

Conservatives extend control by reelecting Vines

Messengers to the 132nd Southern Baptist Convention reelected president Jerry Vines, approved a \$137.2 million budget, received program reports from 18 agencies and an auxiliary and took positions on issues ranging from racism to support of Chinese Christians.

The convention theme, "Going, Weeping; Sowing, Reaping," was developed through three inspirational addresses and opportunities for witnessing in the Las Vegas area.

The three-day meeting attracted 20,423 messengers, making it the sixth-largest in history and the largest west of San Antonio.

President Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., won a second one-year term by defeating Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta. The vote was 10,754-8248.

Messengers chose Junior Hill, a Hartselle, Ala., evangelist, as first vice president, and Ernest B. Myers, executive director of Nevada Baptist Convention, Reno, as second vice president.

Given new one-year terms were Martin B. Bradley, recording secretary, and Lee Porter registration secretary. Both live in Nashville and are Baptist Sunday School Board employees.

Vestal, who campaigned on a theme of freedom, left open the possibility of running for the presidency in 1990 at New Orleans.

During the presidential address and in a news conference following reelection, Vines pledged to restore joy to the 14.8-million-member denomination through an emphasis on personal evangelism.

President Vines actively participated in a giant Southern Baptist witnessing effort in the Las Vegas area before and during the convention.

The 2025 volunteers visited 120,000 homes, discovered 5000 prospects for Southern Baptist churches and led 470 persons to faith in Christ.

On the issue of controversy in the denomination, Vines said, "Administrators and trustees of our institutions clearly understand the direction which Southern Baptists want to go.

"I believe the process of theological renewal is underway. I am confident

that in a loving and Christlike manner the theological problems in God's good time will be resolved."

For the first time in recent years the basic operation portion of the new budget is almost \$3 million below the current budget and reflects an effort to budget on the basis of current giving levels.

After approving the budget without debate, messengers sought unsuccessfully by a vote of 5198 to 6034 to rescind the action and reassign \$200,000 of the \$391,796 allocation of the Baptist Joint Committee of Public Affairs to three other agencies.

The action was part of a running dispute between leaders of the Baptist Joint Committee funded by nine Baptist bodies, including the SBC, and the new Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee which has minority representation on the Washington-based agency.

The flap erupted during the convention when Samuel T. Currin, chairman of PAC, lamented that the SBC provided 90 percent of the funding of the Baptist Joint Committee but had only 33 percent of the representation on the agency board.

James M. Dunn, BJC executive director, contended the PAC report maligned and misrepresented his agency. He said the SBC provides 60 percent, not 90 percent, of his agency's budget and the figure would drop to 53 percent next year.

Currin replied that the 1987-88 reports supported his position but Dunn said those reports did not reflect his total budget.

In contrast to the tiff between the BJC and PAC, the report of the Foreign Mission Board warned messengers their goal of proclaiming the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000 would fail unless they make a radical commitment.

Mission board president R. Keith Parks of Richmond, Va. called on Southern Baptists to put aside self-indulgence, redevelop a passion for the world and lay down their lives for the sake of the gospel.

The report of the Home Mission Board reported the largest number of new church starts since 1968 and the most new home missionaries commissioned since 1845.

President Larry Lewis said the Atlanta-based agency led in starting 1248 new churches and commissioned 733 new missionaries, increasing the total to 3827.

Messengers adopted 10 resolutions without major change after a motion to approve seven remaining resolutions as a group without debate failed by only 14 votes. A total of 54 resolutions were proposed.

In other actions, the messengers approved Executive Committee recommendations for the convention to meet in Dallas, Tex., June 17-19, 1997; Atlanta, Ga., June 15-17, 1999; and New Orleans, La., June 12-14, 2001, and recognized Carolyn Weatherford, retiring executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, for 15 years of outstanding leadership.

A proposal for the Executive Committee to create a new Religious Liberty Commission was withheld until the 1990 meeting at the request of Vines in the interest of a convention focus on missions and evangelism.

At an organizational meeting the Executive Committee elected Sam W. Pace of Lawton, Okla., chairman; Paul Pressler of Houston, Tex., vice chairman, and Fred H. Wolfe of Mobile, Ala., recording secretary.

Later, messengers chose Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, to preach the annual convention sermon in 1990 in New Orleans and named Jimmy

Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., as alternate preacher.

John McKay of Hurst, Tex., was selected to lead the music.

Sermons by Vines; Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex.; and Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, provided inspiration and challenge.

President Vines said Southern Baptists have settled their disagreement over the Bible and must now emphasize personal evangelism.

"It's time for all of us to sow the seed," he said. "If you want to see the joy put back in your church, get involved with sowing and reaping.

"Let the president run the nation, let congress pass the laws, let Wall Street handle the finances, let Vegas put on the shows, but let's you and I be winners of souls, going as the Lord has commanded us to go."

Chapman, who preached the annual convention sermon, called on professors at Baptist colleges, schools and seminaries to live up to their titles by professing their faith in the classrooms.

Baptist schools need professors who believe in the virgin birth of Christ, in the Bible as the inspired, infallible, inerrant word of God, in the sacrificial, atoning blood of Christ shed on the cross for the salvation of the world, in the resurrection of Jesus from the grave and in the glorious second coming of Jesus, Chapman declared.

While open gambling and a plethora of slot machines in convention hotels raised eyebrows of many messengers initially, they swiftly adjusted to the culture, packing the meeting halls and restaurants.

Dealers reported an absence of Southern Baptists in their casinos and the presence of a lot of witnessing pamphlets.



Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

June 20, 1989

Are you moving?

Please give us three weeks' advance notice. Clip this portion with your old address label, supply new address above, and send to Western Recorder, Box 43969 Middletown, KY 40243

in the interim

Las Vegas, 1989: giving the majority its due

There is a majority in the Southern Baptist Convention that ought to be given its due now that the Las Vegas proceedings are history. That majority is the great mass of Southern Baptists who did not attend the meetings, did not have the opportunity to vote and did not return home with stories of victories or losses.

