



Pittsburgh SBC messengers reelect president and adopt \$125 million budget, transact business

by Stan Haste, *Chief,*
Baptist Press Washington Bureau

More than 13,600 messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention marked a three-day meeting at Civic Arena in Pittsburgh, Pa. by reelecting incumbent president James T. Draper Jr., adopting a \$125 million Cooperative Program budget and staggering through marathon business sessions dealing with a host of church-related and public matters.

Draper, 47-year-old pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., was reelected by acclamation to the traditional second one-year term accorded incumbent presidents. He has received high marks for leadership during his first year of service and appeared in full control of the 14-million-member denomination's 126th session.

Also elected without opposition was first vice president John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La. His reelection broke recent tradition. Chosen second vice president on a second ballot was retired Westinghouse Corp. executive C. Edward Price of Pittsburgh.

Adoption of the record budget occurred without debate and with no questions asked of the SBC Executive Committee, which brought the recommendation.

In action responding to an Executive Committee proposal, messengers approved by a 2-1 margin construction of an \$8 million building in Nashville to house Executive Committee staff and the staffs of six SBC agencies.

Adopted without debate was a Cooperative Program study report from the Executive Committee calling for a 15-year growth in giving emphasis and a goal of increasing the Cooperative Program to \$2.5 billion by the year 2000.

Messengers also approved more stringent trustee residence requirements. Following spirited debate, an Executive Committee recommendation



was adopted requiring persons recommended as trustees by the committee on boards to have lived in the state from which they are elected at least one year prior to election. In addition, the action requires the committee on boards to release its report to Baptist Press at least 45 days before the annual SBC meeting.

Another Executive Committee recommendation proposing Las Vegas as site for the 1989 annual meeting likewise met stiff resistance before messengers decisively voted to go to the Nevada city in spite of concern about the image of the denomination.

Opponents argued that Southern Baptists should not give the appearance of supporting the gambling industry. But those favoring Las Vegas said it would encourage the relative handful of Southern Baptists in Nevada and give the denomination a chance to render a positive witness.

Routinely adopted was a separate recommendation to go to New Orleans for the 1990 session.

In a separate meeting, members of the Executive Committee, which functions on behalf of the convention between annual sessions, elected Dallas businessman W. Dewey Presley chairman, Jefferson City, Mo. pastor Nelson Duke vice chairman, and Evansville, Ind. layman Don Gent secretary.

In other denominationally-related actions, messengers left the relationship between the convention and Southern Baptists in Canada with a select 21-member study committee with instructions to report back next year.

The "Canada question" resulted from a longstanding desire on the part of Southern Baptist congregations in western Canada to send messengers to the annual meeting. They are already part of the Northwest Baptist Convention.

In other in-house denominational actions, several miscellaneous motions were referred to appropriate boards,

commissions and standing committees.

Included were referrals on ministers and Social Security, to the Annuity Board and a proposed World Hunger Sunday to the denominational calendar committee.

Sent to the Executive Committee were motions asking for more visible SBC opposition to abortion, requiring a three-fourths majority vote on SBC resolutions, requiring five years' membership in an SBC congregation before an individual is eligible for nomination as trustee to denominational agencies and studying the possibility of lowering the number of such trustees.

Unlike the past two conventions the Pittsburgh meeting saw the SBC committee on boards report approved without changes. Although several proposed trustees to denominational agencies were challenged on the floor, all challenges were brushed aside.

As always, convention proceedings were enlivened by debate and action on several controversial resolutions.

Although Draper and resolutions committee chairman Tal Bonham, executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, successfully kept several potentially explosive subjects off the floor, dozens of messengers took to microphones to engage in debate.

Among the adopted resolutions were two dealing with intensely emotional issues within the denomination, theological education and the place of women in the church.

Messengers narrowly refused to put the convention on record as opposing the ordination of women to the ministry and adopted a committee statement expressing gratitude for contributions made by women in ministry. The statement called on employers, including Southern Baptist congregations and agencies, to be fair in compensation, benefits and advancement opportunities.

In refusing to go along with an

amendment expressing opposition to women's ordination, messengers apparently decided to leave that matter in the hands of local congregations.

Also adopted was a lengthy resolution praising Southern Baptist seminary professors and urging them to keep in balance their academic freedom and doctrinal responsibility. The statement asked trustees of the six SBC seminaries to be responsible for seeing that professors abide by denominational and institutional statements of faith.

Other resolutions dealing with denominational issues urged wider utilization of blacks and other ethnics in places of SBC leadership and asked for additional support from state conventions and associations for ministers terminated by their congregations.

Statements on issues in the political arena included a resolution retreating from last year's endorsement of President Reagan's amendment to the Constitution to return state-written prayers to public school classrooms.

This year's resolution declares confidence in the U. S. Constitution as "adequate and sufficient" to guarantee both free exercise of religion and no establishment.

Another resolution positioned the convention as favoring "mutually verifiable nuclear disarmament." But messengers rejected an amendment endorsing a nuclear freeze.

Besides debating the issues and accepting progress reports from 20 agencies, institutions and auxiliaries messengers heard stirring preaching throughout the three-day meeting. In his presidential address, Draper refrained from using theological code words that have characterized convention rhetoric in recent years.

Instead, he preached a sermon on Baptists' basic beliefs, declaring at the end that "Any theology or supposed belief that does not thrust us into all the world to witness and preach is heresy."

Southwestern Seminary preaching professor Joel Gregory, in five interpretations of the convention theme, "Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace," called on Southern Baptists to put aside their differences. He said biblical literalists should have a "lowliness of mind," moderates should be meek and inerrantists should believe a Bible that demands "long-suffering toward others."

James L. Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, admonished Southern Baptists in the convention annual sermon that true orthodoxy is characterized by "an orthodoxy of spirit — which is love."

Charles W. Colson, convicted Watergate conspirator now leading a nationwide ministry for prisoners, closed the convention by calling on Southern Baptists to get the church out of the sanctuaries and fellowship halls into the streets.

At next year's convention in Kansas City, the annual sermon will be preached by Russell H. Dilday of Ft. Worth, Tex. Alternate is Conrad Johnston of Salem, Va. Music director will again be William J. Reynolds of Ft. Worth.

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

**Are you
moving?**

Please give us
three weeks'
advance notice.
Clip this portion
with your old
address label,
supply new ad-
dress above, and
send to Western
Recorder, Box
43401, Middle-
town, KY 40243.



C. R. Daley

daley observations

Draper's efforts rewarded: peace in Pittsburgh

Southern Baptists in Pittsburgh last week enjoyed the first annual meeting characterized by harmony and unity since 1978. As the meeting proceeded from one happy session to another messengers looked at one another in amazement hardly believing what they were experiencing.

The tranquility and sweet spirit in Pittsburgh were not entirely surprising. Those aware of behind-the-scene efforts to make it that kind of meeting were optimistic. In days leading up to the convention the optimism was guarded but as messengers began to fill Pittsburgh hotels this optimism was heightened by corridor talk of president Draper's successful efforts to keep highly divisive issues off the convention agenda. When the recommended appropriations for convention agencies presented in the very first session were not challenged, the optimism became reality and before the convention adjourned it turned into ecstasy.

What is the explanation for such a welcome change in the spirit of these annual meetings? As usual, there is more than one explanation.

The first and greatest credit goes to the Lord. Never discount nor forget this factor. What happened in Pittsburgh this year means God is not through with Southern Baptists and proves he answers prayers for unity, many of which were lifted for this meeting. The Lord will bless us when we let him and this was one of those times.

Ordinarily God uses human instrumentality and in this case God's instrument was James T. Draper Jr. Duke McCall graciously testified to this when, upon being introduced to the messengers as president of the Baptist World Alliance, he put an arm around president Draper and said "Last year I let my name be put into nomination for president against you but God chose his man."

Most observers agreed Draper made the difference. He more than lived up to his promises to be a healing president. His preparation throughout the year for a harmonious meeting was matched by his fair and almost flawless presiding. His handling discussion of resolutions which dominated two sessions made for the most wholesome exercise of democracy seen on the

convention floor in many moons.

President Draper went to unusual limits to try to let every messenger speak who had anything to say and even indulged some who thoughtlessly spoke too often. The few times his rulings were challenged he was overwhelmingly sustained by the messengers. No convention president was ever more appreciated for his fair and friendly presiding.

Another explanation of the harmonious meeting was the excellent work of the resolutions committee. The use of moderate words and the statements of principles without reference to personalities and inclusion of divisive issues was wise. Here again Draper has to be credited because of his new way to introduce resolutions and his excellent appointments to the committee.

Credit for the absence of strife in Pittsburgh also rightly belongs to leaders of the ultra-conservative faction in the convention who honored the request of president Draper to keep highly divisive issues off the convention floor. Among these influential ultraconservatives are Adrian Rogers and Paige Patterson who could have caused turmoil in Pittsburgh.

Still another contribution to the good spirit in Pittsburgh was the excellent program and the work of the committee on order. Addresses and sermons were few but effective. President Draper's address, Jim Pleitz's convention sermon, Chuck Colson's closing address and especially Joel Gregory's theme interpretations all had a unifying influence.

