

Right turn

Smith's election, 46 resolutions make this a convention which will be remembered

by Dan Martin

Messengers to the 123rd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention continued their march toward the theological right in three days of singing, preaching, fellowship, business and inspiration.

Along the route they approved a \$90 million budget to fund worldwide missions enterprises, elected Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., as president of the 13.4 million member denomination and proposed an unprecedented 46 resolutions which ranged from prayer to pornography, world hunger to homosexuality and abortion to doctrinal integrity.

Only 13,808 messengers registered for the meeting in Cervantes Convention Center, an unexpectedly light turnout, compared with the record 22,872 messengers at the 1978 convention in Atlanta.

The strong conservative bent of the messengers was demonstrated in their first ballot election of Smith, an avowed believer in the inerrancy (without error) of the scriptures, the dramatic alteration of the denomination's position on abortion, rejection of the Equal Rights Amendment and tightening the practice of doctrinal integrity.

The matter of doctrinal integrity—or the inerrancy of the scriptures—was a constant presence at the convention, seldom mentioned but always apparent.

Smith's election marked the second time in as many years a conservative supporter of inerrancy was elected on the first ballot. Smith, 41, swamped five opponents in his sweep to victory.

In his first meeting with the news media Smith took a strong stand on inerrancy and said his appointments to key Southern Baptist posts will "lean toward those who believe the Bible is the inerrant word of God."

He also said he believes the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement is adequate but "might need to be enforced more."

Named to serve with Smith were Jack Taylor, a Ft. Worth author and evangelist, as first vice president, and Wade Freeman, Dallas, retired director of the Evangelism Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, second vice president.

The race for the presidency became necessary when Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, unexpectedly announced he would not seek the traditional second term.

Rogers, in his annual convention sermon, exhorted Southern Baptists to reach every person on earth with the gospel of Jesus Christ but said the denomination must continue as "people of the book" in order to accomplish the task.

He also urged unity: "Don't talk to me about your orthodoxy or denominational loyalty if your heart is headquarters for hate. Whatever problems Southern Baptists have will be settled in a context of love or they will not be settled. The Bible is a good sword but a poor club."

Messengers heard reports from 20 agencies supported by the Southern Baptist Convention and adopted a 15-recommendation report from the SBC Executive Committee. One of the recommendation spells out new rules for how convention messengers are accredited.

The new rules, which were precipitated by charges of voting irregularities at the 1979 Houston convention, call for each messenger to register in person and disallows voting by proxy.

The Executive Committee also named J. Howard Cobble, pastor of Avondale Estates Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga., as chairman.

Messengers rejected two constitutional amend-

ments overwhelmingly. One would have denied messenger status to most employes of SBC agencies, institutions and state conventions. The other would have changed the meetings of the SBC from an annual basis to a quadrennial (every four years) meeting.

It was the resolutions debate which generated the most interest. The unprecedented number of resolutions carried the 10-member resolutions committee, chaired by Wayne Allen, a Memphis pastor, which reported out 29.

The most protracted debate came on the question of abortion but in the end a large majority of messengers decisively beat back all efforts to weaken the statement brought by the resolutions committee. It called for legislation and/or constitutional amendment forbidding abortion except "to save the life of the mother."

Anti-ERA language was added orally to the printed version of a much broader statement on women by Allen, chairman of the resolutions committee. By making the addition the committee transformed what had appeared to be a pro-women's rights statement into an explicit denunciation of a major goal of the woman's movement, the ERA ratification.

Surprisingly, an effort to reverse the convention's position on prayer in public schools failed overwhelmingly. A resolution was adopted in which the convention records "its opposition to attempts, either by law or other means, to circumvent the Supreme Court's decisions forbidding government-authored or sponsored religious exercises in public schools."

Messengers condemned in resolutions the practice of providing contraceptives to minors without parental consent, the children's rights movement, homosexu-

ality, pornography, and a Time-Life Publications book, "Early Man," which asserts that most people today dismiss the literal teachings of the Bible on creation, heaven and hell.

The convention also passed resolutions affirming the White House Conference on the Family, Christian citizenship, taxation of church-owned businesses, while commending Baylor University president Abner V. McCall for his highly publicized stance against Baylor women students posing nude for Playboy magazine.

The messengers also urged Southern Baptists to "wage peace in the world," expressed concern for the American hostages in Iran, for the wife of murdered Liberian president and former Baptist World Alliance president William O. Tolbert and called on "Christian Americans" to minister to Cuban refugees.

A dozen proposals failed to make it to the convention floor, including one which condemned "political bias" on the part of the editors of state Baptist newspapers.

In the final business session, messengers disqualified two messengers from Louisville, a state representative and her administrative assistant husband. Claudia Riner and her husband, Tom, members of Logos Baptist Church, were disqualified unanimously after the credentials committee contended their church was not a cooperating Southern Baptist congregation.

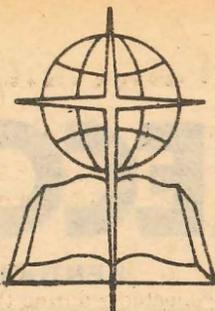
The 1981 convention will be in Los Angeles, Calif., June 9-11. Convention preacher will be James Monroe, former second vice president of the SBC, and pastor of First Baptist Church of Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. Alternate will be William Cumbie, director of associational missions in Alexandria, Va.



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 two conventions in St. Louis

In a sense there are at least two conventions going on in every annual meeting of Southern Baptists but this was especially so this year in St. Louis. One convention is the obvious one in which all messengers participate, are aware of what's happening and understand it.

The other convention is a less apparent one which is understood by only a portion of the messengers though a rather large portion. Both of these conventions are important and the health of the total convention depends upon keeping the two close enough not to lose their mutual respect and essential unity.

Now for an evaluation of the 1980 convention in the traditional sense. It was one of the most inspiring in messages and music many can remember. The preaching was truly superlative and the music was nothing less than fabulous. Nothing in the convention comes close to as much improvement in recent years as the music.

The sessions were well attended though the official registration (13,808) was disappointingly low. Messengers were attentive and orderly with the exception of a few emotional outbursts during debate on controversial resolutions.

President Adrian Rogers was a model of graciousness, courtesy, gentleness and fairness in presiding. Time and time again he impressed the messengers with his sweet spirit. He thinks quickly on his feet and has the ability to say the right thing at the right time. Many messengers regretted but respected his decision not to accept nomination for a second term.

As for the actions of the messengers in St. Louis 1980 was a rerun of 1979 but without the open tension and sharp feelings which surfaced in Houston. The more conservative messengers were clearly in control. The method was different, the outcome was the same. No obvious overt political activity was visible like last year but just as last year the presidential candidate most identified with the so-called "inerrancy" position was easily elected on the first ballot defeating several other strong nominees.

The messengers in St. Louis wrote one message in such large letters that even a visitor running could clearly read it. This message is that the large majority of Southern Baptists are conservative Bible believing, Bible loving people who want leaders who reflect their views and voice their convictions.

Nor were the messengers willing to trust their convictions to be expressed by denominational agencies which tend to use more moderate statements on social and other issues leaving no doubt of their conservative stance.

The welfare of the convention for the next two years depends a great deal upon president Bailey Smith, assuming he will serve two terms. He gives assurance he will not use his office for

a purge of those who do not agree exactly with him nor will he "stack" the committees he appoints with those representing one element of the convention.

I do not know president Smith intimately but some who do know him and whose judgment I respect say he will keep his word and always be fair. Certainly he does represent the thinking and theological position of millions of Southern Baptists and is a dynamic leader. The least and most that all Southern Baptists can do for president Smith is to pray he will find and follow God's plan for Southern Baptists.

Bold Mission Thrust, the current official commitment of Southern Baptists, was on the lips of all speakers and the hearts of many messengers but one sensed the deepest feelings in St. Louis related to other issues.

The other convention

Speaking of feelings sensed in St. Louis, a concern and uneasiness could be felt on the part of many messengers whose lives and ministries are deeply committed to Southern Baptists and their world ministry. This is the other convention referred to in the opening paragraphs of this editorial.

The concern of this group was suggested in a question put to me quite often in St. Louis, "Where are we headed? Will everything come out alright?"

The answer I would generally give is, "Yes, it always has. The convention swings back and forth like a clock pendulum always returning to the middle." I am holding to this answer though my confidence is shaken.

Wise and experienced observers say we are in a new ball game. They say the attacks like those now directed toward seminaries were made in former times by outsiders instead of insiders. They point out that for two years those determined to capture the convention presidency and its attendant power to ultimately control the governing trustees and directors of Baptist agencies and institutions have outthought, outplanned and outvoted the other messengers and boldly assert they will continue their efforts until they succeed in their objectives.

Many of those ministering in denominational agencies or institutions are especially concerned because for one of the rare times in Southern Baptist history messengers from the floor claimed and exercised their right to exhort elected boards of directors as to how to do their work and specified what to require in doctrinal uniformity. This concern was heightened when the plea of the foremost Southern Baptist elder statesman, H. H. Hobbs, not to do so was rejected by the messengers.

This "other convention" fears we could be on a collision course with crystallizing battle mottoes, slogans, strategy and hard line positions from which there would be no truce nor retreat.

This is but a glimpse of this less apparent convention in St. Louis but enough to indicate its reality.

The outlook

Where are we and why are we where we are? What is our hope? I am determined to be optimistic though I am concerned.