The majority in this convention is not the Pressler-Patterson-inerrantist-fundamentalist party. This leadership team has rolled up 10 years of election victories in the presidential race. They have dominated the business of the convention for a decade. If they are a majority they are a seasonal one at best. This majority shows up once a year at the hour of the election of the president. Otherwise, they are found at the meetings of the various boards and agencies. If the Pressler-Patterson group were a real majority the state conventions would have followed in the steps of the SBC. It hasn't happened. The Baptist Committed party has made its claim as the representative of the majority of Southern Baptists. Ten straight losses in the leadership elections hasn't dimmed their insistence that they represent us. It may be true that Baptists in this group are closer to traditional Southern Baptist ideals than the Pressler-Patterson party, but they haven't convinced enough people to "win" anything yet. If they are a majority they are an idealistic majority waiting to become reality.

Surely no one thinks that the Baptist Alliance group, one wing of the loose moderate coalition that has opposed the current convention leadership, represents a majority. This group is a mainly regional body clustered around the remnants of "old" Southeastern Seminary. Reaction to them, west of the Appalachian Mountains, has been thundering silence.

No. None of the above are the real majority in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention. The real majority are those millions of laymen and laywomen who call themselves Southern Baptists without any political label. They are the men and women who come to the Lord's house on a regular basis, who believe the Bible is God's word and who try to live by it every day in word and deed. They teach Sunday school, they sing in the choir, they tithe or come close to it. They dig down deep for

Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong, they pray almost every single day for our missionaries, they help our children in Bible school, they sacrifice their vacation time to be sponsors of a youth trip. They follow the lead of the WMU when it comes to missions, they still believe in Bold Mission Thrust and they serve their church and their community in a thousand different ways.

These are the people who show up at the hospital when tragedy strikes, they bring food to grieving homes, they offer to babysit when illness strikes a distant family member, they are first in line when someone joins the church to say, "Welcome." These are the people who just plain "love the Lord" and the Lord's church.

This majority doesn't attend very many meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention, they don't understand the politics of it all (and don't really want to, either) and they don't get very excited over who is elected to what. As a whole, they are getting pretty disgusted with the whole scene of infighting and distraction. They have the common sense to know that a denomination based on controversy will lose its power to serve.

The real miracle of this decade is that this majority is still intact. The biggest worry Southern Baptists have is whether or not the rank and file will slowly and silently lose their commitment to the convention. Some think it has already started to happen in scattered places around the country. Pastors and denominational servants are plenty worried about it.

The truth is, the faithful majority has stuck it out. They are still keeping the faith, still sharing their resources, still being supportive, still providing the power of Southern Baptist life. If you think the power in the SBC flows out of Nashville, Richmond, Atlanta or Houston, think again. The power comes out of individual churches at the side of the road, in the center of great cities and in the midst of the suburbs going about their task of worship, witness and service week after week.

So give the majority their due. They are the heroes of our convention. The ordinary people of this convention have enough spiritual power and common sense to bring us home to Christlike service.

Will we ever know the real story?

The Executive Committee of the SBC met on June 14 for their organizational meeting, which included the election of committee officers for the coming year. James Jones, pastor of Campbellville Baptist Church and current president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was nominated as chairman by Frank Lady of Jonesboro, Ark. Jones was defeated by Sam Pace of Lawton, Okla.

When nominations were made for vice chairman, Frank Lady again nominated James Jones. Now, we've seen this kind of thing many, many times. Normally, a defeated candidate is elected to the "second" office. While we congratulate Sam Pace on his chairmanship, we happen to think that James Jones is an outstanding servant of God. He is worthy in every way: gracious, loving, respectful and firm in the scripture and our faith. Ken-

tucky Baptists would have been honored by his election as vice chairman.

It was not to be, however, since Paul Pressler of Houston, Tex., was nominated for the position. Pressler was elected, Jones was defeated—for the second time.

Jones took this like the Christian he is, graciously and with good will. Kentucky Baptists happen to be proud of our president. It would have meant a good deal to us for "one of our own" to serve in this leadership position. Jones could have made a great contribution to the work of the Executive Committee this year. Will we ever know the real story behind this turn of events? Probably not, but Kentucky Baptists can hope and pray that James Jones will have leadership responsibility on the committee before his term expires in 1991.

Richard W. Bridges

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

JACK D. SANFORD, Editor
JAMES H. COX, Associate Editor
RAY L. HAYES, Business Manager
C. R. DALEY, Editor Emeritus

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., Box 43969, Middletown, Ky., except for one week in July and December. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Middletown, KY 40243.

Subscriptions: Single, \$7.88; foreign, \$8.50; church budget, \$6.00. Payable in advance, except church accounts, which require tax exemption number.

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

Directors: Richard Bridges, Bowling Green, chairman; Greg Earwood, Murray, vice chairman; Glenn Mollette, Pikeville, secretary; Bill Crosby, Erlanger; Denzel Dukes, Owensboro; Glenn Durham, Harlan; Paul Godsey, Burlington; Garnett Hulette, Frankfort; Don Mantooth, Morehead; Isaac McDonald, Hodgenville; John Searcy, Franklin; George Smith, Leitchfield.

Convention impressions

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

OPULENCE. Remember when there was a nationwide energy crisis in the 70s? Americans were asked to conserve gas, oil and electricity and were limited in some places on how much they could use. In Las Vegas the glitter of hundreds of millions of flashing lights overwhelmed SBC messengers. This visitor wondered if the desert suddenly went black during those dark days when the plea went out from Washington or did the opulent and splendid pleasure palaces conduct business as usual?

