



Kansas City convention elects inerrancy leader Charles Stanley of Atlanta as SBC president

by Stan Haste

Ultraconservatives within the Southern Baptist Convention solidified their grip on the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination by electing as president a strongly conservative Atlanta pastor and brushing aside every challenge from denominational moderates to replace new trustees to denominational agencies.

In other litmus tests of their growing strength, the ultraconservatives pushed through strongly worded statements opposing the ordination of women and condemning abortion and secular humanism.

Moderates in the 139-year-old denomination left Bartle Convention Center in Kansas City licking their wounds of one defeat after another as the ultraconservatives—who refer to themselves as biblical inerrantists—won every key vote save one.

In that action messengers narrowly turned back an effort to withdraw funding from the embattled Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a denominational agency in Washington, D. C., that represents the SBC and eight other Baptist bodies in church-state affairs.

Charles Stanley, 51-year-old pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, and outgoing president of the influential Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, won a first ballot victory in the presidential election Tuesday, easily defeating moderate candidate Grady C. Cothen, of Pass Christian, Miss., and outgoing first vice president John Sullivan of Shreveport, La.

A committed inerrantist (one who believes the Bible is truth without error of any kind), Stanley won 52 percent of the vote, a surprisingly strong showing in a year when moderates had geared up for what was supposed to be their strongest challenge to date in the five-year-old struggle for control of the 14.1 million member body.

Both parties spent months preparing for the showdown through massive



telephone calling and precinct type organizing to get out the vote.

Although the inerrantists have used those tactics for the past five years, this was the first significant such effort by the moderates, who came here claiming as many as 8000 votes for Cothen.

At a news conference following his election, Stanley repeated the statement made by every inerrantist president beginning with Adrian Rogers of Memphis in 1979 that no faction was responsible for his victory. He said further he had not decided to enter the race until an early morning prayer meeting in a hotel room when God told him he should.

Stanley's answers to a battery of questions left no doubt that on a wide range of church and social issues he is a committed conservative as he affirmed inerrancy, opposed ordination of women and endorsed a constitutional amendment on school prayer.

The Atlanta pastor, educated at the University of Richmond and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was a founding director of Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority Inc., and is presently a director of another New Right organization, The Roundtable. He holds a doctorate from Luther Rice Theological Seminary, a Florida institution not connected to the SBC.

Conservatives also succeeded in electing Zig Ziglar, a motivational specialist from Dallas, as convention first vice president. He won in a runoff with Donald Wideman, a Kansas City pastor, who later won election in another runoff as second vice president. Reelected to their eighth term as recording and registration secretaries respectively, were Martin B. Bradley and Lee Porter, both of Nashville.

Aside from elections, the Kansas City

contest for control of the denomination was symbolized in moderates' unsuccessful effort to replace Houston judge Paul Pressler, unofficial head of the ultraconservatives, with Dallas pastor Bruce McIver on the powerful Executive Committee. That body, with offices in Nashville, receives and allocates Cooperative Program funds and performs myriad functions for the convention between annual sessions.

Pressler, who along with Dallas theologian Paige Patterson announced five years ago their intention to gain control of the denomination by electing SBC presidents whose appointments would permit inerrantists to gain control of denominational agencies, reacted angrily to the effort to replace him. Witnesses said he demanded an explanation from Amarillo, Tex. pastor Winfred Moore, who nominated McIver, in a confrontation outside the convention center.

Besides the challenge to Pressler moderates also sought unsuccessfully to replace three other committee on boards nominees, but were easily defeated.

Feelings also ran high over the volatile question of ordaining women, an issue heretofore avoided by messengers to annual meetings who had left the matter alone in deference to local churches.

This time, however, the ultraconservatives succeeded in having a sympathetic resolutions committee bring a statement opposing women as pastors and deacons. Dejected women ministers in attendance pledged to continue their battle for recognition in the giant SBC.

In another resolution messengers expressed opposition to abortion and called for passage of a constitutional

amendment to ban the practice except in instances when the life of the mother is endangered. The statement also asked Southern Baptists to quiz their physicians on the matter, asking them whether they perform abortions or refer patients to other doctors who do.

After a brief debate, messengers adopted a special committee's recommendation that members of Southern Baptist congregations in Canada not be seated at the annual session. But it also provides for major new evangelistic outreach in the country's northern neighbor.

Messengers also rejected efforts to condition election to SBC offices and trustee slots on the level of contributions to the Cooperative Program. A fall back motion to amend the SBC constitution to insure that future officers and trustees come from churches that give a certain percentage to the Cooperative Program was referred to the Executive Committee.

Other bright spots for moderates came after the crucial votes, when on Wednesday morning Southern Baptist Theological Seminary president Roy Honeycutt defended his own biblical conservatism to the cheers of messengers. He had been challenged by a messenger who questioned Honeycutt's commitment to an inerrant Bible.

Inspirational moments during the three-day gathering included the launching of ACTS, the American Christian Television System, and BTN, the new television ministry of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

At next year's June 11-13 session in Dallas, Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., will preach the convention sermon. Grady Wilson, a North Carolina evangelist, is alternate preacher.

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daley observations

C. R. Daley

A rampant run toward fundamentalist captivity

Southern Baptists meeting in Kansas City last week took another giant step toward fundamentalist captivity. The trek which began in 1979 turned into a mad dash in 1984 as the majority of messengers intrusted the highest office of the convention to one whose orientation and activities up to now have been more Moral Majority than Southern Baptist. They also advanced the cause of Southern Baptist fundamentalism by beating back all challenges by moderates to questionable recommendations from the Committee on Boards.

Many who had gone to Kansas City hoping and praying that the pendulum was ready to swing back were stunned. Instead of swinging back the pendulum flew off in the direction it has been swinging. For some, including this writer, it was the darkest day in their Southern Baptist experience.

What has been called by Pressler-Patterson forces as a return to basic doctrines is actually a move into fundamentalism. It's important to understand there is a vast difference between believing in fundamentals of the faith and in practicing fundamentalism.

To believe in fundamentals is to embrace the basic tenets of the biblical faith. To practice fundamentalism is not only to embrace what one regards as the fundamentals but also to make those views a test of fellowship. In fundamentalism there is no place for diversity in views as Southern Baptists have enjoyed.

I believe all the fundamentals of the biblical faith including the divine inspiration of scriptures and the complete authority of the Bible but I reject fundamentalism. This is because in addition to inspiration of the Bible is the basic fundamentals of freedom and competency of every redeemed soul to find and embrace truth from God. This denies the right of anyone else to select a list of fundamentals for me or to choose which of the fundamentals is to be made a test of orthodoxy.

As for Charles Stanley, the new president of the Convention, it is doubtful if a person with as little demonstrated interest and experience in Southern Baptist life was ever chosen to lead Southern Baptists. His involvement in associational and state convention life is almost nil and he was mostly a non-participant in Southern Baptist Convention affairs until enlisted two years ago for the inerrancy cause.

Though considered by many as a champion of Baptist orthodoxy, Stanley's views are out of line with at least one basic tenet. He reports he is no longer a member of Moral Majority but he has not repudiated Moral Majority objectives or methods. As a charter Moral Majority member he disdained the basic Baptist principle of relying on spiritual persuasion to effect change and espoused the use of civil power to enforce a particular code of morality upon everyone.

The testimonies of Stanley and first vice president Zig Ziglar as to how Stanley was elected give insight into their messianic consciousness. According to their accounts God's choice of Stanley was revealed to a small group of "spiritual giants" in a late night prayer meeting a few hours before the election.

This makes for a strange blend of the worldly and the spiritual. Those in this past midnight prayer meeting, some of whom work year around to secure enough instructed messengers to win any convention vote, become in the sight of one another spiritual giants to whom God reveals his anointed one for president of the Southern Baptist Convention. When asked if he believed God revealed his choice for convention president to this group before he revealed it to the convention messengers, vice president Ziglar said yes. One has to wonder what testimony would have come out of this prayer meeting if one other than those in the meeting had been elected Convention president.

In a press conference Stanley came through with all the right answers. Like some of his predecessors he promised to be a president for all Southern Baptists. Let us pray his performance will match his promise which was not the case with some of his predecessors. His committee appointments will reveal his true intentions and objectives.

What's ahead for Southern Baptists? What will be the consequences of fundamentalist captivity? Here are some possible consequences, none of which I pray will become realities.

- Annual conventions which are already turbulent will become more boisterous. Marked by bitter confrontations these meetings will be frustrating to the messengers and will hold up Southern Baptists for ridicule.

Some messengers in Kansas City last week gave notice of what is to

come. It is proper for agency reports to include a period for questions but these questions are becoming more accusatory than inquisitive. Some messengers are more anxious to vent their feelings and peevishness than to give administrators opportunity to answer questions and to report on their agencies and institutions.

The denominational establishment will become more and more the whipping boy.

- Agency heads will be increasingly harassed and falsely charged by the directors and trustees of the agencies they head. As more and more fundamentalists are elected to these boards, heresy hunting and doctrinal examinations will become the order of the day.

Most administrators will stand on principle and not go along to get along. Under increasing pressure some may remove themselves or be removed. Seminary faculties will disintegrate and some of the brightest biblical scholars and preachers among Southern Baptists will give up and seek other environments for fulfilling their ministries.

- The most distressing possible effect of a fundamentalist takeover is the disintegration of the Cooperative Program. Leaders of the fundamentalist faction are known for their limited support of this lifeline of Southern Baptist witness at home and abroad. Pastors and churches whose generous giving has made possible this lifeline will become less and less enthusiastic to entrust their gifts to the disposition of those who are taking over but who themselves have given only minimal support to the Cooperative Program.

It will take several years for this reaction to be noticeable but unless those taking over pick up the slack, we may have already passed the golden era of the Cooperative Program in spite of the great potential of the Planned Growth In Giving emphasis getting under way. God forbid!

Is there any hope for stemming the fundamentalist tide? Is a complete takeover inevitable? What can be done?

