at Arrowhead Stadium for the running of the fourth annual SBC Joggers' Jubilee.

The event, hosted by the Kansas City Chiefs football team and planned to coincide with the opening day of the convention's annual meeting, drew participants from 19 states, the District of Columbia and Kenya.

Sporting a colorful array of both new and old jogging attire, male and female runners of all ages began their effort at 6:40 a.m. in a strong wave which soon broke apart and spread out over three courses laid out in lengths of one and two miles and 440 yards, adjacent to and around the stadium complex.

President of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church of Lexington, Ted Sisk said, "This is definitely not going to be one of the highlights of the convention for me, but my doctor says I have to do it."

The pastor has high blood pressure and has to jog every other day, "and this just happens to be one of those days," he added.

Several minutes after Sisk left, 65-year-old Phil B. Harris, retiring head of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Training Department, came striding in.

"Some people play handball and others play tennis," he puffed, "but running is the thing that works for me."

Harris, with sweat rolling off his face, claimed he usually logs two miles a day, five days a week.

"My philosophy," he stated, "is that you ought to grow in mind, body and spirit, and do it in proper balance."

Among other participants in the jog was San Diego Charger quarterback Neal Jeffrey, who led the Baylor Bears to the Southwest Conference football championship in 1975. Jeffrey was one of the day's long-distance runners.

## Kentuckians to Serve

John Wood of Paducah and Henry Huff of Louisville were named to the SBC committee on committees last week.

The following Kentuckians were also named by the committee on boards:

Executive Committee—Sidney M. Maddox, Paducah. Foreign Mission Board—John C. Huffman, Mayfield, and Mrs. Ray Mullendore, Bowling Green. Home Mission Board—T. L. McSwain, Louisville, and George D. Cook, Mayfield. Sunday School Board—David C. Jackson, Frankfort. Annuity Board—David A. Nelson, Owensboro. Southern Seminary—John M. Sykes, Ashland, and Leroy Highbaugh and Leonard V. Hardin, Louisville. Radio & TV Commission—John A. Wood, Paducah. Denominational Calendar Committee—Henry Huff, Louisville.

## Satellite Suggests Way To Witness Around Globe

Bob Thornton, television producer at the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, is "beaming"—literally and figuratively. He should be.

During the Tuesday night meeting of the 120th Southern Baptist Convention Thornton and a Radio and Television Commission crew successfully beamed a five-minute live transmission from Hong Kong to Kansas City.

"The feat climaxed almost four months of work," Thornton said.

The effort demonstrates the potential of using live telecasts via a multi-satellite process to flash the message of Jesus Christ around the world.

"The process we used to telecast the brief segment from Hong Kong is rather complicated," said Thornton, "but we feel that with practice it can almost become routine."

The segment contained remarks and answers to questions by two Southern Baptists who serve in mission positions in Hong Kong.

Both Jerry Juergens and Daniel Cheung answered questions asked them by Ray Collin, NBC news correspondent from Los Angeles who is also a Southern Baptist.

Juergens, a seminary professor and chairman-elect of the Hong Kong Mis-

sion, told messengers, "It's already morning in Asia."

Thornton explained the telecast showed a street scene in Hong Kong at about 8:35 a.m.

"It's as though we've broken through the final communications barrier," Juergens remarked.

Cheung, president of the Hong Kong Baptist Convention and pastor of the Kowloon Baptist Church, described the people of Hong Kong as members of a "stone age" in terms of their knowledge of Jesus Christ.

"But with satellite communications," he observed, "we can reach from the heart of God to the heart of man."

## Homosexuality a Sickness

Despite tearful opposition from an ex-homosexual and a minister who counsels with homosexuals, the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a resolution here Thursday reaffirming its position calling homosexuality a "sin" and commending singer Anita Bryant and other Christians for their "courageous stand against the evils inherent in homosexuality."

Opposition to the resolution was expressed by Robert Randolph, pastor of Heath Springs (S. C.) Baptist Church, who counsels with homosexuals in his ministry. Randolph said he felt the resolution did not show compassion for those homosexuals who feel "trapped" in their lifestyle.

"For them it is an illness, a sickness," commented Randolph, who compared it to alcoholism.

Two other messengers, Ron Burt of Chelsea, Mo., and Gary Holder of St. Louis, quickly countered, "It is a sickness, but it is also a sin," and "we're not dealing with an individual's feelings, but with what the scripture says." Both drew scattered applause.

