

Conservatives maintain control as Vines wins

Messengers to the 131st Southern Baptist Convention elected a conservative standard bearer as president, approved a 1988-89 budget of \$145,600,000 and took positions on 22 topics ranging from the new age movement to homosexuality to pastoral authority.

Between business sessions at the three-day meeting, the messengers heard progress reports from 20 agencies and institutions, took part in appointing 35 foreign missionaries and applauded major addresses by outgoing president Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., and Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex.

A peace committee appointed three years ago to resolve denominational conflict disbanded after reporting agencies and seminaries were making good progress in efforts to implement peace recommendations.

The convention attracted 32,727 messengers, making it the third largest since the movement was organized in 1845. Only the 1985 convention in Dallas with 45,519 messengers and the 1986 convention in Atlanta with 40,987 messengers were larger.

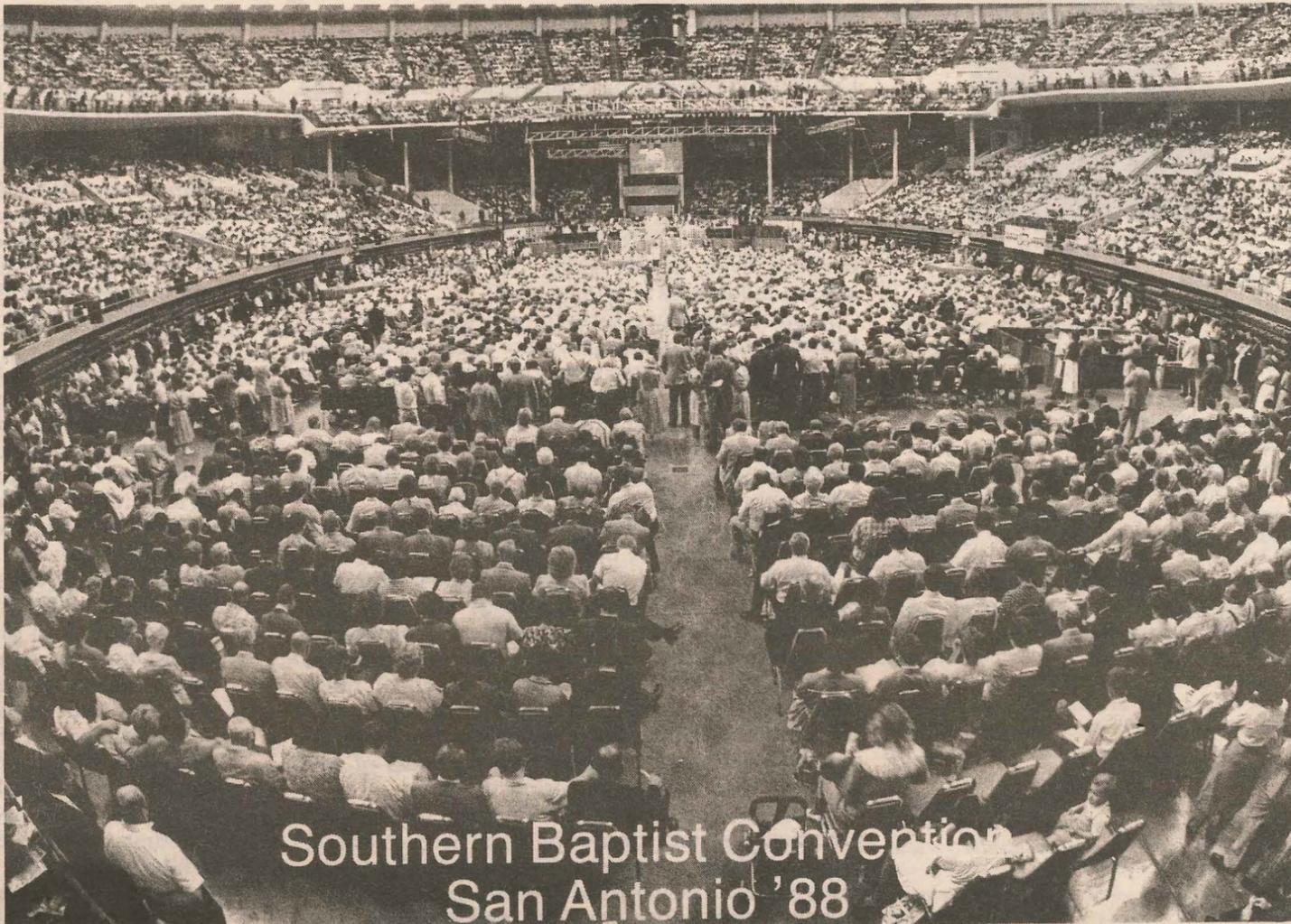
Jerry Vines, copaster of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., was elected president of the 14.7-million-member denomination by less than 700 votes over Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church.

The vote count was Vines, 15,804; Jackson, 15,112; James Craig, a Tulsa layman, 276, and Anniece Shorosh, a Mobile, Ala. evangelist, 82.

Messengers elected Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., first vice president; Rudy Hernandez, pastor of Metro Baptist Church, San Antonio, second vice president, and reelected Lee Porter, Nashville, registration secretary, and Martin Bradley, Nashville, recording secretary.

The new budget, up \$5.6 million from the current budget, included increases for all agencies except the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs which received a \$48,400 cut.

Efforts to add \$67,457 to the BJCPA allocation failed, culminating a running dispute between Southern Baptist representatives on the BJCPA board and trustees from the other eight sponsoring



bodies over positions the agency should take.

Receiving the largest allocations were the Foreign Mission Board, \$68,805,000; Home Mission Board, \$26,895,770; six seminaries, a total of \$27,955,780, and the Radio and Television Commission, \$5,504,400. The new budget includes \$6,899,000 for capital needs.

A resolution on pastoral authority and the priesthood of the believer received most of the attention of the pastor-dominated convention. The resolution said the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer has been used to justify wrongly the attitude that a Christian may believe whatever he so chooses to and still be considered a loyal Southern Baptist.

Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City, Okla., who chaired the committee which wrote the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message, describes the priesthood of believers as granting "to every Christian the right to read and interpret the scriptures for himself as he is led by the Holy Spirit."

Later, a small group of Southern Baptists led by Randall Lolley, former president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, protested the action as "nonBaptistic and heretical," and turned in their convention ballots.

The messengers also approved a resolution warning of the dangers of the New Age movement and asked Southern Baptists to warn and educate their constituencies about the deception and critical dangers of the movement. The resolution said the New Age movement gives people false hope by its beliefs in reincarnation, astrology, fortune telling, palm reading, universalism and secular humanism and was trying to become a one-world religion.

In a resolution on the problem of conflict within churches, the messengers called for prayer for churches in need of spiritual healing, pastors and church

staff members who have been fired, and for a denominational work group trying to develop a strategy to educate churches in how to resolve conflicts. Other resolutions challenged churches to establish ministries of prayer and affirmed the belief that persons without a personal commitment to Jesus Christ would go to a literal hell.

Through the resolution process, the messengers also urged media to refuse advertising promoting homosexuality, deplored homosexuality as a violation of major and natural affection, called upon all Southern Baptists to support the sanctity of human life actively, and asked for stringent laws and swift persecution to deter drunken driving.

Messengers gave president Rogers a standing ovation when he lashed out at liberalism in Baptist schools and seminaries financially supported by conservatives in his opening address.

"I would not for anything in the world try to force my beliefs on someone else, but when someone tells me I must underwrite his liberalism or be branded a nonBaptist, I'm saying he is trying to force his beliefs on me," Rogers said.

Rogers condemned both liberalism and legalism, comparing legalism to biblical Pharisees and liberalism to the Sadducees of the New Testament. "I'm afraid of legalism as I am of liberalism," Rogers said. "From the crown of my head to the sole of my feet, I am a conservative, an inerrantist; I can't help it, that's who I am. But I pray to God that I'll never be a legalist."

In the annual convention sermon, Gregory warned Southern Baptists about building a wall of orthodoxy around the convention and in the process tearing down the castle they are trying to protect.

"We are at a flashpoint," he said. "Southern Baptists cannot survive many more months of personal animosity in our midst." Gregory advised

Southern Baptists to consecrate their conversations, change their attitudes toward each other, and imitate God's kindness.

Following the presidential election, both major candidates expressed their denominational views in news conferences.

Vines said neo-orthodoxy, not classical liberalism, is the problem in the SBC. He defined neo-orthodox as those who "use our vocabulary but not our dictionary."

The new president reaffirmed his intent to appoint to SBC boards and committees those who are sympathetic with the conservative movement. Denying he was under the control of any individual or group, Vines said he was committed as president to be available and open to all Southern Baptists.