The calmness in Pittsburgh, however, does not mean the differences between factions in the denomination are settled. There are real differences and problems that will stay around and will have to be dealt with but the 1983 Pittsburgh experience gave promise they can be handled redemptively by men of good will.

What happened in Pittsburgh was a truce, not a reconciliation. Some truces lead to reconciliation and peace, others lead to resumption of hostilities. Next year this time we'll know more about the Pittsburgh truce.

We will also have to wait to see whether

Jimmy Draper is the Moses who is leading Southern Baptists out of their bondage of controversy or is one who tried valiantly but failed. In any case Baptist history will record the 1983 meeting in Pittsburgh as the Draper peace convention.

Postscript: Jimmy Draper was certainly the hero in Pittsburgh. The star performer, however, was Joel Gregory who delivered five expositions on the thematic scripture (Eph. 4:1-6) chosen for this year's meeting. This young professor of preaching at Southwestern Seminary thrilled the messengers with his powerful, piercing and prophetic expositions.

Gregory is not only a powerful preacher but also an effective storyteller. The most amusing of his stories was an account of a Korean youth who during the Korean conflicts had been commandeered by the GIs to be their cook and errand boy.

The GIs delighted in tormenting the cook boy with every imaginable prank. They nailed his sandals to the floor every night. While he was not looking they smeared grease on the handles of all his cooking utensils and balanced buckets of water over doors to douse him every time he went through.

The cook boy never complained but smiled through it all. He patiently unnailed his sandals every morning, removed grease from the pot handles and put on dry clothes every time he was doused with water.

Finally the GIs became ashamed of their behavior and decided to apologize to the cook boy. They commended him for his longsuffering and promised not to pull any more tricks on him.

He made sure they were sincere by asking, "You nail sandals to floor no more?" "No more," they said. "You no grease pot handles?" "No more," they insisted. "You no put water over door?" "No more," they replied.

"O.K." said the boy, "I no more spit in soup." Southern Baptists ordinarily have a way of getting each other back even if it's spitting in one another's soup. In Pittsburgh, however, there was no spitting in the soup and Joel Gregory's expositions were partly responsible.

Resolutions committee deserves commendation

In recent years the introduction and treatment of resolutions in Southern Baptist Convention meetings has made for as much or more friction and frustration than any other part of the program. This year president Draper in an effort to improve this situation experimented with some changes in processing resolutions and these changes proved helpful.

The new plan provided for resolutions to be presented by their makers at a conveniently located table instead of being brought to the platform. The subjects of the resolutions were read to the messengers by the first vice president of the convention instead of by the makers.

These changes are a definite improvement. They facilitate the introduction of resolutions and avoid having to deal with resolution makers

who often ignore instructions and sometimes even become unruly.

More resolution makers this year cooperated by sending in resolutions before the convention met. This gave the committee opportunity to meet several times before the convention to do research and careful preparation.

The resolutions committee this year also adopted for itself several very wise guidelines. Among these were agreement not to deal with issues spoken to by resolutions in recent years, not to present resolutions dealing with personalities and not to offer any resolution which might adversely affect Southern Baptist missionary efforts in foreign lands.

Kentucky made contribution to the committee this year in the person of Verlin Kruschwitz. A

clear thinker and an experienced writer. Kruschwitz was given the task of writing the resolutions dealing with doctrinal integrity in our seminaries. It was masterfully done and headed off inflammatory resolutions on the same subject.

Chairman Tal Bonham and his fellow committee members did their work so well that though many attempts were made to attach controversial amendments to the committee's wording, almost none succeeded. Appreciation of the messengers for the committee was expressed in their support of the committee's wording.

If resolutions committees in coming years follow the example of the 1983 committee, chances for harmonious and unifying convention meetings will be enhanced.

western recorder (ISSN 0043-4132)

C. R. DALEY, Editor, JAMES H. COX, Associate Editor

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

Western Recorder is published by Western Recorder Inc., Box 43401, Middletown, Ky., weekly except for one week in July and December. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Western Recorder, Box 43401, Middletown, KY 40243.

Advertising: Rates available upon request. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space.

Subscriptions: Single, \$6.30; foreign, \$7.00; church budget, \$4.50. Payable in advance, except church accounts, which require tax exemption number.

Directors: Glenn Durham, Harlan, chairman; O. G. Lawless, Bowling Green, vice chairman; John Christian, Hopkinsville, secretary; Clarence Benedict, Highland Heights; H. Gary Coltharp, Madisonville; Robert DeFoor, Harrodsburg; Garnett Huletta, Frankfort; Thomas O. Miller, Nicholasville; T. A. Prickett, Owensboro; Gilbert Sapp, Campbellsville; William J. Sullivan, Louisville; Willis W. Henson, Paducah.

Weekly observations

Some Kentuckians thought it was the best meeting in several years

by Greg Hancock, *Western Recorder Convention Correspondent*

We were there, we Kentuckians. There to experience the "unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." We traveled from the Appalachian foothills; from the bluegrass; and from the western coal fields to the dust fogged, construction torn streets of Pennsylvania's Steel City.

To the best of our respective abilities we represented the interests of our autonomous Southern Baptist congregations. Amid Texans, Georgians, North and South Carolinians, Floridians, Arkansans, Tennesseans and the

like, Kentuckians did their part. And when the 1983 convention curtain fell, the feelings were, generally, positive.

Reba Cobb, a first time convention-er from Louisville, commented, "I needed this. It has put me in touch with my Southern Baptist roots and helped me understand the depth of our denomination."

Bill Turner, Lexington—not a first timer but a pastor discouraged by recent convention attitudes—opined, "We're getting past the bickering of the past three years. I'm glad to see us getting back to important issues."

Kentucky Baptist Convention president Curtis Warf, Pikeville, explained the change. "Everybody came wanting

to get along," he said. "The atmosphere of unity is everywhere. What has helped that is the president's (Jimmy Draper's) spirit and Joel Gregory's theme interpretations. Those have been the leaven in the recipe of peace."

Peace was, indeed, the overriding characteristic of the Pittsburgh convention. Dick Allison, Georgetown, commented. "I don't know whether to believe it or not. The spirit is absolutely remarkable!"

J. W. Farmer, Carrollton, called it "Excellent!"

And Harold Jones, Warsaw, laughed, "I've had more good fellowship this year than in the last three years combined."

Bob White, Paducah, agreed. "I appreciated the great efforts of president Draper to be fair in all business proceedings," he said. "I felt he bent over backward to maintain unity."

Messengers seemed more willing to bear physical inconveniences outside the Civic Arena after experiencing the harmony inside. Growlings and complaints of prior years were translated into good natured jests.

Mrs. Randy Davenport, Campbells-ville, suggested, "Driving in downtown Pittsburgh isn't really a problem. Not unless you call hunting for a gas station until you can put 18.9 gallons in an 18 gallon tank a problem."

Virginia Flanagan, also of Campbells-ville, agreed. "I've gotten lost a couple of times and we've had the usual hang-ups but, generally, the peace and harmony has made everything very nice."

Gary Coltharp, Madisonville, found the attitude of the convention "conciliatory, barring isolated challenges to procedures which make very little sense to me."

And Jim Holladay, a veteran messenger from Louisville, avered, "I'm really pleased. I think we've dealt with some important business."

Ted Sisk, Lexington, assessed the 1983 session as one of "harmony with the theme (Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace).

"We seem to be moving on a course of more forbearance of one another," he affirmed. "And more concern for unity in the mission and spirit of Christ."

Convention impressions

by James H. Cox, *Associate Editor*

Opening lines: A Georgia pastor began the convention praying that "inerrant, moderate and liberal labels" would be absent and "Godly wisdom and brotherly love" would be present. It seemed a goal for which almost every messenger could wish, regardless of his particular theological bent. Considering the week's outcome, the pastor's prayer was surely answered.

An elementary idea: When an Indiana woman offered a motion calling for child care to be provided during the sessions at convention expense, another messenger observed that her idea was "refreshing and encouraging." The motion came on the same day the traditional barrage of resolutions offered every year on abortion, school prayer, homosexuality, pornography, alcohol and the American Bible Society was received. Her innovative suggestion would give opportunity for families to attend and participate more fully in the convention sessions.

All sales final: Our appreciation to chairman Bruce McIver and the committee on order of business for significantly reversing the trend of allowing denominational agencies unlimited opportunities for commercial announcements. These repeatedly took the form of product "presentations" to speakers, convention officials and platform guests during the 1982 meeting in New Orleans.

Bluegrass ballyhoo: Four of the five educational institutions supported by the Kentucky Baptist Convention maintained booths in the exhibit hall and two of these had after-session parties for alumni and friends. We don't recall a time when four of our five schools were so well represented at a SBC, but as a messenger from another state observed, "Your schools are probably closer to Pittsburgh than any other Southern Baptist colleges or schools." He's right.

Buc-ing the tide: If it had not been for Southern Baptists, would anyone have shown up to applaud the fading Pittsburgh Pirates? In a stadium seating 54,000-plus, only 8200 supported the home team the night before the SBC began. SBC officials and messengers from scores of SBC churches were highly visible as the Bucs battled back to overcome a 3-1 Expos lead.