Southern Baptists have always been theologically conservative but are now also caught up in the current national conservative mood in all realms. This is an era of reaction to religious as well as political establishments. Things are not going as well as they once did and there is a tendency to blame someone.

Leadership is usually the first to be blamed. Denominational agencies and institutions are regarded as sources of our leadership and they bear the brunt of criticism.

Most of those raising doubts about the doctrinal integrity of Baptist seminaries and other agencies are persons of utter sincerity and good will. They believe they have the welfare of Southern Baptists in mind. They have no intention of splitting the denomination but only to save it from what they regard as creeping liberalism.

(There is another view which has some validity. This is that these critics are struggling for power to dominate the denomination and are only using the doctrinal issue as a camouflage.)

Those under attack are also persons of utter sincerity and good will. They believe the Bible, teach it and live by it. They also love the denomination and cannot be but hurt by what they regard as false charges.

The important thing for all of us to remember is that much is at stake and many otherwise responsible Baptists don't seem to realize it. An indication is the large number of Southern Baptists who passed up the convention this year for a trip to the Baptist World Congress in Canada in July.

Persons of good will and sincerity who think each other is the source of the trouble can drift further and further apart and ultimately can destroy what both prize and love.

What is at stake is not only denominational programs like Bold Mission Thrust but the very institutional structure of the denomination which has taken 135 years to build.

We could destroy or damage Southern Baptist theological education which is among the best in the world. We would lose some of the most devout saints and ablest interpreters and teachers of the Bible which God has given to any generation of Baptists.

If this should happen, we can be sure it is not of God but of the devil.

Would to God all 13 million plus Southern Baptists could have heard the magnificent sermon of Stephen Olford on Wednesday night of the convention and responded unanimously to his plea to unite first of all under the Lordship of Jesus Christ to do God's business. The other issues would pose no threat and there could be no more editorials on two conventions within one.

Lord, let it be!

Observations

State messengers reflect on St. Louis, week's actions

by James H. Cox and Randy Wyrick

The cost of attending the convention, inerrancy, unity, tension and facilities were all subjects addressed by Kentuckians attending the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis last week.

Western Recorder interviewed a number of messengers from the Bluegrass State during the eventful week and most tended to reflect along similar lines.

"I feel people came here wanting to bring the convention back to a spirit of Christian unity and fellowship," said James Blackerby of Immanuel Church, Somerset. Everyone came here with a loving heart. This has been accomplished."

Elmer Varnador of Elizabethtown said, however, "I can feel a spirit of tension which seems to be underground. I think the conservatives are trying to do an overkill without offending anyone."

Others disagreed.

"I am pleased with the lack of tension," Terry Freeman, pastor of First Church, Auburn, affirmed. "I expected the inerrancy problem to be more openly exposed."

"The convention has spoken very concisely to announce its conservative stance," said Ralph Aday of Vine Grove. "What has happened cannot be attributed to a splinter group."

Hershal Morgan of First Church, Benton, felt a positive tone was set for the convention at the earlier Pastor's Conference.

"I feel good about the Pastor's Conference," he said. The stage for the convention's lurch to the right was set during last year's Pastor's Conference.

However that lurch, according to Charles E. Van Zant, Lebanon evangelist, will not result in any major schisms. "The convention seems to be low key," he said. "I think strength and unity are coming from what is being said. I was warned there could be a split before I came, but I don't think you could even get a good-sized splinter."

Al Hardy, development vice president Campbellsville College, felt the key to the conciliatory mood of this year's convention is the presidential convention.

"The convention has been low key and peaceful. There seems to be less publicity and conversing on the election beforehand.

"Hopefully we will not get into the public arena every year by politicking for the presidency," he said.

"Adrian (Rogers) set the tone for the convention," said Larry Mulberry of New Bethel Baptist Church, Caldwell-Lyon Association. "His message was presented in love with truth to the fact that God will use the Southern Baptist Convention if we will let him. Unity will come through Christian love."

An endless number of resolutions came before the messengers. One motion in particular, though seemed to bring about the loudest response. The motion dealt with those people who obtain 50 percent of their income from the Cooperative Program and stated those people would not be eligible to be messengers at the convention.

"I think there has been an overload of trivia by way of the resolutions, some of which we do not need," said Wally Miller of Northern Kentucky Association. "There is no way the Southern Baptist Convention could eliminate board employes from voting privileges. To exclude them would be wrong."

Mulberry said he was "stunned by the motion on eliminating denominational workers from voting at the convention."

Nearly everyone enjoyed St. Louis as a city and a facility, but maintained it was expensive.

"The exhibit area at St. Louis has been exceptionally good as compared to other years," said Hardy.

"This is a good convention site," said Mulberry. "St. Louis Baptists have done a good job hosting us."

Everett Rountree, pastor of Glencoe (Ky.) Baptist Church, liked the "convenience" of St. Louis. "It is a great improvement over last year," he said. However, he also observed prices "seem to be much higher than last year."

Rountree added he probably wouldn't go to Los Angeles next year. "I think pastors from smaller churches will be priced out of going to the convention," he concluded.

Convention impressions

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Bold opportunities: If bold mission needs a place to begin, let it begin in the big cities of our nation. Spiritual depravity was vividly illustrated time and again in St. Louis. In one restaurant, an insensitive waiter interrupted a group of Southern Baptist diners repeatedly during their prayer of thanks. Walking along a downtown street at high noon this reporter observed a man sleeping on the sidewalk, obviously the victim of the ravages of alcohol. The daily papers reported crimes of every description in each edition. A black youth screamed vulgarities at another across a bus station lobby. If ever Southern Baptists need a place to witness, the large metropolitan areas of our nation seem a logical place to start. St. Louisians who were not Southern Baptists seemed hungry for the words of cheer which messengers brought them, and responsive to any kindness shown. Is the time ripe just as the field is white?

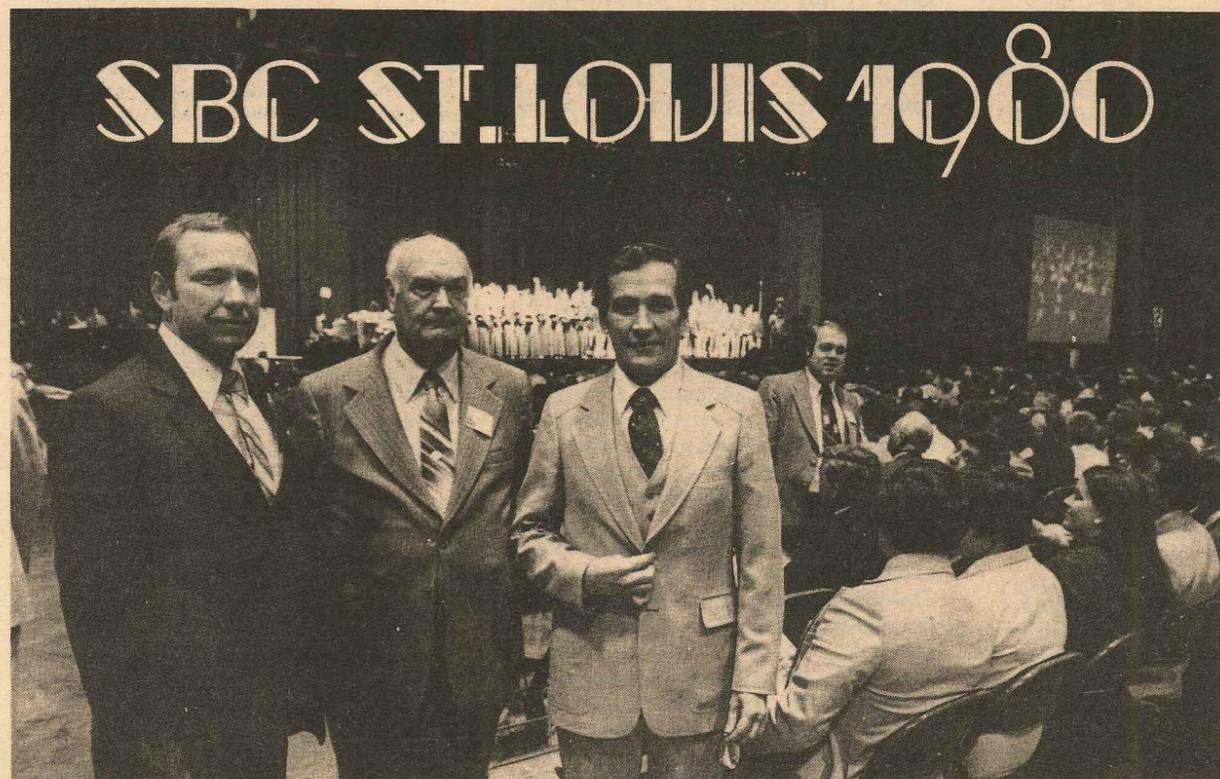
High cost of travel: Prices were out of sight in St. Louis, and we find ourselves amazed every convention how the current one tops the last in this regard. A salad, piece of pie and glass of iced tea in one restaurant ran \$7.50. Some paid \$20 or more per person for dinner. Service was friendly but abominably slow in many downtown eateries. Rooms in downtown hotels ran \$35-\$70 for doubles with most averaging \$60. A Kentuckian noted, "Never have so many paid so much for so little." Only three years ago we observed hotel rates in Kansas City from \$30-\$50, and last year that gasoline was selling for 73.5 cents per gallon in Houston. The times, they surely are a changin'.