SUNDAY SILENCE. There's no Sunday silence in Las Vegas. Southern Baptists may have been appalled by gambling at a frantic pace during the traditional Sunday school hour June 11. One observed that some of the little old ladies seated in front of the one-armed bandits in the headquarters hotel at that hour dropping quarters in them with reckless abandon probably taught Sunday school back home. Reasoned the messenger: "This may be their first and only visit to Las Vegas." On another occasion, we observed a parked car filled with four or five preschoolers on a lot outside a casino, obviously the children's mother standing beside the opened passenger door. The occupants were looking patiently and longingly toward the casino. Are they waiting for a husband and father who has gone to indulge his fantasy in a game of chance? we pondered. Had he bet the rent that he could beat stacked odds? The scene was sobering and reminded us that a man's fantasy often has implications beyond himself.

A DUNN DEAL. The motion unanimously adopted by the SBC Executive Committee to defer its own recommendation to establish a Religious Liberty Commission was conciliatory in every way. It not only diffused a potentially damaging floor fight during the convention, it further breathed new life into the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and its controversial executive Jimmy Dunn. All sorts of interpretations may be drawn from a year's delay. The action seems to be a positive step in at least temporarily diffusing convention politics. Comments by an Executive Committee member rotating off that body, Franklin, Tenn. attorney Frank C.

Ingraham, were typical of the spirit of a pre-convention meeting. Said the departing Ingraham to colleagues: "Remember this, friends. Issues come and go, but the fellowship is the important thing. Continue to love one another." The frame of mind of every person who participates in convention sessions would be improved if we adopted Ingraham's philosophy.

A FAR COUNTRY. In a quarter century of attending Southern Baptist conventions, it appeared to this reporter local news media did as poor a job as we recall. The sheer lack of published material—one or two brief stories in two Las Vegas papers each day, compared with several pages' worth daily in other localities in other years—testified to the media's perception of Baptists' influence. More than once we read that non-Southern Baptist Jerry Falwell was in town to address "the Southern Baptist Convention." He wasn't. He was invited by a few hundred Southern Baptist evangelists to speak to them in contrast to more than 20,000 SBC messengers. The casual reader may have been misled into thinking Falwellian Baptists are Southern Baptists. There's a big difference. Article after article referred to Southern Baptist "delegates" even though reporters were advised in writing our autonomous representatives are uninstructed "messengers" voting their own convictions. We noted "church leaders" said this and that, instead of "convention officials." To this Southern Baptist's thinking, our denomination does not have "church" leaders. The morning after Jerry Vines' reelection, a Las Vegas reporter—who obviously hadn't done his homework—wrote that "Vines beat Vestal (Daniel Vestal, Vines' 1989 opponent) in last year's election by just 700 votes." Vestal had never run for SBC office before. Richard Jackson was defeated by Vines in 1988. Such carelessness discredits our profession and makes the messengers feel even more acutely their strangeness in a foreign land.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT? There's still no such thing as a free lunch. Those well advertised \$2.99 buffets on the Strip cost some messengers up to an hour's wait in long lines running through casinos, making their worth questionable. In the headquarters hotel, off the beaten path, meals were more commonly \$10-\$30, tax and gratuity included. SBC families with children staying there surely made many trips to McDonald's. The only freebie was parking, both at the convention complex and the hotels, a nice change from previous years. Meanwhile, a Las Vegas newspaper confirmed what we suspected: hotels raised their rates for Southern Baptists. Normal daily rates of \$49-\$79 jumped to \$115 and beyond for messengers because innkeepers knew Baptists wouldn't be spending in hotel casinos, clubs, showrooms and liquor stores. Circus Circus, meanwhile, which doesn't cooperate with the housing and convention visitors bureau, accepted reservations from individual Southern Baptists at the lower rates. Some messengers fortunate enough to get in said they may never do business with the SBC convention and visitors bureau again.

TALL ORDER. Does it bother anybody besides the writer that Southern Baptists are footing C. Barry McCarty's annual parliamentary duties to the tune of \$960 plus expenses daily? He is paid for being at the convention site up to three days before the meeting opens, plus each day the convention is in session, including whether he is present for an entire day or any portion thereof. According to a contract approved by the Executive Committee, he is further compensated an additional \$120 hourly for pre- and post-convention consultation away from the convention site. Does it bother anyone that this non-Southern Baptist has undoubtedly been compensated for his work far better than any pastor or denominational executive at the last four conventions? Do no Southern Baptists possess his specialized skills who

would offer their services for free (as they do at Kentucky Baptist Convention meetings) or have we simply not asked them to? It would seem we're being carried to the cleaners on this one, and no one's raising an eyebrow.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED. During a fraternal group's dinner meeting in Las Vegas a poll was taken on when the members would like to hold their next gathering. All but two raised hands for "Plan A" while the two preferred "Plan B." Said one of those favoring "B": "Somehow I feel like a moderate." You had to be a fundamentalist to appreciate it.

NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS. One of this writer's joys during the convention was to address students from California Baptist College attending their first SBC. Each one asked insightful questions about the controversy, including where it had been and where it might go. These were bright young people who required thoughtful answers to probing and complex issues. The shocker for us was that most said so little news of the 10-year SBC fight had filtered into their California homes they knew little or nothing at all about our struggles before going off to college. I found myself wishing they could return to Camelot and never hear of it again.

A SECOND GLANCE. Some wanted to know: Did our opinion change about Las Vegas from the column panning it last April after being there again? Let's say, we mellowed. We saw there were people who mowed grass and bought groceries and did laundry and played with kids just like we do, whose incomes aren't directly linked to gambling and organized crime. At the same time, we believe if it weren't for shady enterprises, there would be no Las Vegas, and without it, the desert would be even more barren for 500 miles in any direction. So what are we saying? There are people there whom God loves and who need him and some of them seek to walk with him daily. We're convinced there's a city worth saving there and pray for lost people as well as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Site replaces politics as Kentuckians reflect

by Lawanda Smith, Staff Writer

Though the SBC convention proceedings may not have surprised many Kentuckians, the site, Las Vegas, Nev., did spark varied responses from Bluegrass conventioners.