Steel City sights: Defying description, one of the most beautiful pictures in this city at night has to be the lighted fountain in Point Park reflected in the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers . . . In a ballroom seating perhaps 2000 in the headquarters hotel about 150 attending the Stalneckers' gospel concert Sunday night . . . Convention registration secretary Lee Porter's unusual pronunciation of certain oft-repeated platform words, including "register-ation" and "bal-its" . . . Hot days (often 90 degrees) and warm nights with gentle breezes . . . A city under construction . . . The most moderate prices at convention hotels and arena concessions in years . . . Generally, the friendliest and most courteous waitresses, desk clerks, cab drivers, concession personnel, parking lot attendants and hotel housekeeping staffs we have encountered anywhere. Stereotypes about the North are shattering.

A funny thing happened: Jimmy Draper's attempts to preside over frequently thorny and confusing periods of motions, resolutions, amendments and amendments to amendments sparked several occasions of levity. Trying to maintain decorum and fairness, yet promote understanding, he jested with the crowd at different times: "Y'all ought to be up here and try to guess what's going on" . . . "I don't know what we're going to do, but the suspense is killing me" . . . "I hope some of you have to get up here some day."



Messengers to the annual meeting of the SBC in Pittsburgh reelected, l-r, James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., president; John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., first vice president; and elected Pittsburgh layman C. Edward Price as second vice president for the coming year.

Convention reports

Louisville women lead in forming female group

Taking steps to create an official organization for mutual support and encouragement, approximately 75 Southern Baptist women in church related vocations adopted a purpose statement and unanimously agreed to hold a third annual meeting preceding the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City.

The need for women in ministry within the denomination to be servant-leaders and to challenge cultural barriers were themes sounded by several speakers in the two-day meeting.

The purpose statement says that an organization for women in ministry should: "provide support for the woman whose call from God defines her vocation as that of minister, or as that of woman in ministry within the Southern Baptist Convention, and to encourage and affirm her call to be a servant of God."

Anne Davis, convener of the meeting and assistant professor of social work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, said the eight-member task force which planned the meeting envisions an organization "on the model of the pastors conference or the religious education conference."

An ad hoc group of women from Louisville unveiled the first issue of a newsletter, Folio, for Southern Baptist women in ministry. Reba Cobb, minister of younger youth at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, said the group will publish four issues of Folio during the next year at their own expense and hopes the SBC organization will be in place to take it over in 1984.

Inerrancy surfaces again at pastors' conference

A battery of clergymen developed the theme of "Spirit Anointed Preaching" from a myriad of perspectives at the annual Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference with their emphasis on scriptural authority and biblical inerrancy drawing the most audience support.

The focus on scriptural authority during the two-day event prior to the start of the Southern Baptist Convention carried over to the election of 1984 officers when conservative Charles F. Stanley of Atlanta was chosen without opposition to succeed Fred H. Wolfe of Mobile, Ala. as conference president.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church and chairman of the SBC committee on boards, was one of several speakers to address the issue of scriptural authority.

Outlining a prescription for spirit anointed preaching, Stanley drew applause when he declared that such proclamation "will never flow from the lips of a man who doubts the integrity of the word of God."

An even more exuberant response was given to a pair of speakers who underscored their belief in inerrancy of scripture.

"This is a book of God with no mixture of error," declared Ron Herrod, pastor of First Baptist Church, Kenner, La., and conference vice president. "It is inerrant and infallible. It does not contain the word of God; it is the Word of God."

Nonetheless, Herrod defined the problem of Southern Baptists as "neglect," not "liberalism."

Joining Herrod's defense of inerrancy was Lithonia, Ga. pastor Ronald Burke Long who emphasized that for

preachers to "have a word from God" it must "come from the word of God," which he declared to be "inerrant."

Though not mentioning the term "inerrancy," former SBC president Adrian P. Rogers of Memphis, Tenn. told the pastors he makes "no apologies—though some say it is controversial and some say it doesn't need to be said anymore—for believing this book and standing by it."

Fred Lowery, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La., warned Baptist pastors against becoming so absorbed in their church work that they neglect their families.

"Spirit anointed preaching begins in the home," Lowery said.

The pastors chose Lowery as their vice president and Fred Powell, pastor of Pisgah Baptist Church, Excelsior Springs, Mo., secretary-treasurer.

Discipline highlights religious ed meeting

Discipline in ministry dominated discussion June 12-13 during the 28th annual session of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association (SBREA), meeting in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Spiritualist theologian Richard J. Foster illustrated the theme, and a stream of church staff members and denominational workers amplified that emphasis on a practical level.

SBREA participants also heard from the presidents of their two mission boards on the next steps in world missions.

A quartet of leaders associated with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., presented SBREA members with one challenge and three status reports.

New association officers are president, Gary Ellis, minister of education at Germantown (Tenn.) Baptist Church; president-elect, Bruce Powers of Wake Forest, N. C., on the faculty of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; vice president, Phil Stanberry, minister of education and family at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.; assistant secretary/treasurer, Judy Stamey, minister of education and administration at Ridglea West Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex.; and secretary/treasurer, Joy Haynes, general administration consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Draper, Sullivan reelected to convention's top spots

Texas pastor James T. Draper Jr. was reelected president of the nation's largest Protestant denomination during the opening day of the 126th meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., was unopposed. He was nominated by O. S. Hawkins, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., who praised Draper as a leader who "has done what he said he would do, with openness, honesty and integrity."

First vice president John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., also was reelected without opposition. The nomination came from Warren Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., who nominated Sullivan at the 1982 convention.

The convention followed recent tradition by reelecting three other SBC officers: Martin B. Bradley of Nashville, Tenn., recording secretary; Lee Porter of Nashville, registration secretary; and

Harold C. Bennett of Nashville, the executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, as treasurer.

Affiliation disclosure is ruled out of order

Southern Baptist Convention president Jimmy Draper ruled out of order a motion that would have required nominees to reveal their connection to the Moral Majority.

The motion, one of three introduced at the Tuesday afternoon session, was out of order because it questioned the motives of a messenger, Draper said.

Ernest L. Harris, pastor of Sandy Creek Baptist Church, Amelia County, Va., said he had read in The Religious Herald, Virginia's state Baptist paper, that Charles Stanley, chairman of the committee on boards, was a member of the executive board of the Moral Majority, a New Right religious political organization.

His motion had asked that all convention nominees requiring vote by messengers be required to state whether they had a relationship with Moral Majority.

Evangelists to disband; may merge with pastors

Members of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists reelected their president and voted to suspend their Wednesday afternoon session beginning in 1984 while checking the possibilities of merging with the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Business was quieter this year in the shadow of a bitter battle that threatened to divide the 300-member conference last year in New Orleans. The controversy grew out of the issue of who should control the conference. In response, the conference ratified a new slate of bylaws transferring major responsibilities from the conference's executive director to its elected officers.

However, members this year voted to suspend the bylaw requiring the president to only serve one term and reelected Rick Scarborough, an evangelist from Houston, Tex., as president.

The action to merge with the pastors' conference came after Scarborough spoke of the "spirit of misunderstanding" in which the conference has been operating.

"I've done all that I can to bring our conference together over the past year. I have done a great deal of traveling and know there is a great deal of misunderstanding out there."

He went on to say that until the issue is resolved, both physically and spiritually, the evangelists conference "is a joke."

"My conviction is that our afternoon session has outlived its usefulness."

The afternoon evangelists conference grew out of a need to "feed those attending the SBC who had been in business meetings," Scarborough said.

"The pastors picked up on the idea and have done a better job."

\$8 million SBC edifice approved by 2-1 vote

Funds to construct a new \$8 million Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville were approved by a 2-1 vote by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, along with a 1984-88 capital needs budget of another \$23.7 million.

Debate on the SBC building centered around whether the expenditure of \$8

million would further the causes of evangelism and missions and whether the SBC building long range planning committee had given messengers enough information about the need for the building.

The vote to approve funds for the SBC building was 5991 in favor and 3449 opposed.

In addition to the Executive Committee, the building will house the Southern Baptist Foundation, Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Stewardship Commission and Seminary External Education Division.

Draper satisfied with the way things went last year

Texas pastor Jimmy Draper said his reelection as president of the Southern Baptist Convention indicates that Southern Baptists "liked what they saw" in the past year and are ready "to see the same things again."

As a result, he said, he has no plans "to do anything different" during his second one-year term.

The 47-year-old pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., was reelected president of the 14 million member denomination without opposition earlier in the day.

Draper said he has concentrated on "magnifying our likenesses rather than our differences" in an effort to unify the nation's largest Protestant denomination. His reelection, he said, is evidence of "an easing of tension" among differing groups.

"None of us have lessened our convictions," he added, "but we have opened new avenues of communication" through a "desire to build unity in the convention."

Draper acknowledged that "distinct groups" still exist within the convention, though there has been "a lessening" of organizational activity.

"I think it's not as necessary as maybe it was viewed as being a few years ago. At least, I hope that's true."