Jackson contended a difference in the philosophy of leadership style, not theology, was the issue dividing Southern Baptists.

Manipulation has characterized the political leadership of the denomination in recent years, Jackson said, pointing to a small group trying to work out a plan and strategy to direct the course of the denomination.

Messengers approved 19 recommendations of the Executive Committee, including one which set the minimum number of messengers needed to conduct business at 25 percent of the registered messengers at a given convention.

In an organizational meeting, the Executive Committee reelected officers, including Charles W. Sullivan, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, Tenn., chairman; and Darrell W. Robinson, Mobile, Ala., newly-elected SBC first vice president, vice chairman.

In other action, messengers elected Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita, Falls, Tex., to preach the convention sermon at Las Vegas next year.

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sanford's perspectives

The 10 year plan is complete



Jack D. Sanford

Ten years ago Paul Pressler declared the conservatives would take control of the Southern Baptist Convention by electing strong conservatives to the trustee positions on SBC boards. That prediction came true last week in San Antonio.

The achievement of the conservative goal does not, however, end the strife.

On the contrary, the division in the SBC remains as deep as it was before the San Antonio meeting, perhaps even deeper since the disappointment among moderates is widespread.

In spite of many efforts to reverse the course of the convention, moderates were defeated at every turn. From the pre-convention meeting of the Executive Committee, where efforts to return funds to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs was lost, through the election of officers, conservatives maintained tight control of the SBC. They were successful in turning back every effort moderates made to change the way the convention has been run for the past 10 years.

Both sides in the controversy appeared determined to do their best to win at all costs. For example, the Forum and the Pastor's Conference were characterized by fiery rhetoric and intemperate attacks on fellow Baptists. Each of these pre-convention meetings missed a grand opportunity to pour oil on troubled waters of the denomination. Each chose instead to heap coals of fire on those who were in the opposite camp.

Both the Forum and the Pastor's Conference have become platforms for political brow-beating. Neither served any constructive, spiritual purpose this year because words of inspiration and encouragement were conspicuous by their absence from the major speeches at both meetings.

For example, W. A. Criswell and Libby Bellinger were both intemperate and caustic. Criswell compared some Southern Baptists to "skunks" and Bellinger compared current SBC leaders to "the Wizard of Oz."

A conciliatory note in the Pastor's Conference came from Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex. He declared, "My spirit weeps when I see brother bitter against brother." He went on to say, "I love my denomination, but I am weary of the war of words . . . as I stand for what I believe, may I stand in such manner people will see Jesus in me."

A conciliatory note in the Forum was sounded by Anthony Campolo, sociology professor at Eastern College, St. David, Pa. He stated, "I don't know what you're fighting about in Dixieland, but the real issue is: Are you going to love people that everyone else hates?" Campolo, an American Baptist, also declared that despite Southern Baptists' fight over the Bible, they "refuse to believe what it says." Believing the Bible, he vowed, requires following the example of Jesus.

Attempts by Kentuckians to change the pattern of SBC affairs were defeated at every turn.

Stephen B. McSwain, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, lost his bid to amend the committee on nominations' report. He asked to replace James W. Hume III, a member of Highview Baptist Church, Louisville, with Mrs. Barbara Hardy, a member of First Baptist Church, Shepherdsville.

McSwain's reason for the change was that of the nine Kentuckians nominated for election or reelection to boards and committees, one-third were from the same church, Highview in Louisville.

Russell Bennett, director of missions for Long Run Association, Louisville, lost his attempt to have the meeting place of the 1993 SBC changed from its scheduled place, Houston. Bennett pointed out what he called the unfairness of having 65 percent of the last 40 meetings of the convention in the Southwest and only 25 percent in the Southeast.

The real blow to the moderate cause came, however, in the victory of Jerry Vines over Richard Jackson for the presidency of the convention. Vines won by 689 votes, or 2.2 percent of the 31,291 votes cast. It certainly is not a landslide mandate. In fact, it is the lowest winning margin in 10 years.

Jackson, a man whose church led the SBC both in baptisms and contributions through the Cooperative Program, lost for the fourth time. He was the moderates' best hope. If he cannot win on his record, in his home state and in the region where he has extensive name recognition, then some moderates believe there is no winner anywhere in their camp.

In light of all this the same two options are available to both sides in the controversy. Namely, continue the fight by trying harder next year, or admit the war is over, try to find ways of working together and stop the blood letting.

Who knows what Southern Baptists will do? Are there men and women of influence on both sides who are willing to lay down the weapons of war and seek a middle ground? Will the victors claim the spoils and trample the vanquished? Will the defeated bow their collective necks and seek better ways to win?

The conservatives have won the war. But not many people believe the fighting will stop.

The divisions are deep. The distrust level is not helped by continued inflammatory rhetoric. The stubbornness and rancor in both camps has not been purged. Thus the prospect for peace is as remote as it has been.

Surely this is a grim observation but nothing seen or heard in the convention hall nor in the corridors convinces us there will be any change.

Unless Southern Baptists come to some higher level of spiritual maturity and stop treating their brothers and sisters like they have the pox all will be losers.

It is time for a truce, an armistice and an end to religious warfare. We are all children of God, redeemed by the blood of Christ. In the name of the Lord who loved us and died for us, let us find a way to act out our claim of his Lordship.

To do this has been impossible for 10 years. There is not much reason to believe we can now do what we have not been able to do for a decade. And that is the tragedy of modern-day Southern Baptists—a tragedy which leaves all of us impoverished at a time when we should be strong and healthy.

The convention sermon by Joel Gregory was a great call to Christian conduct. Unless we heard and heed his words, the future is bleak indeed.

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Convention impressions

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT. When you enter east Texas you are nearer Chicago than El Paso. Occupying seven percent of all U. S. land area, Texas is so big you can put 15 states within its borders and still have a thousand square miles left over. Texans may brag, but we were impressed again that they do have much of the "biggest," "most" and "best" our nation offers.

THE WORD WAS SPOKEN. The newspaper we read most frequently in San Antonio seemed to understand that we are the "Southern Baptist Convention," not the "Southern Baptist Church"; that our churches "cooperate with" or "affiliate with" the convention; and used other common terms distinctively Southern Baptist. It bothered us, however, that news reports on the local NBC affiliate referred—as often as six times in a newscast—to Southern Baptist "delegates." Our concept of delegates is people who are instructed how to vote. "Messengers" reflect Baptists' historic belief in free religious choice of individuals and in the autonomy of each Baptist congregation. Other denominations may have delegates, but most Southern Baptists prefer being called messengers.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. When messenger Terry McDaniel of Jacksboro, Tex. brought a motion that the SBC reconsider its 1983 decision to hold 1989 sessions in Las Vegas he abused the time of thousands. His suggestion, well intentioned, was considered, referred and rejected in at least three previous conventions. Each time the body was informed of legalities of breaking signed contracts with the city of Las Vegas, to say nothing of the difficulty of securing an alternate site at such a late date. Each time the messengers have reaffirmed their commitment to Las Vegas. One wonders where Mr. McDaniel was through all those votes. For years we have had resolutions or motions favoring the American Bible Society and other good causes. Fine. Also, repetitive. It is good for brethren to express their views, but Baptists have beaten some very good horses to death. Paraphrasing Richard Nixon: After this year (at least) we won't have Las Vegas to kick around any more.

SCHOOL DAZE. Not so long ago we observed that perhaps no state staffed as many education booths in the convention exhibit hall as Kentucky. At that time four of our five schools provided booths every year. San Antonio changed all that. Only Georgetown showed up, yet its bright orange plastic tote bags given display visitors meant splendid advertising all over town.

ONE IS A LONELY NUMBER. Just one percent of the convention's program personnel represented the 768,274 persons who comprise Kentucky Baptist church membership rolls. That one percent included Roy Lee Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, who gave the seminary's annual report to the convention. Kentucky was not alone in low visibility on the platform. Twelve states had only one personality. Three—Maryland, Michigan and Pennsylvania—had none. The host state (Texas) furnished the greatest number addressing, pray-

ing, singing and reporting to the body. Nineteen persons (27% of the 70 program guests) resided in the Lone Star State. Another 13 (nearly 19%) were Tennesseans, the state where most SBC entities are located. The two states—Texas and Tennessee—supplied almost half of those appearing before the messengers. Most unusual, however, was Nevada, with seven persons (10% of program guests) representing that state's 20,589 Southern Baptists. That's one for every 2941 Nevadans. With the convention meeting in Las Vegas next year the potential exists for a far greater number of Nevada Baptists to participate in official capacities in 1989. In San Antonio Georgia, Oklahoma and Virginia furnished four persons each for the program; North Carolina, three; and Arkansas and Kansas, two each. Greatest number of representatives by city: Nashville, 10; Ft. Worth, 7; San Antonio, 6; Las Vegas, 4; Memphis, 3. All invitations are issued by the committee on order of business.