There is hope. Total takeover is not inevitable. There are things to be done. To surrender or withdraw to the sidelines is unthinkable.

The first and most critical need in any crisis among Baptists is to get the truth out to the last person. To inform grassroots Baptists of what's really happening is absolutely necessary. Many messengers now voting the Pressler-Patterson ticket think they are defending the Bible and saving Southern Baptists from deadly liberalism. Many of them never read a state paper but they hear and see on television some of the takeover leaders who criticize Southern Baptist seminaries and destroy the credibility of denominational leaders.

State papers will have to reach more Baptists to present and explain the issues. Pastors who know the truth need to inform their members what the struggle is all about and what's at stake. State convention leaders as well as personnel of Southern Baptist agencies and institutions will have to stand up and be heard.

Southwestern Seminary president Russell Dilday has led the way with his Kansas City convention sermon which was the keenest analysis of the present situation and the most prophetic voice heard in the convention since 1979.

The capture of the Convention presidency must be reversed. The disorganized and ineffective plans to nominate someone to challenge the fundamentalist candidate must be replaced by an effective strategy. The nomination of two worthy men this year to run against the fundamentalist nominee is an example of the bungling plans so far.

I never thought I would favor such political activities in the convention but when part of the family seeks to gain control in order to dictate family policies there is no valid alternative but to resist.

How long will the Pressler-Patterson led captivity last? The answer is for the foreseeable future or until denominational loyalists are effectively aroused.

The return, however, will come sooner or later. A takeover by such methods cannot prosper forever. A challenge sooner or later will be successful or the takeover group will self-destruct or disintegrate.

In the meantime sticking to principle and persevering are the order. Our calendar is not God's calendar. Some of us thought the return would come after only several years but so thought the Israelites who waited much longer to return to pick up the pieces. But God was in it and, having purged his people, kept his promise. This is ultimately the only hope for Southern Baptists.

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

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*Weekly observations***Most Kentuckians react with frustration, disappointment to convention elections**

by Ray Hayes and Jimmy Hester

As the proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention continued in Kansas City, Kentucky Baptists reacted in different ways. Some were positive but others expressed feelings of inadequacy and frustration.

Most Kentuckians were displeased with the election of officers on Tuesday. Vernon Harkey, Verona, commented, "What a sense of depression fell over the face of the folks around me during the election."

Bob Martin, Campbellsville, said, "When you get a standing ovation on a

nomination, that's bad."

"I am disappointed that voters appeared for the presidential election then disappeared for future votes," suggested Ray England, Winchester.

Others voicing disappointment in the election of officers included Terry Wilder, Lawrenceburg. "I'm very disappointed with the election of officers." James Jones, Campbellsville, agreed. "Time is going to tell the results of the actions taken in this convention."

Some Kentuckians sensed the control of the group within the convention.

"The spirit of obvious politics is evident," commented Harold Mauney,

Williamsburg. "It is also evident there is overt action of certain elements in the convention to promote their views as the only valid position. I'm deeply concerned with the future of the SBC."

Mike Craine, Owensboro, expressed his concern. "If the expression of the convention is the true feeling of the convention I would feel better about things, but it is not. When the second ballot of the presidential election is 3500 or so short (of the first one's total vote) something is going on. We who are mainstream Southern Baptists are going to have to do something. When you get a judge pulling strings you've got problems."

Glenn Mollette, Pikeville, agreed as he said, "The folks of the Kentucky Baptist Convention must vote in the spirit of God's leadership and not be influenced by manipulations."

A second time convention messenger, Vernon Harkey, Verona, said, "My second experience doesn't help. I see a

call for unity but no willingness for understanding. What people will feel will depend on the present leadership."

Most of the previous comments were in relation to pre-convention meetings. Terry Wilder proclaimed "the Forum was super, especially David Matthews' address on the sovereignty of God."

Mike King, associate in Church Training and Special Ministries, KBC, attended the meeting for religious educators. "I thoroughly enjoyed the meeting. Bill Hendricks' address to religious educators was a highlight."

John Boggess, Greenville, a layman, said "the choirs and music were great, inspirational. We have our light and serious moments and I have enjoyed them both."

Ray England summed up his comments with a positive affirmation: "The highlight of the convention is the way the Holy Spirit is working through our boards and agencies in spite of the political machinations we are seeing."

Convention impressions

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Reflections. In 1977, when the convention last met at Roe Bartle Hall in Kansas City, we observed in this column "hotels charging enormous rates for mediocre and minimal services." It seemed to us in 1984 those services had vastly improved at some downtown establishments, and rates which seemed unreasonable several years ago hadn't increased very much since. Every employe we encountered in the headquarters hotel was pleasant, courteous and well trained in the art of public relations.

Frustrations. Parking problems rivaled lack of adequate eating facilities as messengers' greatest concerns outside the convention proper. This reporter left a \$36-a-day parking garage in the downtown area and drove for 65 minutes in search of parking space within 20 blocks in any direction at a lower rate. Finding none, we returned to our original spot only to find it gone. We parked illegally many blocks away and hoped our car would not be removed before we returned for it. Obviously, Kansas City is not equipped to handle the number of cars SBC messengers bring, which suggests it may still be cheaper to fly to the SBC. The cafeteria in the main convention hall also gouged messengers beyond reason—\$7.10 for two vegetables, meat, a cup of tea and a small cup of pudding—for lunch. People sometimes stood in line for an hour or more here. The SBC Executive Committee might also check out rest room facilities in choosing convention halls, too—which may seem unimportant, except when you need one. The one men's room and the one women's room on the convention's street level was like Grand Central Station all of the time, occasionally with lines of nearly a hundred persons waiting to enter. It was also at the opposite end of the building's main entrances, resulting in vocal frustration by some.

Schools. Does any other state staff as many educational booths at the SBC as Kentucky? We didn't count, but it seems to us we have had greater representation here than any other state the last two conventions. Personnel manned booths in the exhibit hall for Clear Creek Baptist School; Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown colleges; and Southern Seminary.

Gloomsday. The moderate wing of the convention had pinned strong hopes on the election for president this year and once again, to quote more than one moderate we heard from Tuesday evening following the elections, "I lost every vote I cast today." One said that, although he predicted the outcome weeks ago, (the crushing reality of the day's losses (election of inerrancy candidates for president and first vice president, and resisting challenges to inerrancy nominees for boards) made it seem as if "the house had finally fallen in." Moderate ministers were openly grieving. Some SBC staffers spoke of ominous signs.

Assessment. Jimmy Draper and his platform cohorts seemed as well prepared for questions, motions, recommendations and resolutions as any we can remember. They had obviously done their homework well, and this contributed to a smoothly run convention. There were few lapses of time and seldom difficulty in knowing how to handle a messenger's request.

Defeated. When a recommendation from the Executive Committee was introduced which would send the convention's 1991 meeting to Atlanta, Ga., a lady from nearby Jonesboro, Ga. declared her enthusiasm for going to Atlanta "every year," but not June 4-6 as recommended—"when Jesus is sometimes in session." Tim Hedquist, convention manager, responded that other conventions meeting in Atlanta in 1991 with prior commitments necessitated the SBC sessions being held June 4-6. The messengers listened to the lady, however, and to other speakers who followed, then referred the matter back to the Executive Committee. The action will mean, Hedquist said later, that Atlanta will lose the meeting in 1991. A brief time later, the same lady appeared on the platform to challenge the nomination of Martin B. Bradley of Nashville as the convention's recording secretary, suggesting a woman in her church as an alternate. The ballot vote gave Bradley more than 70 percent edge for reelection. The lady from the Peach State—while perhaps getting the convention moved a week later—will also see it moved from her home state, and she lost her nominating challenge, too. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose.



James T. Draper Jr., outgoing president of the SBC, showed leadership away from the convention platform, too. Immediately after delivering his second presidential address, he met with Harold C. Bennett, standing, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, to sign a personal pledge card for Planned Growth In Giving. Planned Growth In Giving is a new denominational emphasis to lead individual Southern Baptists to increase their gifts to their local churches in a percentage basis over the next 15 years, for churches to increase contributions to associational and state convention causes and for state conventions to up their percentage gifts to national SBC programs.

Convention reports

Women in ministry group draws 250

Attendance at the second annual Women in Ministry, SBC conference reflected increased interest in women's issues in Southern Baptist life. About 180 people registered for this year's meeting, and some 250 people, including 40 men, attended the Sunday morning worship service, where Susan Lockwood Wright, pastor of Cornell Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, preached. Eighty persons registered for the 1983 meeting in Pittsburgh.

The attendance, double that expected, led Anne Davis, dean of Carver School of Church Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, to say the meeting "by any Baptist standard, is a success."

Following a year of financial struggle for the group, Anne Neal, chairman of the Women in Ministry, SBC steering committee, announced Woman's Missionary Union, SBC intends to include Women in Ministry, SBC as a line item in its 1985 budget. WMU also allowed the group to use its meeting facilities during off-hours of its own pre-SBC meeting.

Lynda Weaver-Williams, copastor of Goshen (Ky.) Baptist Church, told the group that opposition to women in professional ministerial roles has reached an all time high in the Southern Baptist Convention and that SBC woman ministers can expect further opposition.

Attempts to thwart increased opportunities for women ministers in SBC life do not lessen women's responsibilities to answer God's call to vocational ministry, Mrs. Weaver-Williams reminded.

"There is a sense of belonging to (God) that no one can take from us. No amount of lopsided scriptural interpretation, no vote of resolution or parliamentary procedure can take away Southern Baptist women's sense of 'divine election'."

Conservatives elected at Pastors' Conference

O. S. Hawkins, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., was elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. Hawkins won easily over D. L. Lowery, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., in a show-of-hands vote.

An estimated 10,000 attending also elected another conservative, Robert Tenery, pastor of Burkemont Baptist Church, Morgantown, N. C., as vice president. He won handily over T. T. Crabtree, pastor of First Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.