Shirley Winters, wife of Campbellsville College president Ken Winters, asked an overriding question, "Why are we here?" She cited evangelism as part of it but added that Baptists should be concerned with evangelism in Kentucky as well.

Ralph Hopkins, associate in the KBC Student Department, noted that Las Vegas is a big place. "I'm afraid we've not made the kind of impact we thought we could," he concluded.

Paul Peterson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Inez, said of Vegas: "This was our Ninevah." Though he was not surprised by convention proceedings, he thought the distance to the convention site did affect attendance somewhat. While **Al Hardy**, vice president of business affairs at Campbellsville College,

concurred that it was difficult to explain why Southern Baptists chose to meet in Las Vegas he also admitted the experience presented good opportunities to witness.

Frankfort messenger **Jennie Smither**, who has attended four conventions, said last year's convention in San Antonio was her favorite. "The people here are friendly," she said, "but there are no home folks. I've met people from all over but few natives of Nevada. The city makes me feel closed in," she added. "The lights are breathtakingly beautiful but I would like to see the mountains in the distance. The food is excellent and the people are helpful."

While some Kentuckians were surprised by the city of lights, others were not as shocked. **David Wade** of First Baptist Church, Frankfort, had visited Las Vegas before and commented he knew what to expect of the city. Since this was his first time to attend the Southern Baptist Convention, the individual conferences made more of an impact on him. "The preaching and singing

have been uplifting," he commented, noting that he was particularly impressed with the Pastor's Conference.

Larry Orange, pastor of West Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville, felt the convention had a few 'hot motions,' but overall he saw it as 'fairly calm.'

"The city?" he mused. "Hot and dry. It's OK. I'm not really impressed that much."

Georgetown College director of church relations **Steve Cook** sensed excitement about being in Las Vegas. "I think everyone is happy to be here." Noting the cheap meals and glamour, he joked, "Baptist eyes have made an adjustment to all that's going on in Vegas."

Kentucky exhibitors seemed impressed with the convention facilities. Cook said he was busy as a Georgetown College exhibitor and was pleased by the number of people stopping by the booth. **Wayne Moore**, director of alumni affairs at Georgetown, also praised the facilities. "We have a nice booth situation," he agreed, "but this is certainly a different city."

Virginia Flanagan, director of public relations at Campbellsville College, saw the college exhibit as a good opportunity for public relations with the convention.

Owensboro native **Paula Settle**, 1977 Campbellsville graduate and missionary in Togo, Africa, thought the facilities were ideal in the convenience of the exhibit area.

Still other Kentuckians emphasized specific convention conferences.

Southern Seminary director of continuing education **Robert Shippey** went to the convention expecting to find "fellowship with like-minded Baptists who affirm the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the local church and a sincere commitment to developing mental and spiritual disciplines." He was grateful to find people at the convention who offered support to Southern Seminary's dedication to training men and women in ministry. "The key issue in the convention," he concluded, "is a willingness of all Baptists to share the reins of political power and position."

Convention reports

Vegas witnessing nets 350 professions of faith

As temperatures hovered in the mid-nineties almost 2000 Southern Baptists knocked on doors throughout Las Vegas, registering more than 350 professions of faith in the denomination's largest one-day witnessing effort.

Preliminary reports revealed team members also recorded a like number of other spiritual decisions, reported Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism for the Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

The event followed on the heels of a week of statewide revivals which saw the premiere of materials that will be used in next year's "Here's Hope" national simultaneous revivals sponsored by the mission board.

Names of new converts, as well as individuals looking for a local church, will be given to local Southern Baptist congregations. Many of the individuals are expected to become the nucleus of some of the 25 new churches to be started this year by the Nevada Baptist Convention.

About 1800 individuals from 38 states and the District of Columbia participated in the massive door-to-door evangelistic thrust, Ramsey said. Texas fielded the most participants with 178 while Georgia was represented by 158 and North Carolina by 117. Hawaii, the most distant state, registered 32 individuals with the mission board, which coordinated the efforts.

Stan Clark, Mission Service Corps volunteer from Toledo, Oh., said nearly 100,000 of the city's 160,000 households were contacted during the visitation effort.

Louisvillian named to head DOM group

Southern Baptist directors of missions elected F. Russell Bennett of Long Run Baptist Association, Louisville, their new president, and Glen Hickey of Pulaski Baptist Association, Little Rock, Ark., first vice president.

Others elected included Ken Chadwick of Salt Lake and Rainbow Canyon Baptist associations in Utah, second vice president; A. Lawrence Clegg of Chappapeela Baptist Association, Ponchatoula, La., secretary; Phil G. Hall of Southeast Iowa Baptist Association, Albia, Iowa, treasurer; Grayson Glass of Galveston (Tex.) Baptist Association, newsletter editor; and J. R. Blakeney of the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans, host director 1990.

Pastors stress hope, variety of concerns

Encouragement, hope and guidance were offered by a battery of preachers at the two-day Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference for clergymen who must deal with stresses of ministry.

Former SBC president Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., called on Southern Baptist preachers to mount a campaign against all forms of sin and degradation in the United States by holding higher faith in Jesus Christ. Rogers said abortion, pornography, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual immorality, dishonesty and other sins are responsible for social and moral chaos in the country today.

John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., called the pastors to spiritual renewal as a step toward revival in their churches. "America and the Southern Baptist Convention need revival," Bisagno said. "I believe all the committees and discussions and analy-

sis are not going to change America. Somehow the breath of God has got to come on Southern Baptists. If you really mean business, put away strange gods and confess your sins," Bisagno challenged the pastors.

Another speaker, J. Harold Smith, president of Radio Bible Hour Inc., Newport Tenn., said he has "never been prouder to be a Southern Baptist than during the last 10 years (when the SBC has been engaged in doctrinal controversy). "I am proud of our past president and our present leadership," he said.