But a tearful plea for compassion and understanding came from Roy Good of Columbus, N. M., who identified himself as an "ex-homosexual" and committed Christian.

"God loves the whole world," Good stated. "His love has saved me." As he wept softly into the microphone, Good added, "God's going to help the homosexual."

After consoling remarks by SBC Vice President Dotson Nelson, Milton Duke

of Louisiana charged, "We've been too easy on the drunkards, gamblers and lesbians. We need to vote for this like it is, and make it stronger if necessary."

## Canada Is No Longer Dry

The Southern Baptist Convention voted Wednesday to provide help to Baptist congregations in Canada upon request.

The unanimous action by messengers attending the 120th session of the nation's largest Protestant denomination came after more than 20 years of internal debate over what to do about Canadian churches which ask for Southern Baptist aid.

The action follows a year of intense study of possible implications for the convention. Most concern centered on possible reaction from other, more established Canadian Baptist groups.

A special committee appointed by the SBC Foreign Mission Board to study the matter emphasized, however, that its recommendation came with the full support of Canadian Baptist leaders.

Dan C. Stringer, executive secretary of the Northwest Baptist Convention, praised the SBC's action and the spirit in which the decision was made. The action is "something we have looked forward to for over 20 years."

## \$300 Million By 1982?

Messengers voted in Kansas City to provide the financial clout necessary to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by the year 2000.

The 15,200 messengers at the 120th session of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted five proposals presented by the Stewardship Commission.

Among the recommendations approved were the setting of a new goal to double total Cooperative Program gifts from \$150 to \$300 million by 1982, and to increase it to \$1.2 billion by the year 2000.

A second recommendation called for individuals to give more to the Cooperative Program through their church, and for every church to place the Cooperative Program in its budget on a percentage basis and increase gifts by some percentage each year.

# Convention News

## Be Like Salt: Graham

Evangelist Billy Graham urged Southern Baptists to serve as models of purity, become an antiseptic influence in their communities and radiate their faith.

In the closing address at the 120th session of the Southern Baptist Convention, Graham used the symbol of salt to challenge the Baptists.

"Salt carries with it the idea of purity. It means that we are not to lower our moral standards no matter what the world does," Graham said. "The Christian must be the person who holds aloft the standard of absolute purity in speech, in conduct and even in thought.

"Salt is also a preservative. The Christian must have a certain antiseptic influence in his community. He must be the person who by his presence and voice helps defeat corruption and makes it easier for others to be good."

Graham added that salt also gives flavor to things as he called on Baptists to be to life what salt is to food.

## U. N. Ambassador Young Favors Reconciliation

United Nations ambassador Andrew J. Young Jr., told Southern Baptists attending the annual meeting of the 12.9 million-member denomination in Kansas City that Christian reconciliation is "at the center of Christ's work in our time."

In a 25-minute address Young also praised President Jimmy Carter's efforts at arms negotiations and Southern Baptists for passing a resolution on world hunger.

Young also called on Southern Baptists to heed Carter's Tuesday challenge to organize large numbers of volunteers to do missionary and relief work.

The controversial ambassador received a warm reception from 16,000 messengers, who gave him prolonged ovations before and after his address and interrupted five more times with applause.

Young emphasized his view that Christ's reconciliation is more than personal and spoke of a "world which is terribly divided" and of a world "balance of terror."

Young praised President Carter's early efforts at "breaking down the dividing wall between East and West," adding that "there is something terribly wrong" when major global powers spend \$350 billion annually on arms "as a means of keeping peace."

Quoting words from a well-known hymn, Young said that to sing "In Christ there is no East or West, in him no South or North," must mean not only "something we sing about in church on Sundays . . . but something which is a part of the policies of our nation."

## Tell It Like It Is— Messengers to Agencies

Southern Baptist boards, seminaries, commissions and committees were instructed at the SBC to provide "full information . . . concerning any specific staff position" and its salary scale to any inquiring Baptist.

The action followed a 50-minute debate during the final day of the 120th annual meeting.

A joint motion which would have required that the salaries of the chief executives of those agencies be published in the 1978 book of reports failed by 225 votes.

Those favoring disclosure of the salary and fringe benefits of the executive directors of the agencies numbered 3,447, compared to 2,061 against.

"That is 60.1 percent," said registration secretary Fred Kendall, noting the motion required two-thirds for passage.

The often confused debate came after president James Sullivan attempted to "simplify" the one motion by separating the two items into separate votes.