HIGH COST OF GIVING. San Antonio's extraordinary tax rates (13% in hotels; 7.5% in restaurants) confirmed that never have so many paid so much for so little. This reporter saw only two bargains downtown—free admission to the Alamo and 10-cent trolley rides. Beyond that there was gouging at every turn. Few double rooms were available downtown under \$100. Taxes and parking fees often pushed doubles to \$150 and beyond, or \$750 for a place to roost for an average stay of five nights. A local TV station projected Southern Baptists would pump more than \$18 million into the San Antonio economy in five days. Any who wonder why cities lobby heavily for the SBC should wonder no more. The Democrats expect 13,000 for their Atlanta convention, we are told. We believe Southern Baptists—without booze sales—make a far greater financial impact on a community than any political convention. The headquarters hotel in San Antonio charged \$1.35 for a cup of coffee. Add tax (11 cents) and 15% tip (22 cents) and that cup sold for \$1.68. An unrefillable glass of orange juice in the same hotel (readily offered but never listed on menus so one doesn't anticipate its true price) was \$2.50, plus 19 cents tax and 41 cents tip, or \$3.10 per glass. Obviously, as long as there are conventions the pocketbooks of messengers and budgets of their churches and agencies will be plundered. San Antonio, however, takes the cake for unprecedented overpricing. It's obvious there is no ceiling on spending God's money, except one's own conscience.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED. A messenger was being interviewed by a newsman on her impressions of the convention and the locality in which it was meeting. Quite seriously, the lady replied: "Well, I can't understand why they built the Alamo right in the middle of downtown San Antonio!" Santa Anna and Davy Crockett would have loved it. Later, another Baptist lady shooting a picture of some friends in front of the Alamo directed her party to "stand right over there in front of those steps—I want this to look *real authentic*." Pray tell, with 152 years of history in the background, what else did she expect?

Kentuckians reflect on experience in San Antone

by Todd Deaton, Staff Writer

The Southern Baptist Convention presidential election and proceedings regarding the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and a resolution on the priesthood of the believer elicited varied reactions from Kentucky messengers.

This year's close vote between presidential candidates Jerry Vines and Richard Jackson indicated to **Curtis Warf**, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond, and former KBC president, that "things are just about like they have always been. People are evenly divided and everybody is suspicious."

But, **Leo M. Buschur** from Fairview Baptist Church, Ashland, who has missed only two or three conventions since 1964, found a lowering of emotions and milder rhetoric in San Antonio for the most part.

"This year messengers came with the idea that we wanted peace in the SBC. We are tired of bickering," Buschur explains. "Compared with the number involved in the controversy in previous years, the debates were minimal."

He confesses that the "other element" could, however, be found "if that was what one wanted to see."

Although he admitted he knew little of the controversy surrounding the Baptist Joint Committee, Buschur suggests the negative decision to restore the funds of the BJCPA is an ominous indicator. "Because \$48,000 (the amount proposed to be restored to the BJCPA) is such a small amount when compared to the total SBC budget, it tells me that people just don't want the agency."

Jimmy Gentry, pastor of Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro, saw a glimmer of hope in Richard Jackson's strong showing in the SBC presidential election. Yet, he was disturbed by several issues at this year's convention.

Chief on his list was that Jerry Vines' church, First Baptist, Jacksonville, contributes only 2.7 percent to the cooperative missions effort while North Phoenix, where Richard Jackson is pastor, gives almost 16 percent.

Gentry was also alarmed by the SBC refusal to return the budget allotments for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to their original status.

"They (the BJCPA) were robbed of the necessary funds to function by people who do not want its existence. There are people in this convention who want to use it to manipulate their particular political agendas and ideologies," he speculates.

From Gentry's perspective, the "takeover" push has not succeeded after its 10th year. "While it is true that the Home Mission Board, Christian Life Commission and Southeastern Seminary boards are dominated by fundamentalists, they have not taken over the SBC. They do not have full control of the agencies, boards and institutions; most importantly they have not taken over my church or anyone else's church, and that's what the SBC is made of," he assesses.

Rodney Hale, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Jenkins, urged all Southern Baptists to "get behind and support the person elected, regardless of which side won, by doing all we can to reach out for the cause of Christ."

While Hale figured the election would be close because both candidates were "good men," he admits, "the difference

between them was political primarily because of the information we have received (through publications) concerning both. These publications went directly against the peace committee's admonitions, asking us to refrain."

Hale thinks the SBC is headed in a "good direction," but he wants "to see us turn our actions toward missions and evangelism and get back to the basics of the Christian faith."

"You hardly ever hear about Bold Mission Thrust, except when it's in a convention report," he states.

Ballardsville pastor **Mark Waters** interpreted the narrow margin between the vote tallies of Vines and Jackson as "indicating that there is a lot higher percentage of people who are discontent with the 'takeover group' than they would lead us to believe."

Since 1979, "Paul Pressler has been going for the jugular and I think he now has it in a penultimate sense," he surmises. "Boards are becoming more and more dominated by the takeover group, but I don't see them voting as a block. And, therein lies hope. There appears to be more fairness among the trustees than among those doing the appointing," he concludes.

Waters sees the failure to bring the monies allotted to the BJCPA back into line with the budget allocations for the other agencies as a move to debunk the Washington organization. "It shows how far we have come from our traditional Baptist beliefs of separation of church and state and religious liberty."

Paul Godsey, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church, was adamant about a resolution regarding the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer. "When taken at face value," Godsey claims, "the statements (in the resolution) appear to have a hidden agenda and are contrary to the Baptist Faith and Message."

"The resolution bolsters those who lean toward a highly authoritarian ministry and who are not comfortable with or reared in Baptist life," Godsey asserts.

He, too, feels that the funds removed from the BJCPA budget should be returned. "They have done a credible job representing the Baptist viewpoint in Washington. While I don't always agree with their stands on individual issues, so what? I don't agree with a lot of folks, but I don't try to put them out of existence, either."

Ginny Sisk, wife of Ted Sisk, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, stresses, "There will be no real healing until each side claims their responsibility for the on-going controversy."

"I really deplore the tactics by the extreme right and left. Some of the things printed were degrading and hurtful to each other and they are going to have to answer to the Lord for them," she says.

Although she was surprised by the peace committee's decision to disband early, she confesses, "It's evident both sides have ignored their admonitions from last year . . . the political tempo has definitely increased."

Mrs. Sisk would like to see broader representation from Kentucky on boards and agencies. "Until we do have fairness in representation from all across the convention there will continue to be distrust and the feeling that one side is trying to take control over the other."

Convention Reports

Unanimous SBC decision discharges peace group

The Southern Baptist Convention discharged its Peace Committee in a unanimous vote after hearing a brief report on the work of the committee during the past year.

Chairman Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., has headed the 22-member group during the three years since it was created during the 1985 annual meeting in Dallas to attempt to resolve the conflict in the SBC.

The committee made its final report at the 1987 annual meeting in St. Louis, but requested the privilege of continuing for "up to three years for the purpose of observing the response of the agencies, officers and other participants to the recommendations . . . in an effort to encourage compliance and foster harmonious working relationships among all segments of our Baptist family."

The messengers adopted without discussion or dissenting vote Fuller's recommendation the committee be discharged. He noted the recommendation was unanimous from the committee.

Ralph Smith to lead 1989 Pastor's Conference

Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Tex., was elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference.

Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., nominated Smith, calling attention to the baptism and missions record of the 10,500 member Austin church.

Smith defeated Paul Powell, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Tex.

Robb Zinn, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, San Bernardino, Calif., was elected vice president by acclamation. Rick Ferguson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Desoto, Mo., was elected secretary-treasurer without opposition.

W. A. Criswell levels fiery indictments

A fiery indictment of "the curse of liberalism" by W. A. Criswell, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, highlighted the annual Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference.

"The curse of liberalism" has led to the downward spiral of mainline denominations and to the declining number of baptisms within the SBC, Criswell, pastor of the 20,000-member First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., told an estimated 16,000 preachers at the conference.

Criswell grouped "liberals" with "moderates" in the SBC, saying, "A skunk by any other name still stinks."

Pointing to the "inroads" made by liberalism and secularism, Criswell said, "We have taken the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer and made it to cover every damnable heresy you can imagine."

Criswell, whose church is the largest in the 14.7-million-member denomination, denied that on-going controversy in the convention has been the cause of a declining number of baptisms.

"They point their fingers and say, 'you funny-dam-mentalists are the reason,' but it is not in our conservative fellowship of churches where there is a decline in baptisms," he said, noting a bulletin from First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, reporting 152 baptisms. Jerry Vines is

copastor of that church.