When it came to choosing a secretary-treasurer, the pastors deadlocked on the two nominees, Tom Melzoni Sr., pastor of Miami Shores Baptist Church, Dayton, Oh., and Calvin Miller, pastor of Westside Baptist Church, Omaha, Neb.

After even a standing vote could not show a difference, president Charles Stanley of Atlanta suggested the group split the office. This was approved; Miller was named secretary and Melzoni was named treasurer.

Abortion, pornography key issues for pastors

Admonitions to take stronger stands against abortion and pornography mingled with words of personal encouragement at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Crowds estimated at more than 12,000 applauded 11 preachers and inspirational speakers during four sessions of the annual pastors' gathering.

A strongly conservative theme dominated many of the messages. Along with advice on how to be more loving parents, better stewards of their money and more effective proclaimers of the gospel, pastors got tips on how to deal with stress and how to cope with the temptation to quit when the going gets rough.

The antiabortion thrust was spearheaded by a Presbyterian filmmaker, Franky Schaeffer of Los Altos, Cal., who received standing applause after urging Southern Baptists to lead out in the fight against abortion and to "defend your theology."

SBC Forum labeled a large success

About 2000 persons attended the premiere meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention Forum which Duke K. McCall, president of the Baptist World Alliance, described as "the biggest baby ever born at a Southern Baptist Convention setting."

Meeting in direct conflict with an afternoon session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference which attracted 10,000, organizers still labeled the Forum a success and said they will consider plans for another meeting in 1985.

Cecil Sherman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Asheville, N. C., and one of the organizers for the conference, said for years he had felt out of place attending other pre-SBC meetings and believed he was not alone in his feelings.

"You can come to the Southern Baptist Convention and the premeetings and never hear from this side of the house," he explained, noting that the Forum consisted primarily of those from a more moderate theological stance.

Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, who presided over the meeting, told participants their positive response would be represented to planners as a statement of "do it again."

Speakers addressed a variety of issues facing Southern Baptists, including the role of women in ministry and efforts to make SBC colleges and seminaries take a more conservative line.

A hot time in the old town of Kansas City

Arson is the suspected cause of a hotel fire that gutted the room of four Southern Baptist Convention news room personnel. An arson investigator for the Kansas City police department questioned the four, all women, following the late afternoon blaze that apparently started off a bed in the 15th-floor room of the Americana Hotel.

Faye Byrnes and her daughter, Serena Wilkinson, of Nashville, Tenn., Gaye Eichler of Dallas, Tex., and Vern Myers of Ft. Worth, Tex. denied leaving anything on the bed that could have started the blaze. None were in the room when the fire broke out.

All 350 guests in the 500-room facility were safely evacuated without incident.

Arson is suspected, police explained, because about \$400 cash and other personal effects were missing from charred purses and pocketbooks found in the debris.

Two other 15th floor guests, veteran Southern Baptist foreign missionaries

Charles and Indy Whitten, of Equatorial Guinea, escaped by crawling along the corridor through smoke so thick "we couldn't see a thing."

WMU challenged to do more than ever

More than 2500 women were challenged at the annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union to continue as the "missions conscience of Southern Baptists" and to attempt missions ventures never tried before.

Foreign and home missionaries and leaders of Southern Baptist Convention mission boards issued stirring challenges backed by flags of the 103 nations where Southern Baptists have missionaries.

The women unanimously elected Dorothy E. Sample of Flint, Mich. to a fourth consecutive term as their president and Betty Gilreath of Charlotte, N. C., to a similar term as recording secretary.

Mrs. Sample sized up the convention theme, "Laborers Together," when she said, "We must do things we've never done before, think thoughts we've never thought before, even fail in ventures we've never attempted before. For together we have the potential to transform hopelessness into hope, problems into promise, despair into discovery and liberty into true freedom found only in Jesus Christ."

R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, expressed concern that the Lottie Moon offering for foreign missions provides more foreign missions support than the Cooperative Program.

"Throughout the convention an erosion has taken place in Cooperative Program giving," Parks said. "Except for what you're doing, we'd have to reduce by more than 40 percent what is happening in world missions."

Southern Baptists have about 3400 foreign missionaries and about 3792 home missionaries supported through the Cooperative Program and special offerings.

Musicians want to lead more than just music

Musicians attending the 28th annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference heard an array of concerts and were called to a new excellence in their role as leaders of worship.

Fes Robertson, president of the conference, urged the Southern Baptist Convention to take advantage of the skills of musicians by placing them on boards and committees of the denomination.

"I think our convention would be richer to include ministers of music and ministers of education with pastors and laymen on the boards and committees of agencies and the convention, Robertson said.

During business session, awards went to Marjorie Jacob Caudill and Donald Hustad for their contributions to church music. Mrs. Caudill, missionary to Cuba for 39 years, was made an honorary member of the music conference. Hustad was presented the W. Hines Sims award. Hustad is V. V. Cooke professor of organ at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

New conference officers are Robertson, Sunday School Board, president; Barry Cowan, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, president elect; Mary June Tabor, Oklahoma Baptist Convention, secretary-treasurer; Wade Davis, Georgia Baptist Convention, vice presi-

dent, denominational division; Susan Clark, Jackson, Miss., vice president, local church division; and A. C. "Pete" Butler, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, vice president, music educators division.

Executive Committee takes positive action

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention approved without dissent each of the recommendations and reports of its subcommittees during a 90-minute plenary session.

Included in the series of action was adoption of the Executive Committee's annual report to the SBC. The report includes a recommendation for a record Cooperative Program budget of \$130 million for 1984-85.

The Executive Committee approved a report from the Canada Study Committee formed last year to examine the merits of amending the constitution to include Canada in the geographical area encompassed by the SBC. The report recommends that the constitution not be changed, but that Southern Baptists seek "to develop an aggressive evangelistic strategy (for Canada) utilizing increased Southern Baptist leadership and resources."

The Executive Committee heard a progress report from Cecil A. Ray, national director of "Planned Growth in Giving," a new program to increase support for the Cooperative Program.

In other action, the Executive Committee approved resolutions of appreciation honoring two retiring state paper editors, C. R. Daley, editor of Western Recorder for 27 years, and Robert J. Hastings, editor of The Illinois Baptist for 17 years.

Bylaw recommendations defeated after debate

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, battling limitations on time and energy, stretched a scheduled 15-minute business session into an hour long debate Wednesday night before eventually rejecting each of three motions under consideration and referring a fourth.

Most of the debate focused on the question of whether the level of Cooperative Program support of churches of nominees for leadership positions within the denomination ought to be publicized before those persons are voted on by convention messengers.

That question was at issue in a motion by R. S. Crowder, a layman from Birmingham, Ala., which included amendments to two SBC bylaws and to the convention's constitution.

Bill Harrell of Augusta, Ga., a member of the SBC credentials committee, and other messengers voiced opposition to Crowder's motion, claiming that it would turn the Cooperative Program into an unfair and inappropriate measure of a person's qualifications for leadership.

In the process of rejecting Crowder's motion, messengers also defeated an attempt to refer the motion to the SBC Executive Committee for further study.

Charles Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church, Arlington, Tex., said he "would have preferred" more time be given to studying Crowder's proposal, Wade argued the level of Cooperative Program support by potential SBC leaders is analogous to financial support of persons considered for leadership positions in the local church.

Similarly, he claimed, if the convention elects leaders who do not support

the Cooperative Program, "then we don't have a future."

A Crowder motion to amend the constitution to make gifts to the Cooperative Program a requirement for future convention leaders was referred to the SBC Executive Committee for study.

Messengers also rejected a motion from Dave Lucas of Austin, Tex., who objected "to the dissemination of theological views in any of our Southern Baptist agencies which would undermine faith in the historical accuracy and doctrinal integrity of the Bible."

The motion was defeated after another messenger criticized the motion's language as "too broad" and "terribly vague."

Honeycutt questioned on biblical authority

Challenged by questions from Southern Baptist Convention messengers regarding his personal beliefs about scripture, Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, offered a theological view for the role of scripture in Southern Baptist life.

Honeycutt refused to define the scripture in terms of errancy or inerrancy, asserting, "scripture is never errant."

Honeycutt stated he wished to move away "from those terms which have about them an impossible trap," and explained "there is no question about the biblical affirmation of biblical authority."

When asked whether the viewpoint of biblical infallibility was equally represented in seminary classrooms, Honeycutt assured messengers the seminary had not undermined the authority of the scripture.

"The authority of the word of God in scripture and the authority of the living word, Jesus Christ, is the only authority Baptists know," Honeycutt affirmed.

Following Honeycutt's response, James T. Draper Jr., outgoing president, stated that questions for agency heads should address issues of the institution and not personal beliefs of the individuals. Messengers affirmed Honeycutt with a standing ovation.

Recommendation adopted not to admit Canadians

Messengers elected not to amend the SBC constitution to include Canada in the geographical area encompassed by the convention. They affirmed a report brought by a 21-member study committee which proposed the constitution not be altered, but that Southern Baptists renew efforts to help evangelize Canada.

In his summary of the report's conclusions, study committee chairman Fred E. Roach of Dallas, Tex., explained that the committee decided a change in the constitution would alter the basic nature of the SBC, moving it from a national to an international or-convention.

Roach added that Foreign Mission Board president R. Keith Parks and others had argued persuasively such action "would jeopardize our work and ministry in foreign countries."

Despite anticipated opposition, the report was debated only briefly on the floor of the convention before messengers overwhelmingly voted their support.

In an effort to respond to the needs of Baptists in Canada the report recommended formation of an SBC Canada Planning Group, consisting of executives and other designated representa-

tives from the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Sunday School Board and the Radio and Television Commission to help "develop an aggressive evangelistic strategy utilizing Southern Baptist leadership and resources."

Three of four sites/dates approved by messengers

With the exception of the proposed site for the 1991 annual meeting, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention moved routinely Wednesday through minor business matters brought by the denomination's Executive Committee.