Registration contrasts: Was there a concerted effort by any group to circumvent the stringent registration procedures imposed on the convention this year? Absolutely not, said credentials committee member Jerry Gunnells of Mobile, Ala. There were some "irate preachers" who were poorly informed on how to obtain a registration card or how to fill one out before arriving, but 99% were "cooperative and gracious in every way." Gunnells said he did approve a five-year-old girl's card (she had been duly elected as a messenger by her cooperating church). At the same time he had to turn down a bivocational pastor who had never been to a convention, who paid his own way, yet didn't know the rules and had not been elected by his church. Gunnells observed the convention set the procedures and the local churches did the electing, so the child could be certified but the bivocational pastor could not. He felt a great deal of publicity before the convention on how to properly register had helped most messengers in their quest to be eligible to vote.

A funny thing happened: A North Carolina messenger, nominating a South Carolinian for the office of second vice president, got to rambling about the man's desirable traits which would help him as a convention officer. He said, "This good brother preaches three times a week without notes. I'll bet you don't know how he got started doing that. Well, I'll tell you about it." He then proceeded to relate in picturesque detail that his friend was preaching at a little country church on one occasion when a swift wind came along half way through his message, picked up his notes on the pulpit and carried them out the window, where a cow grazing in a meadow swallowed them whole. By then, the messengers were caught up in the spirit of it all and roared approval with thunderous laughter and applause. As presiding officer Adrian Rogers took the microphone again he interjected, "I wish some of you fellows had let the cow get some of your speeches this week, too."

A pastoral setting? Is the Southern Baptist Convention becoming ministerially dominated? So it would seem if one gauges his answer by those nominated for the convention's top three offices this year. Of six persons nominated for the presidency, all are pastors. Of seven nominated for first vice president, six are ordained ministers. The dozen nominated for second vice president included 10 ministerially trained. Thus, only three laymen appeared among 25 nominees.

Kentucky honors: Thirteen from the Bluegrass State were named to SBC boards and agencies. John Duna-way, KBC president, elected vice president of the SBC Executive Committee. C. R. Daley, Western Recorder editor, one of three Southern Seminary alumni presented distinguished alumnus award. J. Altus Newell, pastor of St. Matthews Church, Louisville, named president-elect of that school's alumni. Mrs. William Ellis of Shelbyville reelected secretary of national WMU. All brought honor to Kentuckians in St. Louis.



1979-80 Southern Baptist Convention officers perform the duties demanded by their offices for the last time during the 1980 Southern Baptist Convention [l-r]: Don Touchton, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Bran-

don, Fla., second vice president; Abner McCall, president, Baylor University, Waco, Tex., first vice president; and Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., president.

Convention Reports

Smith meets the press

The characteristics which have made the Southern Baptist Convention great will continue to keep it great, newly elected SBC president Bailey Smith said.

Smith listed those characteristics as "respect for the Bible, love for evangelism and a commitment to missions."

In his first meeting with the news media since being elected Smith took his stand on the inerrancy of the scriptures and said his appointments to key Southern Baptist posts will "lean toward those who believe the Bible is the inerrant word of God."

He defined inerrancy as meaning that in the original autographs of the Bible there are no errors. Inerrancy, he said, "means in the original autograph God breathed the words he wanted us to have."

When asked which translation is perfect, Smith reiterated: "I believe we have exactly what God wants us to have."

Smith said he sees no need for reform in the SBC because the "great majority of Southern Baptists believe in the inerrant word of God. The liberals we have are few compared to the great majority of our people."

Smith said he is part of no major effort to take control of the denomination, nor does he know of any 10-year plan to make the convention more conservative.

"I have friends in every area. Some seminary professors told me they voted for me. I don't know where the votes came from. I am not going to be the president of any group. I am president of the Southern Baptist Convention."

SBC split inevitable?

Well known conservative Harold Lindsell, former editor of *Christianity Today* magazine, reiterated there will ultimately be a split in the Southern Baptist Convention is some "liberal" professors in the seminaries aren't curbed.

Lindsell is a former president of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship whose members are leading the attack on what they consider "liberal" teaching. He characterized as liberal seminary professors who use the historical critical method of teaching.

In a news conference Lindsell said Southern Baptists are in a stage of "attack and counterattack" and have yet to reach the climax of the battle over inerrancy of the Bible.

"If they follow the tradition of most other major denominations," said Lindsell, "Southern Baptists will lose that which constitutes their genius. Once you lose the Bible, you lose evangelism and missions outreach."

Discrimination beat down

A proposed constitutional amendment which would have denied messenger status to most employees of Southern Baptist agencies, institutions and state conventions was defeated during a business session of the 123rd Southern Baptist Convention.

Kenneth Barnett, an Alamogordo, N. M., pastor who submitted the proposed constitutional change was the only person in the meeting hall of the Cervantes Convention Center to speak in

favor of the amendment.

Barnett argued the amendment would eliminate conflicts of interest by placing denominational workers outside the arena of politics.

The proposal was defeated overwhelmingly after Herbert Sennett of Columbus, Oh., urged messengers to vote against the amendment.

Sennett stressed the importance of Baptists' belief in "the autonomy of the local church" and asked the messengers, "Are you going to deny us the right to choose the messengers we want to serve as representatives from our church?"

A second constitutional amendment which would have changed the meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention (every annual session) to a quadrennial (every four years) meeting was also rejected by the messengers.

The amendment lost after only Wayne Stevens of Lineville, Ala. spoke in support of the amendment he submitted.

BPRA names winners

Educational institutions swept awards in the annual Baptist Public Relations Association-sponsored exhibit competition at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Heading the winners' list were the six SBC theological seminaries in the \$2000 and above category.

First place winners in the \$1000-\$2000 category were the Radio & Television Commission, Ft. Worth, and Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

In the \$500-\$1000 category honors went to Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla., with a motif on the school's growth. Among those entries spending \$1-\$500, the winner was Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz., with the theme "Your Place in the Sun."

Students exposed to SBC

The vast 17,000-seat meeting hall of the Theological Seminary, St. Louis, may not be an intimate classroom but a dozen seminarians found it a perfect setting for a course in church polity.

The students are enrolled in the course "The Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting" being offered for the first time by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. As part of the three-week course the students attended each session of the SBC meeting.

Attending the convention is a "way to look at how Southern Baptists make decisions, how they do their work," explained Daniel Aleshire, assistant professor of church and denominational ministry.

Aleshire and church history professor Walter Shurden led the students in discussions after each of the sessions. The students also attended preconvention meetings of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and the SBC Executive Committee.

GGBTS honors Harris

Jerry L. Harris, missionary to Barbados, Windward Islands, was honored as alumnus of the year at the annual meeting of the Golden Gate Seminary

Alumni Association.

L. Arthur Nunn Jr. of Sacramento, Calif., was elected president of the association for 1980-81, and Clyde B. Skidmore of Bakersfield, Calif., president-elect. James E. Morton Jr. of Livermore, Calif., is current president.

SBTS recognizes Daley

More than 1000 alumni of the Southern Baptist Convention's oldest seminary honored three of their colleagues with "Alumni of the Year" awards at their annual luncheon.

Receiving the award were C. R. Daley of Middletown, editor of *Western Recorder*; Sara Ann Hobbs of Raleigh, of Del City, Okla., was elected president of Mountain; and Dotson Nelson, pastor of Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

Altus Newell, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, and first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was chosen national president-elect of the alumni association. Newell will succeed R. Gene Puckett, executive director of Americans United, next June.

Wesley M. Pattillo, vice president for development at the seminary, was re-elected national secretary of the association.

James Cox, professor of preaching at the seminary, presented awards to seven Southern Seminary alumni who had written sermons for a book of 15 award winning sermons.

SEBTS honors Adams

Alumni of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary elected national officers for 1980-81, recognized contributions to the seminary of the late Theodore F. Adams and retiring business manager O. L. Cross and heard a state of the seminary report from president W. Randall Lolley.

James A. Auchmuty, pastor of Shades Crest Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., was elected president of the 4150-member alumni association. Other officers elected were Paul J. Craven, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charleston, S. C., president-elect; Calvin S. Metcalf, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, Tenn., secretary; and C. Wray Ivey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Macon, Ga., director.

MWBTS lauds success

The national alumni luncheon of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was highlighted by a multimedia presentation, the election of new officers and announcement of the successful completion of the institution's first fund raising effort.

The fund raising effort will provide additional funds needed to complete a Child Development Center, a facility to provide day care for preschoolers of seminary students.

John Goodwin, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., was chosen president-elect of the alumni. Other 1980-81 officers are Duane Trimble, pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church, Webster Grove, Mo., past president, and Robert Meade, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lee's Summit, Mo., president.

Three feted by SWBTS

Presentation of the 1980 distinguished alumni to three personalities highlighted the national Southern Baptist Theological Seminary alumni luncheon.

Receiving the awards were Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist World; S. M. Lockridge, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, LaMesa, Calif.; and R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond

D. L. Lowrie, pastor of First Baptist Church, Texarkana, Tex., was elected president of the 36,000-member national alumni association for 1980-81. Other officers are Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.; president-elect, and John Seelig, vice president of public affairs at Southwestern, secretary-treasurer.

Smith elected on 1st ballot

Bailey Smith, 41, pastor of the 14,000-member First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., was elected president of the 13.4-million member Southern Baptist Convention on the first ballot, swamping five opponents.

Smith, who is also president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, received 5739 of the 11,106 votes cast, giving him 51.67 percent of the total.

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., was second with 2382 votes and James Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, was third with 1516 votes.