Coy Privette of Kannapolis, N. C., who brought the motion, told Sullivan: "I don't want to disagree with you but I've got to."

"They (the agencies) are not supplying it (the information)," Privette said, saying that all 19 of the SBC agencies were written about salary information.

"Of them, six gave full disclosure, six gave partial information, five responded but did not give any information and two did not answer at all," he said.

## Runnels, Sutton, Porter Bradley, Routh Elected

A Missouri pastor and a Kansas orthopedic surgeon were elected to the first and second vice presidencies of the Southern Baptist Convention following the election of Jimmy Allen, San Antonio pastor, as president of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Olan Runnels, pastor of Swope Park Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., was elected first vice president, narrowly defeating Milton Morales, a financial and real estate consultant from Peyton, Mo., 3,556 to 3,532.

Richard Sutton of Topeka, Kan., was elected second vice president, winning in a run-off over John F. Gibson, pastor of Wesleyan Drive Baptist Church, Macon, Ga., 2,266 to 1,814.

In other election results Martin B. Bradley was chosen recording secretary; Lee Porter as registration secretary and Porter Routh was reelected treasurer.

Bradley, manager of the Research Services Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, was elected by a 4,841 to 3,100 margin over Searcy Garrison, executive secretary of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Porter, consultant for senior adults for the Sunday School Board, won in a runoff with Larry Maddox, pastor of Maywood Baptist Church, Independence, Mo. Porter had 4,253 votes to Maddox's 2,758.

Routh is executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, and was unopposed.

## Pastor Saves Boy's Life

"We're glad we saved his life. Now we're interested in his spiritual condition."

Raymond Whetstone, pastor of a Chetopke, Kans., Baptist Church, was talking about Bob Smith, the 16-year-old Kansas City youth whose life he saved June 13.

Whetstone and his family had been fretting about their late start, having to stop for gasoline and heavy traffic. It was causing them to arrive late for their check-in time at West Haven Motel in Kansas City where they were attending the 120th session of the

Southern Baptist Convention.

Whetstone says now he realizes he was "right to the second on God's time."

"We had just driven into the motel parking lot to register when the manager said a boy was at the bottom of the swimming pool," Whetstone said. He dove in, brown leisure suit and all.

"I looked in and there he was. I was so excited I didn't stop to take off anything but my shoes, my watch and my wallet, and I went in after him. When I pulled him out he was blue and wasn't breathing."

Whetstone put the boy over the knee of another passerby and "we pumped some of the water out of him. He didn't respond to artificial respiration, so we gave him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. I looked up and the man helping me was my friend, Duane White, pastor of Blood River Baptist Church, Albany, La. Duane had just been at the motel about 15 minutes when it happened.

"By the time we got him revived, the manager had called the emergency squad and they took the boy to the hospital," Whetstone remarked. "We heard later he couldn't swim but had dived off the hotel diving board anyhow."

We're hoping to see him while we're in Kansas City. We saved his physical life but we're interested in his spiritual life.

## SEBTS to Give to Chair

Alumni of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary adopted the professorship in evangelism as their focus on giving for the next 18 months and elected officers in Kansas City.

The association voted to designate the campaign to raise \$500,000 for the professorship in evangelism as the giving program for 1977-78. Already more than \$240,000 has been pledged or given.

Jack Clifford, pastor, First Baptist Church, Hyattsville, Md., was elected president. Also chosen were vice president Dale O. Steele, pastor, First Baptist Church, Burlington, N. C.; secretary-treasurer Paul J. Craven Jr., pastor, First Baptist Church, Charleston, S. C.; and director Philip E. Lykes, pastor, Southside Baptist Church, Lakeland, Fla.

## SBTS Installs Fields

More than 1,000 alumni of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary met in Kansas City to honor three distinguished graduates and elect new officers.

Alumni of the year citations were presented to Vernon O. Elmore, pastor, First Baptist Church, Corpus Christi, Tex.; Wallace E. Parham, minister of education and administration, Hayes Barton Baptist Church, Raleigh, N. C.; and Paul McCommon, secretary, Church Music Department, Georgia Baptist Convention, Atlanta.

The audience also gave a standing salute to president Duke K. McCall, who has been chief executive of Southern Seminary for 25 years.

Wilmer C. Fields, assistant executive secretary, Southern Baptist Executive Committee, took office as the seminary's national alumni president. John R. Claypool, pastor, Northminister Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., was named president-elect.

