

## Rogers elected; witch hunt refuted

Taking a sharp turn to the theological right, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston elected a conservative believer in an "inerrant" (error free) Bible as its new president and moved rapidly down the road of missions and evangelism in high gear.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of the 11,000-member Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis and an avowed conservative, won the presidency on the first ballot over five others by a 51.36 percent margin in an election the messengers later asked officials to investigate for possible "irregularities."

Amid charges and countercharges, the messengers also adopted a motion disavowing "overt political activity and organization as a method of selection of its officers."

The 15,947 convention messengers, in a snarl of confusing business actions some compared to the Houston traffic jams, took several other actions leading to the conservative right.

They reaffirmed the scripture portions of the 1963 convention-adopted Baptist Faith and Message statement, elected an active member of the conservative Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship as second vice president, and reaffirmed for the second consecutive year a 1976 SBC resolution opposing abortion by demand.

But the messengers also heeded an impassioned plea by outgoing SBC president Jimmy Allen of San Antonio not to allow the debate over doctrinal integrity to derail the convention's Bold Mission Thrust plan to proclaim the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000.

During a Bold Mission Thrust commitment rally at the Astrodome Wednesday night about 48,000 Baptists filled the Astrodome when 1100 mission volunteers knelt for a service of commitment and dedication. Later, following a stirring message by evangelist Billy Graham, more than 1100 persons came forward to make personal commitments to Christ in an altar call.

During business periods, the messengers adopted an \$83 million Cooperative Program budget goal for 1979-80 and suggested a \$226 million goal for all state

conventions to help finance their Bold Mission plan.

Elected first vice president of the convention was Abner V. McCall, president of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., who earlier had been nominated as a moderate candidate for president.

Don Touchton, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Brandon, Fla., and an active member of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship (BFMF), was chosen second vice president in a run-off with Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

In an election which passed by almost without comment, the convention elected Harold C. Bennett of Nashville as convention treasurer, a position he will hold as the new executive director-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, effective Aug. 1.

Unsnarling the traffic jam of motions and debates over alleged irregularities in the election of the convention president prompted outgoing president Allen to remark at one point he was "grieved by the spirit that is now moving in this meeting."

During debate on a motion proposed by Ernie White of St. Joseph, Mo., calling on the convention to "disavow overt political activity" in the election of officers, former SBC president Wayne Dehoney of Louisville leveled charges of "overt political activities" at Houston appellate court judge Paul Pressler, whom Dehoney claimed was an "illegal" messenger to the SBC.

After messengers approved the motion, Pressler made an impassioned and tearful personal privilege speech, defending his use of "skyboxes" where he and others watched convention proceedings. He denied he was an illegal messenger, although he was elected by First Baptist Church, Bellaire, Tex., where he is an "honorary member."

Pressler, who helped lead a conservative coalition to elect Rogers president, denied rumors that he and others encouraged local and area churches to bus messengers to the convention for the election and that some churches had more than the maximum of 10 messengers.

Shortly after adoption of the motion on "overt political activity," the messengers adopted a motion by local registration chairman James Varner of

Houston which instructed registration secretary Lee Porter of Nashville to investigate "registration irregularities" and report to the SBC Executive Committee in September any suggested procedures to correct the problem while maintaining the integrity of the ballot system.

Rogers won the presidency on a vote of 6129 out of 11,975 ballots cast, a majority margin of 163 votes. He would have had to receive 5967 votes to win on the first ballot, or be thrown into a runoff with Robert E. Naylor, retired president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth.

Rogers said he supported such an investigation of irregularities, but added he had "doubts in my own heart" that there were widespread abuses of registration and balloting.

"I believe there has been no plot or plan or movement to do anything like that and I would be disappointed in anyone who would make such an accusation."

In his first news conference as president, Rogers pledged "100 percent support" for continuing the emphasis in the SBC of Bold Mission Thrust and assured Baptists he would not support a "witch hunt" investigation of "liberalism" in SBC seminaries.

Later the convention adopted a resolution expressing "gratitude to our seminaries" in the face of accusations questioning the doctrinal integrity of seminary staff and faculty members.

In other actions, the convention adopted a motion asking SBC agencies to work with the SBC Annuity Board in considering the development of a uniform retirement program for all SBC agencies, asked the Christian Life Commission to organize a coalition of religious bodies to establish a committee to evaluate and label television programs and accepted a recommendation from the SBC Executive Committee against establishing a seventh theological seminary.

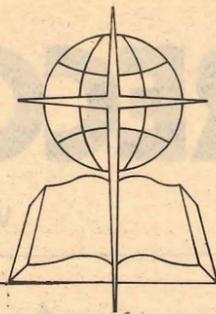
Out of 37 resolutions introduced, resolutions on 20 subjects were adopted.

The convention voted to hold its 1984 session in Kansas City, and its 1985 meeting in Dallas.



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

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C. R. Daley

## Daley Observations

### The best and the worst of conventions

The 1979 Houston Southern Baptist convention saw Southern Baptists at their best and at their worst. The convention at times must have grieved the Holy Spirit though it had moments of glorious heights. Messengers in Houston will never forget the Astrodome bold mission rally which undoubtedly was the greatest meeting of its kind in Southern Baptist experience.

Nor will they ever forget the fair presiding and the passionate missionary heart of outgoing convention president Jimmy Allen. No convention president was ever given a more enthusiastic and a more deserved standing ovation for his magnificent performance. The quality of the program session after session was the best in several years.

On the negative side the convention will be remembered for one of the most blatant displays of denominational power politics in Southern Baptist experience. The Pressler-Patterson power play to capture the convention presidency was a model of carefully planned and successfully executive political strategy. Politics in electing convention presidents are not new but they have never been seen in such open and brazen form.

Judge Paul Pressler, a Houston layman, and Paige Patterson, the director of the W. A. Criswell Institute of Biblical Studies in Dallas, began as long as a year ago to put together a campaign to elect a convention president of their choice. Their campaign was successful but it left a bitter taste in the mouths of many messengers. Incidentally W. A. Criswell, the powerful pastor of Dallas First Baptist Church, had a star role in their campaign and will have to bear the honor or blame for its ultimate effects upon Southern Baptists and the kingdom of God.

Such "overt political activity" was later deplored in a resolution adopted by the messengers and hopefully this year's experience will discourage such political activity which has been increasing in recent years.

The most frequently asked question by reflective messengers in Houston was, "What effect will the election of a convention president who is committed to and who was sponsored by those committed to eliminating Southern Baptist seminary and college teachers who do not subscribe to their view of biblical inspiration have upon the denomination?" The answer, of course, depends upon the new president, Adrian Rogers, and those presidents sharing his views who may succeed him because one president can get little done in the two year constitutional limit for a president.

There could be turmoil and trouble ahead but not likely. The constitution of the convention puts the direction of our seminaries into the

hands of trustees elected by and answerable to the convention. President Rogers says he is committed to this structure. Besides, there is too much confidence among Southern Baptists in our seminaries and their leadership to allow for a witch hunt.

Actually what happened in Houston could have a salutary effect. Sinners and wise teachers in Baptist seminaries and colleges will re-examine their beliefs and teachings and integrity will require they teach according to and not contrary to the denomination's doctrinal statement or remove themselves.

It is a great experience to be a Southern Baptist. We have our differences but we face them honestly and openly. We did this in Houston and contrary to what the secular newspapers may have reported, there are no serious signs of a split among Southern Baptists now or in the foreseeable future.

### President Rogers deserves our prayers

In assuming his office the newly elected Southern Baptist president, Adrian Rogers, asked for our prayers. This is the least we should do for him and the most we can do for him. I hereby pledge to him my prayers and implore all readers of these words to join me.

He will surely need the prayers of all of us. He has one of the most difficult settings in which to serve any convention president has ever had.

He sincerely wants to be everyone's president but his identification and association in the past has been mainly with one segment of the convention. He says he belongs to no one but God but one group lays special claim to him. He has a tight rope to walk with one end being held by those who agree with his views and the other by those who disagree with him.

The greatest thing going for president Rogers is his honesty, candor and forthrightness. Agree or disagree with him, he has his convictions, states them clearly and works for them openly.

Judgment should be withheld until president Rogers has opportunity to demonstrate his sincerity and commitment to be president of all segments of the convention. He should be believed when he says he was not a participant in the pre-convention political activity which led to his election and that he deprecates such tactics. He should not be judged as guilty by association. He is a warm hearted, extremely gifted preacher and pastor who does represent a great host of grass roots Baptists.

The greatest obstacle for president Rogers is his identification with the group who organized the political campaign that resulted in his election. Though not actually a participant in the campaign, he shares their objectives in riding Baptist seminaries and colleges of "heretical" teachers and will be expected to use his office for achieving this.

If he lives up to his press conference assurances he will not conduct a "witch hunt," he will not please some of his supporters. On the other hand, he will be watched carefully and denounced quickly if he tries to purge teachers who do not hold and teach his particular view on inspiration of the Bible.

One can but regret Rogers was not elected without being identified with the political shenanigans this year. As popular and as able as

he is, he most likely would have been elected on his own sooner or later. As it is, he bears some stigma due to the manner of his election.