Others were Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, 1089 votes; Hal Boomey of Houston, 213 votes; and Jimmy Stroud, pastor of Third Creek Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., 167 votes.

Smith was nominated by James Draper, outgoing president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and Smith's predecessor at the Del City church in the suburbs of Oklahoma City.

The messengers reelected unanimously, Harold C. Bennett of Nashville, Tenn., as treasurer; Martin Bradley of Nashville, Tenn., as recording secretary; and Lee Porter of Brentwood, Tenn., as registration secretary.

Dunaway SBC officer

H. Howard Cobble, pastor of Avondale Estates Baptist Church, Atlanta, was elected chairman of the 66-member Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for one year.

He succeeds Bruce Wester, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Miss. Wester, who is rotating off the Executive Committee, was concluding the second year of a two-year stint as chairman.

John T. Dunaway, pastor of First Baptist Church, Corbin, Ky., was named vice chairman. Don Gent of Evansville, Ind., a layman, was elected recording secretary.

Panel sets BMT goals

The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee—the denomination's 66-member figurative board of directors—heard a Bold Mission Thrust

Continued on next page

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report designed not only to confront everyone in the world with the gospel by the year 2000 but to add 1.5 million baptized believers to church rolls by 1984-85.

The Bold Mission Thrust report listed suggested goals for 1982-85. In addition to the 1.5 million new baptisms the report called for the organization of 1500 new churches by 1985, the involvement of 8.5 million people in Bible study through Sunday school and leading 30,000 churches to increase their percentage of budget giving through the Cooperative Program.

In other action the committee adopted a recommendation from its finance subcommittee that may enable New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to acquire the 119,000 square foot Maison-Blanche department store for renovation as a student center. The building on 6.57 acres adjoins the seminary.

New Orleans Seminary is due to receive \$2,701,295 from the denomination by 1983-84. That money has already been designated for a new student center and cafeteria.

The recommendation will enable seminary leaders to enter negotiations with the property owners. In the event a settlement cannot be reached, seminary president Landrum P. Leavell II said the money already designated by the denomination will be used to build a new student center and cafeteria.

In other business the Executive Committee approved a request from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary to borrow against future capital needs allocated for the completion of construction of the new library facilities.

Members of the Executive Committee learned their administrative subcommittee named Daniel B. Martin Jr. of Atlanta, Ga. to succeed Robert J. O'Brien as news editor for Baptist Press. O'Brien is leaving after seven years to accept an overseas news assignment with the SBC's Foreign Mission Board.

Martin, an experienced journalist with years in secular and Southern Baptist journalism, is editor of news services for the Home Mission Board. He will join the staff Aug. 1.

BMT can be done: Rogers

Can Southern Baptists reach every person on earth with the gospel in just 20 years?

Adrian Rogers, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, posed that question to messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention, then emphatically answered it.

"Unequivocally, unmistakably, definitely, yes," he declared, but warned God will require several things of Southern Baptists if the gospel is to be shared with every person on earth by the year 2000.

Rogers, pastor of the 10,500-member Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis Tenn., said Southern Baptists must first allow themselves to be God's "clean and holy" tools.

The "burning question" for Southern Baptists, he said, is not "Shall the kingdom be preached among all nations? Jesus said it shall be done. That's not up for debate.

"The burning question for us as Southern Baptists is will we be the tool that a righteous and holy God can use?"

The SBC president drew loud applause when he said, "Southern Baptists must ever be a people of the book. We have no need of a creed because we have the Bible. Who can improve on that? But without an infallible word from God we have nothing but a holy hunch."

Rogers went on to affirm his belief in the inerrancy of the Bible. He agreed with a statement by former Southern

Baptist Convention president Herschel Hobbs of Oklahoma City who said, "Southern Baptists may differ as to God's method of inspiration of those who wrote the Bible, but all are in agreement as to the product. It is the divinely inspired word of God."

Southern Baptists must continue as "people of the book" in order to accomplish Bold Mission Thrust, Rogers said.

"We will believe it, claim it, love it, preach it and pour it forth as white-hot lava. And when we do, the doors will swing open."

Editors praise Standard

Southern Baptist editors expressed "profound respect and gratitude" to the Baptist Standard of Texas for its reporting of the inerrancy dispute.

The expression, in the form of a resolution, was unanimously adopted during a breakfast meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The resolution noted Southern Baptists "have always insisted on religious liberty, free discussion, open flow of information and priesthood of the believer," and said "certain groups . . . have endangered these inviolate principles with broad charges against other persons within our denomination."

Another resolution adopted by the SBPA called on President Jimmy Carter, members of Congress and the Postal Service Commission to provide relief for the publications, which have an aggregate circulation of slightly more than two million.

Kaemmerling quits BFMF

Russell Kaemmerling, pastor of First Baptist Church, West Columbia, S. C., has resigned as editor of the conservative Southern Baptist Journal and from membership in the sponsoring Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship.

Kaemmerling, 31, cited "editorial differences" and said he quit effective June 10. The former editor added: "I feel conservatives have something to say and should have some kind of voice, but for my own individual credibility and integrity I could not participate in character assassination and spurious issues which seemed to me to be the way they wanted to go."

Kaemmerling specifically singled William A. Powell, executive vice president of BFMF and former editor of the Journal, as leading the opposition to Kaemmerling's views as to the future and content of the publication.

Kaemmerling assumed editorship in December 1979 and prepared the April, May and June issues of the publication.

An editorial committee composed of five persons also have resigned from the ultraconservative group, Kaemmerling claimed.

Louisvillians disqualified

Two messengers from Louisville were disqualified as messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Tom and Claudia Riner, members of Logos Baptist Church, Louisville, were disqualified unanimously after an equally unanimous credentials committee recommended the action. The credentials committee determined the Riners did not qualify as messengers because their church does not cooperate with the SBC.

Claudia Riner introduced a resolution earlier this week urging the convention to support posting the Ten Commandments in every public school classroom. The practice, recently upheld by a Kentucky court, has drawn criticism as a violation of church-state separation and is still under legal challenge.

After the convention disqualification resolution committee chairman Wayne Allen of Memphis told messengers that Riner's resolution, which the panel had approved for presentation to the convention, was being disallowed.

Abortion, prayer argued

Demonstrating a strongly conservative bent, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention dramatically altered the 13.4 million member denomination's position on abortion and tightened its definition of "doctrinal integrity."

At the same time, however, the convention refused to alter its support of the U. S. Supreme Court's decisions forbidding state written and sponsored prayer in public schools.

The convention also adopted resolutions affirming the White House Conference on the Family, Christian citizenship and taxation of church-owned businesses that compete with the private sector.

The morning's most emotional and protracted debate came on the explosive question of abortion. In the end a large majority of messengers decisively beat back efforts to weaken the statement brought to the floor by their resolutions committee by calling for legislation and/or a constitutional amendment forbidding abortion except "to save the life of the mother."

The resolution on doctrinal integrity differs from the denomination's 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement by urging seminary boards of trustees to employ and continue in employment only faculty members subscribing to the infallibility and inerrancy of the Bible.

Somewhat surprisingly, an effort to reverse the convention's position on prayer in public schools failed overwhelmingly. Twice previously, in 1964 and 1971, the convention expressed support for the Supreme Court's views on the subject.

Bailey's biggest fan?

Bailey Smith drew enough support to win a first ballot election as president of the 13.4-million member Southern Baptist Convention but none of the messengers who elected the 41-year-old pastor is a bigger fan than his wife, Sandra.

The new president's wife did not have to be convinced that the pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City City, Okla., a suburb of Oklahoma City, would make a good president. She was able to cite a number of reasons.

"First, Bailey receives his directions on a daily basis from the Lord Jesus Christ," Mrs. Smith, a trim, attractive blonde, said. "I also think he has great leadership ability because he is a very natural 'people person.' He's a leader, not a commander."

"Bailey's whole life is evangelism," she added. "And reaching people for Jesus is what our convention is all about."

Still, the new SBC first lady expressed excitement about her husband's election.

"I am tremendously grateful and excited by the confidence that a first ballot election indicates in Bailey," she said. "It's very humbling."

The Smiths have three sons, 15-year-old Scott, 12-year-old Steven and five-year-old Josh.

Cothen reflects on illness

Grady C. Cothen, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, concluded a session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference with a stirring, intensely personal account of his recent battle with stomach cancer.

The top executive of the world's largest publisher of religious materials, who is expected to "recover fully" from

radical surgery in April, said confronting the "ultimate reality" of death brought him to a fundamental conclusion about life.

"Position, prestige and honor are not important in the face of eternity," Cothen said. "As you face the long corridor of eternity there is no sweeter thought than to know you've done your best to live for God."

Speaking one day before the opening of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention Cothen recounted his thoughts immediately following surgery.

"As I drifted in and out of consciousness," he recalled, "the devil sat at the end of my bed and stuck his tongue out at me and said, 'You're through, you're finished.'"

"But I realized if I never preached, if I never worked again, what a glorious privilege God has given me—spending my life for him in ministry.

"It makes you humble to know God has given you a second chance to do what you've been called to do."

Mrs. Rogers glad it's over

"I would have been delighted if he had and I'm delighted he isn't," commented Mrs. Adrian Rogers about her husband's decision not to consider a second term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Rogers went on to say she was completely surprised when her husband returned home from a gall bladder operation at the hospital and asked her to pray with him about the matter.

Although she and her husband do not like controversy, she emphasized the current doctrinal controversy in the SBC had nothing to do with her husband's decision.