## MWBTS Elects Scruggs

Jerry Scruggs, associate director, missionary personnel, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, was elected president of the alumni association of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Melvin Hill, pastor, First Baptist Church, Grandview, Mo., was chosen vice president, and Roger Hall, director of the business services division of the Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, secretary.

Charters to organize state alumni chapters were granted to groups in Tennessee and California.

## GGBTS Honors Graves

Three hundred alumni, trustees and friends of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary honored Harold K. Graves for 25 years of service as president of the seminary.

Jesse C. Fletcher, trustee and pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., conferred upon Graves the title of president emeritus. E. Glen Paden, vice chairman of trustees and pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Sacramento, Calif., announced that the main

building of Golden Gate Seminary has been named the "Harold K. Graves Administration Building."

Graves received from Thomas A. Jackson, trustee and pastor of McLean (Va.) Baptist Church, a book of letters of commendation, including one from President Jimmy Carter.

Following Graves' retirement July 31 he and his wife, Frieda, will continue to live in Marin County, Calif. He has been commissioned by the trustees to write a history of Golden Gate Seminary and plans to do some teaching at the seminary's Phoenix (Ariz.) Center.

In other action alumni elected Max Kell of Sacramento, Calif., president of the Golden Gate Alumni Association.

## NOBTS Elects Officers

Nelson Price, pastor, Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., took over as president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Association.

The alumni elected Lionel Crowell, Nacogdoches, Tex., president-elect; Mrs. Peggy Wilson, Warner Robbins, Ga., secretary; and John Adams, Springfield, Tenn., treasurer.

J. Hardee Kennedy, vice president for academic affairs at New Orleans Seminary, was presented the distinguished alumni award.

## '80' Report for SWBTS

More than 1000 alumni of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary were challenged to become active participants in the seminary's current "Eight by Eighty" campaign.

W. Marvin Watson, national chairman of the "Eight by Eighty" campaign, reported that over \$2.8 million had been raised during the first year of the three-year fund drive, 36% of the \$8 million goal.

Cecil Sherman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Asheville, N. C., was elected president. Frank Pollard, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., was chosen president-elect. John Seelig, vice president for administrative affairs at Southwestern Seminary, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

## Convention Impressions

by Jim Cox, Associate Editor

**Dress:** Conservative is still the theme. Leisure suits definitely in the minority. Pant suits even less popular. There remains a prevailing theory that when one goes to the convention he looks his best by wearing his Sunday best. In doing so, messengers stand out on city streets like goldfish in a bowl. Very few did not fit the "mold."

**Kansas City:** Large, busy, easy to find one's way around in if he knows where he is going. People friendly, although many downtown seemingly searching for help or anyone who will listen—a security guard, auto lot attendant, waitress, bellman. Could this be the plight of thousands more who serve in similar capacities in other large downtown districts? Hotels charging enormous rates for mediocre and minimal services. Some rooms reportedly for two or three persons actually smaller than a few messengers' bath rooms back home. Rates of \$30 single and up to \$50 double per day were common for many. Restaurants crowded as at every convention but employes unusually pleasant under adverse circumstances. Waitresses seemed to enjoy serving the Baptists.

**Kentuckians in Politics:** This was not the year for most from the Bluegrass State. One (Ron Stone, Winchester) was nominated for convention office, that of second vice president. He was eliminated on the first ballot in a three-way struggle. Executive secretary-treasurer Franklin Owen offered a substitute motion to refer action on disclosure of denominational employes' salaries to the SBC Executive Committee for study. His motion was promptly defeated by the body. KBC President Ted Sisk nominated John T. Tippet Jr. of Georgia for president of the Pastors' Conference. His man was also defeated in a three-way race. Only one success story here: Editor C. R. Daley of Western Recorder made the nominating speech for Martin Bradley as the convention's recording secretary. Bradley was elected over his only

opponent 4,841 to 3,100.

**Geography of Officers:** Interestingly, out of its last six presidents, the convention elected a third man who pastors a gigantic Texas church. (Others were Jaroy Weber of Lubbock and W. A. Criswell of Dallas.) Ironically, both convention vice presidents are from the same geographical locale—one from Kansas City, the other a few miles west of Topeka. First Baptist Church, Nashville, probably continues to influence the convention more than any other single congregation. As a result of the Kansas City elections five of the eight SBC officers are members of this church, including recording secretary, registration secretary, treasurer, press representative and music director. By no means is this uncommon. H. Franklin Paschall, pastor, a native Kentuckian, may have more opportunity to actually "shepherd" the convention than any other pastor today.