I pledge him my love and prayers and invite all readers of these words to join me.

### Houston messengers due an apology

Every Southern Baptist Convention messenger in Houston is due an apology from the Southern Baptist Executive Committee for the atrocious meeting conditions this year. So far as costs, it was a ripoff; so far as convenience, it was a fiasco. Transportation to and from the meeting place was confusing at best and a hold-up at worst. Prices for the most part were nothing less than gouging.

Granted it is not easy to make satisfactory arrangements in every way for 20 to 25 thousand people, surely better plans could have been made. If not, Houston should get out of the convention business.

The final decision on most arrangements were made in Nashville and not in Houston. Baptists in Houston seemed to do their best. This is why the due apology should come from Nashville with assurances it will never happen again.

## Baptist Forum

### Colorado needs Christian families

This is a help letter. Like so many mission areas in our country we need help in a special area in Colorado.

We need families that would come to the Vail-Eagle Valley and help us win people to Jesus.

The job opportunities are great. The following opportunities are available: school teachers, cooks, sheriff officers, secretaries, receptionists, bookkeepers, electricians, beauticians, meat cutters, carpenters and many more.

If a person wants to combine missions with recreation plus a beautiful area to live, please contact Leon B. Hataway, pastor of Lake Creek Baptist Church, P.O. Box 31, Edwards, CO 81632.

Thank you for your help.

Leon B. Hataway, Edwards, Col.

### Let Christ be our guide

In reflecting upon the tone as well as the context of a letter opposing the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty II in the May 23 issue of Western Recorder, we wondered if any other Christian readers sensed a contradiction between following the Prince of Peace and taking pride in nationalism and militarism. Our ability to discern and live out all aspects of Christian peace as taught in the New Testament may depend largely upon which Kingdom/kingdom we are seeking.

As Christians consider SALT II, SALT III, world peace, etc., we would like to initiate a basic and honest rethinking of what Christian peace means today based upon the New Testament teaching and example of Christ. Perhaps other believers could share their interpretation and application of New Testament peace with us through Western Recorder.

We who profess to follow the Christ of the New Testament could probably make a more significant contribution to the national debate over SALT II if we first came to grips with all aspects of the peace which Christ embodied and left with his followers, then followed his example.

Bob and Ruth Boxley, Hopkinsville

## Convention impressions

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

The best of times, the worst of times: Much has been written—and said—about transportation, housing, meeting and feeding problems in Houston. Never have so many been bused so far so often. The well advertised pre-convention warning that Houston police would tow away cars parked on streets near the Summit (site of the SBC) was believed by most messengers. With pastors, educators, musicians and women convening up to five miles from the Summit for their pre-convention sessions, no one was immune from commuting some part of the week. Seventy-five buses rented at about \$1000 each moved messengers between sessions, cars and hotels. Food service was a major headache. Concession stands did brisk business throughout the day, but messengers grumbled over \$4 box lunches arranged by local officials which some claimed were decidedly overpriced. Restaurants were practically non-existent in the vicinity of the Summit. Only that small handful of messengers who were fortunate enough to be assigned rooms near the Summit itself seemed to fare well logistically. They walked two blocks or less, forgetting the parking and bus hassles. They dashed back to their motels for lunch and dinner in pleasant surroundings, or opted for a dip in the pool or a nap between sessions. For a few, then, this convention was the best of times.

**A funny thing happened:** Said a registration clerk as he handed messengers a plastic bag of materials, dropping in a packet of cards to be used in voting on various issues during the convention: "I've stuffed more ballots today than ever before!" . . . Jimmy Allen, who mediated every touchy issue masterfully, told one messenger who tried to present a resolution at an inopportune time, "I'll have to rule you out of order, brother, but you sure are right about that question." He drew approving laughter. . . . Charles L. Allen, pastor of Houston's First United Methodist Church and well known author, told his televised early morning service on Sunday of convention week, "The Southern Baptists are meeting in town this week. We welcome them. I love the Southern Baptist Book Stores better than anybody else's book stores because they sell more of my books than all other stores combined!"

**Best line:** Owen Cooper, former SBC president, brought down the house with his definition of an old person. "Being old," quipped Cooper, "is when you bend over to tie your shoe and try to think of anything else you need to do while you're still down there!"

**In the concrete city:** One messenger remarked that Harris County (Houston) seemed like it was paved with interstates separated by empty gas pumps. In his welcoming address, Houston pastor Milton Cunningham acknowledged that every single day 300 new cars are added to Houston's burgeoning interstate system. That's 2100 more cars every week and well over 100,000 new vehicles every year. And few of them adhere to the 55 mph speed limit in the city—65 is more common, often with five lanes of traffic zipping by in each direction. The fuel crisis hit messengers squarely between the eyes in Houston. Only a handful of gas stations are open on weekends, and each morning long lines form at the gas pumps by 7 a.m., spreading out in every direction. By 9 a.m. most service stations closed their pumps every day, and some shut down all business for the remainder of the day. Gas, when it was available, readily sold for 73.5 cents per gallon, considerably cheaper than in Kentucky. We wondered if long lines (and lower prices) are on the way to the Bluegrass State, too.

**All the news that fits:** One or two news conferences is normally scheduled in the news room during the SBC each year—this year, there were 10 such conferences during the week. They included interviews with the first Christians in 16 years to leave the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma to attend religious conventions; former Watergate figure Charles Colson; two separate interviews with Adrian Rogers, new SBC president; evangelist Billy Graham; SBC Executive Committee executives Porter W. Routh and Harold C. Bennett; and Georgi Vins, Russian Baptist recently released from imprisonment. In addition, there was an impromptu conference hastily arranged with Baptist Faith and Message exponent Paul Pressler, and two BFMF-sponsored sessions with Harold Lindsell, that group's president. Be assured, the 275 reporters assigned to the news room kept hopping.

**Country bumpkin?** Jerry Clower, at the start of his closing night address, observed that the last time he appeared on an SBC program, a Baptist newspaper editor (guess who) suggested the SBC was no place for a comedian. "Well if that was so," said Clower, "half of you would have had to stay home!"

# Kentuckians concerned by issues

by John Hughes

"Politics," remarked Mrs. Ray Mullendore, "has made this convention different from any other I've attended."

This was the reaction of one Kentuckian attending this year's Southern Baptist Convention in Houston.

While in Houston many were subjected to some situations unlike those familiar to most Kentuckians. Transportation problems, high food costs and limited gasoline were just some elements with which messengers had to deal. Yet it was not personal discomfort or inconvenience that most strongly impressed Kentucky messengers. They were most concerned for the present condition and future life of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Eldred Taylor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Somerset, has attended 30 Southern Baptist conventions. Of that number, 28 have been consecutive. He viewed this convention as "pretty good."

Citing both his leadership over the past two years and his leadership during this convention, Taylor applauded the work of past president Jimmy Allen. "I have been very impressed with Jimmy Allen's ability to challenge the convention, and his stable leadership. I appreciate his strong emphasis on Bold Mission Thrust."

Concerning the business of this year's convention and its possible effects on the coming years, Taylor predicted "Southern Baptists will carry out the same actions (as in previous years). There may be some reaffirming of previously stated convictions, but basically the Southern Baptist Convention will be the same as before."

Mrs. Mullendore, a member of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, and first vice president of the Foreign Mission Board, stated, "I wish we could get away from politics."

Her sentiments were shared by John Dunaway, pastor of First Baptist Church, Corbin, and chairman of the Executive Committee's public relations work group. He agreed "this has been the most political convention I've been to."

Ted Sisk, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, had a different impression: "I haven't seen a lot more (politics) here than I've seen in the past. It's just people speaking out for someone they support."

Pointing to the year ahead, Mrs. Mullendore noted, "This is a crucial time for Southern Baptists and the

carrying out of bold missions, especially this year because of the change of presidents."

The election of this year's president seemed to make a strong impression on all Kentucky messengers. Said Taylor, "Our new president will know a lot of things about this convention a year from now he doesn't know now. Those things will leave him positively impressed."

John Wood, pastor of First Baptist Church, Paducah, called the new president, Adrian Rogers, a "warm-hearted pastor, and a strong Christian." He further noted that even though this year's election was met with controversy, "All in all I think it (the controversy) will turn out to provide a more healthy climate."

Dunaway expressed confidence in the president by saying "he will of necessity perform his duties in a statesmanlike way." He did suggest, however, that "a group of our brethren is attempting to make as a basis for unity that which cannot unite us."

That danger is minimal according to Sisk, who saw the convention as being "much more together than some forecast before convention time. It seems to me," he continued, "we've been in one accord."

Indeed, Southern Baptists at this year's convention may have maintained unity of spirit, but according to J. Altus Newell, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, there are some obvious disagreements.

"We are not divided by a real issue but by something being portrayed as an issue," he deplored. "I can live with doctrinal issues, but my concern is that certain ones may have distrusted the denominational process." Referring to a proposed resolution to change the process for appointing Southern Baptist committee members, Newell declared, "If doctrinal disagreements lead to distrust of the denominational process, then we are in trouble."