Draper noted that he deliberately avoided adjectives such as "inerrant" and "infallible" in references to scripture during his president's address earlier in the day. Yet, he added, Southern Baptists are "still going to have to work through what we mean by the authority of the Bible. It still needs some definition."

On his involvement in political affairs, Draper said the SBC president "should not become candidate-oriented, but principles-oriented. No (political) candidate has the answer for America; only Jesus Christ does."

Draper refused to endorse an amendment to the U. S. Constitution on prayer in the public schools, though the proposed legislation has received the backing of the Reagan administration.

Canadian representation will be studied by panel

The relationship of Southern Baptists in the United States and Canada was left in the hands of a 21-member committee.

Messengers voted 4306 to 2568 in favor of a motion to refer the seating of the Canadian Baptists at the SBC annual meeting to a special committee which will report back to the convention next June.

The Canada study committee will be appointed by convention president James T. Draper Jr., first vice president John Sullivan, second vice president C. Edward Price and SBC Execu-

tive Committee secretary-treasurer Harold C. Bennett.

The committee will be composed of four persons each from the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Executive Committee and Northwest Baptist Convention and five at-large members. Funding will be provided by the Executive Committee.

The motion to create the committee was proposed to messengers earlier in the day by Perry Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lafayette, La. It headed off a motion to seat Canadian Baptists at the SBC annual meeting by Bill Hogue, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

Hogue proposed a change in Article II of the SBC Charter which would designate the purpose of the convention to "provide a general organization for Baptists in the United States, its territories and Canada." Presently only the United States and its territories are included within the purpose.

The effect of Hogue's motion would have been to allow participating Canadian Southern Baptists to become messengers and vote at the SBC meetings.

Louisville, L. A. lose; Vegas chosen '89 site

Messengers to the 126th Southern Baptist Convention agreed to hold their 1989 convention in Las Vegas, Nev. after beating back two efforts to move the site to Los Angeles, Cal. and Louisville, Ky.

Support for the SBC Executive Committee recommendation to go to Las Vegas centered around the opportunity for Baptists to make a witnessing and missions impact in the city while opponents contended Baptists should not hold a convention in a city where gambling is the main industry.

In other action, messengers approved without debate holding their 1990 convention in New Orleans, approved stringent convention site and housing guidelines and debated a recommendation concerning residency requirements for future nominees to the committee on committees before referring it to the Executive Committee for further study.

John Click of Wichita, Kan., said the 1989 convention should be held in a western state and Baptists should support messenger efforts, but he urged the messengers to move the site to Los Angeles because Las Vegas is "too controversial."

Wayne Dehoney, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, urged the messengers to choose Louisville even though the Kentucky city does not meet housing guidelines.

"There's something more at stake than guidelines," said Dehoney, noting that the convention has been held in the southeast only six times in the last 20 years. There is a stewardship concerning fairness of representation that God will hold us accountable for."

Messengers refused to suspend the rules to vote on Louisville and referred to long travel distances and traffic problems in rejecting Los Angeles. The vote to go to Las Vegas passed by a heavy majority.

Seminary report: best of times, worst of times

The past year has been "the best of times and the worst of times" at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, president Roy L. Honeycutt reported at the school's annual alumni and friends luncheon.

"God's purpose is being fulfilled at

Southern Seminary. This has been the best of times," said Honeycutt. He noted enrolment increases, strong financial support, new programs in social work and telecommunications and initiation of an annual congress on evangelism as support of his assertion.

Yet he candidly noted several "shadows" which have fallen over the seminary the past year. Included were the deaths of Marguerite McCall, wife of seminary chancellor Duke K. McCall, and Don Williams, associate professor of Old Testament interpretation, other prolonged illnesses and the loss of several professors who resigned to teach in other schools.

Most specifically, Honeycutt referred to the theological controversy involving Dale Moody, for 38 years professor of theology at Southern.

Moody had come under condemnation from some Southern Baptists for his views on apostasy or "falling from grace." Trustees voted this spring to approve Moody's request for a leave of absence in the 1983-84 school year, requested by him before the controversy broke out.

"Dale Moody's name is written large among the mighty men of Southern Seminary," Honeycutt insisted, noting many of his hearers might have disagreed with the way the Moody incident was handled. Yet he defended administrative and trustee actions as being in the best interest of the seminary.

In remarks seemingly addressed to those who felt they won victory with the outcome of the Moody affair, Honeycutt said, "persons will crucially misjudge if they confuse patience (in handling the issue) with the kind of passivity which acquiesces in the face of pressure. Southern Seminary is not for sale, whoever the bidder, whatever the bid."

Alton H. McEachern, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N. C., was selected to lead the alumni association in 1984-85. Peter Rhea Jones, pastor of First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., elected last year in New Orleans, assumed the presidency at the close of the luncheon.

Resolution debate convention highlight

The issue of women's ordination surfaced at the Southern Baptist Convention but messengers refused to make it a convention decision.

By a narrow margin they turned down an attempt by the wife of a former convention president to amend a resolution on women. The resolution was then approved with no mention of women's ordination.

Joyce Rogers, wife of Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., tried to add these words at the end of the resolution:

"Be it finally resolved this resolution should not be interpreted as endorsing the ordination of women."

When a request was made for a written vote, messengers balloted and the amendment lost 1841 to 1784.

Discussion of the resolution consumed more than an hour of the afternoon business session. It was one of nine resolutions approved during the session, and followed approval of seven resolutions at the morning session.

The messengers approved the resolution by a fairly hefty majority.

As approved, the resolution expressed gratitude for contributions made by women in various forms of ministry and paid tribute to homemakers. It also called on employers,

including Southern Baptist churches, institutions and agencies, "to seek fairness for women in compensation, benefits and opportunities for advancement."

Although it contained no reference to ordination, the resolution encouraged "all Southern Baptists to continue to explore further opportunities of service for Baptist women, to ensure maximum utilization of all God-called servants of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Other resolutions included a moderately worded statement on religious liberty and a qualified endorsement of mutually verifiable nuclear disarmament.

Retreating from action at last year's New Orleans convention endorsing President Reagan's proposed constitutional amendment for state written prayers in public schools, messengers in Pittsburgh declared their "confidence in the United States Constitution, and particularly in the First Amendment, as adequate and sufficient guarantees" to protect both free exercise of religion and no establishment of religion.

In addition, the resolution opposes tuition tax credits and other efforts to provide public funds to sectarian institutions and calls on government to avoid making "unwarranted attempts . . . to define 'church'."

The statement also rejects efforts "to use governmental institutions and processes to promote the particular interests of a religious constituency or by favoring those who believe in no religion over those who have a faith commitment."

Rejected was a proposed amendment to put the convention on record as objecting to a recent U. S. Supreme Court decision upholding the Internal Revenue Service for revoking the tax exempt status of Bob Jones University. SBC president James T. Draper Jr. ruled the move out of order for parliamentary reasons.

Also adopted after lengthy debate was a resolution endorsing nuclear disarmament "provided it would in no way compromise the security of our nation by being less than fully verifiable." That language, proposed by Robert F. Simms, a Charlotte, N. C. pastor, came in the form of an amendment to the committee approved statement.

Rejected was a separate move to put the convention on record favoring an immediate freeze on the development and deployment of new nuclear weapons by both the U. S. and the U. S. S. R.

Also adopted was a resolution which spoke to the "abuse of the good earth through reckless greed" as "a sin against our Creator and our brothers and sisters." It urged "more sparing use" of natural resources and called on leaders of industry and commerce "to impose upon themselves rigorous and verifiable standards of protection and preservation of land, air and water."

On a subject frequently addressed in Baptist resolutions, a strong statement on alcoholism and drunk driving was adopted without debate.

The resolution deplors use of alcoholic beverages and urges Southern Baptist churches and families to teach abstinence to their children and young people, provide ministries to victims of alcohol abuse, oppose promotion of "humanity's most abused drug," and to support strengthened drunk driving laws.

Longest among the 16 adopted statements was one on freedom and responsibility in Southern Baptist seminaries. Largely the work of Kentucky pastor Verlin Kruschwitz, the resolution was

reported to messengers in response to widespread concern over the forced retirement of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Dale Moody.

Four proposals concerning Moody's retirement were presented to the resolutions committee but instead of agreeing to any of them, the panel brought the Kruschwitz statement. As passed, the resolution affirms both the "primacy of scripture" and the "liberty of conscience" as "necessary foundations for believing with freedom and teaching with responsibility."

In other statements, messengers reaffirmed Bold Mission Thrust and urged every Southern Baptist to endeavor immediately to lead at least one other person to Jesus Christ.

Dunn defends stance of BJCPA on school prayer

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, defended his agency's stance on school prayer against challenges from Southern Baptist Convention messengers, insisting a proposed constitutional amendment on prayer would violate principles of church-state separation.

In his report to the annual convention, Dunn called on Southern Baptists to stand by their historic commitment to the separation of church and state.

"Baptists who are Baptists still believe in separation of church and state," he said. "If we were ever to stop believing in separation of church and state we would that day cease to be Baptists."