"He never looks for a fight. We would probably run from controversy," said Mrs. Rogers. "But, he has never been a compromiser or a coward."

Mrs. Rogers said she felt the only controversy this year has been over whether or not the Bible is true, and the Rogers "are glad to stand for that." Rogers allowed his named to be placed in nomination last year, his wife said, because he felt someone should speak out for the inerrancy of the scriptures. She believes he has accomplished what he wanted.

"We were taught as children that the Bible is true—we never heard the word inerrancy then—and we grew up believing that," Mrs. Rogers explained. "We were amazed when we got older and realized some Baptists don't believe that."

Henry: help is on the way

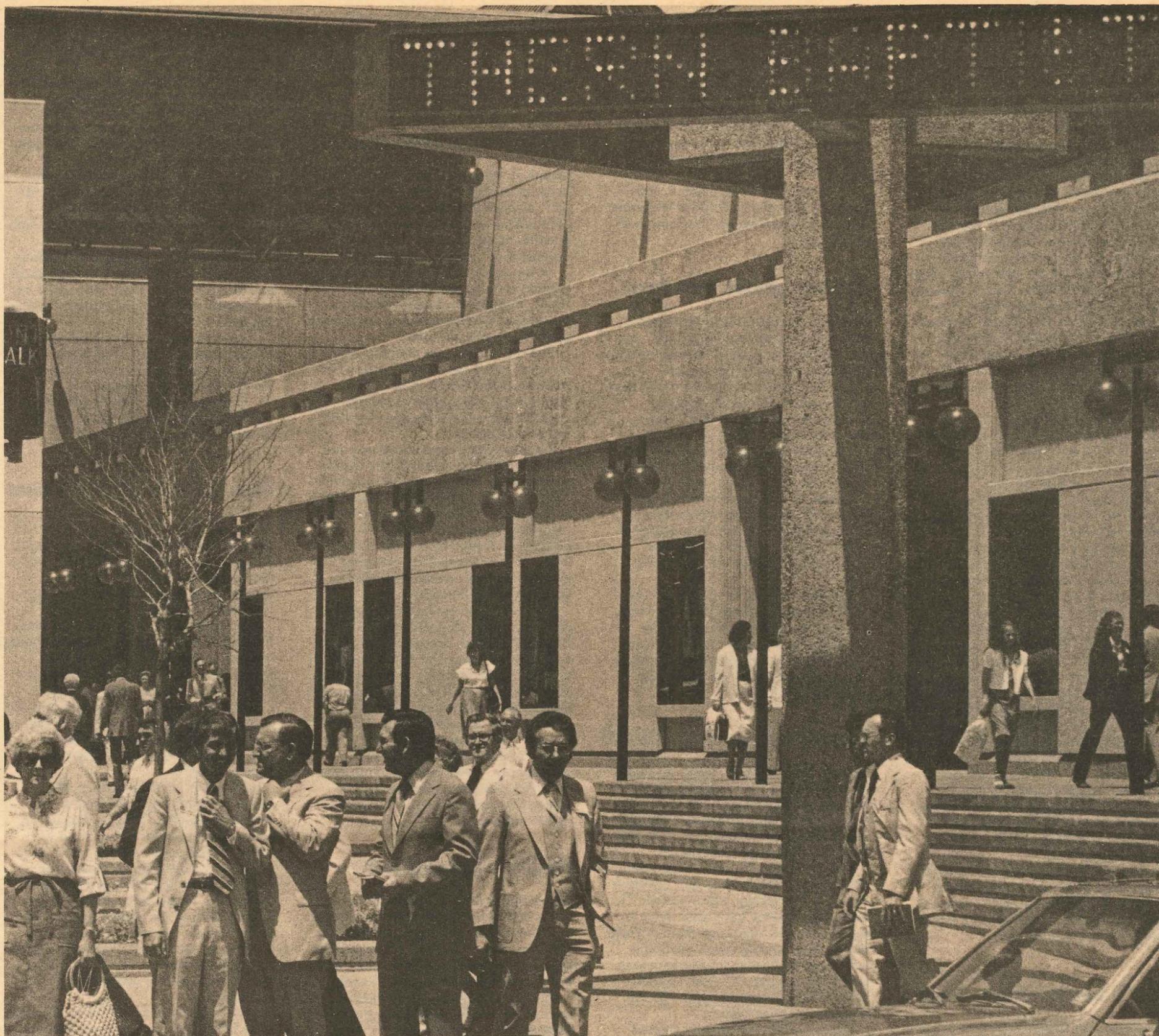
Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., was elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Elected vice president was George Harris, pastor of Castle Hills Baptist Church, San Antonio. Wayne Fields, pastor of First Baptist Church, Grand Bay, Ala., was chosen secretary-treasurer.

Henry, who narrowly defeated Larry Lewis, pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis, and current pastor's conference vice president, indicated after the election the purpose of next year's meeting will be to "lift up and magnify Christ" and to "encourage and lift up our fellow pastors."

Henry said he is aware the pastors' conference, which meets prior to the annual sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention, often "sets the tone for the convention. But we're not trying to influence what happens on the (convention) floor," Henry explained.

The themes for next year's program in Los Angeles will focus on "helping the pastor in the local church," Henry said.



The marquee outside Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis flashed a welcome to delegates to the 123rd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 10-12.



Adrian Rogers, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, gave the presidential address in the opening session.

St. Louis SBC *a remembrance*

of
politics
presidents
protests
resolutions
doctrine
and the
Bible



Southern Baptist pastors Herb Prince [c] and Ken Freemyer [r] try to persuade perpetual Presbyterian protestor Mel Perry from Nashville the Southern Baptist Convention is not liberal as Perry pickets the annual SBC meeting. Prince is pastor of First Baptist Church, Hickman, Ky., and Freemyer is pastor of Paradise Baptist Church, Casper, Wyo.



Noting she is her husband's biggest fan Sandra Smith intends to support her husband Bailey Smith during his presidency through prayers. Smith is pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.



Three men who will lead the 13.4 million member Southern Baptist Convention in 1980-81 are [l-r] Jack Taylor, author and evangelist, Ft. Worth, Tex., first vice president; Bailey Smith, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., president, and C. Wade Freeman, retired director of evangelism, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, second vice president.



Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory [r], Danville, Va., was reelected president of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union at the organization's annual meeting June 8-9 in St. Louis. Mrs. William Ellis [c], Shelbyville, Ky., was reelected recording secretary. Pictured with them is Carolyn Weatherford, WMU executive director, Birmingham, Ala.

1980 SBC officers elected, reelected

New officers of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference are [l-r] Kenneth Wayne Fields, pastor, First Baptist Church, Grand Bay, Ala., secretary-treasurer; Stan Coffey, pastor, First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N. M., vice president; and Jim Henry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., president. They were elected at the annual pastors' conference which met June 8-9 in Cervantes Convention Center, St. Louis.



Members of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association elected officers [l-r]: Marvin Myers, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, secretary-treasurer; Charles Polston, director of Church Training and Church Music, New Mexico Baptist Convention, third vice president; Neta Stewart, dean of women, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., second vice president; Roger Skelton, professor of religious education, Golden Gate Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., president; Charles Gwaltney, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., president-elect.



Officers of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference are, bottom row [l-r], Al Washburn, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., president-elect; Thad Roberts, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., president; Mary June Tabor, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, secretary-treasurer; and Gerald Brown, Richardson Heights Baptist Church, Richardson, Tex., vice president-local church division. Pictured on the top row [l-r], Louis Ball, Carson Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., vice president-educators; and Carl Sheppard, Illinois Baptist State Association, Springfield, Ill., vice president-denominational division.

The reasons for challenging Logos Church messengers

by C. R. Daley, *Editor*

The Southern Baptist Convention disqualified Tom and Claudia Riner of Louisville as messengers of the Logos Baptist Church to the 1980 convention upon the unanimous recommendation of the convention's credentials committee. The committee after careful investigation reported that the Logos Church in Louisville was not in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Since I was the one who challenged their credentials I feel I should relate the facts as I understand them. The Riners will be invited to respond and present the basis of their claim for recognition as messengers.

Mrs. Riner offered a resolution in the first session of the convention. From what I thought I knew, I was surprised that she was regarded as a Southern Baptist Convention messenger and I began an investigation of her credentials. I learned she and her husband, Tom Riner, had registered as messengers from the Logos Baptist Church in Louisville. I immediately called the Baptist Building in Louisville and arranged for a search of records of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Long Run Association, the official organizations of Southern Baptist churches in Louisville.

The result was the Logos Baptist Church did not appear on the official lists of the state convention or the Long Run Association. Efforts to reach the church to secure information were unsuccessful because the church is not listed under any category in the Louisville telephone directory.

After a long search one reference to the church was found. A check for \$250 designated for foreign missions was received by the state convention office from Logos Baptist Church on Apr. 11, 1979. (\$250 is the minimum contribution to qualify a church for sending messengers to the state convention providing the church is in friendly cooperation with the convention.)

The record showed not one cent had been contributed by this church in its entire existence through the Cooperative Program which is the universally accepted channel by which churches express their interest in the worldwide Baptist missionary enterprise.

This is the information I presented to the credentials committee. My challenge was not on the basis of contributions but on the basis of the church not being "in friendly cooperation with the convention and sympathetic with its purposes," a constitutional requirement for membership.

The investigation of the credentials committee revealed these additional facts. The Riners were accompanied by eight others who registered as messengers in St. Louis. None had official registration cards though these had been available in the Louisville offices of the Kentucky Baptist Convention for several months.