Seventeen-year-old Lee Ann Wood of Paducah was impressed with Charles Colson's address in which he affirmed the power of the Bible. "I think what Chuck Colson had to say was the heart of what we all needed to hear," she said.

Dunaway, again stating concern over the emphasis on doctrine at this year's convention, remarked, "If there is an attempt to force Baptists' thinking into one mode of theological belief, then it will later lead us away from our effort at bold mission."

## My first convention

by John Hughes

I think I have been a Southern Baptist for as long as I have been breathing. I am a product of a Southern Baptist family, a Southern Baptist church, a Southern Baptist college and am now attending a Southern Baptist seminary. Yet, in all of my Southern Baptist indoctrination I had never attended a Southern Baptist Convention until this year.

Sunday evening, I went to the Southern Baptist Convention news room where I was immediately overwhelmed and realized I was about to be a part of something big. Big is a word that could be synonymous for Southern Baptist Convention. As I watched a group of men set up the platform in the Summit, saw the miles of cable and electrical wiring, heard talk of how the presentation via satellite was being readied and saw the booths and displays of surely all facets of Southern Baptist life, I was impressed. All the talk that I'd heard all my life from various convention goers seemed now to be an understatement of the magnitude of it all. And the convention hadn't even started yet!

It would be unfair to try to state in this article my impressions about all of the convention. So, here are some of the things I saw, heard and felt.

I saw a city open its doors to a group representing 13.2 million members of the world's largest Protestant denomination. I saw that city try to accommodate such a gathering and I saw a lot of problems that arose over inadequate facilities. Yet I saw cooperation on the part of the inconvenienced and great effort on the part of those in charge of accommodations.

I saw more polyester suits than Pharaoh saw Israelites, accompanied by enough pairs of white shoes to instill the fear of God in the heart of any albino alligator.

I saw a great crowd of people meet to conduct the business of a great denomination. I saw them do it in some ways that I had not anticipated, some ways for which I was disappointed and some ways for which I

was inspired.

I heard in the halls what must surely have been a reenactment of the Tower of Babel and in the choir section what must have been angelic music.

I heard women speak during the business session, but I heard them speaking only in prayers. Addresses to the congregation were reserved for male voices. I think I know, however, who had the best audience.

I heard such accolades of greatness used to describe candidates for the presidency that I thought the Lord was about to be nominated. For surely no man can be *that* good.

I felt these things at my first convention. I felt the stress of those torn between factions, both which presented valid points. I felt a strange mixture of pride and embarrassment over the Southern Baptist Convention. I felt that I, though only one out of 13.2 million, could make an impact on both my convention and my world.

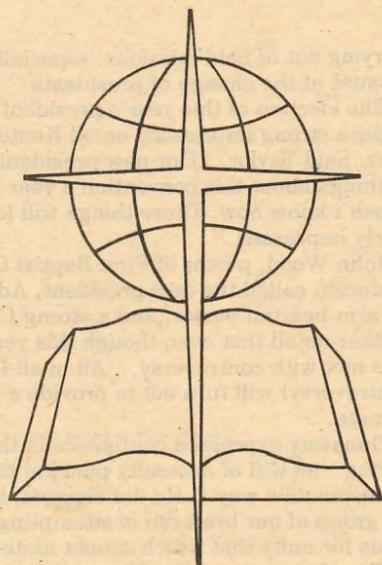
I felt sore feet from walking from place to place.

On Sunday afternoon, when the platform at the Summit was constructed and that great room was empty, I walked up to the podium where all of our great leaders would stand. I fantasized just a bit as I stood there and tried to imagine what I would say if I were to speak to the convention. Then I walked to the top back row of that meeting place, way up high in the "cheap seats" and I wondered what I would want to hear if I sitting there representing Remote Baptist Church Number Two.

What I would want to hear and what I would say were amazingly the same. That is, "You're God's people, Southern Baptists. You're not his only people, but you're his people. Like all of God's people you have differences among yourselves. Your heritage proves that. Those differences can only be a threat to you when you allow them to become measuring sticks for growth, rather than instruments for growth."

"Be bold Southern Baptists, but don't be calloused. Be God's people while it is yet day."

*John Hughes, a former Western Recorder intern, is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and served on the SBC press room staff in Houston.*



**Bold Missions  
While It Is Yet Day**

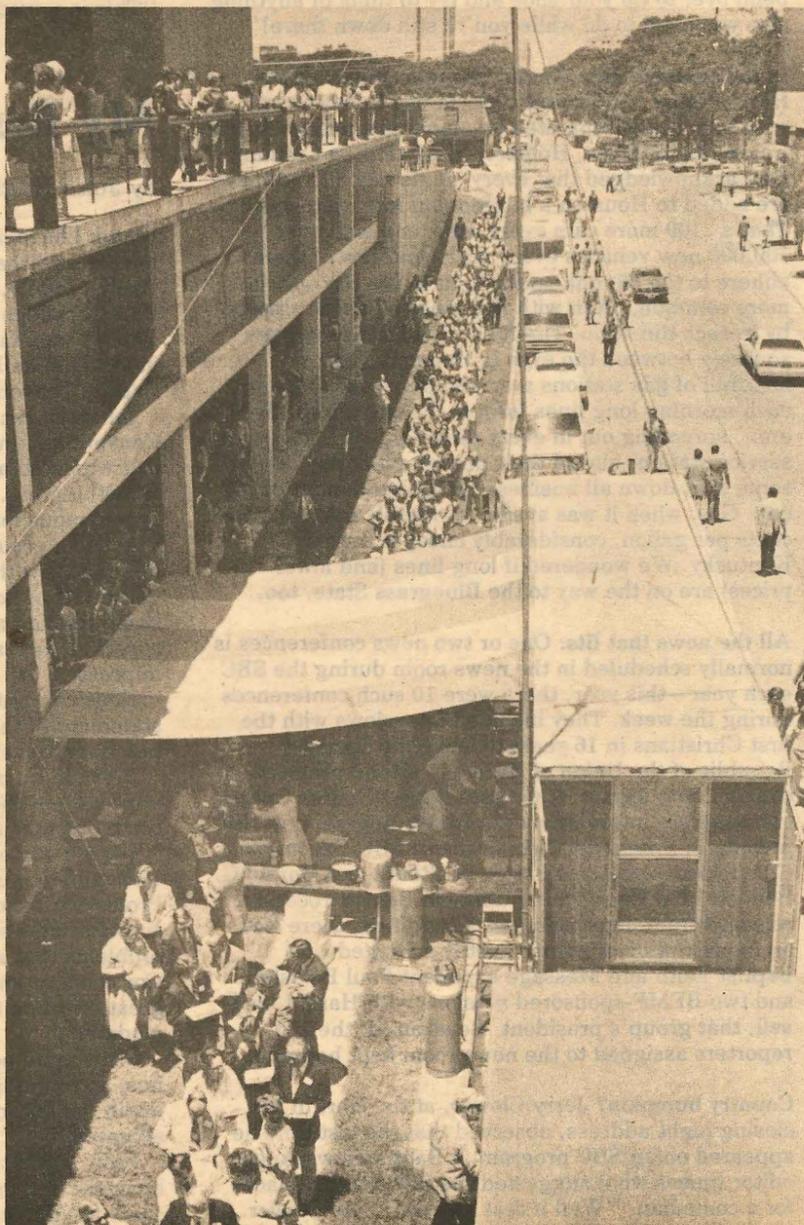


## SBC '79 ... *the Summit* ...



This was the scene at Rice Stadium Tuesday morning as messengers sought transportation to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting at the Summit. Messengers were not allowed to drive cars to the Summit for the daytime sessions. Some 70 buses ran on four main routes and three feeder routes to combat the transportation problem.

The shortage of eating facilities close to the Summit didn't really rate a disaster classification from the Brotherhood Commission, but it was a good chance to demonstrate to the more than 15,000 messengers how disaster relief units operate. Units from Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana fed lunch to almost 5000. There was no charge for the meals but people were asked to donate a love offering with the amount beyond expenses going to world hunger relief.