**Jimmy Carter:** Anybody attending the SBC who disagreed politically with the President found no issue of that nature to be discussed here. Carter's videotaped presentation to the convention, backed with the personal testimony of his own Sunday school teacher, underscored what most messengers already had been thinking: that God had his hand on Jimmy, and had brought him into prominence especially for a time such as this. Carter's own unashamed and outspoken commitment to current SBC evangelism efforts probably did much to strengthen the average messenger's beliefs that the SBC goal to reach the world with the gospel by the year 2000 could become reality.

**Electronic Age:** Never before has missions made the impact it did on messengers as they viewed a live picture beamed by satellite from Hong Kong. A radio hookup with Chile and Honduras allowed them to hear missionary prayer requests directly from the field. The day of instantaneous

communications to all people on earth is here. One could sense an air of expectancy as we stand on the threshold of opportunities for witness never before imaginable.

**Best Story:** Mrs. Carl Bates of Charlotte, N. C., second vice president of the convention, quipped while presiding, "I've never seen so many men who wanted to kiss the vice president of the convention. I'll be standing by after the session in case any of you missed your opportunity. Then, after this convention I'll return to being a pumpkin again."

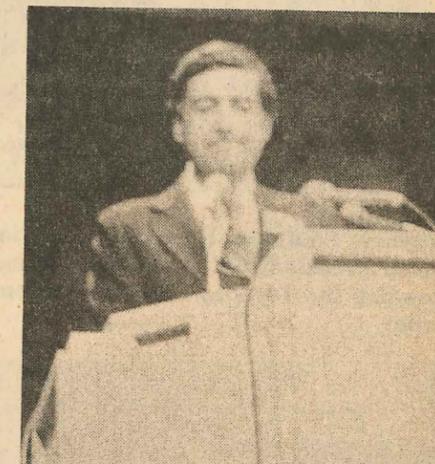
**Greatest Challenges:** There were two—one spurred by a suggestion from President Jimmy Carter that Southern Baptists double their present missionary force by 1982 through volunteer service. The other, proposed by the Stewardship Commission, that we double Cooperative Program gifts from \$150 to \$300 million in five years, and to \$1.2 billion by the year 2000.

**Billy Graham:** "His message is still the same," said one messenger. "He's against sin." Though 25 years have elapsed since we first saw him the quarter-century has been good to him. He remains dynamic, has become polished, is aging gracefully and projects a charisma that spellbinds bystanders. His convictions are real and he pulls no punches with issues. And, he can continue to pack the house wherever he goes.

**Summation:** A good convention. Perhaps a little heavy on addresses, a little soft on congregational singing. In spite of our confusing moments with parliamentary procedure we transacted the business of the convention and passed some important resolutions. No little credit must go to presiding officers James L. Sullivan and Dotson M. Nelson.



West Union Baptist Association, with 23 representatives, was probably the largest single group of Kentuckians traveling by bus to SBC sessions in Kansas City. The following churches were represented: Immanuel, Paducah First, Baptist Tabernacle, Reidland, Bandana, East, Kevil First, Oaklawn, Lone Oak and Liberty Point, Cadiz. The trip was coordinated by Mrs. Otis Huie. Earl Shoemake is missionary.

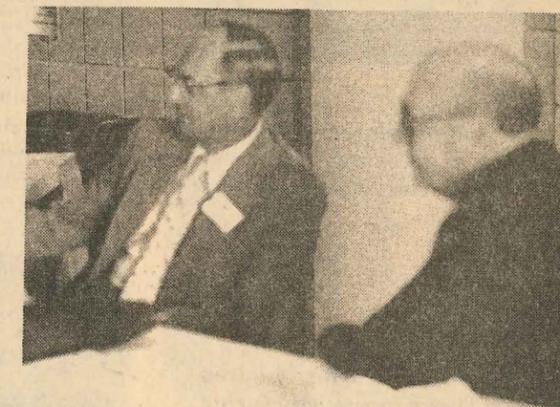


Kentucky Baptist Convention president Ted Sisk, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, led the convention in prayer on the closing day.

## Kentucky Baptists At the Convention



Sam Shepherd [standing], 16, son of Louis W. Shepherd, missionary in Liberty Association, was page for convention recording secretary Clifton J. Allen. Shepherd is a member of Glasgow Baptist Church and attends Glasgow High School. Also shown on the platform are: Mrs. Martin Bradley, who assists Allen, and Albert McClellan, SBC Executive Committee program planning secretary.