After Dunn's report, Dan Maxwell, pastor of Hilltop Baptist Church, Norman, Okla., asked him how the Baptist Joint Committee had applied the 1982 convention's endorsement of the school prayer amendment to the agency's lobbying efforts in Washington.

Dunn replied the 1982 resolution was factually incorrect because it said the prayer amendment would not lead to government written prayers. Dunn quoted a White House document that said state and local officials would have authority to determine the content of a school prayer.

Certification, report time stipulated by messengers

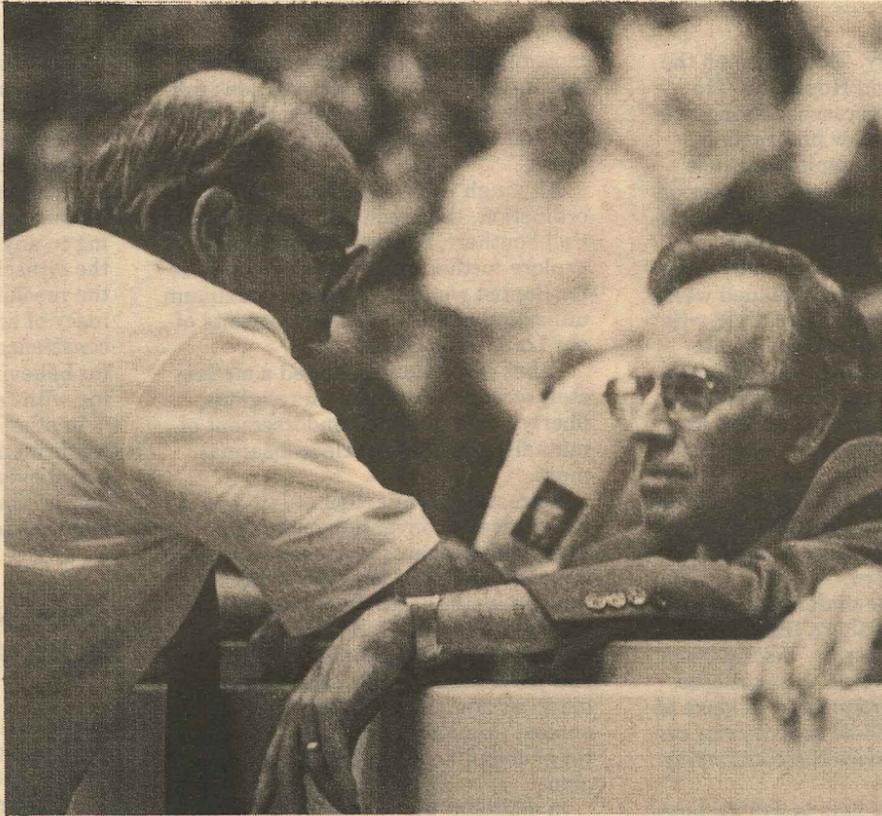
Rules on messenger certification and trustee requirements were tightened as messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention approved two recommendations from its Executive Committee.

Adopted without debate was a bylaw change specifying three acceptable forms of credentials for a messenger to be registered: an SBC registration card signed by the clerk or moderator of the messenger's church or a signed letter or telegram from the church certifying election as a messenger.

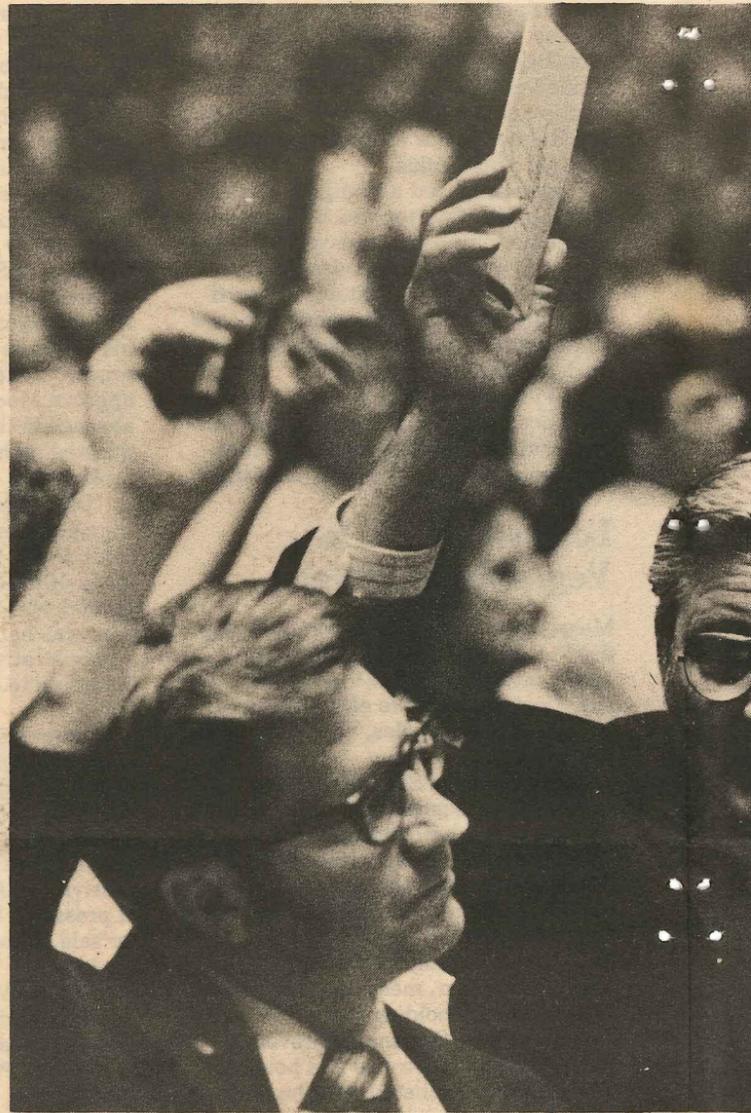
A recommendation drawing spirited debate before approval requires persons recommended as trustees by the committee on boards to have lived in the state from which they are elected at least one year prior to election.

The committee on boards is nominated by the committee on committees and approved by messengers.

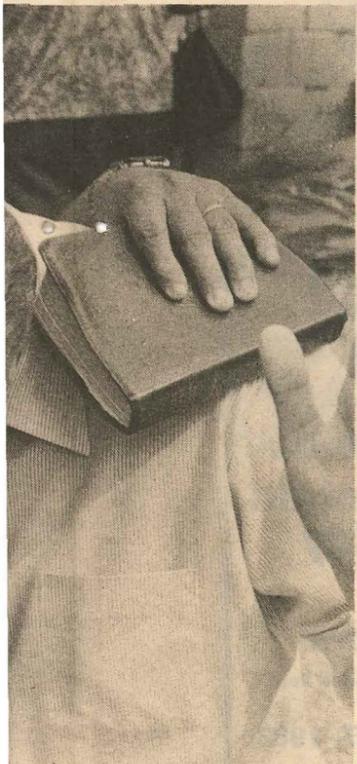
The recommendation also requires the committee on boards to release its report to Baptist Press at least 45 days before the SBC and encourages persons challenging the report to publicize their challenges in advance.



SBC president James Draper [far right] sustained the bond of peace on the convention floor. Louisvillian Eugene Enlow [above] consulted with a fellow messenger during the Tuesday afternoon business session. C. Edward Price [below], a layman who played a key role in starting SBC work in Pittsburgh, opened the 1983 Southern Baptist Convention meeting by welcoming messengers and their families to the Steel City. Arthur Blessitt attracted considerable attention when he carried his 12-foot cross through Pilot Point Park where the Three Rivers Art Festival was being held. He and Southern Baptists walking with him witnessed to numerous people, including the young man [below right] who made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Convention messengers utilized a new form of voting [above right]. The last card in the packet of ballots was colored to make messenger identification and vote counting easier.



Unity of the spirit in



in the bond of peace

The locals found Baptists 'delightful'

Pittsburgh residents find Southern Baptists gracious, polite and humorous and would like to see the Southern Baptist Convention return to the Steel City.

Pittsburghers working in the downtown area called Southern Baptist messengers "some of the nicest people" to visit the city.

Restaurant workers said Baptists demonstrated patience, despite long lines. A waitress was impressed that, once seated, messengers held hands and prayed together.

A hotel doorman said he found Southern Baptists friendly and believed their religious experiences here were the source of their warmth. He added that he would welcome a return of SBC messengers to the city.

SBC messengers were easier to get along with, said one hotel bell captain. He added: "They are more understanding," have a pleasant look and offer few, if any complaints. I would welcome them coming back any day. We can work with them much easier."

The head waiter for one hotel restaurant called messengers "the most beautiful group I've ever had." He said Baptist diners had been polite to waitresses, appreciative of restaurant services, complimentary of the food and very patient while waiting to be seated and served."

Some downtown workers found Baptists easy to spot, mostly because of their simple yet neat, clean dress and because of their Southern accents. Cab

drivers said Baptists had been friendly and business-like and understanding of downtown construction problems. He called Baptists average spenders.

A police officer said the Baptists didn't appear typical of most convention visitors noting that he saw few smokers and no drinkers.