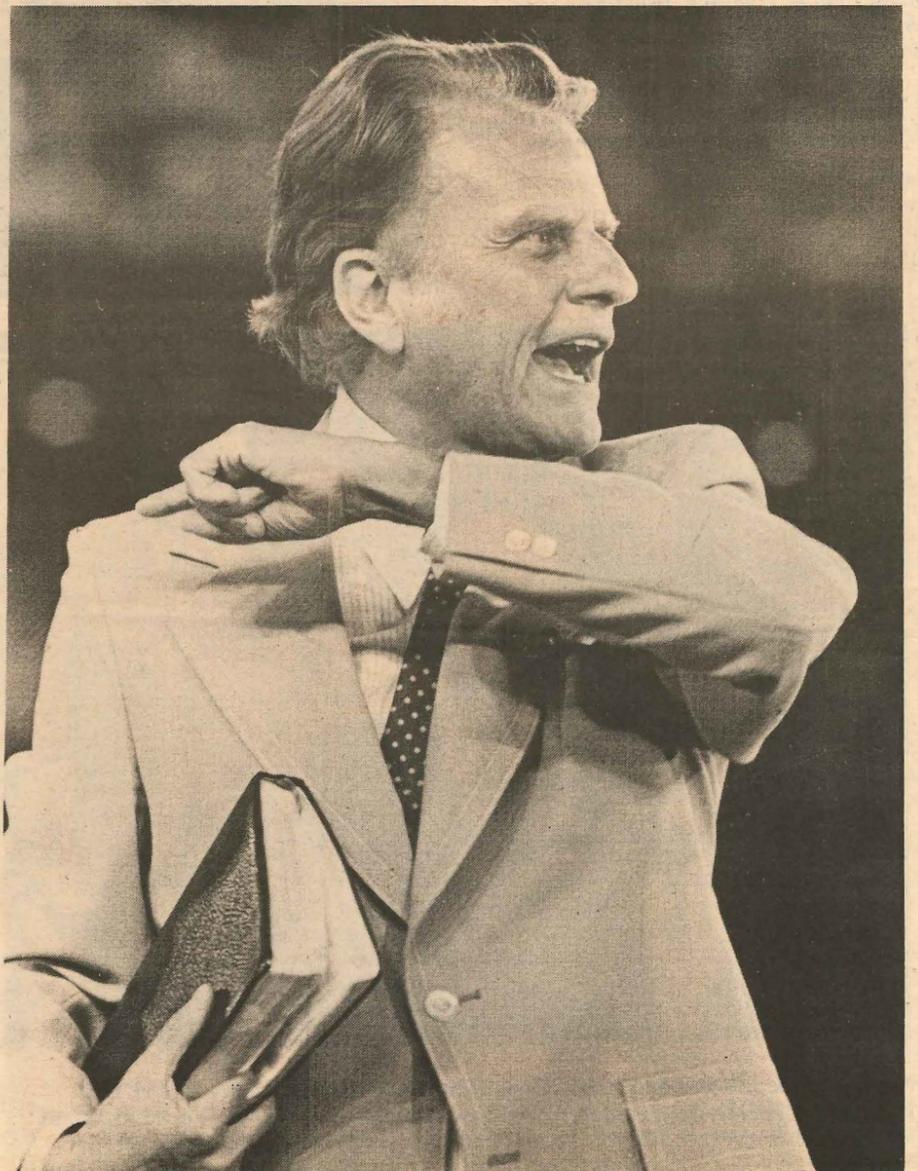
Southern Baptist missionaries were dedicated before an estimated crowd of 48,000 attending the Bold Mission Thrust Rally in the Astrodome. It was the largest gathering of Southern Baptists ever assembled in the world.



## *the Astrodome . . . Houston, Tx*



Cliff Barrows, music director for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, leads a 4000 voice choir and 44,000 other participants in singing "Amazing Grace" at the Bold Mission Thrust Dedication Rally in the Astrodome.



Billy Graham, renowned Southern Baptist evangelist, exhorts 48,000 people to give their lives to spreading the gospel to every person by the year 2000.



Messengers to the 122nd Southern Baptist Convention elected [l to r] Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, president; Abner McCall, president of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., first vice president; and Don Touchton, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Brandon, Fla., second vice president.



At their meeting in Houston, the 1.1 million member Woman's Missionary Union voted to reelect Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory [l], Danville, Va., as president, and Mrs. William Ellis [c], Shelbyville, Ky., recording secretary. Both women were elected to their fifth year of service. Shown with the officers is Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, WMU.

*SBC officers elected:*

## New faces in important places

The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference elected as its president James Draper [c], pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex. Elected as vice president was Larry Lewis [r], pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo. James Miller [l], pastor of Ridglea West Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex., was chosen as secretary-treasurer.



Newly elected officers for the Religious Education Association are [l to r] Tim Holcomb, minister of education, Polytechnic Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, assistant secretary-treasurer; F. Marvin Myers, church management consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, secretary-treasurer; Roy Lee Williams Jr., director of church services division, Union Baptist Association, Houston, vice president; Lawrence Klempnauer, minister of education and administration, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, president.



Church Music Conference officers elected by its members are [l to r] Thad Roberts Jr., minister of music, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, president; Polly Riddle, director of keyboard studies, William Jewel College, vice president of educational division; Al Washburn, chairman of the department of church music, Golden Gate Seminary, president elect; Bill J. Pearson, minister of music, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, local church division vice president; Charles Gatwood, director of church music department, Baptist State Convention of N. C., denominational vice president.

## Convention Reports

### Attacks on liberals theme of conservative pastors

Pounding the pulpits and waving their Bibles for emphasis, a parade of preachers urged 8000 persons attending the two-day Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference to lead out in purging Baptist seminaries and colleges of liberalism and recommitting the Southern Baptist Convention to belief that the Bible is the infallible, inerrant word of God.

In the opening address Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, expressed fear that liberalism was taking over Baptist colleges, universities and seminaries. He also attacked Baptist publications for their support of seminaries and denominational agencies.

Lashing out at liberalism in the SBC, Rogers claimed that "if those liberals will ever come to the cross of Christ, all heaven will break loose."

Moments after Rogers spoke, W. A. Criswell, pastor of the 20,000-member First Baptist Church in Dallas, enthusiastically endorsed Rogers as a candidate for the presidency of the 13.2 million member SBC.

"We will have a great time here if for no other reason than to elect Adrian Rogers as president of the Southern Baptist Convention," Criswell told the applauding pastors in the Houston Coliseum.

A Texas Baptist evangelist, James Robison of Hurst, devoted most of his opening night address to an attack on liberalism in the denomination.

If Southern Baptists tolerate liberalism in the convention, "we will be guilty of the death" of the convention, Robison charged.

"We must elect a president (of the SBC) not only dedicated to the inerrancy of the word of God, but who will stand to remove any seminary president who doesn't believe in the inerrant word of God," Robison said.

Robison questioned how many seminary graduates have a zeal for winning people to Christ. "There are some," he noted, "but it's in spite of and not because of our institutions," he claimed.

He decried Baptist publications for editorially attacking Harold Lindsell, editor emeritus of Christianity Today and president of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship who said it would be a small price to pay if 500,000 liberals left the SBC.

Robison argued "without the Bible, you have no message . . . no evangelism . . . no mission . . . and it does matter which Bible you believe."

### McCall answers Lindsell

Arch conservative Harold Lindsell defended his view of the inerrancy of the Bible and outlined what he claimed were evidences of liberalism in Southern Baptist seminaries.

When Lindsell finished his news conference, Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, staged an ad-hoc meeting with media, charging Lindsell was "playing games with words."

Lindsell, president of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship and former editor of Christianity Today, drew generously from his new book, "The Bible in the Balance," to support his charges that there are liberals

within the Southern Baptist Convention who do not believe the Bible is verbally inspired.

Lindsell gave specific names and cited specific articles in attempting to prove his point.

Lindsell cited a news report which quoted him as saying Southern Baptists must face the issue of biblical inerrancy or suffer the consequences, even if it means the loss of 500,000 members.

"That should be put in context," he said. "That represents only about four percent (of the total membership). But I think if we are likely to follow the pattern of other denominations, it would be better to lose the 500,000."

"But I hope we don't lose anybody. It would be better if some of these people whose views are not comparable to those generally held by Southern Baptists would have some kind of conversion experience," he added.

In his response to Lindsell, McCall said there are some in the convention who would embark on a witch hunt, if possible.

During his rebuttal, McCall said he was not aware that Lindsell had ever been on the campus of Southern Seminary, although Lindsell told reporters he had visited the seminary library at Louisville.

"If he was there, I never saw him," McCall said.

### Rogers wins on 1st ballot

In an expression of concern over the issue of biblical inerrancy within the Southern Baptist Convention messengers elected "conservative" candidate Adrian P. Rogers, pastor of the 11,000-member Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, as president of the 13.2 million member body on the first ballot.

Rogers swamped five other candidates in garnering 51.36 per cent of the votes and avoiding a run-off. Rogers was nominated by Homer Lindsay Sr., pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Immediately after his election, Rogers said, "I have come not with blood in my eyes but with love in my heart."

Rogers pledged "100 percent support" for continuing the emphasis in the denomination on Bold Mission Thrust.

The Memphis pastor received 6129 of the 11,933 votes cast.

First runner up in the race for the SBC presidency was Robert Naylor, retired president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. Naylor, who was nominated by John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., received 2791 of the votes or 23.39 percent.

The remainder of the ballots were cast for C. E. Price, vice president of Westinghouse Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Doug Watterson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn.; William L. Self, pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.; and Abner McCall, president of Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

### Rogers won't be BFMF's president, he tells press

Newly-elected Southern Baptist Convention president Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn. said

conference he would not favor a "witch hunt" investigation of liberalism in SBC seminaries, but would support such an investigation if it were carried out by a committee that was fair and balanced.

Rogers, nominee of what some have described as a "conservative political machine" within the SBC, also said he hoped that the kind of political organization which led to his election would not be a pattern for future elections of SBC presidents.