"It is the curse of liberalism that is destroying us like other denominations," he said. "We need a resurgence, a recommitment and a regeneration."

Criswell compared the sure word of salvation offered to a prostitute who wanted her son to attend First Baptist Church, Dallas, with the response he claimed she would have received at more liberal churches.

He said, "One liberal would tell her to forget it. Another says, 'Have you ever heard of abortion?' One advises her to become acquainted with the use of condoms and rubbers. Still another said, 'It's your lifestyle. You chose it.'

"This is modern liberalism," Criswell charged. "It's everywhere. Preachers, we have the greatest message on earth. Let's deliver it with power."

Issue leadership style, not theology: Jackson

A difference in the philosophy of leadership style, not theology, is the issue dividing Southern Baptists, defeated presidential nominee Richard Jackson said.

Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., said "manipulation" has characterized the political leadership of the denomination in recent years, pointing to "a small group trying to work out a plan and strategy" to direct the course of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Though he said "never is a long time," Jackson insisted he would "probably not" allow himself to be nominated for the SBC presidency again. The Phoenix pastor has been nominated for the presidential spot four times.

Jackson emphasized he will continue to remain active in the convention, saying, "I won't go away." However, he insisted he would not be the "titular head" of the moderate camp during the coming year.

He encouraged all Southern Baptists to offer support and prayer for newly elected president Jerry Vines, copastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla. "Pray that Dr. Vines will be so fair in representing Southern Baptists that we would rejoice to reelect him by acclamation," he said.

Jackson's advise to those who supported him was two-fold: Don't panic and don't give up on the SBC.

Moderates 'here to stay' says SBA executive

Leaders of the Southern Baptist Alliance said they are determined to stay in the Southern Baptist Convention in spite of what one of them called the "devastating" loss of moderate presidential candidate Richard Jackson to conservative victor Jerry Vines.

At a news conference held moments after Vines' victory was announced to messengers, Alan Neely, acting executive director of the SBA, told reporters, "If we cannot win in San Antonio with a candidate like Richard Jackson . . . I'm not sure we could win with the apostle Paul."

Neely, who announced last week he is leaving the faculty of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to assume a post at Princeton Theological Seminary, said in spite of their disappointment at the election of a sixth consecutive conservative as SBC president, most moderate Southern Baptists are determined to stay.

Asked why moderate Southern Baptists insist on staying in the de-

nomination after absorbing one defeat after another during the past decade, Neely quoted a friend who told him, "I do not want to bury my mother until I'm sure she is dead." Most Southern Baptists "are not willing to give up on resuscitation," he added.

Reading from a prepared statement at the outset of the session with reporters, Neely said: "The SBC as we perceive it is now a fundamentalist-dominated convention. Diversity is rejected and dishonored. The convention is a house divided."

The statement continued: "The Southern Baptist Alliance will continue to be a symbol of freedom and a home for committed but now clearly disenfranchised Southern Baptists. We will join others who seek sanctuary and support for our cherished Baptist principles of the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the local church, the servant role of leadership, theological education and not indoctrination, the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ calling all of God's people to repentance and faith, reconciliation and hope, social and economic justice and to the principle of a free church in a free state."

Neely said he expects funds to begin flowing into the Alliance for support of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the Washington-based agency whose budget suffered an 11 percent cut, and of women pastors in mission churches whose salaries are no longer supplemented by the Home Mission Board.

Women herald gifts by grace, not gender

Southern Baptist women were urged to claim the gifts of prophecy and exercise it by faith during the pre-convention meeting of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry.

Featured speaker Jann Aldredge Clanton told a group of more than 150 women and several men that "we are prophets because we can imagine what is yet to be."

"I envision the day when Southern Baptists recognize that God distributes gifts according to grace, not gender," said Mrs. Clanton, assistant pastor and minister to family life at St. John's United Methodist Church, Waco, Tex.

Mrs. Clanton noted she envisions a day "when women and men serve side by side in the ministry—including the pastorate; when we see women and men serving equally on all our boards and agencies; when we can go to our Southern Baptist Convention meetings and thrill to the rich harmony of male and female voices from the pulpit as well as the choir; when we can walk into any Southern Baptist church and be greeted by deacons—female as well as male, black as well as white; when we teach our girls that they are just as truly in the image of God as boys."

She said, "Our denomination desperately needs leaders who will speak in a different voice, a voice that affirms the gifts of all God's children; a voice that proclaims liberty for the oppressed; a voice that's indeed good news to the poor; a voice that calls for servant—not authoritarian—leaders; a voice of cooperation, not competition in ministry; a voice of peace, not war."

"Gifts come to us by grace. Using them takes faith. Those in power in our convention try to stifle the gifts of women. Our denomination that encouraged us to develop our gifts and to go wherever God leads now tells us we cannot go into the pulpit. Because we are

women, we are unacceptable preachers. Because we are women, we are unacceptable deacons, we are unacceptable to perform baptisms or to serve the Lord's Supper."

During a business session, Women in Ministry elected new officers. Betty McGary, minister to adults, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, was named president. Other officers include Phyllis Pleasants, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, vice president; Ginger Barfield, minister of youth and young adults, St. John's Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C., secretary; Donna Charlton-Starkes, associate pastor, Tropicana Christian Fellowship Church, Las Vegas, Nev., treasurer; Nancy Cole, minister of music, Hanley Road Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., program coordinator; and Pat Bailey, assistant professor of social work, Southern Seminary, membership coordinator.

SBC exhibits offer relief and bargains

With their minds on renewing old friendships, gathering information and hunting for bargains, messengers stepped into the cavernous room housing the SBC exhibits, leaving behind their fears and frustrations about convention business for a time.

Fifty booths representing various boards, agencies and institutions and several state Baptist organizations competed for messengers' attention. Easily half the space in the booth area was taken up by the Baptist Sunday School Board's exhibit. The mammoth exhibit filled just under 30,000 square feet, two-thirds of it books.

The book store drew the largest crowds of messengers, who chatted as they browsed through table after table of merchandise. Among the most popular items were shirts, caps and mugs emblazoned with line drawings of the Alamo, the state of Texas or cowboy boots, and the words "Southern Baptist Convention—San Antonio, 1988."

Popular displays included that of the BSSB church information system, which develops software for church use. Messengers took turns trying their hand at the computer keyboards while others stood behind them, watching displays flash on the computer screens.

Lines formed at the display of the BSSB church directory service, which offered free 8 x 10" color portraits of messengers. Dennis Anderson, marketing manager for the service, said they have been making the offer to convention-goers for the past five years and each year 4000 to 6000 messengers take advantage of the opportunity.

Beyond the BSSB display, other booths in the exhibit area got their share of attention. Messengers took stacks of brochures explaining the work of agencies, boards and institutions. They also picked up give-aways such as keychains, yardsticks, bookmarks and fans, and they were encouraged to snack on candies and mints, popcorn and nuts.

One other booth was peppered with questions—the information booth sponsored by the BSSB, which was prominently located at the entrance to the exhibit area. Evelyn Fort, an information specialist in the BSSB office of communications, was one of the people who staffed the booth. "I guess the most unusual question I was asked was, 'Where is my wife?'" she said with a laugh. "I'm sure the gentleman who asked me was kidding because he just kept on walking."

'Disenfranchised' must admit change: Forum

"Disenfranchised" Southern Baptists must admit the denomination they love has changed and find ways to serve God within the remaining structure, moderates were advised.

"We have learned nobody wins a fight with belligerent, hostile fundamentalists," said Alan Neely, who recently resigned as professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

"The only way to deal with militant fundamentalists is to leave them to fight among themselves," he said. "The most devastating blow we could inflict upon them is to cease to be their identified enemy."

"We cannot engage in internecine struggle and at the same time address the real problems of our world," Neely said.

Although Neely has announced plans to teach at Princeton, he urged those at the Forum not to withdraw from the convention.

"The question 'Are you going to leave the convention?' is for me a moot one," Neely said. "The Southern Baptist Convention, in its leadership at least, has long since left me. I have never been anything but a Southern Baptist," he said. "It never occurred to me the time would come when I would be disinherited, disenfranchised by my own family."

Neely echoed the statements of such other Forum speakers as Winfred Moore, pastor, First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Tex.; Anthony Campolo, professor of sociology, Eastern College, St. Davids, Pa.; Libby Bellinger, assistant director of Inner City Ministries, Waco, Tex.; Mildred McWhorter, home missionary, Houston; and Bill Leonard, church history professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

The Forum steering committee gave two awards during the meeting. Randall Lolley, former president of Southeastern Seminary, received the Denominational Statesman Award and Arizona's North Phoenix Baptist Church was cited as Church of the Year.