Verlin C. Kruschwitz [I], chairman of the convention's credentials committee, converses with John Kruschwitz, Ft. Thomas pastor, his brother. Verlin serves Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

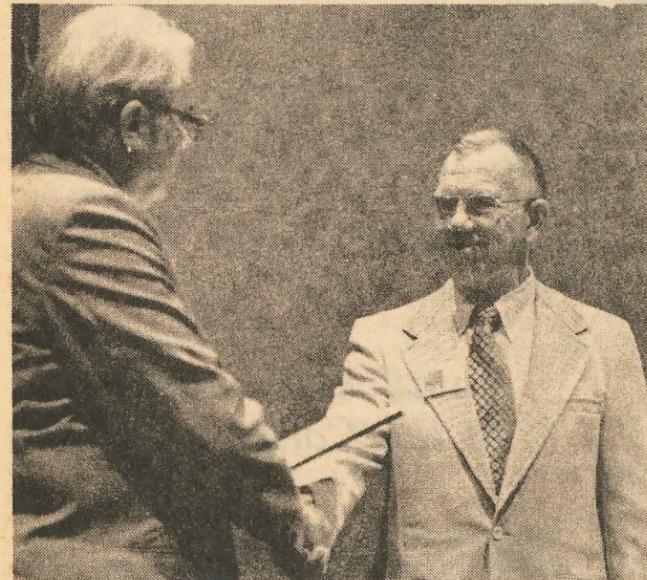
# SBC Kansas City '77



Outgoing Southern Baptist Convention President James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Sunday School Board, addressed messengers attending the Tuesday morning convention session in Bartle Convention Center.



Newly-elected Southern Baptist Convention president Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., posed for pictures with his wife, Wanda, before a news conference Tuesday evening.



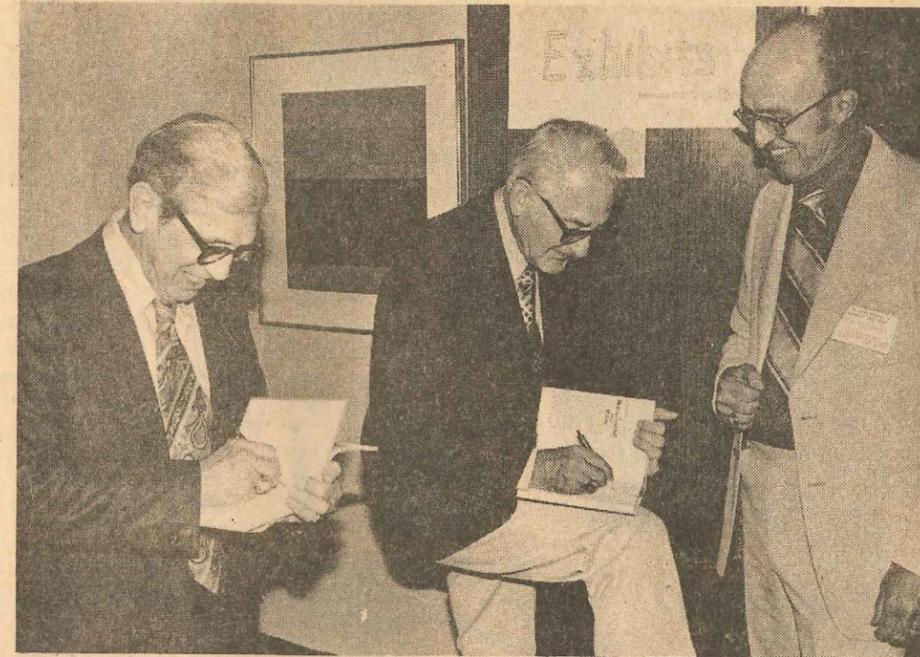
Jack Gardner, Louisville businessman, moving to Florida, is presented a plaque for his service as a Kentucky representative on the Executive Committee, SBC, by Porter Routh, the committee's executive secretary.