Not having official cards the Riners had to fill out applications for official cards. The statement on the application cards signed by Mrs. Riner gave "forgot" as the reason for not having official cards. Her signed statement also said Logos Church had contributed \$2300 to "convention work" during the last fiscal year and that the Logos Church was entitled to 10 messengers (\$2250 would be the minimum contribution for 10 messengers).

Eight messengers including Mr. and Mrs. Riner registered from Logos Church and two registered from Christ Is King Church in Louisville of which Mr. Riner apparently is also pastor but which also is not listed by the state convention, the local association or in the Louisville telephone directory.

Mrs. Riner signed the application and messengers' cards from both these churches. Baptist polity makes no provision for one person to be a member of two churches simultaneously.

The credentials committee during its investigation paged the Riners several times with no response and finally called the hotel they had listed only to learn they had checked out. As it turned out they had returned to Louisville before Mrs. Riner's resolution was scheduled for consideration.

In the meantime the executive director of the Long Run Association, Allen West, and the executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Franklin Owen, were summoned by the credentials committee to shed light on these churches. Neither could recall any participation or cooperation from these churches.

The investigation of the credentials committee began shortly after 11 a.m. and not until 4 p.m. did the committee report its findings and make its recommendation to the convention to disqualify the Riners as messengers.

I called Mr. Riner shortly after returning to Louisville the next day. Our discussion was friendly but frank. I was anxious to learn the basis for several statements on the registration application cards, especially where the \$2300 for convention work had been sent and why Mrs. Riner signed messenger cards from two different churches.

The \$2300, according to Mr. Riner, was sent directly from the church to an association and a local church in Indiana. It went through no denominational channels.

Mr. Riner said Mrs. Riner was asked to serve as moderator of Christ Is King Church which meets in the Riner's home but of which they apparently are not members. When asked if Christ Is King Church had no clerk or any other bona fide member to sign the messenger cards, Mr. Riner insisted it was alright for Mrs. Riner to serve as moderator of both churches.

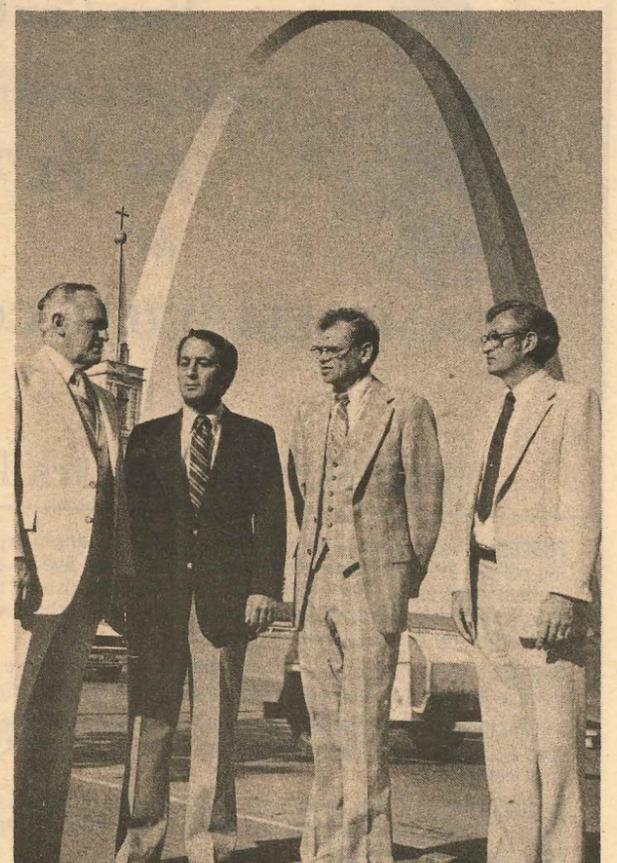
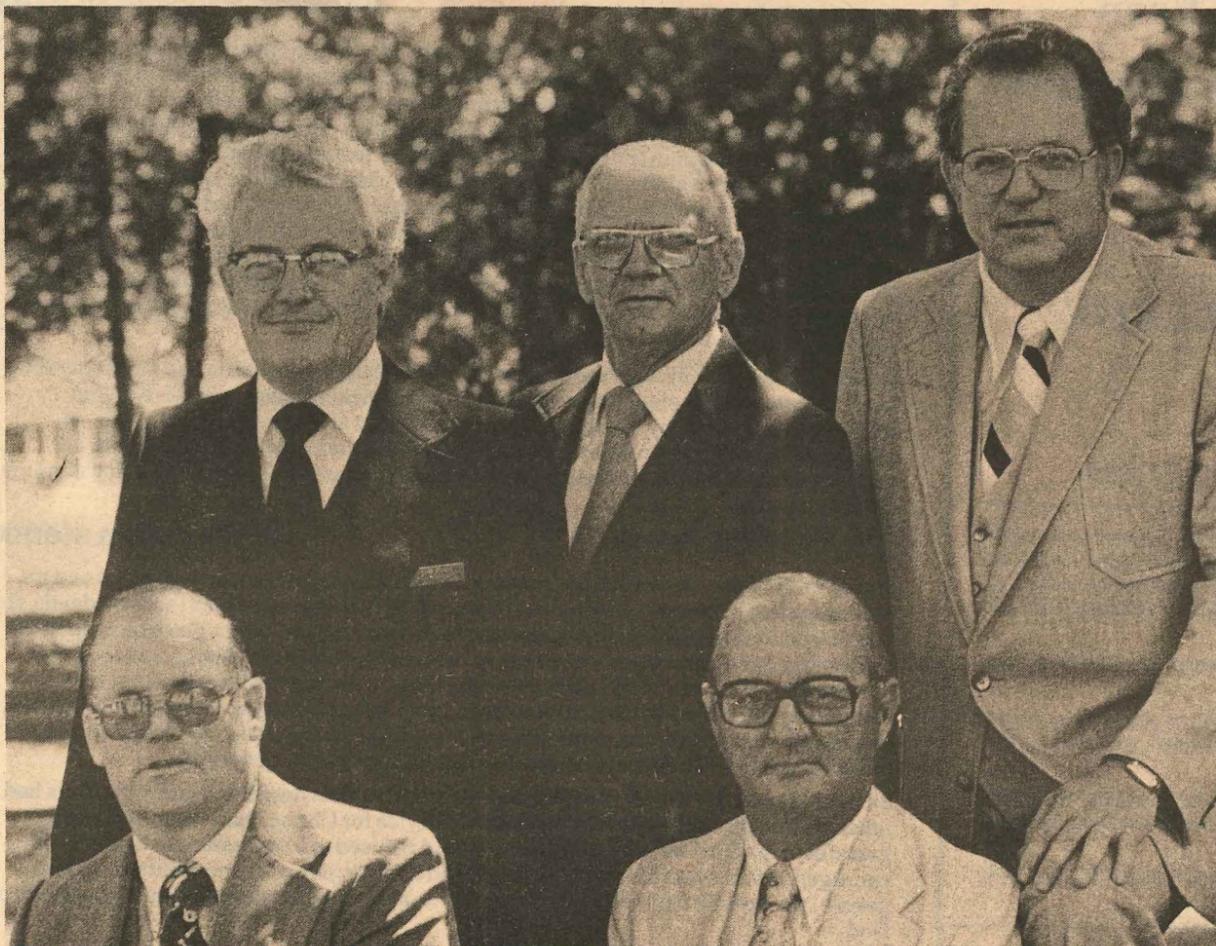
I have no personal ill feelings toward the Riners or the other eight members of Logos and Christ Is King churches. I do strongly resent what appears to be their effort to misuse or abuse the Southern Baptist Convention. My concern is not to discredit Riners' projects but the integrity of the convention.

The record of cooperation of the Logos Baptist Church and the Riners with other Southern Baptist churches and their contributions to Southern Baptist causes clearly indicate they do not endorse nor sincerely support the convention's projects but only seek to be technically qualified as convention messengers in order to seek convention endorsement of their own projects. This is wrong no matter how noble their projects and it must be stopped even if the convention's constitution has to be changed.

In the press Mr. Riner accuses me of providing false information to the credentials committee. He is invited to furnish proof for this charge. In the meantime I challenge him to prove his claim in the press that 50 of the 136 churches in Long Run Association "gave less than we did to the association and the state convention last year." The record indicates that beyond the \$250 given over a year ago to foreign missions, the Logos Church had not given one cent to the Long Run Association or the state convention.

Should Logos and Christ Is King churches sincerely wish to be associated with Southern Baptist churches in Louisville and Kentucky and go through the established channels for recognition, they would be given careful consideration and probably be welcomed. As long as they circumvent the association and the state while trying to participate in the Southern Baptist Convention, their motives will be suspect. It is true that Southern Baptist Convention participation does not require membership in local associations or state conventions but evidence of friendly cooperation is required.

The constitutional requirements for recognition in the Southern Baptist Convention are very broad and usually are interpreted leniently. Should further investigation by Lee Porter, the convention registration secretary, establish that the Riners were qualified as bona fide messengers to the 1980 convention in St. Louis, I will apologize to them and to the Logos Church.



Officers of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, elected at the annual Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, are [l-r] Harold C. Bennett of Nashville, Tenn., treasurer; J. Howard Cobble, pastor of Avondale Estates Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., chairman; John T. Dunaway, pastor of First Baptist Church, Corbin, Ky., vice chairman; and Donald I. Gent, Evansville, Ind., recording secretary.