Debt-free WMU will not become agency of SBC

The announcement of a debt-free national headquarters building and the reaffirmation that Woman's Missionary Union will not be taken over set the tone Sunday for the opening session of the Southern Baptist women's auxiliary.

WMU executive director Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham put to rest any fears that the 1.2-million member woman's organization would become another casualty in the Southern Baptist Convention's 10-year feud between conservatives and moderates.

The issue surfaced during last year's convention when a messenger asked Weatherford if WMU would consider giving up its auxiliary standing in favor of agency status with board members elected by the denomination.

"If you have fears in this area, I want to put them to rest," Miss Weatherford said, to the resounding applause from the 2600 women present. "It would be nonproductive for us and for the convention to change our relationship at this time."

She praised the organization's historic auxiliary status which has given WMU "a firm base of operations, keeping us beyond convention disagree-

ments, politics, and cycles of interest or lack of interest in missions."

She then refuted allegations that WMU is not accountable to the denomination, saying its books are an open record. Another round of applause and a standing ovation then followed her comments that WMU will remain "an auxiliary, a helper alongside, voluntarily cooperative" with the SBC.

Miss Weatherford also announced the \$8 million debt WMU incurred by relocating its headquarters had been wiped from the books in time to enter its second century debt-free. Though its Centennial Thank Offering to retire the debt only netted half of the \$2 million goal, the balance was paid with funds from the operating budget and by depleting the reserve fund. WMU members gave \$60,000 to the offering during their centennial observance in Richmond, she reported.

Gregory: Orthodox wall may destroy SBC 'castle'

Southern Baptists must not build a wall of orthodoxy around the convention and in the process tear down the "castle" they are trying to protect, a prominent Southern Baptist pastor warned.

Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex., delivered a nonpartisan convention sermon which condemned participants on both sides of the 10-year-old controversy.

He told about an uninhabited castle in Ireland that was being systematically dismantled by peasants looking for building materials. The owner discovered the plight of his castle and ordered a wall be built around it when he returned several years later he found that the castle was gone. The carefully cut stones had been used to build the wall.

"We must not both build the wall and tear down the castle," he said.

He warned messengers not to hear him as speaking unilaterally. "I am speaking bilaterally," he said. "We are at a flashpoint," he said. Southern Baptists cannot survive "many more months of the personal animosity in our midst."

Gregory, who included himself in the group responsible for building a "wall of orthodoxy" around the SBC, suggested that the wall could remain, along with the castle, if certain things change.

First, Southern Baptists must consecrate their conversations, he said. "We must say here that we will not allow corrupt words out of our mouths."

Those we would defend Southern Baptist institutions have no justification to use any language they choose to accomplish that defense. Conversely, those who would defend orthodoxy are not justified to use any method at their disposal, he said.

Second, the wall and castle can co-exist if some attitudes change. Gregory pled with messengers to rid themselves of bitterness. "A lifetime of smoldering bitterness will put you on the shelf" as far as God is concerned, he said.

Finally, Southern Baptists can build the wall and preserve the castle if they will imitate God's divine kindness. He spoke of strained situations between messengers where avert glances, limp handshakes and forced smiles are common place.

"We look suspiciously to see who's talking to who about what," he said. Southern Baptists must "be kind to one another again."

He reminded messengers that scripture references to forgiveness do not say "forgive one another unless you're in-

involved in a world-class, epic, theological battle—then you're excused."

People on both sides of the controversy have told him, "I have a long memory," he said. When you stand before God on the final judgment, the last thing you are going to want to hear him say is, "I have a long memory," Gregory said. "You'd better start suffering from some holy amnesia before you stand in his presence."

"I hold out my hand to you, brother Adrian (Rogers), Winfred (Moore), Jerry (Vines), Richard (Jackson)," Gregory said. "We can build a wall and keep the castle. Be my brother."

FMB will review appointment process

Foreign Mission Board trustees agreed to appoint a committee to review the missionary appointment process.

The committee was asked to look specifically at the role trustees have in the process, with the possibility of enlarging that role to include direct interviewing of missionary candidates.

Although trustees examine candidate-written materials such as biographies and theological statements and confidential reports on the candidates, their only face-to-face time has come during the board meeting at which candidates are appointed.

In recent years a number of trustees have expressed frustration at the lack of personal contact with missionary candidates earlier in the process. The majority of the interviews now are done by staff candidate consultants.

The committee will be comprised of four trustees appointed by Mark Corts, chairman, and three staff members, named by R. Keith Parks, board president. Corts, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N. C., said during the board meeting that the committee will be named before the next board meeting, July 16-22 in Glorietta, N. M.

The board also approved a resolution to reassure missionaries overseas that despite any "theological and organizational differences" that may exist among trustees, they are united in "appreciation and respect for our missionaries and want them to know that we are committed to partnership with them in world missions as one of the basic priorities of our lives."

Carl Johnson, vice president for finance, told the board that its finance committee had approved the use of \$5.1 million from current cash funds to meet the shortfall in the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which finances a big part of the board's overseas budget. Because of the reduced income, Parks said a home office committee already is working to trim home office budget expenses, and overseas missions have been alerted to plan for a 12 percent decrease in their operating budgets.

In the final session of the meeting, the board approved appointment of 35 new missionaries, believed to be the first foreign missionary appointment service ever held at the annual convention.

Day camp provides missions training

A record 361 children of Southern Baptist messengers escaped the confines of the convention center to learn about missions at the SBC Missions Day Camp.

Sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission, the day camp offered children

from 27 states in grades 1-6 a welcomed alternative to convention proceedings.

San Antonio's Trinity Baptist Church hosted the 1988 day camp. Reby Lawler, Trinity's children's director, was assisted by 52 volunteers from the church.

"We want to provide them with a quality learning experience while their parents are involved at the convention," said John Park, Trinity's director of activities. "But we don't just want to babysit, we want it to be a quality experience."

According to Karl Bozeman, the Brotherhood Commission's director of Lad and Crusader Royal Ambassadors, the day camp is an investment in the future of Southern Baptist missions. "I feel like there will be some children who, because of their experience in missions day camp, will feel called to missions," said Bozeman, who has directed the day camp eight years.

Bozeman said other day camp volunteers included teenagers from across the country who attended the convention with their parents. In addition Texas Baptist Young Men serving as Royal Ambassador Camp counselors were assigned to the day camp.

Messengers respond to HMB altar call

Southern Baptist Convention messengers responded almost in mass to an altar call in the interest of revival, renewed commitment and a call to evangelize the nation and the world.

Many who did not make their way to the front of the platform knelt at their seats in prayer in response to an invitation by Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board.

Lewis followed a theme of "Ye are the light of the world," in his message about progress and opportunities in home missions.

Lewis painted the picture of a dark nation, both morally and spiritually. An estimated four million young people in this generation will be destroyed by drug traffic in the United States, he said. And pornography is a billion dollar business.

"There has never been a time when we so desperately needed revival as today," he said.

Even the conflict between conservative and moderate factions during the past 10 years does not mean Baptists cannot be part of the solution, he stressed.

"The Southern Baptist Convention is still the greatest force for God and good in the history of Christendom. We can change America. We can win this nation to Christ," Lewis said. "The wood is in place. All we need is the fire."

The program also included testimonies of four home missionaries involved in church planting and medical work.

Lyman Alexander left an engineering job and a combined salary with his wife of \$100,000 to move into seminary and start a church among blacks in metropolitan Los Angeles.

Dolores Thomas told of working in "tough turf"—New England, where 80 percent of the people in Maine are unchurched.

Alejandra Villasenor, who works in medical missions in 16 villages along the Texas-Mexico border, saw 44 new churches started last year.

And for James Meek, three was the blessed number. Two earlier attempts to start a church in Steamboat, Nev., had failed before Meek and his family arrived with visions of a Sunday school and church.

San Antonio's Placio del Rio



Joe and Doris Sanders of Honolulu enjoy a meal at the Rivercenter mall. Their table sits on a spur of the San Antonio River, where messengers ferry about in boats.



Thousands of Southern Baptists who attended their convention meeting in San Antonio, the aged Spanish mission that became the "cradle of Texas liberty."