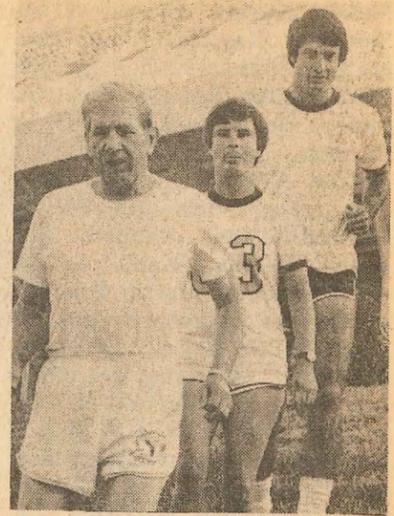
Jerald McCracken [l] of Word Inc. presents evangelist Billy Graham with the first copy off the press of Graham's new book How to Be Born Again.



Day camp facilities for children age 6-12 were provided during daytime sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention by the Brotherhood Commission.



Tribute was paid to Philip B. Harris [l] and A.V. Washburn [center] during the meeting of the Religious Education Association at the Southern Baptist Convention. Harris, secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Training Department, and Washburn, secretary of the board's Sunday School Department, both retire this summer. Shown with them is Terrell Lawless, director of education for the Birmingham [Ala.] Baptist Association.



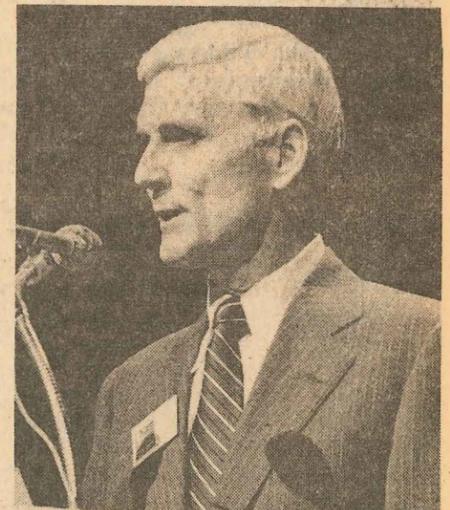
Joggers at the 1977 Southern Baptist Convention represented 19 states and one foreign country during the early morning run near Arrowhead Stadium. The three joggers shown here are [l to r] Philip B. Harris, 65, secretary of the Church Training Department of the Sunday School Board; Donna [Mrs. Roy] Brent, missionary to Kenya; and Neal Jeffrey, former quarterback for Baylor University, now quarterback for the professional football San Diego Chargers.



The press room at the SBC was filled to overflowing as Billy Graham fields questions from the working press.

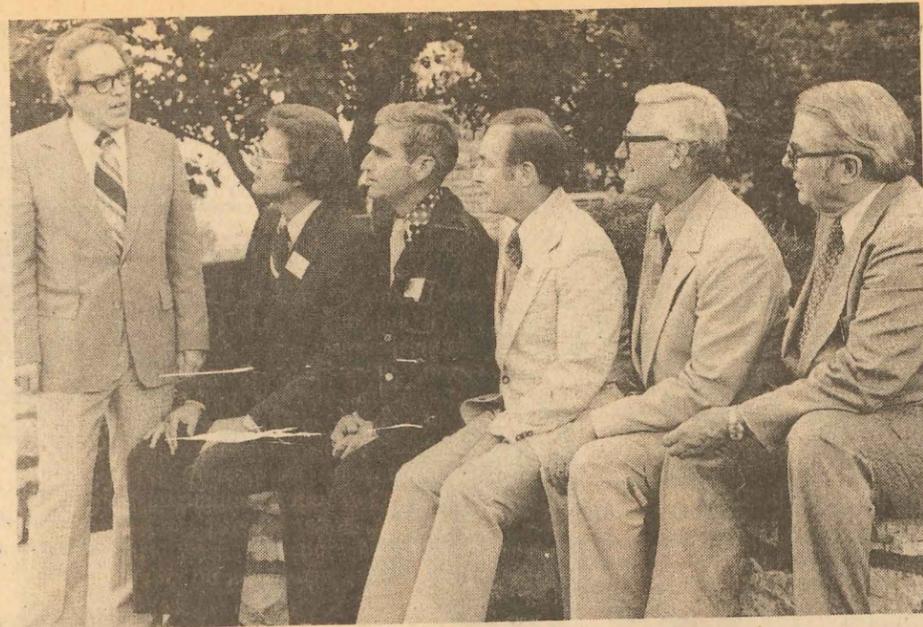


Evangelist Billy Graham meets the press at the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City.