Though messengers frequently asked for directions to restaurants and other downtown spots of interest, he mused, "No one has asked for directions to the state liquor store."

Shop owners said Baptists were polite and friendly and had a "good sense of humor." While cigarette sales dropped drastically, Baptists still spent money freely on postcards, newspapers and souvenirs.

"They watch their pennies," said one shop owner, yet they are not misers.

Messengers, likewise, found Pittsburgh residents friendly and helpful, contrary to their expectations.

Chris Osborne, pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church, Midland, Tex., admitted, "I expected a coldness on the part of the people that I haven't found."

Added Gloria Holifield of Stanley, N. C., "When we've asked directions, the people have gone the second mile in showing us around. No one has been too busy for us."

Most messengers have been pleased with hotel accommodations. Though some convention reservations were canceled when the U. S. Open Golf

Tournament was scheduled, messengers still found rooms and for the most part, were pleased with hotel services.

Though Irvin and Mickey Northcutt of Tavares, Fla. felt parking was inadequate at the arena, they added that the friendliness of the residents "overcomes a lot of the drawbacks and inconveniences." They suggested that the SBC consider returning to Pittsburgh but that the convention provide some sort of cafeteria or food service for messengers who do not want to walk several blocks to find a restaurant.

Laura Price of Boiling Springs, N. C. said the city was "out of the way" for the majority of Southern Baptists. Connie Hancock agreed that Pittsburgh was too far for the majority of messengers, and added that the number of messengers seemed to "put a strain on the city," with restaurants and hotels barely able to accommodate messengers.

Pittsburgh waitresses agreed Baptists were "good eaters" and expressed relief that no messengers requested grits.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

OUTSTANDING GROUP PACKAGE! Stay at KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT, Rt. 1, Eureka Springs, Ark., and see the GREAT PASSION PLAY (through October) for only \$18 each, including tickets, lodging, swimming and meals! Call 501/253-8418.

ABORTION AND BAPTISTS: The Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission is headed by a supporter of the pro-choice Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights. Persons seeking information on the SBC's current anti-abortion stand should therefore not write to the CLC only, but also should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Baptists & Abortion, Box 57411, Washington, DC 20037. 6-28-00

Comstar Systems, Inc.

ITT TE Toshiba

THE COMPLETE COMMUNICATIONS CO.

- TELEPHONE SYSTEMS • PAGING
- BURGLAR ALARMS • INTERCOM • MUSIC
- PROFESSIONAL SOUND SYSTEMS •
- FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

843-3817

1204 SMALLHOUSE RD. BOWLING GREEN MADISONVILLE, KY. REGIONAL OFFICE 825-0004

COLVILLE ALUMINUM EXTERIOR DECORATORS

ROOFING SIDING AND TRIM



425-3102 • 425-3182

7320 LA GRANGE RD. LOU., KY.

SERVING ALL RELIGIONS

Prices to satisfy every preference and need



149 Breckinridge Lane Phone 896-0349

PEARSON FUNERAL SERVICE

Louisville, Kentucky
Member: Ky. Funeral Directors Burial Assn.
Member: National Selected Morticians
by invitation.



Smoky Mountain Passion Play

AND

Damascus Road

Outdoor Dramas of Jesus and Paul

June 10 - August 27, 1983

• Townsend, Tennessee •
near Knoxville and Gatlinburg

Church Group Discount

\$1.00 off each ticket
groups of 15 or more

Reflections OF FAITH



HAROLD C. BENNETT

REFLECTIONS OF FAITH is an inspirational interpretation of Southern Baptist beliefs and practices. Contains fifteen pastoral stories or sermons including "Walking by Faith," "A Glance Toward Tomorrow," and "Reaching People Through Love." A motivational sermon resource, Harold Bennett's personal reflections could help you focus upon the true meaning of your faith.

Paperback, \$5.95

Harold C. Bennett is executive secretary-treasurer, Executive Committee, Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee.



At your Baptist Book Store
BROADMAN

CHILD CARE DAYS Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

We plan two special days to acquaint Kentucky Baptists with their ministry to children. You are invited to meet with us on one of these days:

At Spring Meadows, June 25, 1983 (Saturday):

Located on Highway 60 (Shelbyville Road) in Louisville, Kentucky, near Middletown, Kentucky. Campus is next to Kentucky Baptist Convention Building.

At Glen Dale, July 9, 1983 (Saturday):

Take I-65 South from Elizabethtown and exit West at Exit Number 86. Continue through Glendale and turn left. Go to Gilead Baptist Church. Turn left at the church. The Glen Dale Children's Home will be about a mile on your right.

Who should attend?

This is a special day for all Kentucky Baptists. Child care representatives, pastors, deacons, W.M.U. officers, Brotherhood officers, Sunday School superintendents, and friends should plan to attend.

Fill a bus, van, or car—or make a bicycle trip.

No need to bring food!

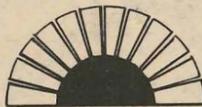
You will be our guest for lunch on both campuses.

Our meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude with lunch.

There will be a period of sharing information, as well as time for questions and answers. A guided tour of the campus will be a part of the day's activities.

You choose the day and campus that suit your schedule and travel time best.

Please fill out the information form and mail it to us so we will know how many to prepare for.



Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
10801 Shelbyville Road
Middletown, Kentucky
Phone: 1-800-292-9440

Child Care Days
Information
Inspiration

Name of Church, Organization, or Individual

Address Zip

Number in group Telephone Number

Campus you will visit: (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

..... Spring Meadows, June 25, 1983 (Saturday)

..... Glen Dale, July 9, 1983 (Saturday)



sunday school lessons

H. C. Chiles
Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, KY 40977

LESSONS FOR JUNE 26, 1983

International Series
DEBORAH: SUPPORTER, LEADER

Judges 4:4-9 Deborah, a prophetess, was one whom the people recognized as being in touch with God. The fourth in the order of the Judges, she became a leader of her people in a time of great national distress. She was selected for that office because God did not have a man who was sufficiently willing and spiritually aggressive enough to be used in it.

God's special mission for Deborah was the deliverance of the Israelites from Jabin, the cruel oppressor whose most important weapons were 900 chariots of iron. The chariot was the most important and advanced implement of war in that era. Heroine that she was, Deborah rose to meet the emergency. Sensing that the time to strike had arrived, she called to her aid the best man to be found—Barak—and commanded him to mobilize an army of 10,000 men to wage warfare against Sisera. Lacking initiative, Barak was hesitant and consented to undertake the task only on the condition that Deborah accompany him. His wanting the inspiration of her presence was understandable, but his putting more trust in the presence of a woman than of God was not right. Nevertheless, Barak actually gathered the army and went forth to battle.

Judges 4:14-16 With Deborah's encouragement and the blessing of God, Barak led his 10,000 soldiers into the valley of the Kishon River below Mount Tabor and attacked the forces of Sisera with their hundreds of iron chariots and the Israelites won a great victory over

their foes, just as Deborah had predicted.

Judges 5:1-3 When the conflict was over and the Israelites had won a great victory, this talented judge and prophetess penned an excellent song as an expression of gratitude to God for his mercy and blessing. In that stirring, patriotic and inspiring song of victory she expressed praise and appreciation to God for his goodness to the Israelites. Instead of taking unto herself any glory or praise for the victory of Barak and his forces, Deborah cheerfully gave all the credit to God for it. Her song opened with a summons to praise God for the marvelous way in which he avenged his people. Deborah and Barak sang this song of triumph. From this incident we learn it is always fitting that God's children should sing joyous praises unto him after he has given them victories in their lives and in their efforts for him. Give God all the glory for whatever you are able to accomplish for him or for the benefit of others.

Life and Work Series
GRAPPLING WITH GOD'S MERCY

Jonah 5:1-11 Jonah was such a patriot that to spare a people who were potentially such foes of his people was unthinkable to him. He wanted Nineveh destroyed lest she might destroy his people. Loyalty to one's country is a noble quality and one to be encouraged, but there is not any virtue in that kind of loyalty which condones sin in one's own country while condemning the same sin in another. God does not have any favorites either among individuals or nations.

Taking his departure from Nineveh,

Jonah went eastward, built a booth and sat therein in disgust, waiting to see what God might do to the city. While Jonah brooded over his disappointment and became increasingly embittered, God caused a gourd vine to grow in a miraculous manner in order that it might shelter him from the extreme heat of the sun. With this Jonah was delighted. However, the next day God prepared a worm which killed the vine and the plant withered. Jonah was embittered because he was thereby deprived of some personal comfort. God chided him for having more interest in and compassion for the vine on which he had not expended any energy than he did for the Ninevites.

God used that gourd vine as an object lesson to teach the prophet that as he, who had not bestowed any labor on the vine, was deeply concerned about it having been destroyed, so God, who

had bestowed greater energy and care upon the Ninevites, had a right to be greatly concerned for those people. God wanted Jonah to understand that the teeming multitudes of heathen were of much more value than a plant. God was, and still is, very much concerned about the heathen hearing his message, as much as he is with our hearing it.