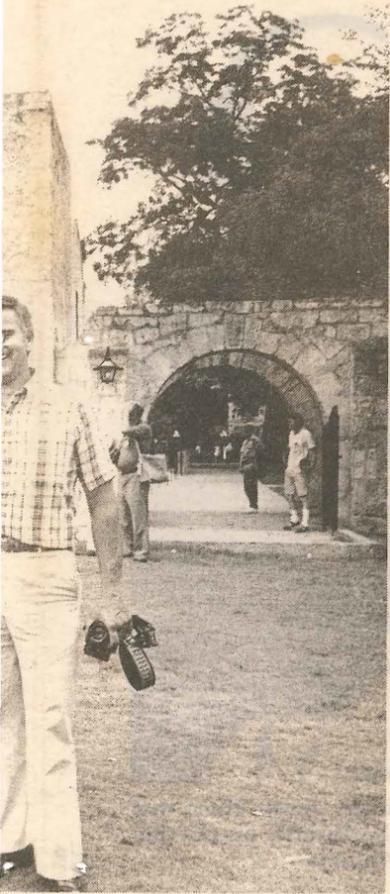


Paperboy Toby Figueroa sells a newspaper to SBC messenger David Julian, pastor in Ridgeway, Va., on the opening morning of the SBC annual meeting.



Messengers to the 1988 SBC annual meeting raise ballot computer-card ballots on close votes and raised them when p

...flooded by SBC messengers



g in San Antonio, Tex., visited the party."



Randy McWhorter, pastor in Fountain Valley, Calif., checks the registration credentials of Ray and Leslie England of First Baptist Church, Winchester, Ky., as they attempt to register as messengers.



Caleb Sparks sleeps on his daddy's shoulder on the first day of the SBC annual meeting. His dad, Danny Sparks, a messenger from Booneville, Miss., joins in singing a hymn.

"Pour out Revival"



...the ballot books in the arena of Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Messengers punched the em when participating in show-of-hands votes.



The "earlybirds" lined up to get the best seats when doors opened for the first day of the SBC meeting. Messengers began lining up outside the convention center at about 5:15 a.m. for the 6:30 opening time. More than 30,000 people poured into the facility by mid morning.

Vines: neo-orthodoxy, not liberalism, the 'problem'

Neo-orthodoxy, not classical liberalism, is the problem in the Southern Baptist Convention, Jerry Vines insisted in a news conference soon after his election as president of the 14.7-million-member denomination.

Vines, copastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., narrowly defeated Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., for the No. 1 office in the nation's largest protestant denomination.

Vines made the statement when asked to give names and addresses of five "liberals" in denominational agencies. Vines was the presidential candidate of a faction within the convention that for the past nine years has crusaded to remove allegedly liberal agency heads and seminary professors.

"If you're talking about classical liberalism, that is not the real theological issue in our denomination," he said. "You are getting closer to the matter when you think in terms of neo-orthodoxy."

Vines defined the neo-orthodox as those who "use our vocabulary but not our dictionary."

Vines did not name anyone who is liberal or neo-orthodox.

In answering another question Vines said he does not expect all Baptists to label themselves as "inerrantists," the term that has been the watchword of Southern Baptist conservatives.

Vines said inerrantists are those who

believe the Bible is without error. "I do not require that others use that word, though," he said.

Despite shunning labels Vines reaffirmed his intent to appoint to SBC boards and committees those who are sympathetic with the conservative movement.

"I will seek to appoint the very best Southern Baptists I can possibly find," he said. "I have frankly been pleased with the appointment process of our present president, Dr. Rogers."

Vines said he will abide by the "parameters the denomination has overwhelmingly communicated they would like," referring to the conservative trend in votes taken in SBC meetings in the past nine years.

"I am committed to appointing those who fall within the parameters of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement concerning scripture. I just could not look Southern Baptists in the face and appoint people who believe there are errors in the Bible," he said.

But Vines would not say whether or not he would appoint Jackson to a board or committee, even though Jackson professes to be an inerrantist.

"I would be glad to take a look at that when the time comes," Vines replied.

When asked directly if he would appoint known moderates Vines referred to his previous statements and did not answer the question.

Vines said he believes president Rog-

ers did a good job of appointing women to boards and committees. This year's committee on nominations report included 21 women among 136 nominees.

"I am certainly open to appointing any of our fine Southern Baptist ladies to places of responsibility," he said.

Vines confirmed that his church, which is among the denomination's largest, does not have Woman's Missionary Union or Baptist Men organizations.

Vines also was asked how he could say Cooperative Program support would be a criteria for his appointees when his own church gives only 2.7 percent to the unified funding plan.

Vines replied that churches participate in the Cooperative Program on a voluntary basis. His church, which has an annual budget of approximately \$8 million, has increased its Cooperative Program giving by \$50,000 to \$250,000 for 1988, he said.

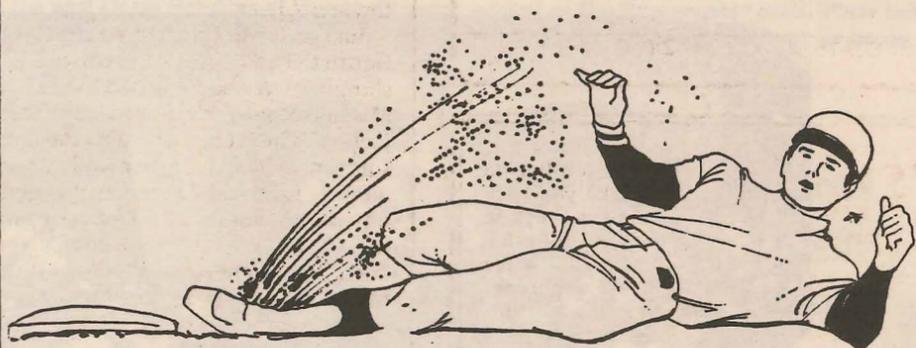
In the past seven years, since Vines has been at the Jacksonville church, its Cooperative Program gifts have increased 257 percent, he said.

Vines said his personal goal as president is to continue to be a soul winner. "This is what has made Southern Baptists the greatest denomination they are today," he said.



New SBC president Jerry Vines met with the media shortly after his election June 14 in San Antonio.

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Cumberland College Development Program's Continuing Education Series

Janet Vines says her role is as wife, mother first

Janet Vines, whose husband was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, says her primary calling in life is that of wife of Jerry Vines and mother of their four children.

"This perhaps sounds very trite," Mrs. Vines said, "but I am first of all a wife and a mother. That is, in essence, what my life consists of. I am dedicated to him. I am his helpmate. I am his most staunch supporter. I am a mother and a homemaker. This is my top priority. I feel that is God's highest calling in my life."

At the same time other women who choose other avenues may find their calling elsewhere, she said.

"That's (their) choice. My choice is to be a wife and a mother. That's my highest calling. I think you can achieve other goals and certainly be fulfilled. I am fulfilled in life being his wife and especially a mother."

The Vineses are parents of four children—Joy, 26, of Jacksonville, Fla., wife of evangelist Tim Williams; 25-year-old twins Jim, a pharmaceutical salesman

in Atlanta, and Jody, who lives at home; and Jonathan, 20, a student at Liberty Baptist University, Lynchburg, Va. They have one granddaughter.

While their children have not been perfect, Mrs. Vines says, "we are really proud of (them). They have never given us any problems."

Janet Vines grew up in College Park, Ga., near Atlanta. Converted at age nine, she attended the local high school and West Georgia College in Carrollton, Jerry's home town.

Her husband, Janet Vines says, "is the

greatest asset," adding "He has taught me more about the things of Christ than anyone else in my life."

Jerry has been the kind of father, Janet Vines says, who has always found time for their children and their activities. She recalls that once while they were hosting a houseful of reception guests, her husband excused himself to attend son Jim's football game.

"He is probably the most unselfish person I have ever known . . . God has given him a caring heart. He is truly a godly man."



Touching Lives With Love

On Annuity Board Sunday, June 26, Southern Baptists will recognize the ministries of the convention's pension agency. A free bulletin insert, which shares how the Board touches lives through its work, has been prepared for your church's use on this occasion. Use the coupon to order.

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Early in my Christian life leaders convinced me that a call to preach was a call to prepare. Therefore, I made plans to attend college and the seminary. During my teen years I was impressed that God wanted me in missions on the foreign field, particularly Africa. I completed college and seminary with the mission field as my goal. When I asked Marjorie to marry me, it was understood between us that our lives were to turn toward Africa.

Just as we both finished the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a door slammed! We had applied to the Foreign Mission Board for service, but were rejected. The rejection was because of some previous health problems which were of no consequence in this country, but which would have been devastating in Africa. We were stunned. Had we been mistaken about God's call or was he redirecting us. According to the doors he has opened, he was redirecting our place of service. Though we could not serve on a foreign mission field, we have been missionaries throughout our ministry.

God soon opened a door to serve as an associational missionary. Three years later God opened the door to serve throughout Kentucky as secretary of missions and evangelism. According to God's timing and plan, seven years later he opened the door and led in a call to be pastor of the First Baptist Church, Somersett. That assignment lasted 23 years. Then like an unexpected clap of thunder, God opened the door and directed us to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. In all of these varied tasks of ministry we have been missionaries in God's mission field. Where a door is closed we must look for other doors he opens.