"I was not a part of this campaign. I never went to a single meeting. I don't belong to Paige Patterson or Judge Paul Pressler, or even to this convention. I belong to the Lord Jesus Christ."

"I'm not here to represent any splinter groups," he declared. "I'm here to represent the Lord Jesus Christ."

"I love Paige Patterson and Judge Paul Pressler, but if I can't be the president of all Southern Baptists, then I don't want to be here."

Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, and Pressler, a Houston appellate courts judge, were reported to have been the key organizers in the campaign to elect a convention president who upholds the Bible as "the infallible, inerrant (without error) Word of God."

Rogers said he did not agree to be nominated for president of the convention until after a 2:30 a.m. prayer meeting with two other men in his hotel room the night before the nomination.

Rogers said his church gives \$3000 per month to support Mid America Baptist Seminary in Memphis, an independent Baptist seminary which was organized by conservative Southern Baptists who felt Southern Baptist Convention seminaries were too liberal.

He added the church gives about \$170,000 or six percent of its total budget to support world missions, Christian education and other benevolent causes through the SBC Cooperative Program.

Rogers said his salary at Bellevue, including all fringe benefits, is just over \$50,000.

### Dehoney, Rogers in agreement

With minimum discussion in the Summit messengers approved the motion of Wayne Dehoney of Louisville calling for a reaffirmation of the scriptures section of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Adopted by the convention in Kansas City the historical statement amounts to a declaration of the fundamental beliefs held by most Southern Baptists.

Speaking to messengers Wednesday, Dehoney said he just returned from a press conference involving newly-elected convention president Adrian Rogers, a strong proponent of biblical inerrancy.

Dehoney said Rogers told him he had his permission to tell the convention body that the two agree on biblical infallibility.

The two agree the Bible's "original autographs" were without error, Dehoney explained.

Exhorting the convention to lay aside the question of biblical inerrancy after agreeing on scriptural validity, Dehoney said he will arrive at unity.

### Rogers mends fences

Incoming Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers spent more than two hours Thursday attempting to mend fences with the editors of the convention's 34 state newspapers and news magazines.

Rogers, cancelling another appointment to stay with the editors as long as they had questions, discussed everything from his belief that there are "many professors" at the six Southern Baptist seminaries who do not believe in the inerrancy (without error) of the scriptures to why he has disassociated himself with the Baptist Faith and Message organization.

Several of the state Baptist newspapers have been at odds with the "conservative coalition" that helped propel Rogers into office on the first ballot Tuesday.

Presnall Wood, editor of the Baptist Standard, a Texas Baptist weekly newspaper with almost 400,000 circulation, said he felt the marathon session had been helpful in "letting the editors see the new president and letting him see us."

Wood said he felt Rogers displayed a "healing spirit" which would help heal wounds that may have been opened during Rogers' election.

"I am afraid Adrian's biggest problem is going to be his association in the past with non-Southern Baptist owned and operated agencies."

Rogers said he will continue to support Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, a non-Southern Baptist school for ministers adjacent to his Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis.

Rogers said his church would continue to support the Memphis school but he would not use his office as president to enhance Mid-America.

Rogers said he "probably had been guilty" of allowing Luther Rice Seminary, a non-Southern Baptist facility in Florida, to use his name when he was appointed a trustee.

"Luther Rice and other institutions like it are a monument to our failures as Southern Baptists. Luther Rice would not have a breath of a chance to exist if the six Southern Baptist seminaries were committed to biblical inerrancy."

He said the Baptist Faith and Message movement came about as the result of an article printed in the Baptist Program questioning the infallibility of the Bible. A request to run an article contradicting the story was denied, resulting in the Baptist Faith and Message movement, he said.

Rogers said he had decided to associate with Bill Powell of Buchanan, Ga., and the Baptist Faith and Message movement "just because I thought someone needed to take a stand against the liberals questioning the inerrancy of the scripture."

Rogers said he had written Powell prior to the convention disassociating himself. "I love Bill Powell, but he has not articulated what I believe."

On the election, Rogers said he was not prepared or happy when W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, endorsed him as "the candidate" for president at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference preceding the convention Sunday.

"My heart sank when he did that. It made the Pastors' Conference look like a political convention. I was asked prior to doing it, but I replied, 'No, not me.'"

# Convention Reports

## Pressler replies to critics

In a self-initiated explanation of rumors about the campaign of theological conservatives to elect the Southern Baptist Convention president, Houston Judge Paul Pressler Wednesday denied planning, strategizing or implementing any organized effort to elect Adrian Rogers.

"Simply the conservatives are communicating with each other for the first time," Pressler explained.

Rumors to which Pressler responded centered around his use of a "skybox" in the convention meeting hall from which some said he orchestrated the election of a president committed to the accuracy of the scriptures.

Pressler admitted participating in an open dinner meeting attended by 400 conservatives where an "advisory sampling of opinion" was taken to "reflect to the three individuals under consideration" for possible nomination as president.

The three, he said, were Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis; Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile; and Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.

During the interview Pressler received persistent questions from Baptist Standard editor Presnell Wood of Dallas who questioned whether Pressler was a valid messenger to the convention.

Pressler claimed he was a messenger from First Baptist Church of Bellaire, Tex., a suburb of Houston, where he is an "honorary" member, but not a messenger of First Baptist Church, Houston, where he is a member. Pressler explained that he is actually a member of First Baptist, but has spoken so many times at the Bellaire church that he had been made an "honorary" member there.

When questions arose about the validity of his credentials, Pressler said he went to SBC registration secretary Lee Porter and offered to turn them in, but Porter said he had no authority to accept them.

Porter later explained that decisions about whether a messenger is bonafide or not must be handled by the convention's credentials committee if any messenger's registration is challenged.

Porter added, however, that in his personal opinion Pressler was not a valid messenger because article 3, item 4 of the SBC constitution states that each messenger must be a member of the church which elects him, and that the convention makes no provision for "dual" membership or "honorary" membership.

## Dehoney-Pressler in verbal exchange

Anger over doctrinal integrity and convention political organization erupted into charges and countercharges here Thursday as messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention debated a resolution on overt political action.

The prime controversy centered around Wayne Dehoney, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, and Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, who helped lead a coalition of conservatives Tuesday to elect Rogers as convention president.

The motion, proposed by Ernie White

of St. Joseph, Mo., called on the convention to "disavow overt political activity and organization as a method of selection of its officers."

In debate on the issue, Dehoney, without mentioning Pressler by name, leveled charges of overt political activity in Pressler's use of the controversial skyboxes at the Summit and referred to Pressler (although not by name) as being an illegal messenger to the convention.

Others chimed in such as Sid Peterson of Bakersfield, Calif., who accused Dehoney of "overt political activity" in past conventions, and especially during Dehoney's presidency of the SBC in 1965-67.

After the short but rancorous debate outgoing SBC president Jimmy Allen of San Antonio said he was "grieved by the spirit that is now moving in this room."

After messengers approved the resolution disavowing overt political action Pressler made an impassioned and tearful personal privilege speech to messengers defending himself on use of the skyboxes and charges he was an illegal messenger, since he came accredited from a church of which he is an "honorary" member.

Pressler told messengers that for the first time in his life he is being put in the place "where people doubt my word. I am a loyal Southern Baptist. I love the convention and I love the Lord, but I don't like remarks being made about my character."

The resolution, a combination of documents proposed by Charles Inman of Monahans, Tex., and David Medley of Tyronza, Ark., both expressed appreciation to staff and faculty members of seminaries "who have persistently and sacrificially taught the truth with love," and called on persons who question the doctrinal integrity of seminary staffers to follow established procedures.

Kenneth Burnett of Alamogordo, N. M., opposed the resolution, noting there "is a question about some seminary professors," and saying he does not believe in blanket condemnation or exoneration.

Charles Inman, who favored the rewritten proposal, said some men have "cries crossed this country crying wolf, wolf" about liberals teaching in the seminaries, but have never visited with seminary presidents to discuss their charges.

"It simply calls on them to put up or shut up," he said.

Messengers approved the resolution.

Also approved was a motion by James Varner, pastor of Woodhaven Baptist Church in Houston and local registration chairman for the SBC.

The motion, which was adopted without debate, asked that registration secretary Lee Porter of Nashville, Tenn., be "instructed by this convention to study and report to the next Executive Committee meeting (in September) any registration irregularities and that the Executive Committee report and recommend the annual meeting of the convention next year any necessary bylaw changes and/or registration procedures to correct irregularities and to maintain the integrity of the balloting system.

Varner's motion struck at reports of unofficial and irregular messengers, including some churches which allowed 10 messengers.

## Messengers favor SALT

Messengers to the 122nd meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted resolutions which endorsed the SALT agreement with the Soviet Union, went on record in support of public schools, reaffirmed earlier statements on abortion and called for increased U. S. overseas development assistance to combat world hunger.

Other resolutions passed during the business session dealt with domestic violence, television programing, energy, alcohol, the family farm, the American Bible Society and the role of students in the denomination's missions programs.

The SALT resolution puts the convention on record in support of the arms limitation agreement reached after more than seven years of negotiations with the Soviet Union.