Messengers voted to send back to the Executive Committee a recommendation that the convention meet in Atlanta June 4-6, 1991.

Several messengers objected to the early June dates for the 1991 meeting, pointing out that many school systems will still be in session, creating conflicts for persons involved in education.

Other sites and dates for future meetings were approved. The convention will meet in Indianapolis in 1992, Atlanta in 1995 and New Orleans in 1996.

Messengers also approved bylaw changes that will require names of persons appointed to the SBC Committee on Committees and the Committee on Resolutions to be released to Baptist Press no later than 45 days prior to the annual meeting.

The recommendation on resolutions added a requirement that proposed resolutions be submitted by messengers before the beginning of the evening session of the first day of the convention's annual meeting.

Public Affairs Committee survives fund challenge

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention rejected by a narrow margin an effort to "reallocate" funds designated for the Public Affairs Committee, a standing committee through which contributions are channeled to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

With 81 percent of registered messengers voting, 5854 (51.6 percent) opposed a motion to "set aside temporarily" the \$411,436 for the Public Affairs Committee from the recommended 1984-85 budget. A total of 5480 (48.4 percent) voted in support of the amendment.

The Washington, D. C.-based Baptist Joint Committee, supported by nine Baptist bodies in the United States, addresses issues of religious liberty. The organization and its executive director, James Dunn, have been under fire in recent years from conservatives in the denomination.

Exec Committee report approved, with questions

After rejecting a challenge to funding for the Public Affairs Committee, messengers adopted a record Cooperative Program allocation budget of \$130 million for 1984-85. The budget was the major item among five recommendations approved in a two-part report from the convention's Executive Committee during the opening session.

The 1984-85 budget calls for \$118 million for the basic operating budget, \$6,874,000 for capital needs and \$5,126,000 for the "challenge" budget. The new budget represents a modest increase over the 1983-84 budget of

\$125 million.

In other action messengers approved changes in the convention's bylaws which would require members of the committee on committees and SBC boards, commissions and standing committees to have been a "resident member" for at least one year of Southern Baptist churches located within the state or affiliated with the convention of the state from which they are elected.

In debate over a proposed amendment to the bylaw change, messengers rejected attempts to insert additional language requiring that those persons also be part of churches that contribute at least four percent of their annual budgets for each of the last two years to the Cooperative Program.

Stanley elected president with 52% on initial ballot

Charles Stanley, 51, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, and a leader of the conservative faction within the Southern Baptist Convention, Tuesday was elected president of the 14 million member denomination on the first ballot.

Drawing 52 percent of the vote (7692), Stanley easily outdistanced both Grady Cothen, former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La. Cothen collected 26 percent of the votes (3874), while Sullivan, who served as vice president of the SBC for the past two years, drew 22 percent (3174).

Stanley was nominated by Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Vines said Stanley's Atlanta church "just may be the greatest missionary-giving and sending church in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention." He noted the church gave \$600,000 to "mission causes" this year, but did not indicate how much of that figure was contributed through the Cooperative Program.

The issue of the candidates' Cooperative Program giving was highlighted just before the election when Sam Cathey, messenger from Second Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Ark., took a point of personal privilege to denounce the distribution of handouts giving figures for the candidates as well as those of nominees to convention boards and agencies.

Dunn sees vote as as vote of confidence

Defeat of a motion to hold up the allocation of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs from the \$130 million SBC budget was jestingly described by the agency's executive director as a "resounding vote of confidence."

James M. Dunn of Washington, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, pointed out that his agency had won the vote by the same 52 percent margin as Charles Stanley of Atlanta in winning the presidency.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, who has strongly favored a prayer amendment to the U. S. Constitution, and Dunn, who has worked against such a prayer amendment, have been at opposite poles of the denomination's political spectrum in recent years.

Dunn said it is not surprising in an election year there have been attacks against the Baptist Joint Committee, but "it is gratifying" the convention sustained the agency's budget "in the

face of this extremely elaborate, carefully orchestrated campaign that has been going on for months and months."

"Never before in history," said Dunn, have we faced such an "agenda of opposition) by those who would depart from the traditional commitments of Southern Baptists to the First Amendment guarantees of religious liberty."

Dunn cited involvement in such issues as tuition tax credits, an ambassador to the Roman Catholic Church, a constitutional convention, equal access legislation and proposed prayer amendments to the U. S. Constitution.

Committee reports arouse messengers

With one exception messengers Tuesday rejected several attempts to modify the 1984 Committee on Boards report naming trustees to the denomination's boards, agencies and institutions.

On an afternoon when messengers were inclined to sustain committee recommendations only an effort to substitute Texas pastor Bruce McIver of Dallas as a member of the SBC Executive Committee in place of Houston appeals court judge Paul Pressler was close enough to prompt president James T. Draper Jr. to call for a ballot vote. Pressler won by a vote of 5462 to 4607.

During that session messengers approved the remainder of the committee on boards report and accepted the committee on committees report naming the 1985 committee on boards.

Other challenges to the committee on boards report were rejected by show-of-hands votes. In those votes messengers turned down proposals to name Os Chrisman, a member of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, instead of Paul E. Martin, West Memorial Baptist Church, Houston, to the Foreign Mission Board; Richard S. Eskew, First Baptist Church, Yadkinville, N. C., instead of Thomas M. Freeman, First Baptist Church, Dunn, N. C., to the Home Mission Board; and Calvin Metcalf, Central Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., instead of Mrs. David Butler, Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., to the board of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

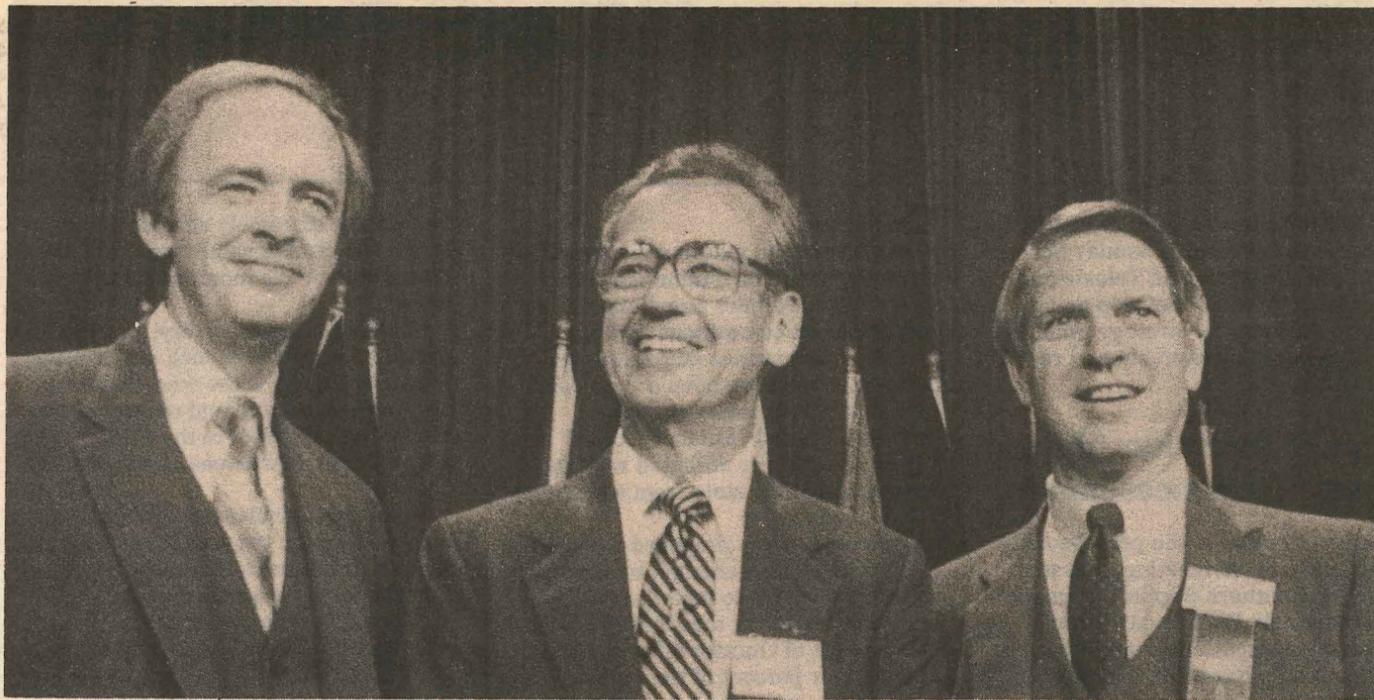
SBC launches ACTS and BTN in style

Two of Southern Baptists' much hailed babies were dedicated Tuesday night in ceremonies in Bartle Convention Center, Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN) and American Christian Television System (ACTS) were introduced in a fast paced production telecast live over the ACTS network.

Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Ft. Worth, Tex., told the audience they may be participating in the most historic moment in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention in terms of what it means to reach into a nation, to touch lives of families, to bring them into new relationships with God in the local churches.