About 9000 persons attending the Pastor's Conference elected Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., president without opposition. Ron Hart, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Tuscon, Ariz., also was elected unanimously as first vice president. Robert Holmes, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Henderson, Nev., was elected secretary-treasurer.

Panel votes to delay action on new agency

The SBC Executive Committee voted June 12 to delay a proposal to create a new Religious Liberty Commission based in Washington, D. C. until the 1990 Convention in New Orleans.

The action came in response to a plea in April from Southern Baptist Convention president Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., who had asked that the matter be deferred this year so the convention could focus on missions and evangelism in Las Vegas.

In February the SBC Executive Committee had voted to recommend that the SBC establish a new Religious Liberty Commission in Washington. The proposed new agency would have to be approved by two successive conventions, according to SBC bylaws.

Moyers won't appear before SBC committee

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention dismissed the possibility of a discussion between television commentator Bill Moyers and committee member Paul Pressler.

In February the Executive Committee adopted by a 40-14 vote a resolution critical of Moyers' three-part documentary, "God and Politics," and particularly a segment on Southern Baptists. Moyers immediately requested an appearance before the Executive Committee in June with Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, to discuss the matter. But before the committee could consider the request, Moyers requested it be withdrawn.

Executive Committee chairman Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, Tenn., had said he would deny Moyers an appearance before the June 12 meeting because of the press of time at the two-hour gathering. Sullivan earlier told Baptist Press he would present the matter to the committee and let members decide in June whether they wanted to hear a discussion of the matter at the September 1989 meeting.

However, June 11 Moyers sent a fax message to Sullivan in Las Vegas withdrawing the request. In the Executive Committee deliberations Sullivan declined to read the text of Moyers' message, saying only the request had been withdrawn and adding, "It served no useful purpose" to read the text.

Moyers made a copy of the message

to Sullivan available to Baptist Press, the news service of the SBC. It said:

"I have read in the Baptist Press that you intend on Monday to ask the Executive Committee to vote whether or not to allow me to appear at your meeting in September to answer Paul Pressler's attack on my documentary.

"Forget it.

"When you and Pressler would not allow me to present my case this week at your meeting in Las Vegas and when Pressler refused my offer of free time on PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) to discuss the issue following the repeat in May of the documentary, I realized that I am up against a situation most unbaptist: closed minds, and in the parlance of your host city, a stacked deck.

"There is no way to get a fair hearing from an Executive Committee that has become a rubber stamp for a secular politician who has infected this Christian fellowship with the partisan tactics of malice, manipulation and untruth. Under his thumb, you do only his will.

"I want no part of it."

During an earlier subcommittee meeting conducted under background rules that allow no direct quoting or attribution several members said they believe the whole issue is a personal matter between Pressler and Moyers and that nothing can be gained by continuing the controversy.

"Let's just let it drop and leave it alone," one subcommittee member said later.

Another said he believed it was an error to adopt the February resolution criticizing Moyers and the continuing controversy just proves the point.

Another said the matter was not just a personal matter between Pressler and Moyers. "Moyers has accused the SBC Executive Committee of being puppets of Paul Pressler, and we need to respond," he said.

Pressler was informed of the Moyers letter Sunday and called it "ridiculous." He said he did not want to see the text reported in Baptist Press.

When asked for comment, Pressler said: "I have nothing to say about it. It has been deleted, and it was reported as being deleted" from the agenda."

Baptist Press director Alvin C. Shackelford said he wants to make sure any report in the news service is balanced and fair and tells both Moyers' reasons for withdrawing his request and offers the Executive Committee and Pressler and opportunity to respond.

'Pulpit popes' cited by Forum participants

Words buttressing a historic Baptist doctrine, the priesthood of the believer, were heard with regularity during the Southern Baptist Forum.

The Forum, a meeting ground for the losing side in presidential elections of both the Southern Baptist Convention and the Pastor's Conference in recent years, also honored Carolyn Weatherford, outgoing executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, with its "Denominational Statesperson Award." The Forum commended her for playing a key role in keeping the Birmingham-based agency above the denominational fray.

The Forum heard addresses by two non-Baptists, Robert Schuller, TV preacher, popular author and pastor of the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Cal., and Fred Craddock, professor of New Testament and preaching at Emory University's United Methodist Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.

Two other Forum speakers took direct

aim at a resolution "On the Priesthood of the Believer" from the Southern Baptist Convention last year in San Antonio.

The doctrine received "cavalier treatment" from the resolutions committee that initiated the stance last year, charged Molly Marshall-Green, associate dean of the school of theology and assistant professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. She also enunciated several components of the priesthood of the believer relevant "in our Baptist life today." Among them: "resistance to authoritarian pastoral leadership."

Clyde Fant, chaplain at Stetson University, Deland, Fla., argued that "pulpit popes" who view themselves as infallible are undermining the priesthood of the believer. He noted that "eventually, there is no room for the Bible—the Bible as it really is. It's too open, too varied" for "fundamentalist interpreters."

Retiring Weatherford warns of 'consequences'

Members of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union rallied around the theme "In His Name" for their two-day annual meeting as they considered ways to be more effective for missions at home and abroad.

Crowds as high as 1600 were present in the rotunda of the Las Vegas Convention Center as members of the woman's auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention heard testimonies from missionaries, listened to updates on the denomination's special mission offerings and learned of countries which remain closed to the gospel message.

In her outgoing comments, retiring executive director Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham, Ala., deplored the 10-year-old controversy which has polarized the denomination and consumed two thirds of her tenure at the helm of the nation's largest woman's missions organization. She drew applause when she said, "It is imperative that, instead of continuing to draw swords and choose sides, we acknowledge that nothing that divides us is as important as that which binds us in Christ's mandate to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all the people."

Miss Weatherford observed that SBC leadership "continues to come from churches where the Cooperative Program is less than five percent of the total budget rather than from churches where cooperative missions is emphasized by CP gifts in the 20-30 percent category." She feared the combination of problems is showing up in a lack of commitment to the denomination's missions programs and will cause a further eroding in funding of those programs.

Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism for the Home Mission Board, cautioned the Baptist women to be sure well-intentioned programs do not come between them and "the glorious task for which we have been commissioned—the task of missions and evangelism." Harris said one way WMU could become involved in reaching more people with the gospel is through praying for revival and encouraging their church's participation in next year's national simultaneous revivals. "I'm convinced the 'Here's Hope' revivals will be one of the greatest evangelistic opportunities Southern Baptists have ever experienced," he said.

The women reelected Marjorie J. McCullough of Alexandria, La. president of WMU for 1989-90, and Pattie T. Dent of Holly Springs, Miss., recording secretary.

RE members urged: 'find outside confidant'

Southern Baptist ministers of education are struggling with the reality that the label "minister" does not protect them from a world of pressures, Larry McSwain, dean of the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, told 250 religious educators at the two-day meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association. Trying to fulfill too many areas of competency at one time causes "role overload, role ambiguity and role conflict."

"We fail to care about ourselves enough to share our pains with each other," McSwain said. "Every minister needs to find someone outside the ministry to be their 'pastor.'"

As part of McSwain's presentation, Terry Peele, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Asheville, N. C., told of the "personal devastation" he felt when his wife divorced him. Peele said the key to coping with the pain he felt was that "I could be ministered to as I had ministered through the years. It was an affirmation that my style of ministry really worked."

Eddie Lee, minister of education and administration at Grace Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind., said his termination from a church staff position after only 16 months was like rejection of "me and my ministry," Lee said of their efforts to find a caring support group and a new place of ministry.

In business sessions Bob Edd Shotwell, minister of education/administration, Hyde Baptist Church, Austin, Tex., was elected association president for 1989-90.

Worldwide goal almost 'impossible,' says Parks

Unless Southern Baptists make a radical commitment within the next few years and turn away from selfishness and self-indulgence, the 14.8-million-member denomination will not reach its Bold Mission Thrust goal of proclaiming the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., made the prediction during the agency's annual report to the SBC.

Parks expressed fear that Southern Baptists in the year 2000 would be known as a denomination which had everything they needed to reach the world with the gospel except a broken heart. He said Baptists will not be able to evangelize the world "unless we fall on our faces in humility, unless we deny ourselves, unless we put aside our self-indulgence, unless we redevelop a passion for the world, unless we are willing to lay down our lives for the sake of the gospel."

Parks called on Baptists to commit to prayer, missions giving and giving their lives in mission service.

Parks said Southern Baptists have plenty of money to finance an effective missions program but they keep the money in their pockets and in their churches and spend it on themselves instead. He charged that Southern Baptists have not yet decided whether it is worth the cost to reach the world for Christ. "We have lost the passion for reaching a lost world."

Parks said there are 1.3 billion people in the world who are facing death and the judgement of God because they do not have a personal faith in Jesus Christ. In an effort to reach these 1.3 billion

people, Southern Baptists support the work of 3855 missionaries assigned to 116 countries, plus 10,000 volunteers who work alongside the career missionaries each year.

Before Parks spoke the president of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba, Antonio Perez Rabelo, expressed thanks to Southern Baptists for the support they have given Cuban Baptist for more than 100 years. Messengers also heard testimonies of Dick and Lahona Greenwood, missionaries with the Ketchi Indians of Guatemala; Ralph and Melinda Bethea of Mombasa, Kenya who work with Swahili speaking people; and John and Connie Anthony, missionaries in Jerusalem, Israel who work with both Arabs and Messianic Jews.

\$137.2 million budget is down \$8.4 million

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a \$137.2 million budget for 1989-90. The budget is a decrease of \$8.4 million from the \$145.6 million budget for 1988-89.

The 1989-90 budget is based on a new budgeting procedure adopted by the SBC Executive Committee last September in which future budgets are based on actual receipts for the previous year, rather than on estimated projections for income. The current 1988-89 budget of \$145 million is based on income projections, not actual receipts.

Holding his red book, Vines urges evangelism

Southern Baptists have settled their disagreement over the Bible and must now emphasize personal evangelism, Jerry Vines said in the annual president's address at the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Southern Baptists have settled the issue of the Bible. Southern Baptists believe the Bible is the incorruptible word of God," he declared. Some may doubt the word of God; Southern Baptists will sow the precious seed," he said.

Vines held up a small red book in which he had written the name of every person he led to Christ this year. He flipped through the pages, citing examples. "I'm not going to tell you how many names are in that book, because to be perfectly honest, I'm ashamed," he said.

"No longer can we sit in our air conditioned churches, tack a sign on the door which says, 'Come on in you lucky sinners and get saved.' The kind of world in which we live demands that we take seriously the going assignment which the Lord has given us," Vines said. "Let the president run the nation, let Congress pass the laws, let Wall Street handle the finances, let Vegas put on the shows, but let's you and I be winners of souls, going as the Lord has commanded us to go."

Louisville's McElrath presides over musicians

Southern Baptist musicians focused their attention on the theme of "Sound His Word and Share God's Love" at a two-day conference. About 240 attended the sessions at College Park Baptist Church, Las Vegas. Panel discussions addressed how to revitalize praise and worship in church, worship planning and creative approaches to hymn singing.

President Hugh T. McElrath, profes-

sor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, described the stable but expectant state of the church music conference.

John McGucking, director of the Church Music Department for the California Southern Baptist Convention, Fresno, discussed the "winds of change" in Southern Baptist church music today.

"The church has lost touch with contemporary society," he said, referring to the fact 67 percent of Southern Baptist churches have either plateaued or declined in attendance.

Participants also heard numerous concerts and two sermons by Paul Duke, pastor of Kirkwood Baptist (Mo.) Church.

Musicians elected Mark Edwards, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., as president and Birmingham's Robert Hatfield as president elect.