The SBC resolution calls on the convention to communicate officially with members of the Senate "our strong support for responsible multilateral nuclear arms control and urge ratification of the current treaty as basically a step in the direction of multilateral arms control."

In addition, the resolution urges "future greater strides in multilateral nuclear arms reduction."

## SALT II doesn't go far enough: Billy Graham

Evangelist Billy Graham said in a news conference in Houston the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) does not go far enough, and expressed fears its adoption will give the world a false sense of security that world peace is eminent.

"But SALT II doesn't even touch on some of the worst weapons," Graham said prior to his appearance at the convention.

Decrying the fact the nation spends \$400 billion on defense every year, Graham added, "Just think what that much money could do to feed a hungry world."

Graham said he feared even with SALT II dozens of nations not included in the treaty could develop nuclear weapons.

"Someone like Idi Amin will get them and push the button to save himself, and it's likely to start a nuclear chain reaction involving the whole world," Graham said.

He said he was delighted to be a Baptist and to attend the Southern Baptist Convention for there is no other religious denomination like it in the world. He added the charge of liberalism comes up during the SBC almost every year for it is a "world problem" that has existed ever since Adam and Eve.

Graham was highly complimentary of Pope John Paul II, saying he is "probably the most able Pope in our generation" and has more charisma than any Pope with the possible exception of John.

He was also complimentary of Adrian Rogers, the newly-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, saying he is "one of the best friends I have."

Asked why he has not given stronger support to Anita Bryant's campaign against homosexuality, Graham repeated his view that homosexuality is a sin, but is one of many sins. "The Lord has not called me to lead a

called me to preach the gospel."

Graham expressed deep personal loss in the death of actor John Wayne, saying "a part of America died when John Wayne died."

Citing his friendship with Wayne, Graham recalled one incident in which Wayne laughed so hard he spilled champagne all over his head and coat. "Preacher, everybody's going to think you've been drinking," Wayne laughed.

Asked about his relationship as a "religious counselor" to presidents, Graham said he's not sure he's ever been a religious counselor to any president, and that he's never been invited by Baptist President Jimmy Carter to come to the White House, but if invited, he would go.

He told reporters that the Watergate experience seemed "demonic" to him, but denied that he ever said former President Nixon had demons.

Graham said that the center of Christianity seems to be shifting from America to Asia and Africa, citing predictions that 85 percent of Africa south of the Sahara may someday be Christian. He alluded to tremendous revivals going on in Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore where he recently held crusades.

## BJCPA position backed

Southern Baptists overwhelmingly adopted a substitute resolution condemning a proposed Internal Revenue Service procedure which would deny tax exemption to church schools which fail to prove they are racially nondiscriminatory.

The substitute, adopted after lengthy debate, replaced a much milder statement proposed by the convention's resolutions committee which affirmed the principle of separation of church and state but fell short of decrying the IRS proposal.

The denomination's Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, an agency located in Washington, D. C. and supported jointly by the SBC and seven other U. S. Baptist bodies, has repeatedly expressed strong opposition to the IRS proposal.

The substitute procedure would require all private schools, including those owned and operated by churches, to prove annually they do not discriminate on the basis of race. The proposal would require church schools to demonstrate to the satisfaction of IRS officials they discriminate in neither enrollment policy nor in actual student registration.

But last month William H. Elder III, director of Christian citizenship development for the SBC Christian Life Commission in Nashville, presented written testimony to IRS commissioner Jerome Kurtz and to a Senate subcommittee approving the procedure.

Virtually every major religious body, including several Protestant denominations, the U. S. Catholic Conference and several Jewish groups, has opposed the IRS proposal.

The Christian Life Commission endorsement of the proposed regulation is the only one of its kind from a major denomination.

The substitute resolution passed by the convention essentially takes the Baptist Joint Committee viewpoint that the basic issue in the IRS proposal is the separation of church and state rather than racism, as contended by the Christian Life Commission.

## RE group put on its knees

William Pinson literally brought his audience to its knees in Houston.

After delivering a fiery speech in which he called for Baptist unity in a "crisis hour," the president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., asked about 450 persons attending the last session of the Religious Education Association's 24th meeting to go to their knees in prayer.

Pinson said since arriving in Houston for the Southern Baptist Convention he had seen "friends for life at each other's throats."

He referred to the issue of inerrancy of scripture brewing at the annual convention.

"Let's kneel and pray for unity," he said. "Let's make personal commitments to be agents for change this week."

According to Pinson, because of the possibility of convention division over inerrancy and the challenge of Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists faced "the greatest crisis hour" in their history.

Not since the "financial catastrophe of the 1930's" have Baptists faced such pivotal crossroads," he said.

"I'd hate to see it (the convention) tumble into division," he said. "We must believe the whole Bible and not just part of it. It may cost some of you your jobs."

## Missionaries pay tax?

Most of the messengers to the three-day Southern Baptist Convention were unaware of a recent congressional act which will require foreign missionaries to pay federal income taxes.

However, they seem equally divided on whether Southern Baptist missionaries should pay the tax.

The Foreign Earned Income Act of 1978 eliminates a provision which previously excluded income up to \$20,000 for United States citizens working for charitable and religious organizations and living in foreign countries.

But starting with the 1979 taxable year, missionaries' incomes will be subject to taxation.

"I think missionaries should pay the same taxes as those people living in this country," said Paul Faircloth, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dania, Fla. "These people are making a salary and they receive some benefits from this country—especially from the state department."

John Horton, pastor of the Emory Baptist Church in Atlanta, pointed out that the missionary is not much different in his financial situation than many Southern Baptist pastors.

"They are not deriving their income from foreign countries, but from here. If a person is a citizen of the United States, he should be responsible for some income tax, no matter where he lives."

Others attending the convention expressed similar ideas to those of Mrs. Peggy Jones of Paducah, Ky. Although unaware of the new law, she felt missionaries are already sacrificing enough and should not have to start paying something they haven't been paying previously.

"They shouldn't have to pay. They live off meager incomes," said Lanier Singleton, pastor of New Salem Baptist Church, Sumter, S. C. "Some of the money we are spending domestically could be spent better elsewhere. I think

we ought to add bold management to bold mission. Missionaries are not treated nearly as well as some of our denominational executives here are."

## Facilities: Houston horror

The daytime parking nightmare at the Summit prompted Southern Baptist Convention messenger Bill Smith of Paris, Tenn. to introduce a resolution censuring the arrangements committee.

Bus transportation rates that ran as high as \$16 a day for a family of four caused messengers like Ken Jordan, Meadville, Miss., to express "disappointment with the transportation problem."

Frustrations mounted as the first day wore on to evening and some messengers had scrounged two meals from disaster vans, snack bars and nearby restaurants without going back to their hotels all day.

Perhaps the person least surprised that messengers had complaints about parking, transportation and an exhibit hall that held the same number of exhibits in half the usual space was Tim Hedquist, convention coordinator.

Four weeks after Hedquist took his position with the convention's Executive Committee in December 1977, he began making rounds of convention sites already selected. A contract had been signed with the Houston Coliseum which advertised a capacity of 13,000.

"It couldn't hold that many with a shoehorn," Hedquist said. And therein began his search for options in Houston, a site already approved by convention vote.

The Astrodome initially looked most promising, but the cost of installing a sound system adequate for business sessions would have cost more than the entire budget for the convention.

After also exploring holding split sessions at the Coliseum and Music Hall, moving the convention to the Astro Hall (low ceiling, too small) and Astro Coliseum (too small) Hedquist decided the Summit was the only option which met space requirements.

"Daytime parking we knew from the beginning would be the problem," Hedquist said. Several messengers agreed.

"I don't like the parking situation. I'd trade the acoustics for parking," said Gerald Mann, Austin, Tex. "We've never had trouble making ourselves heard."

On the positive side, messengers gave the Summit high marks for sight and sound during convention sessions.

For the future, Hedquist said, "We're coming to where we're going to have to pick a limited number of cities and rotate the convention among them." He said Dallas, New Orleans, Atlanta, St. Louis and Kansas City currently offer the best possibilities.

## It wasn't your usual Wednesday night crowd

The Bold Mission Thrust rally of the Southern Baptist Convention Wednesday night was not your ordinary Baptist convention session.

It was the largest gathering of Southern Baptists ever assembled in the United States and the largest missionary dedication service in history.

The building was the Astrodome. The congregation numbered 48,000

stacked in tiers on site, plus countless television viewers.

The choir had 4000 voices.

The hymnal was the electronic scoreboard.

The carpet was astroturf.

The colors of stained glass windows were seen in the flags of 50 states and 94 nations.

The order of service listed 5700 names of home and foreign missionaries, and those names flashed across the scoreboard.

The choir director was Cliff Barrows.

The preacher was Billy Graham.

And the altar call brought forth 3000 persons.

It was a technological feat unprecedented in church related conventions and gave a glimpse of Southern Baptists' scope for Bold Mission Thrust.

The crux of the service was the dedication of 1100 persons who had volunteered for mission service since Jan. 1, 1978.