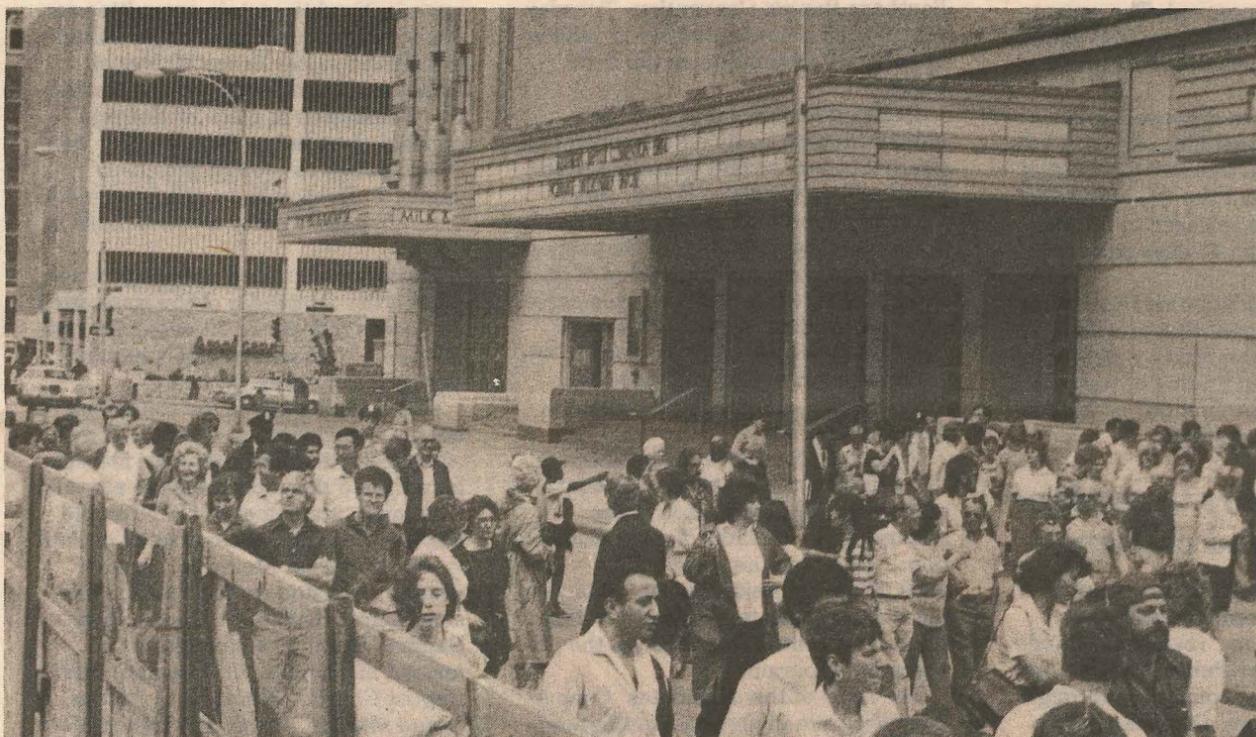
"We are at this moment fashioning . . . a network (ACTS) to give to you, as the churches of Southern Baptists, . . . a hybrid system unheard of in American telecommunications."

"There isn't any such thing as the electronic church," Allen said. "But there are churches who can use electronics, and we are going to be a part of that."

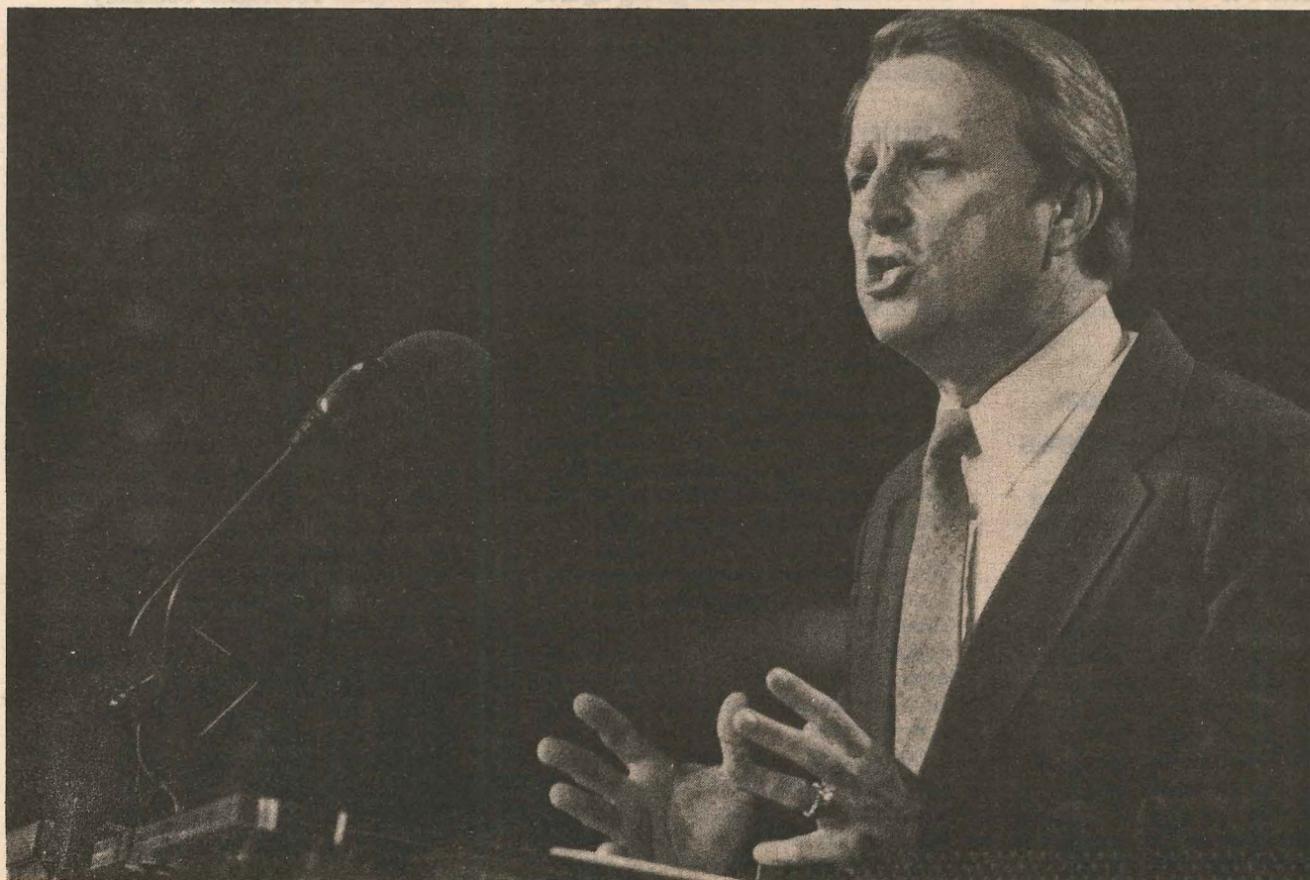
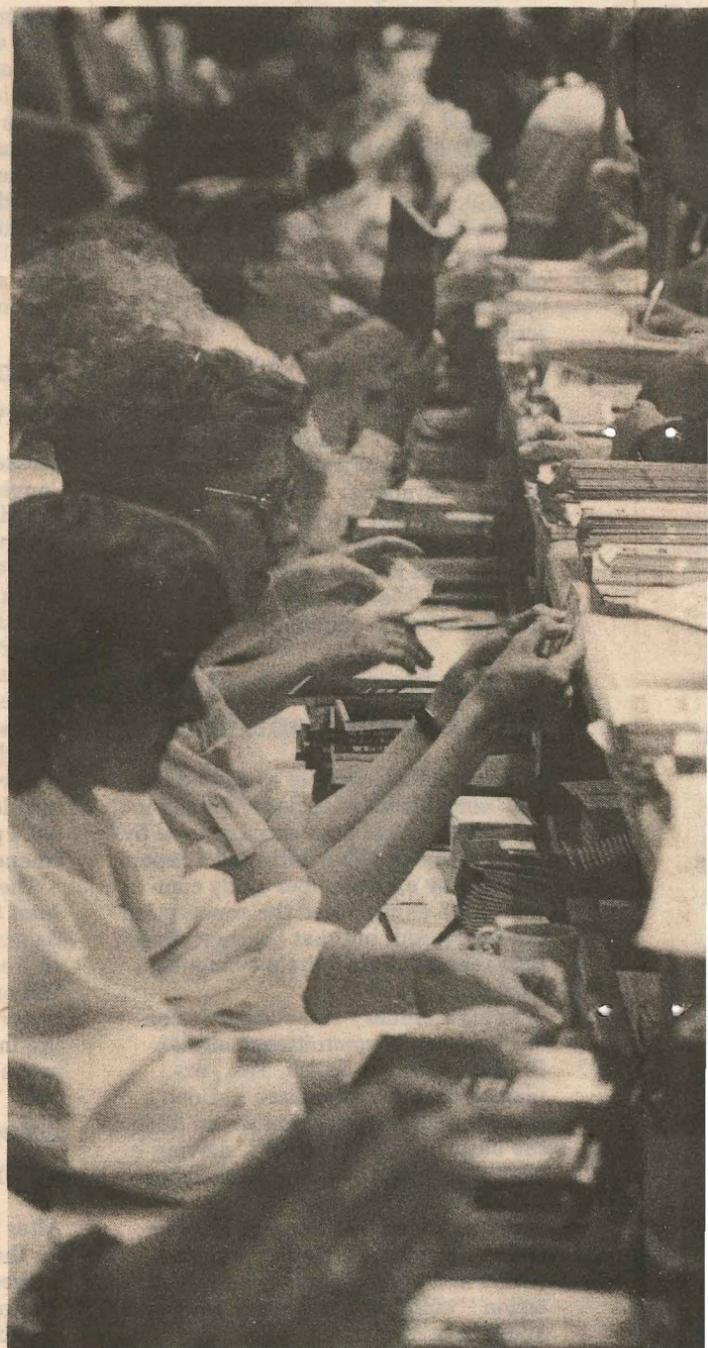


Officers for 1984-85 [left] for the Southern Baptist Convention are, from left: Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist, Atlanta, Ga., president; Zig Ziglar, layman from Dallas, Tex., first vice president; and Don Wideman, pastor of First Baptist, North Kansas City, Mo., second vice president. The scores of people [center left] who had to evacuate the Americana Hotel for more than two hours when an arsonist set fire to a room on the 15th floor were joined by hundreds of spectators who waited for firemen to clear the building. James T. Draper Jr. [below left] concluded two years as convention president. His presidential address challenged Southern Baptists to take seriously Christ's mandate to share the gospel. The length of registration lines [below] was matched only by the speed and organization by which the registration workers handled the process.