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Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Oneida wins another state championship

Oneida freshman Damon Tigner won the State Championship (Class A) in Boys High Jump with a leap of 6'6". This was the fourth state championship OBI students have won in the past three years in state track and field events.

Oneida students won three regional championships setting three new all-time records for any school in those events in the history of the region. One of our seniors pole-vaulted 11'6". A junior won the 400-meter dash in record time. Freshman Tigner set the new regional record for the high jump before advancing to win the top state medal.

Summer school is now in session with 13 different courses and a 1-15 teacher-student ratio. With the 23 students needing remedial reading and math, we have 16 adult staff for a 1-1½ teacher-student ratio.

We have the largest group of students ever working on campus. Most have developed a real pride in their work. That is one of the most important things taught at Oneida.

At the end of each school year every dorm room, closet, drawer, etc. is thoroughly cleaned and scrubbed. Rooms are painted. Doors, hallways and stair railings are touched up. The rooms are color-coded so the dean knows what color is needed where. Electric switches are checked. Work done in the dorms is repeated in all 10 different class build-

ings.

For example, our heated indoor swimming pool, the bleachers, walls and stairwells were painted in the two weeks after our spring school session. Everything was given at least three coats of the highest quality paint and the walls around the pool area was given four coats because of the humidity. This was the first thorough painting in years and is very beautiful.

I have never seen the campus grounds and faculty lawns so beautiful. Our young men in charge of that have out done themselves. Despite the drought, our gardens are also a thing of beauty. We irrigate when needed, pumping from Goose Creek. The seven acres of Irish potatoes are growing well for year round eating of baked, fried, boiled and stewed potatoes; potato soup and salad, potato cakes, as well as having plenty of french fries and potato wedges, which our students never tire of eating!

In the two weeks before summer school began, the hot water capacity of our two older boys dorms was increased from 400 to 1400 gallons at any given moment. This required a lot of hard work in the dorm by our own maintenance staff and a team of nine volunteers from Crittenden Baptist Church plumbed the second dorm for the extra hot water. Also they found time to do some carpentry and electrical work in our pastor's home. During the preceding week our local Baptist church was re-roofed with the materials and cost of labor provided by Christian County Association. East Rhudes Creek Baptist near Elizabethtown also sent a volunteer group to build a large deck on our pastor's home to help take care of large gatherings.

Several alumni have helped us install a large 8000 gallon gasoline tank underground. Buying in bulk will save us approximately \$100 monthly on our gasoline bill for campus buses and other vehicles.

A large mobile home and a new 1800 square foot double-wide were recently given to us for more staff housing. We have now added housing for 90 additional staff in the past 13 years but still have three staff living in dorm rooms.

We are busy with many projects. Many volunteer groups are coming this summer to help in various ways.

Also an increasing number of visitors are coming to see for themselves the miracle of Oneida. We hope you can come, too. Plan to get here about 10:30 a.m. on any school day morning and worship with us in our daily chapel.



H. C. Chiles
Clear Creek Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JUNE 26, 1988

Life and work series

Supporting ministry

Rom. 15:15-16 Paul gladly commended the Christians in Rome for the fine progress which they had made in the Christian life. He expressed genuine appreciation for their faithfulness in service for Christ. Paul explained to the Roman Christians that Christ had commissioned him as a minister of the gospel and what he was able to accomplish among them he gave all the credit and honor to his Lord. His ministry was powerful because he was fully yielded to Christ and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 15:24-27 Paul had purposed to go to Jerusalem and carry with him the money he had collected on this tour for the poor saints there. Then, he planned to visit the Christians in Rome as he journeyed toward Spain. It was his earnest hope that God would bring him safely to Rome for a period of rest and spiritual refreshment and permit him to witness a gracious response to the gospel on the part of those who might hear him preach in the imperial city.

Rom. 15:30-32 Paul knew that earnest prayer is a prerequisite to success in missionary endeavors. He proceeded to teach the Christians in Rome that they should make tremendous contribution to the progress of the gospel by dedicating themselves to the important minis-

try of intercessory prayer.

Because of his grave concern about what might happen to him at the hands of unbelieving Jews, Paul earnestly besought the Christian in Rome to pray for his personal safety.

International series

Moses confronts Pharaoh

Ex. 5:1-7 It required great faith and heroic courage on the part of Moses and Aaron to confront Pharaoh, the cruel and arrogant despot who regarded himself as equal to the god of Egypt.

God demanded that Pharaoh permit the people to have a feast in honor of Jehovah. This proud and haughty tyrant defiantly refusing to allow the Israelites to go on a religious pilgrimage.

Moses and Aaron repeated their request, appealing to the mercy of Pharaoh, who was being asked to allow his captives to heed the voice of their own God. Pharaoh argued that it was not the honor of God about which they were concerned, but it was their desire to escape from work. He declared he was going to increase their hard labor.

He refused to provide them with straw. Gathering the necessary straw without diminishing the number of bricks produced in the same length of time was both an unreasonable demand and an impossible achievement.

Ex. 11:1-5 By a series of 10 devastating plagues God sought to teach Pharaoh and his subjects the utter futility of trusting other gods. God indicated to Moses several plagues would befall the Egyptians prior to the emancipation of the Israelites, but he had not revealed their exact number.

The last plague in this series was the death of all the first born among the Egyptians. God sent this plague in order to get the Egyptians to recognize him as the true God.

It is practically impossible to imagine the grief which characterized in the homes on the night the firstborn died. In oriental society the firstborn male child was the heir to a double portion of the father's inheritance and the one who would succeed his father on the throne if the father held such a position. The death of the firstborn also included animals.

From this passage we learn that this same God, who delivered his people from the hand of the cruel taskmasters of Egypt, is able to deliver from the more cruel taskmaster of sin all who put their trust in him.



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on mission together

As the dust settles

As I write this article thousands of the nearly 35 thousand registrants for the Southern Baptist Convention have already headed homeward.

It was late last night before Alice and I finally put our bodies down to sleep. We had lingered a long time in the coliseum following the Foreign Mission Board service, enjoying fellowship with some old colleagues and, especially the 91-year-old mother of Keith Parks.

I had first met her in 1964 when Keith and I were traveling for the Foreign Mission Board.

We had driven over to the home place in Danville, Ark. where Keith had lived. As we walked around that afternoon

Keith pointed out a small field where he had kept a horse. His dad was somewhat of an expert in knowing which was a "good horse" and which was not. Lots of farmers sought his counsel until his premature death several years before.

A modest frame structure reminded me of my grandparents' house where I often spent the night. And when I slept that night I remembered those nights.

Early next morning, Mrs. Parks prepared the kind of breakfast a traveler never forgets. We talked awhile across the kitchen table before saying goodbye. I remember the warm hug from the mother of one who was to become "a friend for life."

And now it was 24 years later. Keith's sister had driven Mrs. Parks for the occasion. She had come to hear her son preach in the first actual Foreign Mission Board appointment service ever conducted at a Southern Baptist Convention.

While our foreign missions leader preached, I tried to get a glimpse of his

mother. We were too far up in the balcony to see any expression. But even at that distance, I saw in her the mystery of God.

From the womb of this gentle woman would come the one to lead Southern Baptists during our most opportune time in world missions. The son of a farmer who never knew the inside of a college classroom. Humble folks.

The packed coliseum responded with an enthusiastic warmth. As I continued to glance from time to time at the frail figure of this 91-year-old mother, I wondered if it would not be this fact of missions which would somehow keep us, through humility, from pulling the plug on the most resourceful evangelical group of our time.

It was missions that first brought us together. It may now be our last, fragile hope of keeping most of our Baptist family together. But even that, when the dust of this convention settles, will require the most difficult of human strengths—**humility**.

Church takes active role in training seminary students

by Scott Collins

The members of Saganaw North Baptist Church, Siginaw, Tex., have invited every student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary—all 5000 of them—to supper.

And in the past year more than 40 students have accepted the offer.

The invitation was made by members of the church and their pastor, George Besch, a doctoral student at Southwestern. The purpose is to teach students how to serve the Lord's Supper.

Besch said the teaching program started when the church voted to "offer to all students" the opportunity to bake unleavened bread, prepare the supper, learn the mechanics of conducting the Lord's Supper and then to lead the supper.

Besch works with four or five students at a time, teaching them how to make unleavened bread and prepare the supper. Members of the church become the students' congregation and Besch demonstrates how to serve the supper.

The idea grew out of Besch's own experiences as a student when he had difficulty fulfilling class assignments which required him to perform pastoral skills.

The church works closely with Gerald Marsh, professor of pastoral ministry. Marsh requires students to gain experience in such skills as serving the Lord's Supper, baptism, conducting worship services and pastoral visitation.