Some are already on the job and were represented by stand-ins.

As they knelt in a cross formation outlined by flags, 1100 persons representing those who support the volunteers financially laid hands on their shoulders.

SBC president Jimmy Allen said "these folks represent 13 million Southern Baptists. Missions isn't just the business of missionaries, but the business of all of us."

Evangelist Billy Graham set out to convince the throng to follow God's call to missionary service. It was not his usual evangelistic message.

"Go! Go! Go! Tell! Tell! Tell!" he shouted.

When Graham invited persons to dedicate their lives to missions, an estimated 3000 flocked to the astroturf.

## Routh, Bennett meet the press

Both the incoming and outgoing chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee said they hoped the pattern of pre-convention meetings and the "political machine" which organized the campaign to elect a conservative as president of the Southern Baptist Convention would not be followed in the future.

Porter W. Routh, who retires July 31 as executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee after 28 years in the position, and Harold C. Bennett, 54, who assumes the position Aug. 1 after 12 years as executive secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention, made the statement during a news conference at the SBC.

"I am concerned about the methodology of a secular political machine used at the convention this year," Routh said. "I don't believe this is the way God would have us move in the future."

Routh quickly added, however, that he had no problem with the expressions of concern about "liberalism" in the SBC, saying such expressions are healthy.

Routh said in a democratic organization such as the Southern Baptist Convention "we need to listen to the voice of the minority, for often by listening to the voice of the minority we hear the voice of God."

Bennett, the new executive secretary, said he upholds completely the belief in the Bible as described in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement adopted

in 1963 which says the Bible "was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of himself to man."

Bennett added that he believes in the inerrancy (without error) of the original documents, and if "somewhere I find something in the Bible I don't understand, I accept the Bible by faith."

## SBTS gets \$1 million gift

Announcement of the first million-dollar gift in the history of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary highlighted the annual meeting of the school's alumni association in Houston.

More than 1000 former students of the Southern Baptist Convention's oldest institution also had a surprise visit from evangelist Billy Graham, honored three ministers as alumni of the year and heard a report from seminary president Duke K. McCall.

Urging the alumni to pray for and work with new SBC president Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., McCall reported that he had invited Rogers to preach at the seminary more than a year ago and would reissue that invitation in keeping with the seminary's long tradition of bringing Southern Baptist Convention presidents to the campus.

McCall announced a recent gift of more than \$1 million had boosted to \$6.5 million the amount given and pledged to the seminary's endowment fund drive.

The audience greeted news of the seven-digit gift with a standing ovation as the donors, Col. and Mrs. Marshall A. Sanders of Louisville and their daughter Joyce, were presented. Sanders, a 62-year-old retired Army colonel, challenged the alumni to use their energies to "dissipate ignorance by preaching the Word," and called on other Baptist laymen to help secure the seminary for its mission in the years to come.

Admiral James W. Kelly, retired chief of Naval chaplains; Chevis Horne, pastor of First Baptist Church in Martinsville, Va.; and Niles Puckett, professor of Bible at Grand Canyon College in Phoenix, Ariz., were honored as alumni of the year.

## Campbellsville wins award

Ten exhibits at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting received awards from Baptist Public Relations Association.

There were first and second place awards given in each category, and categories are divided according to the amount of money spent on each exhibit. Twenty exhibits entered the competition.

First place winner in exhibits costing up to \$500 was East Texas Baptist College while the second place went to Campbellsville (Ky.) College.

The Radio and Television Commission received the first place award among those exhibits costing from \$501 to \$1000, and Mississippi College received the second place award.

Among exhibits costing \$1001 to \$2000, the Baptist World Alliance won first place and the Foreign Mission Board won second.

The Baptist Sunday School Board received the first place award in the \$2001 and up category while Carson-Newman College received second place.

# Mountains to the Mississippi

## Personnel

**Cummins accepts pioneer pastorate**  
Ray Cummins, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Corbin, has resigned to accept the pastorate of Valley Baptist Church, Appleton, Wisc. Before going to Corbin, Cummins was pastor of Campton Baptist Church. His resignation, after six years at Corbin, will be effective June 17.

**Gilbert's Creek calls pastor**  
George Michael Williams was recently called as pastor, Gilbert's Creek Baptist Church near Lancaster.

Williams is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist School.

A native of Elizabethtown, he is married to the former Linda Sue Hobbs. They have three children, Georgia, 3, Tracy, 8, and John, 2.



Mr. and Mrs. Haywood

**Haywoods appointed to Ghana**  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth P. Haywood were among 18 persons named missionaries by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in its May meeting in Richmond, Va.

As special project workers they will serve in Ghana where he will be a physician and she will be an X-ray technician and church and home worker. He is a physician at Trover Clinic in Madisonville. They are members of Second Baptist Church, Mortons Gap.

Born in Hanson, Haywood also lived in Mortons Gap while growing up. He received the BA degree from Centre College of Kentucky, Danville, and the MD degree from the University of Louisville.

Mrs. Haywood, the former Laney Jordan, was born in Bullitt County, but also lived in Hopkins County while

growing up. She attended Norton Memorial Infirmary School of X-ray Technology, Louisville. She has been an X-ray technician at Hopkins County Hospital, Madisonville, and at Veterans Administration Hospital, Lexington.

They have one child, Matthew Price.

**Overton called to Pleasant Grove**  
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association, recently called Charles Overton as part time minister of youth and education.

Overton is a MDiv student at Southern Seminary. He is a native of Arkansas, having attended Ouachita Baptist University.

Overton is married to the former Debbie Rickerson of Owensboro.

**Baxter Avenue calls staff**  
Baxter Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, recently called a pastor and a minister of music and youth.

Joseph E. Quinn, a native of Alabama, is pastor. He is a first year student at Southern Seminary.

James Lowe, also a student at Southern Seminary, is minister of music and youth.

**Tom Stevens leaves Valley View**  
Tom Stevens, minister of music at Valley View Baptist Church, Long Run Association, has accepted a similar position at Highlands Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.

**Walker to Calvary**  
Robert E. Walker has begun as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Bethel Association. He formerly pastored at Sanders Baptist Church, Sanders.

He is currently a student at Boyce Bible School, Louisville.

Walker retired from the U.S. Army in 1977 to enter the ministry.

He is married to the former Mattie Fagg of Franklin. They have three children, Tammy, 20, Debbie, 18, and Robert C., 13.

**Bridges leaves Parkland**  
Danny Bridges, minister of education, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville, has been called as minister of education and activity, Holland Avenue Baptist Church, Cayce, S.C.

**Henderson goes for BMT**  
Henderson First Baptist Church has purchased a two-and-a-half acre lot near Kingwood, W. Va., as a Bold Mission Project. Plans call for use of a trailer for worship services until building needs are determined. David Bratcher is the Henderson pastor.

**Annex dedicated at Loyall**  
First Baptist Church, Loyall, Upper Cumberland Association, dedicated a \$125,000 educational annex on May 6. The building was erected following the 1977 flood.

Activities included a morning worship service, a meal, and the laying of the cornerstone. Participating were Bill Messer and Dean Pack, former pastors; Robert Jones, Kentucky Baptist Convention and a former resident of Loyall; Nasby Mills, associational missionary; Philip Green, former interim pastor and Keith Rogers, pastor.

At the close of the dedication service three came for baptism and were baptized that evening.



Three Kentucky hospital officials who participated in a seminar on medical missions at the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va. are [l-r] Merrill H. Rayburn, Southeastern Kentucky Baptist Hospital, Corbin; Harley Dixon, Western Baptist Hospital, Paducah; Franklin T. Fowler, medical consultant for the board; and Bill Bailey, Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington.

**Mowdy to Marrowbone**  
Marrowbone Baptist Church, Pike County, has called Frank Mowdy as pastor.

A native of Pascagoula, Miss., he is married to the former Rebecca Ann Dewesse. They have two children, Robbie, 22, and Carolyn, 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Mowdy are graduates of Clear Creek Baptist School.



Mowdy



McCurry

**McCurry to Severns Valley**  
Roger McCurry has accepted the call as minister of activities, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

McCurry attended Campbellsville College and has worked at Cedarmore.

He is a graduate of Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., with a degree in church recreation. He has served First Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo., and First Baptist Church, Greenwood, Miss.

McCurry is married to the former Donna Bratcher of Owensboro. They have two children, Nathan, 2, and Leslie Anna, 9 months.

**Hogan retires**  
Sam Hogan, pastor, Concord Baptist Church, Little Bethel Association, has retired. He and his wife have moved to Manchester.

**Harold Dunaway resigns**  
Harold Dunaway has resigned as pastor of Blue Spring Baptist Church, Little River Association.

## Deaths

**William Wesley Tucker dies**  
William Wesley Tucker, 79, retired minister and missionary died May 18 in Stauton, Ill.

He had taken ill while participating in the simultaneous revival crusades in Illinois.

Tucker spent his early ministry as a missionary in the pioneer areas of Illinois. He pastored several churches in Kentucky, the last being Grove Center Baptist Church, Morganfield.