“If my people . . . I will . . .”

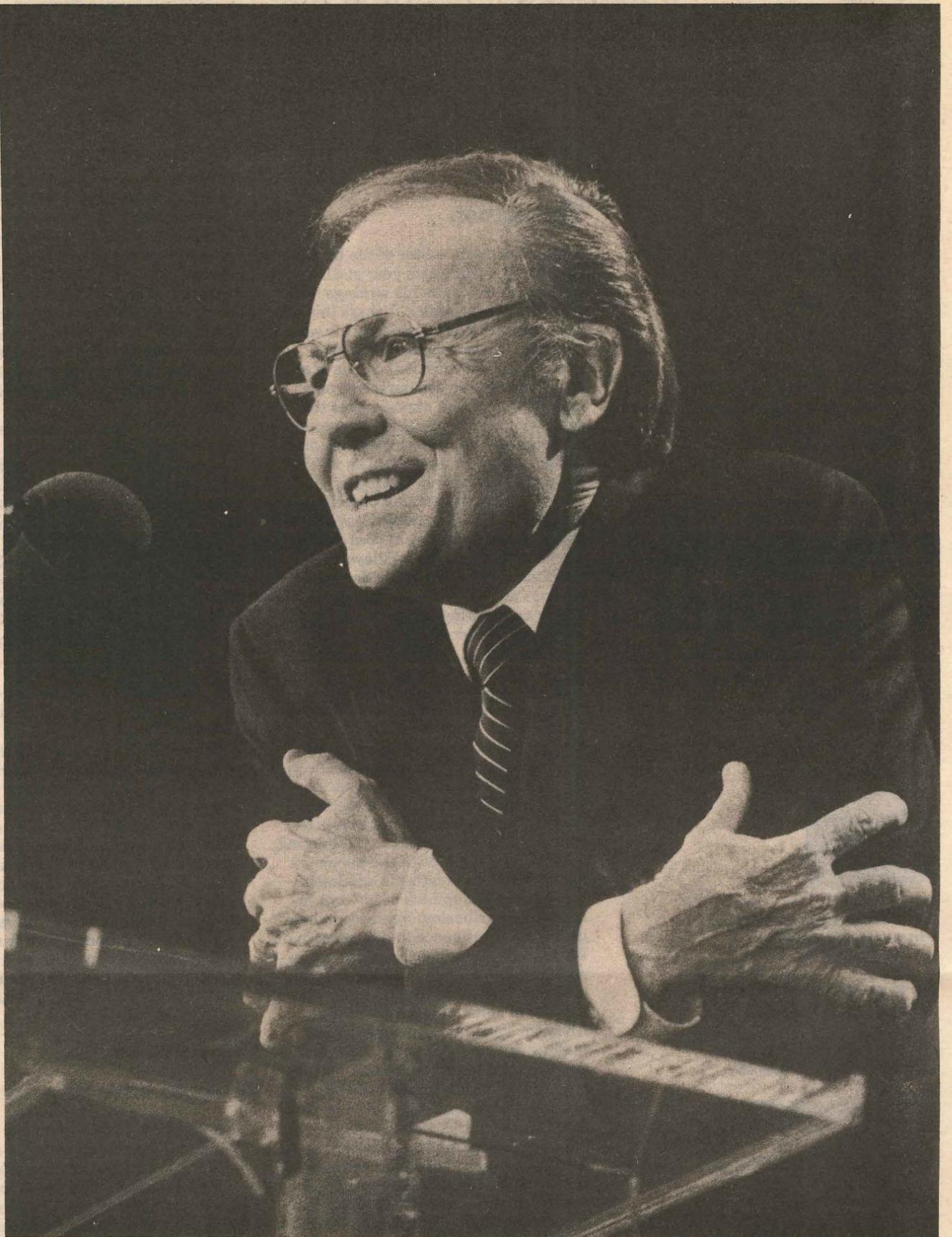


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Convention 1984



Lewis Drummond [above], Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Seminary, gave a series of interpretations of the theme of the convention, "If my people . . . I will . . ." The democratic process revolves around debate of issues at the annual meeting. T. L. McSwain [left], pastor of Hurstbourne Church, Louisville, waits in line behind Hugh Wamble of Kansas City during debate over the 1984-85 Cooperative Program budget.



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

on mission together



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JUNE 24, 1984

International Series

Family rebellion

2 Samuel 15:2-6 Conscious of his unusual attractiveness and ambitious to capitalize on his dynamic personality, Absalom spent four years in plotting to seize the throne of his father. He was so ambitious that he was prepared to use any means necessary to get it.

The station

Robert Hastings, editor of the Illinois Baptist, is retiring this year at 61. Through the years his writings have reflected poetic strains. I share this one of his his writings in honor of his service to Southern Baptists: "Tucked away in our subconscious minds is an idyllic vision. We see ourselves on a long, long trip that almost spans the continent. We're traveling by passenger train and out the windows we drink in the passing scene of cars on nearby highways, of children waving at a crossing, of cattle grazing on a distant hillside, of smoke pouring from a power plant, of row upon row of corn and wheat, of flatlands and valleys, of mountains and rolling hillsides, of city skylines and village halls, of biting winter and blazing summer and cavorting spring and docile fall.

Absalom's subversive tactics for acquiring his father's position as king involved a two fold process, namely displaying his accessibility to the people and convincing them of his concern for them. Early each morning he stationed himself at the gate of the city, thereby making himself accessible to anybody who had a grievance. Wanting to instill in the minds of the people a bad opinion of his father's administration and a good opinion of his own fitness to rule, Absalom expressed his regret at the negligence and unconcern of David, told them that they need not expect any justice from the king and gave a verdict in favor of every person who was out of sorts with the government. Absalom courted popularity by pretending to be a great social reformer and a special friend of the less fortunate. He told each complainant that his cause was right and just and then concluded his remarks with the suggestion: "Oh that I were made a judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!" Through flattery and deception Absalom "stole the hearts" of the gullible people. **2 Samuel 15:7-9** To prevent David from suspecting that he was plotting to usurp the throne, Absalom sought and attained the permission of his father to go to Hebron on the pretext of offering a sacrifice and fulfilling a long promised vow. In reality Absalom fully intended to hoist the flag of rebellion

But uppermost in our minds is our destination. A certain day and a certain hour and we'll pull in the station with bands playing and flags waving. And once we get there, so many wonderful dreams will come true, and so many wishes fulfilled, and so many pieces of our lives finally and neatly fitted together like a completed jigsaw puzzle. How restlessly we pace the aisles, damming the minutes for loitering . . . waiting, waiting, waiting for the station.

However, sooner or later we must realize there's no one station, no one place to arrive once and for all. The true joy of life is the trip. The station is only a dream. It constantly outdistances us. "When we reach the station, that will be it," we cry. Translated, this means, "When I'm 18, that will be it! When I buy a new 450 SL Mercedes Benz, that will be it! When I put the last kids through college, that'll be it! When I've paid off the mortgage, that'll

be it! When I win a promotion, that'll be it! When I have a nestegg for retirement, that'll be it! And I'll live happily ever after!"

Unfortunately, once we get 'it,' then 'it' disappears. The station somehow hides itself at the end of an endless track.

'Relish the moment' is a good motto, especially when coupled with Ps. 118:24, 'This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.' It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad. Rather, it is regret over yesterday or fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin thieves who would rob us of today.

So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefooted oftener, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more and cry less. Life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough."

upon his arrival in the former capital. Unsuspecting David readily granted Absalom's request.

2 Samuel 15:10-12 The 200 men who accompanied the traitor, Absalom, to Hebron were dupes and knew nothing of his wicked purpose. For some unexplained reason Ahithophel, a counselor to David, had become alienated from the king and at the invitation of Absalom assumed the same position with the conspirator. Even though the tide was strong in favor of Absalom, events took a different turn from what Ahithophel had expected, so in disappointment and humiliation he committed suicide by hanging himself.

Life and Work Series

People have priority

Luke 5:12-14 In a certain city in Galilee an unnamed man who was afflicted with the loathsome and horrible disease of leprosy approached Christ with intense earnestness, knelt before him and then prostrated himself and besought the Lord to heal him. In mercy Christ extended his hand, touched the leper and said, "Be thou clean!"

Christ commanded the man who had been cleansed of leprosy to show himself to the priest who alone could pronounce him cured and permit him to return to his home. Not wanting to be known as a mere wonder worker, Christ

forbade the man to announce his cleansing, but the man's joy overflowed and he disobeyed Christ. However, he did not do Christ's cause any good with his tongue while he was disobeying his command in his life. Neither can we. **Luke 5:29-30** Of Levi, the publican, Christ made a clean, self-respecting, happy, God-honoring man. So great was Levi's joy and so real was his sense of appreciation that he sought occasion to make Christ known to his friends by inviting them to a feast given in honor of Christ.

John 4:7, 9 On his journey through Samaria Christ and his disciples arrived at Jacob's well, a walk of about 10 minutes from Sychar or the present town of Nablus. Weary from the journey, Christ sat on the parapet of Jacob's well while the disciples went into Sychar to buy food. Before long a Samaritan woman came to draw water for her household needs. Anxious to save this woman, with remarkable wisdom and tact Christ asked her to give him a drink, a request which awakened her surprise, broke down her prejudice and appealed to her sympathy. In the course of the conversation Christ told the woman that those who drank water from Jacob's well would thirst again, but the water which he, the Messiah, gave completely satisfied all who drank it. His free offer revealed the possibility of her need being met, and she promptly accepted him as her savior and was happily saved.

The second time around

by Jimmy Hester

Three years ago I attended my first Southern Baptist Convention. My wife, Kim, and I traveled to Los Angeles for what people were labeling a not-your-typical convention. This was said because of the location of the meeting. Now we have been part of another convention. What have been my impressions the second time around?