Besch said the skills which students perform give them the opportunity to work within a local church. "There's no substitute for the church doing the work of ministry," he said.

But the program also offers more than practical skill.

"We want them to know somebody loves and cares about them," Besch said. "And as a church we want to take part in the student's training."



George Besch watches as Ray Johnson, Mike Stimpson and Glenn Chappelle make unleavened bread as part of the Lord's Supper training.

Besch said the church asks for two things in return. One is "to see what we're doing in the lives of young ministers."

The second thing the church asks is that students pass on the lessons learned during the three hours spent working with Besch and the church.

Eventually Besch plans to expand the

program to include baptismal skills and visitation to terminally ill patients.

Besch says his aim is to teach how the church and students can serve each other.

"All we've done is encourage the students and give them an audience," Besch said. "And we want them to come because they are a blessing to us."

Boys camp anniversary to draw first director

"Remember when..." will be the phrase of the weekend, Aug. 12-13, when former Camp Ridgecrest for Boys staffers and campers, representing every decade since its opening, gather to celebrate the camp's 60th anniversary.

"We expect to have a representative from every decade," said Chris Shirley, associate director of Ridgecrest summer camps. "So far three past directors of the camps have signed up."

Charles W. Burts, the first full time boys camp director (1930-38), is one of at least 100 former staffers and campers already signed up to participate in the 60th anniversary event, according to Shirley. Burts will travel from Greenville, S. C. to attend the event.

Since 1928 Camp Ridgecrest for Boys has had 18 camp directors, according to Shirley. Before Burts, Frank E. Burkhalter acted as the temporary camp director in 1929. The current director, Ron Springs, has held the position since 1985.

An alumni banquet and a variety of activities have been planned for the event, Shirley said.

Reminder: The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, the denomination's pension agency, maintains a two-fold ministry: helping ministers prepare for retirement and providing relief for those who didn't prepare adequately.

Sunday, June 26, churches are encouraged to recognize these ministries and focus on how the agency touches lives by providing relief for retired ministers, denominational employees and widows.

Jake Hess records for Genevox Music

Southern gospel music with the distinctive flavor of famed gospel singer Jake Hess may be finding its way into church choir lofts where gospel quartet music

is enjoyed.

Genevox Music Group, the Music Publishing Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, has released a

cassette tape called "Jake Hess and Friends... I'm Traveling On."

Originally planned as a choral book with sound tracks, the project was expanded when Genevox marketing director Greg Skipper took a copy of the sound tracks to Hess to see if he could put a quartet with them.

Hess assembled Armond Morales, bass; Steve Warren, tenor; Chris Hess, baritone; and assumed the lead himself. The resulting product premiered in mid March before more than 1200 persons in a Sunday evening worship service at Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville.

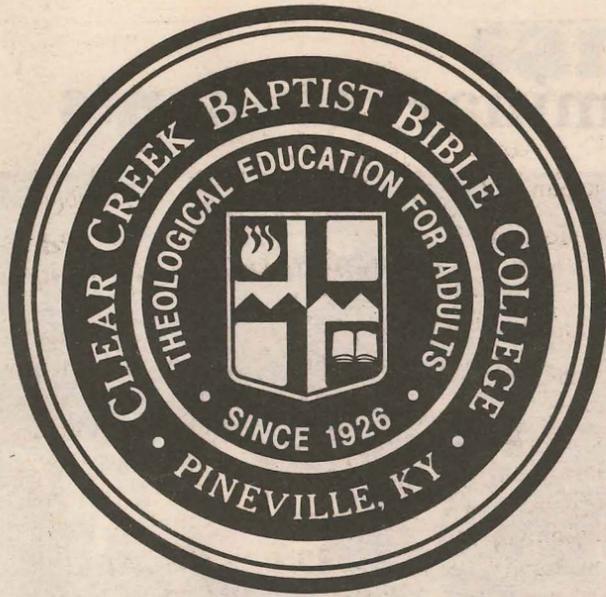
Southern Baptist composer Stan Pethel of Rome, Ga. wrote some of the songs, Skipper said, and "did an excellent job on all the arrangements and orchestration."

Included in both the printed collection, titled "I'm Traveling On," and the Hess quartet's cassette tape are such songs as "No Other Word for Grace but Amazing," "When All of God's Singers Get Home," "Forever Leaning on the Arms of Jesus," "The Cool Baptizing Stream," "Tell Me the Story" and others.

The cassette tape, score, performance and instrumental parts are available in Baptist Books Stores as well as other book and music stores.



At a recording session for Genevox Music Group, Jake Hess (r) is the lead singer for a Southern gospel cassette tape, called "I'm Traveling On." Others of the quartet are (from left) Armond Morales, Steve Warren and Chris Hess.



CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

1988 Graduates



Class President, Dan Kincer; Class Vice-President, Bill Halliburton; Secretary-Treasurer, Lori Davidson; Faculty Sponsor, Dr. Jackson R. Robertson.

Associate in Ministry

Sandra K. Stumbo

Christian Worker's Certificate

Judy Trosper Lawson, With Honors; Patty Smith Sumner.

Diploma of Ministry in Bible - Pastoral Care

Ronald Herman Jones

Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies

James Michael Lawson

Bachelor of Ministry in Bible - Pastoral Church Administration

Nevil Smith, With Honors

Bachelor of Ministry in Bible - Local Church Administration

Edward Austin Eaton; William B. Frazier, Jr., With Honors; Daryl Everett Longworth.

Bachelor of Ministry in Bible - Homiletics and Evangelism

Donald Kenneth Farr; Alan George Hughes.

Bachelor of Ministry in Bible - Church Music Ministry

Lori Cox Davidson, With Honors; Billy Gene Luttrell, With Honors; Chanborin Mok Samnang.

Bachelor of Ministry in Bible - Christian Doctrine

Meredith W. Carroll, With Honors; Jimmie Dale Davidson, With Honors; Jeffery Alan Fox; William Madison Halliburton, Jr., With Honors; H. Dan Kincer, With Honors; Jeffrey Scott Overbay, With Honors; Scottie Dwight Sumner, With Honors.

Bachelor of Ministry in Bible - Pastoral Care

David Oddren Bullock; Austin Campbell; Gary W. Daugherty; Elroy Alfred Gilpin, Jr.; Bobby Jay Kelly, With honors; Walter Edward McDonald, With Honors; Daniel Lynn McGinnis; Dennis Lee Morgan; Michael Maurice Taylor.

Honors and Awards

Highest Academic Honor Awards were earned by Lori Davidson and Dan Kincer (pictured below). The Trustees' Award was presented to Jimmie Davidson and the President's Award was given to Scottie Sumner.



If you have not made reservations for this year's Alumni Conference, you may do so by filling out the form below and mailing it to Mrs. Clara Barnett, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, Kentucky 40977. You must have reservations to stay on campus.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

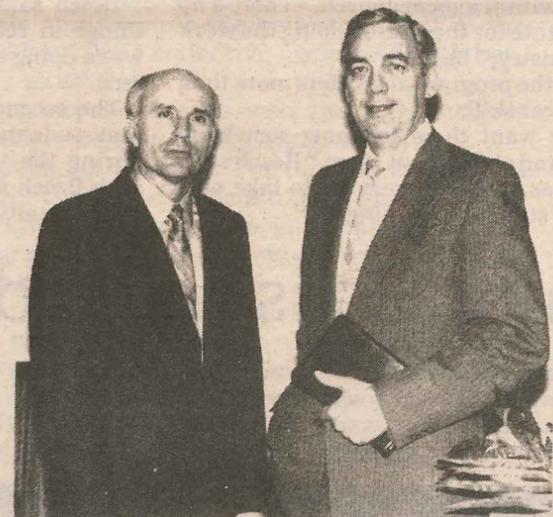
Phone: Office _____ Home _____

Number of persons attending. _____

Date you will arrive _____

Approximate Time _____

When will you depart? _____



Robert Spradlin and Drew Martin

Robert Spradlin, Alumni President invites the Alumni to the meeting August 1 & 2. He says, "The alumni executive board met on April 12th at the college to plan for our August meeting. I was thrilled with the outcome of our progress. I promise you it will be a time of enjoyment, fellowship, and worship. I'm happy to report that our three meals will be provided by the college and free lodging on a first come basis. I encourage you and your family to be at our Alumni meeting this year. The meeting will begin on Monday evening with a meal and fellowship. I will be contacting all Alumni later with more details about our meeting."

Drew Martin, Alumni Director, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College invites Alumni to come. He says, "We are looking forward to seeing you at the 1988 Alumni Conference in August."

Dr. Carvin Bryant, Interim President, invites the Alumni to come to the meeting. He says, "This will be a great time of fellowship."