May God hasten the day when every Christian shall have a real longing to proclaim the glorious gospel of Christ to every creature. Those of us who have received salvation from him must never forget that God's mercy is for all people regardless of where they made reside. There is no justification whatsoever for any of us thinking that this wonderful blessing is reserved for or restricted to the people of our own nation. Rather, it is to be offered freely and lovingly to all who will repent of their sins and believe on Christ the Savior.



on mission together

William W. (Bill) Marshall
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, KBC
Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243

WHEN THE HEART HARDENS

Early one recent morning as I was about to enter the Baptist Building, two men had preceded me there. It was obvious from their disheveled appearance that they were "sojourners without means." My experience with professional beggars overseas has left me a bit suspicious, and his story seemed rather well rehearsed; they had come into Louisville on a freight train and were trying to get to a place in Tennessee where, because they were veterans, they would be assured of a place to stay.

They had slept the night behind a Safeway Store and had not eaten since early the day before. All they wanted was a little money for food. Not aware of any discretionary funds at the KBB for such purposes, I gave them some personal funds—not much, but enough for them to have a decent breakfast. When I asked one why he had stopped at the Baptist Building, he replied, "we figured that some folks from the church might help us."

This is not a fictitious story. In fact, I suspect is is multiplied thousands of

times in the state of Kentucky. There are simply more and more people who are in need. While professional beggars are aware of the sensitivity of churches and will take advantage of that, it is also a fact that the truly poor and disenfranchised are aware of the potential help they might entreat from an individual church.

The current economic situation is forcing a higher visibility of poor people of this nation, whether as hitchhikers or those who come to our doors to ask for food or money. We Baptists tend to want to organize even "alms." And only by such means can the larger population be touched.

But there should be a space in our individual lives to meet certain needs that come to us day by day. As I was tempted to turn them away empty-handed, pre-judging that they may have been alcoholics in need of an early morning drink, my conscience rebuked me. For these were, however, well rehearsed, poor, desperate and needy people asking another human being for some help.

"O God, help me never to turn away from one in need."

Meet Cumberland College Alumnus



Frances Jones Mills

Frances Jones Mills, Kentucky's Secretary of State, is a native of Southeastern Kentucky. The daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. W.H. Jones of Gray and Williamsburg, Mrs. Mills graduated from Cumberland College and subsequently attended Eastern Kentucky University and Union College.

Mrs. Mills has led a life filled with a wealth of experience in public service. She has been a public school teacher, a medical assistant, and the Director of Women's Activities and Community Relations Officer for the Kentucky Division of Civil Defense. She is one of the very few people in Kentucky who had held leadership roles in all three branches of state government.

In evaluating her experiences at Cumberland College Mrs. Mills says, "While a student at Cumberland College, the ideals of truth, loyalty and progressiveness, and the importance of having Christian principles and concerns for my fellow man were installed in me. These ideals and principles have helped me to obtain the many worthwhile things I have been able to accomplish. I truly am proud of being a Cumberland College graduate."

There are many other young women like Frances Jones Mills who have the desire to go out into the world and serve. They only need a chance. Cumberland College provides that chance.

For information about the programs offered by Cumberland College for the preparation of future leaders, complete, clip, and mail the accompanying coupon.

(for information clip and mail to)

Dr. Jim Taylor
President
Cumberland College
Williamsburg, KY 40769

Dr. Taylor: I am interested in learning more about Cumberland College and the work it is doing in preparing leaders for the future. Please send information concerning the various programs offered by Cumberland.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



homes for children

Eldred M. Taylor, Executive Director
10801 Shelbville Road, Middletown, KY 40243

TOGETHER

When there is a task to be done which is too big for one person, there is need for help from others. The extra help must be coordinated in order to be effective. An example is when several workmen gather around to move a heavy object. First, each one gets a firm grip. Then the leader will say, "All right now, all together, lift!" With that word, every person lifts together and the task is done.

Baptists have a worldwide task much too big for any one of us or even for many of us. So we have developed a plan to help us all "lift" together. It is called the Cooperative Program. This wonderful plan allows us to do together what we could never do separately.

The Cooperative Program works from the grassroots of Baptists to the ends of the earth. Church members bring their tithes and offerings to their church. The church adopts a plan for a certain percent of their undesignated offerings to be channeled through the Cooperative Program. That money is then sent to the Kentucky Baptist Convention office. According to the vote of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the funds are divided between Kentucky causes and Southern Baptist Convention

causes. The portion going to the Southern Baptist Convention office is channeled to foreign missions, home missions and other agencies as voted by the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention. The part of the program staying in Kentucky is channeled to state missions, education and benevolence according to the vote of the messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

With this kind of togetherness every person who gives to his/her church has a part in lifting the load for world missions, education and benevolence. It is this kind of togetherness that helps Baptist Homes for Children continue our ministry, and is one important facet of our support.

Kentucky Baptists believe in and love their ministry to hurting children. Although the amount Baptist Homes receives out of each Cooperative Program dollar is only about 1.5 percent, that adds up to a lot of help because so many are "lifting" with their Cooperative Program gifts. In fact, it operates us two hours and eight minutes of the 24 hours in each day. I believe in and support the Cooperative Program and urge you to support it through your church.



clear creek comments

Leon Simpson, President
Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, KY 40977

HITHERTO HATH THE LORD

Today I sit in my study thinking of three anniversaries. In July I will celebrate the day of my birth. This is an annual remembrance. On June 27 my wife and I will celebrate 19 years of wedded bliss. Surely, this will be a most memorable occasion!

Another anniversary of great importance to me occurred on June 15, 1983, when I completed my first year at Clear Creek Baptist School as president. As I have spent this past year ministering at this great school, I can state with rejoicing, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" (1 Sam. 7:12).

Anniversaries always make me thankful for God's blessings of the past. I am thankful for L. C. Kelly whose vision and determination led to the founding of Clear Creek. I want to celebrate and sing of a God who touches the hearts of men and accomplishes his mighty work through vessels of clay like us. Without Kelly, Clear Creek Baptist School would not be in existence today.

tence today.

I also want to dedicate this column to D.M. Aldridge, who laid aside the mantle of leadership at Clear Creek one year ago. Without his loving and sacrificial service for 28 years Clear Creek would not have survived. If Aldridge had not provided the dynamic and conservative leadership needed, there would not be more than 1000 graduates of Clear Creek serving the Lord in 43 states and several foreign countries.

Finally, I am thankful for you, for your love, interest and prayers, for your concern and support—you help to make this great school even greater! As I turn toward my second year at Clear Creek and look forward to all the other happy years of ministry, I am thankful for your continual willingness to involve yourself in God's work here.

Oh, yes, I almost forgot to mention another June anniversary—Father's Day. My wife and children did not forget "dear old Dad."



oneida journal

Barkley Moore, President
Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, KY 40972

BROTHERS ALL ARE WE

The Oneida Family rose at 4 a.m. on Memorial Day morning. We had been so busy the previous two weeks. With all but 50 of the students and staff away for the break before the start of summer school, there had been so much to get done.

Each of the four dorms had to be thoroughly cleaned, much painting was done, books inventoried, grade reports prepared and mailed, the usual spring farm work, lawns to be mowed, summer construction plans reviewed and work begun, much office work, many guests as usual, many students to be interviewed for summer school and the fall term.

But we were not up at 4 a.m. to work, but to journey to Frankfort. There a memorial service was being held for our recent graduate, Brian Tramontin. His

body had been recovered several days before and buried in a private service. The family asked that I come to give the eulogy and our students remaining on campus asked to be taken to the service. Every pew of the Good Shepherd Church was filled and several hundred stood in the side and center aisles and along the back and in the entry.

The congregation included former governor Julian Carroll and former lieutenant governor Harry Lee Waterfield, family, many former Frankfort classmates, hundreds of friends. Oneida classmates were present from several differing states and six foreign countries: Japan, Germany, Ghana, the Yemen, Ethiopia and Iran.

Brian's Oneida girlfriend and her mother, a 1956 Oneida graduate, were there from Michigan. They sat with the family as I had been requested to do.

The congregation was about half

Catholic and half Baptist and other denominations. Though the service was tinged with sadness, there was a triumphal note from the opening hymn "How Great Thou Art." The youngest brother whose life had been spared went forward to read scripture as did Brian's young sister. A priest read the scriptures relating to the resurrection of Lazarus.

The congregation sang from a beautifully printed eight-page program the joyful al-le-lu-ia's of the hymn "The Strife Is Over." Then as communion was observed by Brian's family and others wishing to do so, the great crowd softly sang "I Will Raise Him Up."

I gave a heartfelt eulogy and testimony to life eternal obtained by personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ. I shared scriptures and hymns previously shared with Brian, and told of his proclamation of faith on his commencement day just two weeks before.

Before I spoke the congregation had sung the words of Francis of Assisi: "Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. In giving of ourselves that we receive. And in dying that we're born to eternal life." Following my message, there was another prayer and then the singing of: "Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me! Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now, with every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."

Following the service, Brian's mother, brothers and sister received us in their home. Then we were taken to the 189-year-old home and farm of the maternal grandparents where all the Oneidians and many others were served a splendid dinner. Brian's grandfather, Harry Davis, was executive secretary in former governor Chandler's administration.