Executive council members elected include Loyd Mims, assistant professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Pace, Pressler defeat Kentucky's Jim Jones

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention elected Sam Pace of Lawton, Okla. as chairman and Paul Pressler of Houston as vice chairman June 14 during their organizational meeting.

Pace, director of missions for Commanche-Cotton Baptist Association, Lawton, succeeds Charles Sullivan of Lenoir City, Tenn. as chairman of the influential 76-member committee.

Pressler, an appellate court judge who has been active in denominational affairs the last 10 years, succeeds Darrell Robinson, recently elected vice president for evangelism at the Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

Both Pace and Pressler defeated James E. Jones, pastor of Campbellsville (Ky.) Baptist Church and Kentucky Baptist Convention president. Jones was nominated as chairman and later vice chairman. Pace was elected by a 53-15 vote margin over Jones, and Pressler by a 43-26 margin.

Elected recording secretary by acclamation was Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

Pace was nominated by Wolfe and Pressler by Mrs. Gayden Jones of Baton Rouge, La.

Falwell will dissolve Moral Majority lobby

Baptist conservative Jerry Falwell told religion newswriters June 11 in Las Vegas he will dissolve the Moral Majority, a political lobby he founded 10 years ago with the help of former SBC president Charles Stanley of Atlanta, Ga.

As an aside, Falwell also announced to members of the Religion Newswriters Association that he does not intend to become a Southern Baptist.

When Falwell agreed to attend the convention to address Southern Baptist evangelists, rumors circulated that his church, Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va., might join the SBC. "I have no intention of joining the Southern Baptist Convention," Falwell said. "I would be of no value to them. . . . I would be one more pastor among thousands of pastors. The Southern Baptist Convention would be of no value to our ministry."

Falwell denied any direct link between the rise of Moral Majority and the rise of the conservative group that has

changed the direction of the SBC. Both movements began in 1979. With Falwell's announcement, leaders of both have now said their task is complete. "I believe we've accomplished everything we set out to do," Falwell said of the Moral Majority's influence on American politics. In an interview SBC president Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla. said he believes the theological conflict in the 14.7 million member denomination is also resolved.

Vines addresses issues in news conference

Southern Baptists have settled "the issue of the Bible," but that does not mean the denomination's 11-year-old controversy is over, Jerry Vines said in a news conference June 13 shortly after his reelection as president of the 14.8-million-member body.

However, Vines reiterated a pledge made during the annual president's address to "restore the joy" to the denomination through an emphasis on personal evangelism.

Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., defeated Daniel Vestal of Dunwoody, Ga., in balloting earlier that day by a margin of 12 percent.

"I believe the issue of the Bible is settled in Southern Baptist life," he said. "What I mean by that statement is that Southern Baptists, every time they have had an opportunity to do so, have overwhelmingly affirmed we believe the Bible is without error."

"Those who say that there are errors in the Bible are in pronounced minority in Southern Baptist life. That has been settled."

This agreement, however, does not mean that the controversy is over or that all the denomination's problems are solved, he said.

Vines, a notably gentle man, responded firmly when he was referred to as part of a "fundamentalist faction."

"I have always asked that I not be referred to as a fundamentalist," Vines said. "If you mean by fundamentalist that I'm one of those who believes in the fundamentals of the faith, yes. But if you mean that I would fall in the category of a legalist, an unloving person, an Ayatollah Khomeini or a Jim Jones, then the answer is no. I would like to be known as a Bible-believing Christian."

Vines said he intends to be the same person in his second term as he was in his first. However, he said he will extend his emphasis on personal evangelism to promote "building great soul-winning churches."

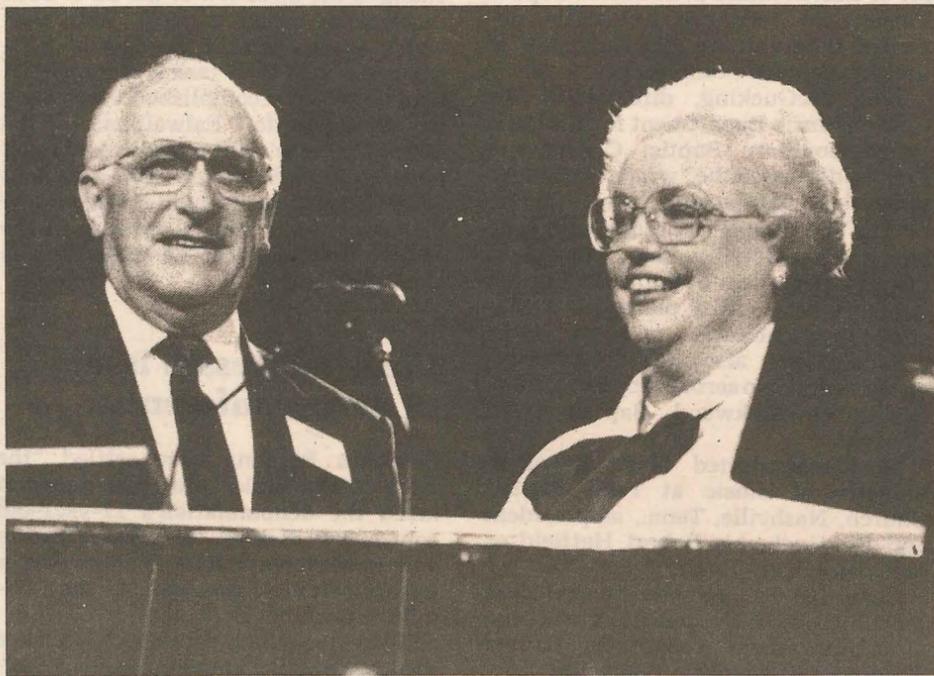
One reporter asked Vines about a statement reportedly made by conservative leader Paige Patterson of Dallas that a "memorial" from the Baptist General Association of Virginia that has been referred to the SBC Executive Committee would "never see the light of day" at next year's convention meeting.

"I have been very close to the Virginia memorial since the beginning," Vines recalled, expressing appreciation to Virginia Baptist leaders for that involvement.