Survivors include his wife, three daughters, 19 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were May 21 at First Baptist Church, Morganfield, where he became a member after retiring.

**George Durall dies May 16**  
George Durall, former pastor of Suthards Baptist Church, Little Bethel Association, died May 16.

## Congregations

**Bible Drill winners**  
The Children's State Bible Drill was held Apr. 28 at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville.

Of the 167 children who won in their church and associational Bible drills, 143 were declared state winners.

Plaques were presented to 13 children who have been state winners for three consecutive years. They were Donald Eric Borders, First Baptist Church, Ashland; Mary Boulware and Paula Sammons, Mill Creek Baptist Church; Clarinda Brindley, LaDonna Dove and Roxanne Yates, Oaklawn Baptist Church; Kristy Hoover, Trinity Baptist Church; Donna Neal, Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville; Richard Mark Salmon, Unity Baptist Church; Maria Stotz, Calvary Baptist Church; Kathy Turner, Sinking Springs Baptist Church; Beth Williamson, First Baptist Church Dawson Springs and Craig Worley, First Baptist Church Mayfield.



To the right of the sanctuary, First Baptist Church, Loyall, is the educational annex recently dedicated by the congregation.

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July 1, 1979

# Sunday School Lessons

H. C. Chiles

INTERNATIONAL SERIES

## A man of misguided zeal

Solomon did not leave his son, Rehoboam, the goodly heritage he had received from his father, David. From the beginning Rehoboam was at a disadvantage. He had inherited a legacy of trouble. Immediately after Rehoboam's accession to the throne, Jeroboam headed a delegation which approached the king and sought relief from the heavy tax burdens which had been imposed by Solomon. Rehoboam promised a response to their request for lighter taxes after three days.

**1 Kings 12:6-11** Instead of consulting God, Rehoboam asked the older, wiser men what he should do. They advised him to concur in the request and thereby gain the allegiance of those making the request. When he consulted the inexperienced, irresponsible young men, they advised him to deny the request and to threaten them with heavier taxes. Proud Rehoboam foolishly decided to take the advice of his younger counselors.

Rehoboam's harsh denial of their request and his foolish threat caused the leaders of the ten tribes to revolt. They seceded, formed the Northern Kingdom and selected Jeroboam as their king.

**1 Kings 12:26-30** Selfish politician he was, Jeroboam consulted with his counselors. He lost sight of the fact that the true strength of a nation lies in the spirituality and morality of its people. He made two calves of gold and placed them at Dan and Bethel. This led the Israelites away from the worship of God. His remark to his people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem," indicated that to him religion was an accommodation or convenience. Jeroboam insisted that his people make it easy on themselves by going to nearby Dan and Bethel to worship. These gold representations of God became substitutes for him. Due to the rapid increase of idolatry in Israel, God's blessings were withheld.

Jeroboam had a wonderful opportunity to lead his people. Instead, he violated the law of God by making these images. The Bible refers to him as "the man who made Israel to sin."

LIFE AND WORK SERIES

## National Consequences of Choices

Prior to his salvation Saul of Tarsus was an outstanding example of an enthusiastic religionist, but he was misguided in his zeal. It caused him to devote his time and energy to the extermination of Christianity.

**Acts 7:58-8:1** Filled with the Holy Spirit and under his direction, Stephen's supreme desire was to accomplish God's will. Because of his bold testimony to the person, life and ministry of Christ, the enemies of the Saviour formed a violent mob. They surged like angry beasts upon the helpless prisoner and rushed him out of the city to administer capital punishment. As they pelted him with stones, Stephen prayed and committed his soul into the keeping of Christ. The first stones struck him while he was standing. As they continued to strike him he struggled to his knees and prayed for those who were taking his life saying, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." With unshaken courage and genuine faith Stephen went to his death in the prime of his usefulness, commending his spirit into the keeping of his Lord.

One of the spectators who seemed to be pleased with the pitiless fury of the mob was Saul. He guarded the cloaks of those who assaulted Stephen, giving his approval to Stephen's martyrdom. This scene, so like unto the crucifixion of Christ, was implanted indelibly upon Saul's mind. Stephen's prayer for those who were taking his life never ceased to ring in Saul's ears.

**Acts 22:3, 27-28** Saul was very proud of his Jewish heritage. He was a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin, a pupil of Gamaliel and a Roman citizen.

**Acts 26:4-5, 9-11** In reviewing his early life, Paul referred to his behavior from the time of his youth, his manner of life as a Pharisee and his conduct before he became a Christian. When he repented and received Christ as his Saviour, he yielded his zeal and energy to the control of the Holy Spirit, and what a transformation was wrought in him!

Remembered experiences

## Frank Owen

She was a large lady of noble bearing, tall and straight, despite her 80 years. She had been a Quaker, like Herbert Hoover, her eighth grade classmate at Waterloo, Iowa. She became our regular worshiper through a late-in-life marriage with a great Baptist layman.

The lady wanted to be a member of our church, which, of course, required immersion. Her age and size frightened me as to whether it would go well. I said, "Mrs. . . . , we already consider you a bonafide Christian and an unofficial part of our spiritual family."

But she insisted on baptism. She expressed a beautiful respect for her husband's faith and love for his church and wanted to support him in it. She spoke of a latent ambition to be baptized like our Lord was baptized. She scared me to death, though, when she spoke of outstanding "water phobia" and especially of falling backward in the water.

Fearing that it might be a wild occasion, I set up a semi-private late afternoon baptismal service. I announced it, but said the unusual hour was for personal friends. Perhaps a dozen or more people came.

As we approached the baptistry she said, "I'll probably cut a real shine but I do want to go through with it."

With great care I laid her back into the water until its buoyancy largely supported her horizontal length. Her head and face were still out of the water, resting on my forearm. I whispered, "Take a breath, I will cover your nose and mouth with a handkerchief and you will be right back up in a second." She began to stare wildly at me. I knew that what I was to do I had to do quickly.

She grabbed my hand so powerfully that I couldn't reach her face. She went down frantically inhaling water. She came up spewing and spouting like a whale. There was considerable thrashing around, coughing and blowing while I held on as steadily as I could and got her turned around. As we climbed out of the pool behind the velvet curtain she said joyfully, "Well, I told you I'd be apt to cut a shine and I did, but we got it done, didn't we preacher?"

## Christian Education

### Clemmons, Tolbert to SEBTS

William Preston Clemmons and Malcolm O. Tolbert have been elected to the faculty of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

Clemmons, of Memphis, Tenn., will be associate professor of Christian education. Presently Baptist Men's consultant with the Brotherhood Commission, he will begin teaching in the fall, 1979.

Clemmons, 46, is originally from Nashville, Tenn. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina. He holds the MDiv, MRE, and EdD degrees from Southern Seminary.

He will teach in the area of theology and Christian nurture.

Tolbert, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gainesville, Ga., will begin duties in the fall as professor of New Testament.

Tolbert, a native of Baton Rouge, La., is a graduate of Louisiana College. He holds a BDiv and ThD from New Orleans Seminary. He taught New Testament and Greek at New Orleans from 1961-77.

### SBTS profs named

Three new faculty members were elected by the board of trustees of Southern Seminary at the recent annual meeting.

The trustees named Raymond H. Bailey associate professor of communication and adjunct professor of Christian preaching; Carl Gerbrandt associate professor of church music; and Timothy George assistant professor of church history.

Bailey has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Plantation, Fla., since 1977. He holds MDiv and PhD degrees from Southern Seminary and an MA from Texas Tech.

Gerbrandt is an operatic concert artist and former director of admissions for Peabody Conservatory of Music. He holds degrees from Tabor (Kan.) College, Wichita University, University of Southern California and Peabody.

George has an MDiv from Harvard Divinity School and will receive a PhD in June. His primary areas of teaching competence are church history and historical theology.

In other action the trustees promoted Walter B.

Shurden to professor of church history; elected Ronald E. Boud associate professor of church music; elected R. Alan Culpepper assistant professor of New Testament with tenure; granted tenure to professors J. Ralph Hardee and Bill J. Leonard; and extended the contract of Lucie Easley, assistant professor of church social work, through July, 1982.

### Benberg to Georgetown

Tom Benberg, an Arkadelphia, Ark. businessman, has been named to succeed Hubert Beck as director of business affairs and treasurer of Georgetown College.

Benberg, 41, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. He earned the master's degree at Indiana State University and the EdD degree at East Texas State University.

He began his professional career as a teacher and coach in Kelso, Wash. After teaching in California and Arkansas he joined the faculty of Drury College, Springfield, Mo., as an assistant professor in physical education.

He served for one year as assistant superintendent and director of instruction for the Camden (Ark.) School District No. 35. In 1974 he was named superintendent of schools in Arkadelphia.

Benberg will begin his work at Georgetown in September.



Adrian Rogers  
Newly elected president  
Southern Baptist Convention



# WESTERN RECORDER

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Twenty-five of the 40 high school seniors selected to receive Pastors' Christian Leadership Scholarships at Georgetown College posed for a photo on the steps of Giddings Hall. The students, their parents and pastors were guests of the college at a recent luncheon given in their honor.