As a minister of education and church administrator I continue to be amazed at the organization of a meeting of this size. The executive board and convention officers prepared the city of Kansas City well. They planned a meaningful agenda for convention affairs. They rolled with the punches making adjustments as necessary in the program. The officers conducted sessions as expeditiously as possible being sensitive, in most instances, to the need

of discussing matters adequately even when there seemed to be no time to allow.

The greatest disappointment of my second convention was the growing overt political activity. It was obvious that a well planned movement was present. There was a convention agenda to follow, but beneath this printed agenda was a hidden agenda well prepared by a group within convention ranks. This was evident in the election of officers, passage of resolutions and carrying out major business items.

Often I felt like a part of a predetermined meeting knowing nothing I did would alter the course. In a denomination based on the priesthood of the believer and the democratic process, it seems sad there were those of us attending with these feelings.

A highlight of the convention was the

launching of American Christian Television System (ACTS) and Baptist TelNet (BTN). Having been actively involved with the Radio and Television Commission in securing ACTS for our area of South Carolina, I was proud to be a part of the official launch of the network. The dedication service was conducted professionally as the RTVC broadcast live from the convention hall to Southern Baptists receiving ACTS across America.

The potential in telecommunications is unlimited. I am thankful Southern Baptists, under the leadership of Jimmy Allen, are moving to utilize this tool for sharing the gospel. It was a good beginning for ACTS and BTN and an historical day in our convention. I was glad to be a part of it.

The recognition of Grady C. Cothen was a moving and historical time. To witness such a moment is a privilege not afforded many. The contribution of Cothen to Southern Baptists has been tremendous. His retirement ends an era

in the convention. I am thankful I could share in this moment of recognition to such a faithful servant of God.

My concern three years ago was reaffirmed in Kansas City. Convention messengers were highly motivated and sometimes emotional during business sessions. I regret their enthusiasm did not maintain such heights during reports of work being conducted through SBC agencies, boards and institutions. These reports are significant. They declare that we are doing to accomplish Bold Mission Thrust goals and share the gospel throughout the world should be just as exciting and arouse our emotions as much as any other matter of business.

The second time around was an educational experience. My prayer is for a greater sense of direction and unity of spirit among those who produce the annual meeting. We have a lot to celebrate; we have a lot to do; let's be about the business of reaching the world for Jesus Christ.



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

How time flies

Someone has said, "How time flies when you're having a good time!" This expression surely describes my first two years as the third president of Clear Creek Baptist School.

Serving at Clear Creek is a most thrilling and satisfying challenge. There are so many things I could say about our school and there are so many attractive features to this wonderful ministry. I feel that our faculty and staff have been especially honored just to have the privilege of serving at Clear Creek. And God has blessed me above all to have the privilege of serving at as president of this great school.

I am so grateful to be in the work of training pastors and missionaries for the Lord at Clear Creek. Our alumni are serving all over Kentucky and in 43 states in America. Everytime they introduce a child to the savior or challenge a young person to follow the Lord or stand in a pulpit to preach the Word of God, we at Clear Creek are a part of their ministry. As we hear good words concerning how God is working in the lives of our Clear Creek family our hearts are thrilled beyond measure.

As I look back over the past two years, I think of the hundreds and thousands of dear people who have shared in the ministry at Clear Creek. I think back over the 56 years of L. M. Kelly's and Merrill Aldridge's ministry—untold multitudes contributed to the beginning and upbuilding of Clear Creek Baptist School over all of these years.

I am deeply grateful to be a part of

the most unique school in the Southern Baptist Convention—our only Bible college accredited by the American Association of Bible Colleges. I am humbled to know of all of God's dear people who pray for Clear Creek and support this dear school and I am exuberant and optimistic as we face the future at Clear Creek. It is as bright as the promises of God. How times flies when you are having fun!

God Of Our Life

God of our life, through all the circling years,
We three in thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
Thy hand we see.
God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone; our refuge be.

Hugh Thomson Kerr



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Magnify the Lord

May 16—Our sixth graders were off this morning on a class trip to Ft. Boonesboro. Also, one of our seventh grade classes went with them. They are a fine group. These little ones meet in a

piece of history each day, our Double Creek one room school that was moved to our campus four summers ago. They sit in old-time desks, some dating back nearly 70 years.

One of our staff had to make a trip to Lexington this afternoon. I asked him to pick up our trophies and plaques that had been engraved there. These will be awarded on honors day and at the commencement service itself.

May 17—The chapel hour was moved ahead to 9 a.m. and we had our annual awards day ceremony. There were scores of students to be honored. The top student of each individual class in each course received a certificate printed in our own print shop. Also honored were "good" and "outstanding" workers in the daily work program and "cleanest dorm room" awards, "progress" awards, etc., were given. Also, many staff were due for recognition today for five and more years of service. Several were given plaques of appreciation as they leave us for other fields of service.

It was a long but beautiful service—several hymns, differing testimonies, four prayers and closure with the singing of "Oneida Fair," our inspiring school song.

Three prospective students and their families sat through the entire ceremony and a Georgetown College couple through most of it. I spent much of the remainder of the day, along with Dr.

Seymour, in interviewing them and showing them around. They found our awards ceremony "amazing" as one put it; "unbelievable" was the expression of another.

I met with the committee of an interstate community development group who are sponsoring a symposium in mid-June that we will be hosting. I am a strong believer in the worth of "volunteers" and what they can accomplish in community development. I worked and lived that for over six years in Iran. Now it has been 12 fulfilling years with a similar type concept here at Oneida.

The day closed with a delicious banquet for athletes. Afterwards we moved to the chapel for several more hours as the athletes of our 17 varsity teams were honored for the year. It is wonderful to recognize achievement and we had much of that to recognize this evening. Everybody is a somebody. We believe it and help convince a lot of young people that it is so. It is remarkable what they can do when they grasp that reality.

I'm very tired and very wound up. I talked with several of our staff until past 2 a.m.

May 18—We had our last regular chapel of the year, the last one for our graduating class of 1984. There is always a special air about such a service. Everyone realizes that this is the last time we will all be together in this world. Some of our young people have

not made professions of faith. If they don't do so sometime, we will not get to see them in heaven either.

Bro. Dennis Rush poured out his heart in a message. We gave one last and special invitation, a last appeal, but no professions of faith this morning. Bro. Rush and the people of Horse Creek Baptist Church are so mission minded. They are strong supporters of the Cooperative Program and missions in general. Also, this mountain church has been a strong stake for us the past three years as they have given \$55,000 directly to help sustain the work here.

Kentucky is about fourth or fifth in the Southern Baptist Convention in its giving to its Christian education institutions. I am very grateful that there is the lifeline of the Cooperative Program. It is the one thing that can be counted on, that regularly comes. We are doubly encouraged, guided and lifted by each church and individual that gives generously through the Cooperative Program and then digs a little deeper to extend a direct hand. In our own situation \$4500 a DAY must come from somewhere besides what we get through the Cooperative Program.

With the Psalmist, "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be continually in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."



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

homes for children

Standing in need

There is an old spiritual entitled "Standin' in the Need O' Prayer." You perhaps remember the lines. It starts out:

"Not my father nor my mother
But it's me O Lord,
Standin' in the need o' prayer.
Not my sister nor my brother
But it's me O Lord,
Standin' in the need o' prayer."

All of us have felt what these lines say. We have faced some mountain of obstacles and have seen no way over, under, around or through that mountain. Our only answer was in the Lord and we stood in the need of prayer. In such times I have seen our Lord accomplish what seemed to me the impossible. I know he can do it and I believe he does answer prayer. I tell you, therefore, Baptist Homes for Children is standing in the need of prayer.

I believe in the power of prayer. I also believe that thousands who read this column believe in prayer. I make bold to call upon you, therefore, to join with me in a bold prayer to God on behalf of your Homes for Children. Indeed we truly stand in need. I believe

our needs can be met through bold praying in faith.

We need you to pray in faith that God will open doors of support and take care of us through the lean months of the summer and fall. The next several months are difficult for us. Expenses for the care of children are especially heavy. The last Thanksgiving offering has been used.

Please pray that multitudes of our people will be faithful in their support of their local church with tithes and offerings. Then pray with me that thousands will share an extra gift to help with our summer program and our back to school expenses.

Join us in claiming God's promises and he will provide. He will use his people to provide for young people who have great needs, needs which Kentucky Baptists can meet. Your Baptist Homes for Children is standing in the need of your prayers. Please don't fail these needy boys and girls.

Stanley denies his association with any group

Newly elected Southern Baptist Convention president Charles Stanley denied emphatically he was elected by a conservative faction in the denomination and pledged to work with all Southern Baptists during his one-year term of office.

The 51-year-old pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church told a crowded news conference what they have become accustomed to hearing in recent years after the election of other ultraconservative presidents: Stanley said he will seek to unify the fractured denomination.

"I was not elected by any particular group; I can guarantee you that," Stanley declared. "I came to that conclusion (to seek the presidency) out of a whole lot of praying and searching my heart and seeking the Lord's mind about it."

"It was not until this (election) morning that I was willing to say yes to the Lord. And I had to say yes to him out of pressure from him and not from anybody else in this world."

In answer to another question, he said he participated during the early morning hours Tuesday in a hotel room prayer meeting that included former SBC presidents Bailey E. Smith of Del City, Okla., and Adrian Rogers of Memphis and conservative leaders Paul Pressler of Houston and Paige Patterson of Dallas.