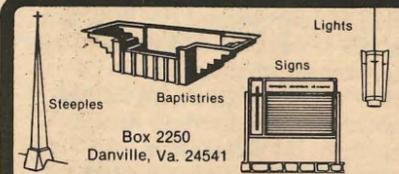
New officers elected at the annual Southern Baptist Conference for Directors of Missions June 8-9 at Fee Baptist Church in St. Louis are, bottom row [l-r], J. D. Passmore, Current Gains Association, Arkansas, secretary, and Cline Borders, Kings Mountain

Association, North Carolina, president-elect. On the top row [l-r] are Stanley White, Los Angeles Baptist Association, California, 1981 host; Harold Blackburn, Baldwin Association, Alabama, editor; and Larry Rose, Waco Baptist Association, Texas, president.

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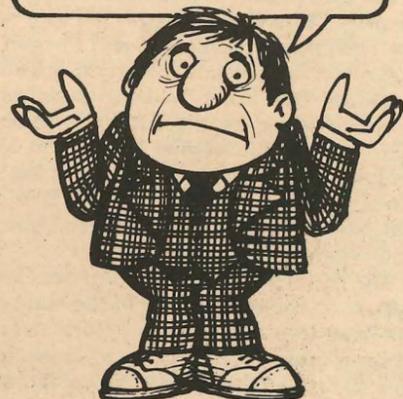
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H. C. Chiles



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Ezekiel: Prophet in exile

Ezekiel 17:11-18 God told Ezekiel what to say to the stubborn and rebellious exiles in Babylon, who thought God was dealing unfairly and unjustly with them, and who sought to shift the blame for their predicament to others and thereby exonerate themselves. God instructed Ezekiel to tell the people they were suffering strictly because of their own sins, for which they could not evade their responsibility.

Having refused to abide by the terms of the covenant with God, Zedekiah made a covenant with Nebuchadnezzar involving his complete submission to the Babylonian king. It was not long until Zedekiah disregarded the covenant he had made with Nebuchadnezzar and attempted to enter upon an alliance with Egypt whereby he might gain military assistance for use against Babylon. Inasmuch as God was using Babylon for the chastisement of Zedekiah and his people, God thwarted his attempt to circumvent the divine plan.

Ezekiel 18:30-32 Through the prophet God called upon those who had sinned against him to repent of their sins, to turn from all of their wicked ways, to receive divine forgiveness and thereby escape punishment, to trust God for all of their needs, to permit him to do for them what they could not do for themselves. God longs for all sinners to turn to him in penitence and faith, and thereafter to enjoy true and victorious Christian living.

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A Christian stance

Hebrews 2:14-15 Knowing the consciousness of having sinned against God and its attendant fear of being subjected to the penalties had caused people to dread death, the Son of God took upon himself human nature in order that he might place himself in the circumstances where death was possible, so that through his dying he might deliver sinners from their dread of death. He voluntarily accepted the limitations of man, completely identified himself with man and was subjected to the temptations of Satan, just as others were, but he refused to yield to a single temptation. By dying for sinners he emancipated all believers in him from their former state of bondage.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Aware of the great toll which his hardships and sufferings had taken on him physically during his faithful service for Christ, Paul was exceedingly grateful to his Lord for his enabling grace and refused to lose heart or to become discouraged. Even when his troubles, trials and tribulations were most numerous and severe, the apostle experienced a great spiritual renewal through the mercy and love of God.

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 Paul knew that Christ might return during his lifetime, but he was also fully aware that he might experience death prior to this greatest event in the future. Inasmuch as Christ had taken possession of him and molded him according to his own gracious purposes, Paul fully intended to center in Christ his thoughts, interests, plans, activities and hopes as long as he was allowed to live.



Ministering to the children of the 80's

Wm. E. Amos, Director
Ky. Baptist Board of Child Care



Oneida Journal

A daughter of the King



Barkley Moore, president,
Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

Atmosphere for ministry

We on the staff are often asked the question, "What do you do at the Board of Child Care?" This seemingly innocent question is full of complexities. However, the direct simplicity of it demands a simple answer. The most basic response is that our task is to take care of children; to meet their needs in the name of Jesus Christ as a witness to the Christian faith.

With children and young people coming from all over this state from a multitude of different circumstances, we must keep in focus what our basic task is. While this response implies the tangible basics of food, clothing and shelter, it also involves some of the intangibles such as security, identity and one's walk with God.

Many times I feel that we on the staff fall into the trap of dealing with very complex situations in an attitude of trying to make something happen that is always visible and measurable. As vital as this is and as gratifying as it is, I feel there is a more basic part to our task.

At the basis of going about all that is outlined above, our task is really to create an atmosphere where these things can happen. To view our task in this way does two things. First of all, it reaffirms our role as ministers of Jesus Christ. Secondly, it underscores our dependent relationship with God's Holy Spirit.

If we keep in focus that task of creating an atmosphere of warmth, security and love, then the possibilities of specifics happening which are measurable are much more likely. However, if we focus our main energy on making things happen, we could do so at the risk of not having the right kind of atmosphere and setting for the children and young people who live with us. Communicating the good news of the gospel cannot be done as simply as providing food, shelter and other needs basic to life. Being able to hear the good news comes when the setting is right, when other needs are being met. Effective witness and ministry are always dependent on the setting, atmosphere and readiness of the person to hear and receive. Herein lies the heart of what we are all about.

A daughter of the King is Mrs. Judy Teague Ratliff, Oneida class of 1962 and recipient of the school's highest honor the year she graduated.

Judy first heard of Oneida when Mrs. J. C. Dance, a long time home economics teacher at OBI, spoke in her church in the fall of 1959.

The 12th child in a family of 13, Judy lived in a coal camp in Clairfield, Tenn. At the time she came to Oneida her father was an unemployed coal miner.

Judy's arrival was not expected that cold Sunday night in January 1960. Not having contacted the school directly she did not know to bring linen. She had no money. But the late Mrs. D. Chester Sparks, then dean of the school, welcomed her enthusiastically.

"Don't worry about money. The Lord works in mysterious ways." Truly he did through a group of dedicated Baptist women who provided a scholarship for her for the next two and a half years.

Following her junior and senior years at Oneida where she was active in BSU, Judy worked in vacation Bible schools in eastern Kentucky. The following summer she worked for the state WMU in GA camps all over Kentucky.

Judy saw the love and concern of her dedicated Christian teachers that searched out each student in a very special way.

As she became aware of some of the student's problems, she realized that she was quite wealthy in her family's love, even though in material blessings she was quite poor. This once shy, backward, all but penniless girl came to realize that she was the daughter of the most high King, Christ, and for him she wished to serve as an ambassador in Christian service. So it has been over the years.

Following Oneida graduation, Mr. and Mrs. Encil Deen, Lexington, both of whom are former trustees, opened their home to Judy while she attended UK. During those years she was active in Calvary Baptist Church.

Today, Judy is Mrs. Tom Ratliff, mother of three sons and one daughter. Long time residents of Rockford, Ill., she and her husband sent their oldest son, Jon, to Oneida for his eighth grade year.

Missing their son very much and living so far away, yet wanting Jon to have the advantages of an Oneida education, the Ratliffs sold their Illinois home and Tom gave up a most lucrative stock brokerage to move to Lexington at the start of Jon's freshman year at OBI. The Ratliffs are now members of Immanuel Baptist Church which is near their new home.

Judy, a professional interior decorator, devotes three days a week as a volunteer staff member at Oneida, supervising the decorating of Oneida's 12 major buildings.

A major effort has been the renovation of Oneida's Emma Ayer Dining Hall, named in honor of a great Presbyterian friend who willed her entire estate to the school in 1955. Living in Seattle, Wash., Mrs. Ayer never saw Oneida but she loved its boys and girls.

The Ayer Dining Hall has never been lovelier than with its color scheme blending walls, ceiling and floor together, venetian blinds covering the large windows, many live potted plants, beautiful and colorful mosaics made by Oneida students in their art classes covering the walls, and hand made baskets filled with flowers decorating each linen covered table, each cloth protected by a special vinyl covering.

Scripture assures us that if we cast our bread upon the waters, it shall return after many days. Surely this is true in Judy's life whose testimony is: "If there had not been Christians dedicated to his cause of Christian education, I would not be where I am today."

KBC Activities

Here and now

JUNE

- 23 Interfaith Witness Conference. Richmond, First Baptist Church.
- 24 Interfaith Witness Conference. Bowling Green, Eastwood Baptist Church.
- 26 Interfaith Witness Conference. Hardinsburg, Hardinsburg Baptist Church.
- 27 Interfaith Witness Conference. Henderson, Immanuel Baptist Tabernacle. For pastors and lay people Sessions 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Conferences led by Jay Brown, Evangelism Department, KBC, assisted by personnel from HMB Interfaith Witness Department.
- 23-27 Cedarmore: Youth Week (Filled); GA/Acteen Camp (Filled); RA Camp at Rabro. Grades 4-12.

Looking ahead

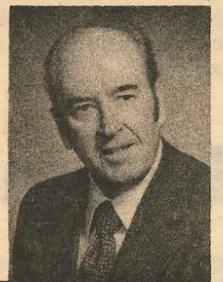
JUNE

- 29 Christian Citizenship Sunday.
- 30-7/4 Cedarmore: Youth Week (Filled); GA/Acteen Camp; RA Camp at Rabro, Grades 4-12.
- 30-7/4 GA/Acteen Camp at Jonathan Creek.