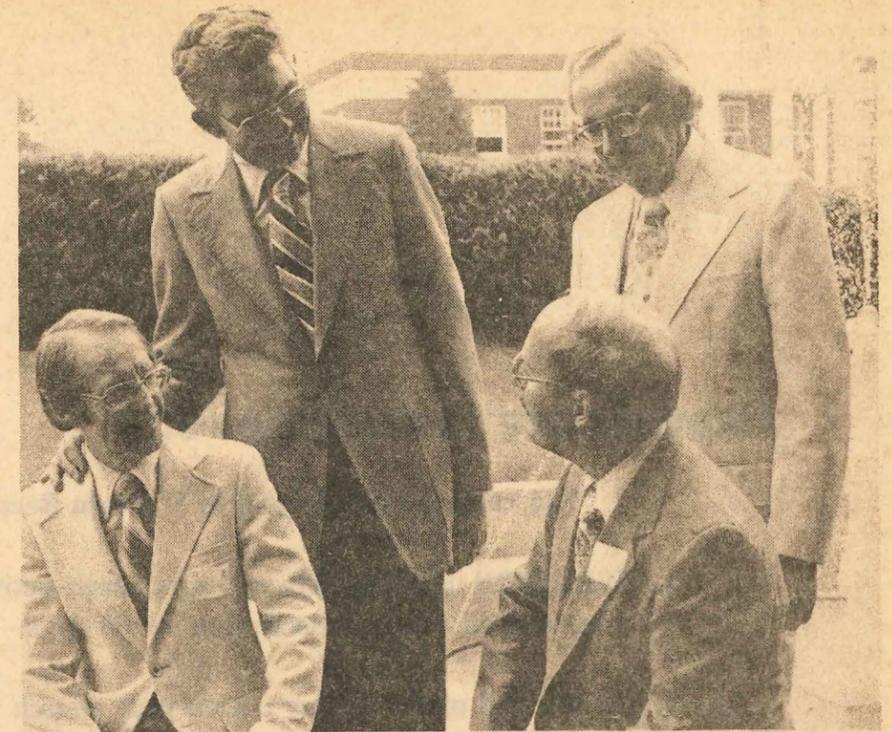


Fred Gregg, Jimmy Carter's Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., brought a taped message from the President to messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Newly elected officers of the Southern Baptist Convention are [l to r] Jimmy Allen, pastor, First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., president; Olan Runnels, pastor, Swope Park Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., first vice president; Richard Sutton, orthopedic surgeon, Topeka, Kan., second vice president; Martin Bradley, manager, Research Services Department, Sunday School Board, Nashville, recording secretary; Lee Porter, senior adult consultant, Sunday School Board, Nashville, registration secretary; and Porter Routh, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, executive secretary-treasurer.



Church Music Conference officers elected at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., are: [standing l-r] A. L. Butler, First Baptist Church, Ada, Okla., local church vice president; and James C. McKinney, dean of Southwestern Seminary's school of church music, Fort Worth, president; [seated l-r] Allen R. Brown, Baptist General Association of Virginia's church music department, denominational vice president; and Max Lyall, music professor at Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., educational vice president.



Officers of the Woman's Missionary Union are [l to r] Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham, executive director; Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, Danville, Va., president; and Mrs. William Ellis, Shelbyville, Ky., recording secretary.

Newly elected officers for the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference are president Bailey Smith [l], Del City, Okla., and vice president Homer Lindsay Jr., Jacksonville, Fla. Not shown is secretary-treasurer John Hatch, Ft. Worth, Tex.



Southern Baptist Religious Education Association's new officers are [l-r, standing] Lawrence Klempnauer, Atlanta, Ga., vice president from church group; Charles M. Lowry, Louisiana, president-elect; Elmer F. Bailey, Memphis, Tenn., president; William G. Caldwell, Ft. Worth, Tex., vice president from teaching group. Seated are Marjory Perkins [l] Maryland, assistant secretary-treasurer; and Melva Cook, Nashville, Tenn., secretary-treasurer.



Directors of missions president Tom Roote, seated, reviews plans with other newly elected officers, Robert Helmich, left, treasurer; Herman Wooten, president-elect; George Arthur, secretary; R. Edward Gilstrap, host director; and Harold Blackburn, editor of the "Open Circuit" newsletter.



Ministers' Wives officers elected during the SBC include [l-r] Mrs. Landrum Leavell II, New Orleans, president; Mrs. Harold Zwald, Atlanta, vice president; Mrs. Tom Brandon, Sherman, Tex., recording secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Linwood Peterson, Roanoke, Va., corresponding secretary.

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