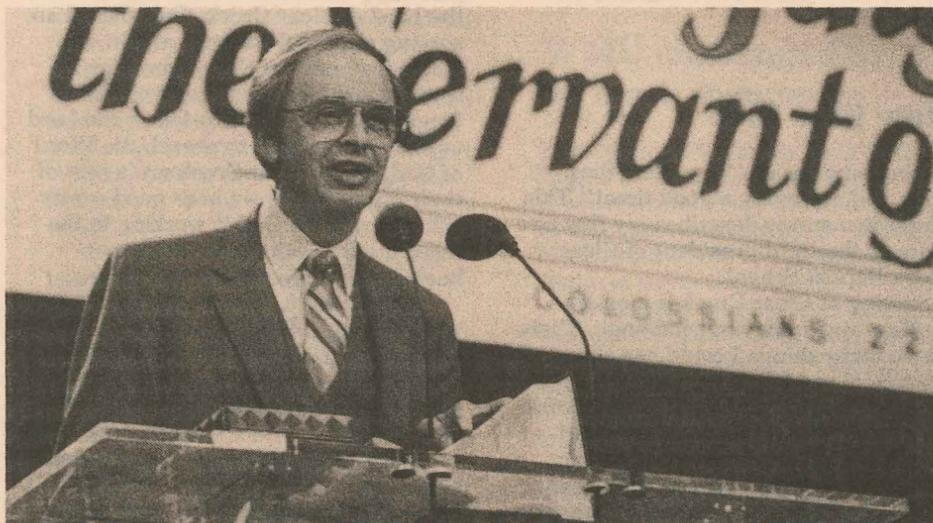
Stanley was pressed to explain the breakdown of more than \$600,000 in mission gifts last year from his 9000-member congregation, a figure used by Jacksonville, Fla. pastor Jerry Vines in nominating Stanley.

The Atlanta pastor admitted that only 2.1 percent of undesignated gifts went to the denomination's Cooperative Program. The rest, he explained, went to the congregation's own privately supported foreign missions efforts, to the Southern Baptist Lottie Moon Christmas offering and to Baptist Student Unions at Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia.

Responding to criticism by some Baptist editors in recent weeks that he has been inactive in Baptist affairs at the associational and state convention levels, Stanley responded: "I have decided to become more involved."

Although he affirmed his own acceptance of biblical inerrancy, Stanley downplayed the denomination's role in enforcing it. "You are not going to ever get all Baptists to agree, and I think we have to accept that. I think we have to learn to live together and love each other whether we agree or not."

The "thrust" of Southern Baptist life



is evangelism and missions, he added.

Stanley said he supports Southern Baptist seminaries, under fire in recent years from denominational inerrantists, noting his own church has sent numerous students to the SBC schools. He also denied his intention to set up a competing theological school saying he does want to establish a week-night program for laypeople in his congregation who want more extensive Bible teaching.

On another sensitive denominational matter, Stanley declined to declare support for a move by some ultraconservatives to withdraw funding from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public

Affairs. "That's not my decision to make," he said. "I think the trustees have to make that decision."

Asked whether the SBC should make the ordination of women to the ministry a test of fellowship in the denomination, he said the matter of ordination must be left to local congregations. At the same time Stanley said he is convinced the apostle Paul's teachings on the matter make it plain women should not exercise authority over men in the church.

Although reporters asked few questions about public policy issues, Stanley said he supported President Reagan's constitutional amendment which would

have restored state-sponsored prayer in public schools.

He said that while he was a founding director of Moral Majority Inc., he resigned from that role in 1980. He remains a director of The Roundtable, he said, an organization founded by Southern Baptist layman E. E. McAteer of Memphis.

Stanley revealed that while he worked from 1975 to 1977 as an Amway Corp. distributor in Atlanta, neither he nor his wife, Anna Margaret, have sold the company's home care products since.

The Stanleys have two children: 26-year-old Andy, a third-year student at the independent Dallas Theological Seminary, and daughter Becky, 23.

Baptistries Signs

Steeple Lights

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Alumni reports

Southwestern

Ralph Langley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., was elected president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's national alumni association Wednesday during the association's annual luncheon.

Ernest E. Mosley, executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association, Springfield, was named president elect, and John Earl Seelig, vice president for public affairs at the seminary, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Six distinguished alumni were honored during the luncheon, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Honored were Kenneth L. Chafin, pastor, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex. and newly elected professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Floy Williams Ferguson, Amarillo, Tex., wife of the seminary's fourth president, J. Howard Williams; C. Bruce McIver, pastor, Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas; Guy D. Newman, administrative consultant, Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and retired president of Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Tex.; Chester O'Brien Jr., executive director, Baptist Convention of New Mexico, Albuquerque; and C. E. Wilbanks, retired pastor and denominational worker, Las Vegas, Nev.

J. D. Grey, retired pastor, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, led in the launching of the new Golden Legacy Club for persons who attended Southwestern 50 years or more ago.

"We owe something to the 'mother' who gave us our credentials," Grey said. "You are obligated to those who did not sound an uncertain note in making it clear where they and the seminary stood.

"This is the kind of legacy we have," he said.

Seminary president Russell H. Dilday Jr. told the more than 1000 alumni at the luncheon that Southern Baptists, "in the midst of all we are doing positively and all the controversy surrounding our convention, may be missing the most positive mark . . . the health and prosperity of the six Southern Baptist seminaries."

Southeastern

More than 325 alumni and friends of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., gathered for their annual meeting.

Led by William Self, national alumni president and pastor, Weiuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, the group recognized W. Randall Lolley's 10th anniversary as president of the 34-year-old seminary. An adopted resolution lauded Lolley for his scholarship, integrity and character.

In his report to the group Lolley reviewed activities at the seminary for the past year, as well as announcing a 1985 introduction of a new curriculum, participation in an archeological consortium and plans to join with ACTS-East in Greenville, N. C., when that station is operational.

Lolley also reported that in the past two years 640 students had been granted diplomas, the same number of students enrolled at the beginning of his tenure in 1974.

Officers elected by the national alumni association for 1984-85 are Marion Lark '61, Henderson, N. C., president; Earl Crumpler '61, Greenville, S. C., president elect; Dale Chambliss '80, Ft. Deposit, Ala., secretary; and Jimmy Edwards, Nashville, director.

Southern

More than 1100 alumni of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville celebrated the school's 125th anniversary at a luncheon and heard reports on the year's events from president Roy L. Honeycutt.

Southern, oldest of the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries, was founded in 1859 in Greenville, S. C., and has been located in Louisville since 1877. It currently has 3500 students and 15,000 alumni.

In his report to the alumni Honeycutt noted several significant achievements of the anniversary year, including the addition of 13 new professors, a 12 percent increase in enrollment, construction of an addition to the School of Church Music building, founding of Carver

School of Church Social Work and the beginning of a program to build a \$12.2 million student family life center on the campus.

Honeycutt also told the alumni of new developments in the seminary's Center for Christian Preaching, Center for Christian Family Ministry, and Telecommunications and Mass Media Center, all of which recorded major growth during the year.

Four graduates were honored as alumni of the year for 1984. They were Hoyt Blackwell, emeritus president of Mars Hill (N. C.) College; Paul A. Meigs, former secretary of evangelism for Florida Baptists; Robert L. Lindsay, veteran missionary to Israel; and H. Franklin Paschall, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville.

Peter Rhea Jones, pastor of First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., ended his term as national alumni president and was succeeded by Alton H. McEachern, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N. C. The alumni chose Bob R. Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, to succeed McEachern as national alumni president in 1986.

Golden Gate

Friends and alumni of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary celebrated the institution's 40th anniversary year in a jubilee luncheon under the theme "Claiming the West."

The two-hour program featured talks by Harold K. Graves, president of the seminary from 1952-77; William M. Pinson Jr., president from 1977-82; and Franklin D. Pollard, who has been president since 1983.

In addition outgoing Southern Baptist Convention president Jimmy Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., brought greetings from the SBC.

Honored as "alumnus of the year" was Wayne C. Reynolds, minister of education at Bethel Southern Baptist Church, Escondido, Cal.

Presented the third "meritorious service award" by the association was M. Wayne Nolen, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Lafayette, Cal. He was

honored for having "rendered continuous, dedicated service over an appreciable span of years."

The association also elected new officers for 1984-85. Chosen president was Allen Barnes of Concord, Cal. He replaced Nolen. Serving with him will be president elect Jerry Brumbelow of San Diego, Cal., vice president Don Taylor of Alameda, Cal., and treasurer Robert Rooks of Ventura, Cal.

New Orleans

More than 520 alumni of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary elected Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., president of the seminary's national alumni association.

Grady C. Cothen of Nashville, president emeritus of the Baptist Sunday School Board and former president of the New Orleans institution, was named president elect. David Meacham, director of associational missions in Las Vegas, Nev., was elected secretary and Darryl Crim, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Midlothian, Va., treasurer.

Landrum P. Leavell, president of the seminary, received the faculty's distinguished alumnus award. In presenting the award, Joe H. Cothen, vice president for academic affairs, noted the award was made over the objections of Leavell. President since 1975, Leavell earned the BD and ThD degrees from New Orleans.

In closing the meeting the seminary president reported the election of three new faculty members, expansion of the continuing education program, introduction of a new series of academic workshops and another record year in seminary enrollment during the last 12 months.

Midwestern

Alumni of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary installed a former foreign missionary as president, named a home missionary president elect and honored three other alumni during their annual meeting.

More than 800 persons attended the meeting, an outdoor barbecue picnic held on the seminary campus. Representatives for each of the 26 graduating classes hosted returning alumni.

Robert L. Perry, director of missions, Clay-Platte Baptist Association, Kansas City, was installed as national president. Perry and his wife, the former Nancy Whitlow, were foreign missionaries to Mexico for six years.

Michael D. Brown, director of missions, Lakeland Baptist Association, South Milwaukee, Wis., was named president elect. Brown has served as a home missionary in Wisconsin since 1972.

For the first time Midwestern presented an alumna of the year award. The recipient was Virgie Elizabeth Tucker Brown, who is a home missionary with her husband, Michael, in Lakeland Association, Wis. Native North Carolinians, the Browns were appointed by the Home Mission Board in 1972.

Receiving the alumnus of the year award were Billy L. Bullington, associate area director for West Africa, Foreign Mission Board, and Darrell Rickard, senior pastor, Associated Baptist Churches, Downtown, in Kansas City's inner city.



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