JULY

- 7-11 Mountain Missions Conference, Oneida.
- 7-11 Cedarmore: Youth Week (Filled); GA/Acteen Camp; RA Camp at Rabro, Grades 4-12.
- 7-11 GA/Acteen Camp at Jonathan Creek.
- 8-13 Baptist World Alliance, Toronto, Canada. See article in May 21 issue of Western Recorder.
- 11-12 Cedarmore: Mother/Daughter Overnight at Cedar Crest (Filled); RA Camp at Rabro. Grades 1, 2, 3, and Fathers.
- 13 Christian Literature Day.
- 14-18 Cedarmore: Children's Music Camp; GA/Acteen Camp at Cedar Crest; RA Camp at Rabro. Grades 4-12.
- 18-19 Cedarmore: Mother/Daughter Overnight at Cedar Crest; RA Camp at Rabro, Grades 1, 2, 3, and Fathers.

Frank Owen



State Baptist paper

Have you noticed on this same page of late the label "KBC Activities"? It has three sections: one; "Here and Now," two; "Looking ahead," and three; "Planning ahead." We appreciate this featured section that will be the regular thing in this same spot in Western Recorder.

The intention and hope is that the program people of our churches will form the habit of looking at that calendar reference section every time they pick up Western Recorder. Every active church worker keeping thus informed of what is coming when and which of the things are opportunities for his particular category of church work; special meetings, Cedarmore sessions, etc., etc.

The above emphasis upon our executive board program departments and other special events is but one of a number of efforts to increase the usefulness and appeal of Western Recorder whose readership we are anxious to have all church leaders engaged in.

Western Recorder has long urged the family plan of subscription on the part of every church to have the paper mailed to each household. This is still fully encouraged as the desired end.

Our staff people, in making their rounds to the associations and certain other meetings, will be presenting subscription forms and urging the churches that are not sending the paper to all households to subscribe at least in behalf of a list of its church organization leaders and officers to receive Western Recorder. If this could be done in the instance of every church, our state board departments could save at least some of our necessary postage on letter writing from the Baptist Building.

It is imperative that our denomination have a successful state paper. An increased effort is being made to use it more fully and more effectively and, likewise, to urge our people to subscribe to it, church by church, at least for its principal list of leaders, if not for everybody. We encourage, also, individual subscriptions. What other religious periodical comes to your house? Any? Surely you want something and surely that would include your state Baptist paper.

Christian Education

Teaching preachers

The annual East Tennessee Baptist Preacher's School is scheduled for June 23-27 at Carson-Newman College.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention in cooperation with the WMU and Carson-Newman, the preacher's school was established to provide educational experience and exploration for church leadership.

Speakers scheduled this year include Carson-Newman assistant professor of religion Carolyn D. Blevins; director of specialized evangelism department, Home Mission Board, Frank H. Crumpler and Marvin R. Gibson, pastor First Baptist Church, Cleveland, Tenn.

Also participating are Emory Wallace, pastor First Baptist Church, Deridder, La., and Ray Frank Robbins, professor of New Testament, New Orleans Seminary.

Topics of discussion encompass "Church Renewal," "Pastoral Evangelism," "The Role of Philipians" and "Woman in Christian Heritage."

HMB assigns students

Four Kentucky students are among the 110 college students who have been assigned by the Home Mission Board to participate in summer mission opportunities throughout California.

The students and their colleges are: Preston Gambrell, Murray State University; Tana Poe, Western Kentucky University; Wesley Sirles, Murray State University; and Katherine Stewart, Morehead State University.

The students have been assigned to a variety of ministry activities. These include leading weekly vacation Bible schools and backyard Bible clubs. In addition some students will work in specialized ministries. These will range from the resort ministries in Yosemite National Park and Lake Tahoe to inner-city missions to work with migrant farm workers.

The 10-week missions experience seeks to introduce the student to the varied possibilities of missions as a vocational choice, explained Ralph Longshore, missions division director, Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

Union offers new degrees

Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and the six Southern Baptist seminaries have joined together to launch a seminary studies program which will offer courses needed to complete seminary degree requirements on the Jackson campus.

Courses, which will be implemented in the fall, will apply toward the MDiv, MRE degrees or the DiplTh, said dean of religious affairs Bob Agee. Students will be able to designate any one of the seminaries as the institution from which they will receive credit.

The pioneer program, one of three such ventures in the nation, will make a seminary degree more accessible to those who completed their college education as well as ministers who never completed their college degree. The MDiv and MRE degrees will be for college graduates while the DiplTh will be awarded to those individuals who do not have a college degree.

Roy Honeycutt, provost, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, will serve as coordinating officer between the seminaries and the college during the first year of operation of the program. Agee will serve as administrative coordinator on the Union campus.

Classes will be conducted on Mondays, offering a schedule in which nine semester hours can be acquired each semester. Courses, which will meet once a week for 13 weeks, will be taught by professors from the various seminaries, as well as Union University religion department faculty members who will serve as adjunct professors to the Louisville seminary.

A matriculation fee of \$200 per semes-

ter will cover up to nine semester hours of instruction, and a one time application fee of \$10 will be charged when a student applies for admission. Tentative registration has been set for 9 a. m. Monday, Sept. 8, with classes beginning that day.

In addition to the Louisville school, other seminaries participating in the program include Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.; Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; New Orleans Seminary, New Orleans, La.; and Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

C'ville prof in Brazil

L. D. Kennedy, associate professor of English, Campbellsville College, left May 26 for three weeks of volunteer missionary work in Equatorial Brazil.

"This is the year that 450,000 Brazilian Baptists have set aside for evangelizing millions of unsaved people in their country," Kennedy explained. "I want to give them a little help in their noble effort."

About two years ago, Donald Spiegel from Teresina, Brazil, brought the missionary message at the annual meeting of the Taylor County Baptist Association. Later he and his wife Betty visited with the Kennedys and led a missionary study at the Mt. Gilboa Church, where Kennedy is pastor. Spiegel urged Kennedy to come to Brazil sometime for evangelistic preaching and witnessing.

"It was then that I became particularly interested in Brazil," Kennedy said. "Since then I have taught English at Campbellsville College to a number of South Americans, and my interest in the people has grown."

Kennedy went first to Manaus, Brazil (at the mouth of the Amazon River) and then proceeded to Teresina, where the Speigels live. He preached at various churches and mission stations, accompanied by Donald Spiegel or a local interpreter. The native language is

Portuguese.

Kennedy and the Mt. Gilboa Baptist Church are active supporters of Bold Mission Thrust of the Southern Baptist Convention. Their 1979 Christmas offering for foreign missions exceeded \$2500, even though their total membership is only 143. This year 32 percent of their budget receipts are being given through the Cooperative Program.

Recently Mt. Gilboa received a letter from William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, stating: "Because of your commitment to home missions and your generous spirit of stewardship, your congregation is one of the top 10 churches in the Kentucky Baptist Convention in per capita resident member gifts to the 1978 Annie Armstrong Easter offerings."

"But missions involves going and witnessing as well as giving," Kennedy insists.

15,000th degree awarded

The 15,000th student to receive a degree from Southern Seminary was among the 281 students who received degrees during Southern Seminary's 145th commencement exercise, held in the seminary's Alumni Chapel June 6.

Harold Dean Garrett, a DMin degree recipient from Granite City, Ill., became the 15,000th seminary to receive a degree from Southern Baptists' oldest seminary, which was founded in Greenville, S. C. in 1859 and moved to Louisville in 1877.

Also marking the occasion was the installation of Edward F. Thornton, professor of psychology of religion, to the Chair of the Lawrence and Charlotte Hoover Professorship of Pastoral Care. The Hoovers, members of Annandale Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., are funding the chair with cash gifts of \$200,000 and the remainder in a bequest from their estate.

Kentuckians receive degrees from four seminaries

Southeastern Seminary



Son

Bingham

Alan G. Son, Corbin, and Leland L. Bingham, Henderson, were graduates of Southeastern Seminary's 27th annual commencement. Son was awarded the MDiv degree. He is now serving Meherin (Va.) Baptist Church.

Bingham received the MDiv-MRE degree and is presently at Camp Mundo Vista, Asheboro, N. C.

Southeastern Seminary is located in Wake Forest, N. C.

Midwestern Seminary



Long

Morgan

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., awarded graduates Murray Jackson Long, Henderson, and Dwaine Morgan, Somerset, degrees May 17.

The commencement address was delivered by Conrad R. Willard, one of Midwestern's founding fathers.

Long received the MDiv degree. He is pastor of Norborne (Mo.) Baptist Church. During his seminary career he was president of the student coordinating committee.

Morgan received the MRE degree. He is a graduate of Campbellsville College.

New Orleans Seminary



Tillett

Baxter

Paul E. Tillett, Butler, and Robert McLean Baxter, Graham, received MDiv degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary May 17.

Tillett is married to Dorothy Marketti. He is presently a pastor in Hamilton, Oh. Baxter is married to Kathryn Daschofsky.

Over 200 persons graduated in the annual spring commencement.

Southwestern Seminary



Stahl

Miss Barnes

Daniel Reid Stahl, Leitchfield, and Lavica Jane Barnes, Benton, were among Southwestern Seminary's largest graduating class May 9.

Herbert H. Reynolds, executive vice president, Baylor University, delivered the address to the 405 graduates.

Stahl received the MDiv degree and Miss Barnes received the MRE degree.

Southwestern Seminary is located in Ft. Worth, Tex.