The students wanted to see Brian's grave before coming home. We had a final prayer there. It was a gloriously beautiful spring day, and we walked on through the cemetery to see Daniel and Rebecca Boone's graves, and explained to our foreign students who they were.

Brian's final weeks have touched thousands of people. We have heard from so many. His family requested in the newspapers and the printed memorial program that all expressions of sympathy be sent to: Brian Ray Tramontin Memorial Fund, Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Kentucky 40972 "for time and eternity."

bluegrass billboard

JUNE

Conference and Camp Dates:
June 25 through July 1—
Ridgecrest: Foreign Missions;
Glorieta: Sunday School
June 27 through July 1—

Cedarmore:
Acteens & GA's, Grades 4-12;
RA's, Grades 4-12
Youth Week
Jonathan Creek: GA/Acteen Camp

JULY

3 Christian Citizenship Sunday
10 Christian Literature Day
29 Kentucky Baptist Historical Society and Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission, Williamsburg, First Baptist Church
Conference and Camp Dates:
2-8 Church Training Leadership/Youth at Ridgecrest; WMU Leadership at Glorieta
9-15 Sunday School at Ridgecrest; Home Missions at Glorieta
16-22 Sunday School at Ridgecrest; Church Music at Glorieta
23-29 Sunday School at Ridgecrest; Bible/Preaching/Church Media Library at Glorieta

CEDARMORE

4-8 Grades 4-12 for Acteens, GA's and RA's; and Youth Week #4
8-9 Overnight for Mother/Daughter; Overnight for Father/Son, Grades 1-3
11-15 Grades 4-12 for Acteens, GA's and RA's; Children's Music Camp
15-16 Overnight for Mother/Daughter, Overnight for Father/Son, Grades 1-3
18-22 Grades 4-12 for Acteens, GA's and RA's; and Youth Music Assembly Week
25-28 Grades 4-12 for Acteens, GA's and RA's; and Children's Music Camp
JONATHAN CREEK
4-8 GA's and Acteens
11-15 GA's and Acteens

Colson notes skepticism regarding conversion

by Greg Hancock, *Western Recorder* Convention Correspondent

Marking the 10th anniversary of his personal salvation experience, Charles Colson, former Nixon White House aide and Watergate conspirator, met with Southern Baptists in Pittsburgh.

In a press conference preceding his convention address, Colson acknowledged the public skepticism regarding his 1973 conversion. "The press still isn't sure how to handle it," he smiled. "One major daily (newspaper) will not say 'Jesus Christ.' They'll say 'Jesus' but when you add the 'Christ' you're making an editorial statement.

"So if I say, '10 years ago I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior,' the press translates that: 'Colson had a religious experience'."

The reality of that "religious experience" is hard to refute. Colson not only became a Christian in 1973, he became an active Christian. He became a Christian life activist; exhibiting particular concern for the need for Christ in prison reform.

The Charles Colson program of prison ministries has experienced remarkable success in the reformation and rehabilitation of convicts. "I don't like to quote statistics," Colson explained, "because statistics can be made to say what you want them to say.

"I'd rather just say the program is succeeding and the powers that be are recognizing its success."

Colson's program centers around helping non violent prisons get out into the community—often into intimate home situations in the community—where they become practically employed in renovation type work on houses, churches, schools, etc.

Inside the prisons, Colson and his associates present three to five day seminars that deal, specifically, with the presentation of biblical principles.

"The prison system," Colson instructs, "is, by its very nature, dehumanizing.

"Part of the seminar process is to reaffirm to the inmate, 'You are some-

body. You are a person of worth.'"

Although he is a Southern Baptist and a member of a Southern Baptist congregation, Colson warns, "The church belongs out of the pew; not in the pew.

"The academy award winning movie, 'Gandhi,' illustrates the point. (Getting out of the church building) is not only what Jesus taught, it's what works."

In a soon to be released third book entitled *Loving God*, Colson relates a series of stories, each illustrating a major point of Christian living.

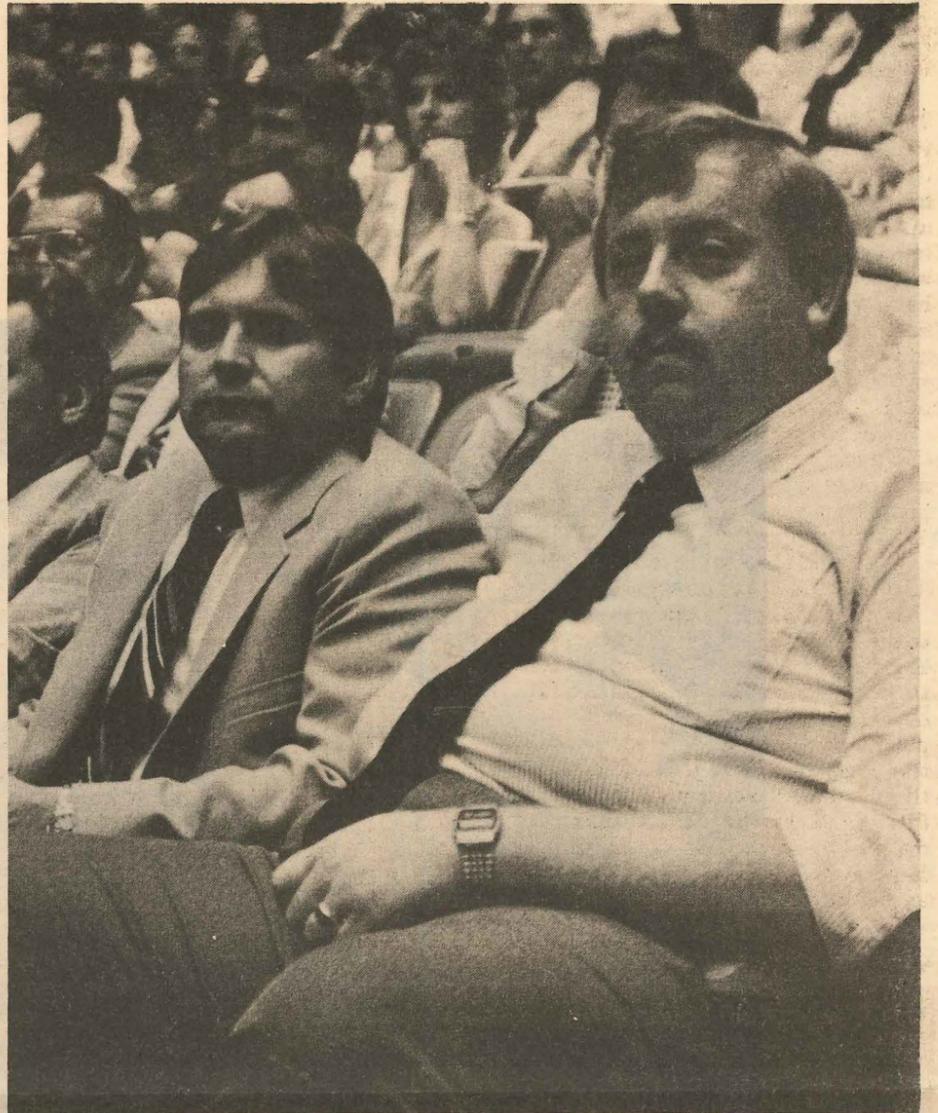
"The book," the author explains, "is intended to equip the Christian and challenge the non Christian concerning Christian beliefs."

Commenting upon his relationship with former president Richard Nixon, Colson says, "We keep in touch, although I have not spoken with him privately for over a year."

The two men met at a much publicized 10th anniversary gathering of the 1972 Nixon election campaign team last year but did not talk privately.

According to Colson, Nixon is aware of the prison ministry and approves of it. The former president has read Colson's books and enjoyed them.

Colson did not comment extensively with regard to his conviction on charges of obstructing justice; nor upon his own prison experience. Addressing the assembly of denominational commentators he offered, "I want to say this to you, just in case I forget to say it tonight: be very, very careful never to confuse the will of God with the will of the majority."



Larry Allen [r], pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Cave City, Liberty Association, and Joe Eubanks, pastor of Trammel Creek Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association, were among a number of Kentuckians attending convention sessions.

[Photo by Ray Hayes]



Al Hardy [l], business vice president and treasurer at Campbellsville College, greets Campbellsville alumnus Angela Church, formerly of Louisville and now in Virginia, at a booth set up to inform messengers about Campbellsville College. George and Vada Phillips, Lexington, look on. Cumberland College, Clear Creek Baptist School and Georgetown College also sponsored booths. [Photo by Ray Hayes]



[Left] Sheila Bailey, who portrays Lottie Moon in the film, Journey Home, that premiered at the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting in Pittsburgh, signs autographs for George and Vada Phillips, Lexington, and Iona Gaines, Corinth. Bob White, Paducah [below, left], applauds Joel Gregory's theme interpretations. John Dunaway [far right], Corbin, retiring chairman of the Executive Committee, waits with parliamentarian Charles Fuller [l] and president Jimmy Draper during floor action on the Executive Committee report.