Vines said it was at his recommendation that the Executive Committee organized a committee to receive the memorial and the concerns of Virginia Baptists.

"I am most desirous that this be done because I personally take the position that we should be responsive to any concerns expressed from anywhere in our Southern Baptist constituency," he said.

SBC: Baptist sights and



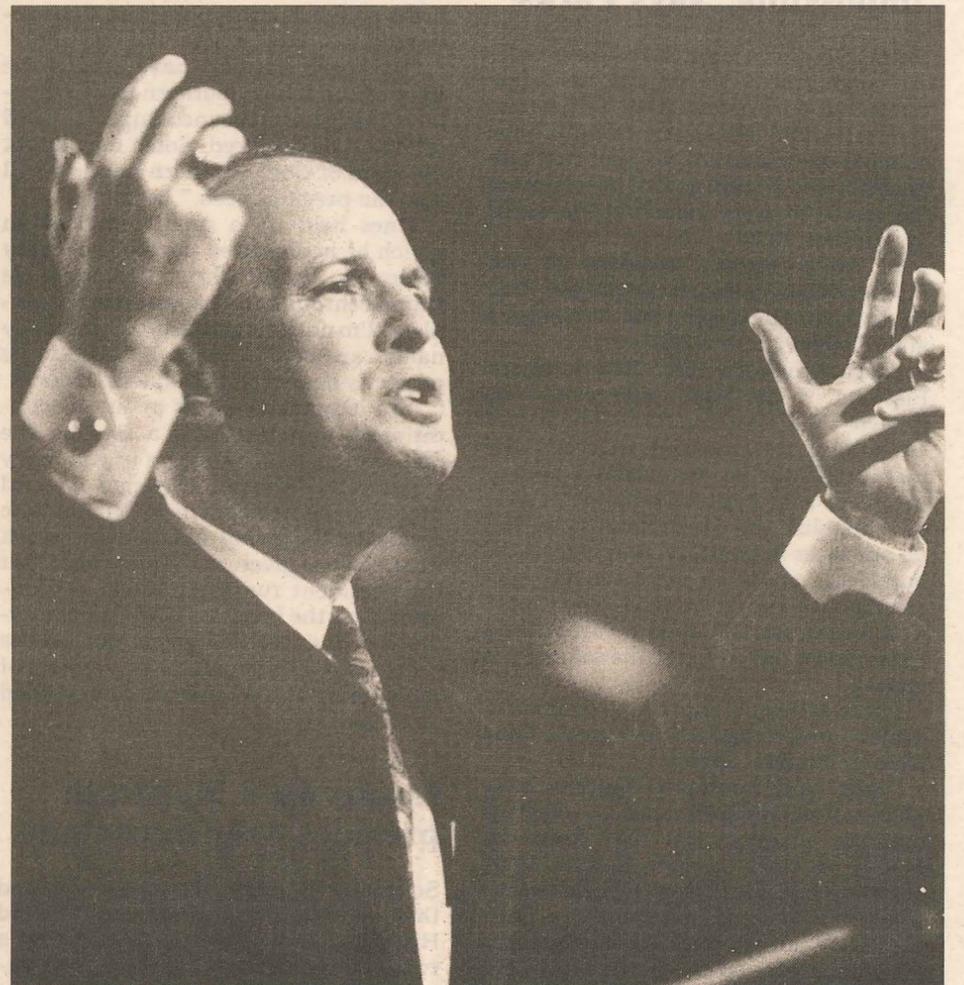
THANKS ALOT—Woman's Missionary Union executive director Carolyn Weatherford received appreciation from the Southern Baptist Convention. She will marry Ohio pastor Joe Crumpler in August and take early retirement in September. Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, presented a plaque.



EXHIBIT CROWD—Messengers crowded the exhibit area of Las Vegas Convention Center during the convention. State Baptist agencies and institutions set up booths to tell their "stories" to more than 20,000 attendees.



SURVEY CARDS—Computerized survey cards used by messengers to the SBC helped convention planners know more about the demographic nature of the mammoth event. The Stout family of Trinity Baptist Church, Carthage, Miss., participated. Parents William and Donna and daughter Jessica completed their cards while son William looked on.



PRESIDENTIAL EXHORTATION—Southern Baptists have settled their disagreements over the Bible and must now emphasize personal evangelism, convention president Jerry Vines told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention. Messengers reelected him to a second one-year term as SBC president three hours later. Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., defeated Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody (Ga.) Baptist Church.

...d sounds in Las Vegas



...ing the Southern Baptist Convention. National ...n 20,300 Southern Baptists.

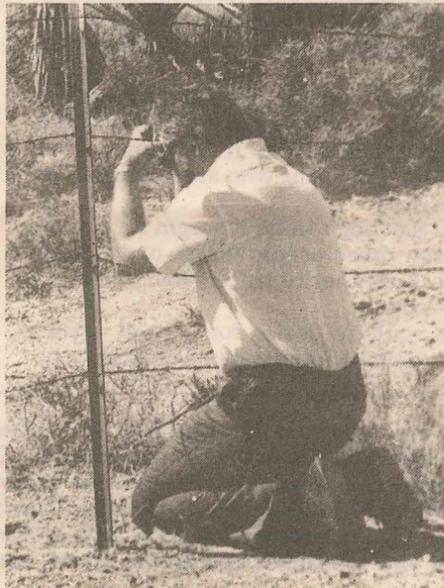


OUT LOUD—Microphones located throughout the meeting hall allowed messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention to participate in proceedings. Ed Menger, from Watts Street Baptist Church, Durham, N. C., had his say at microphone No. 7.

layout by
Lawanda Smith



FATHER, SONS—Flanked by sons Philip (l) and Joel, Daniel Vestal talked to reporters following his defeat in the Southern Baptist Convention presidential election in Las Vegas June 13. Vestal admitted he was grieved and disappointed over his loss but he said he could not yet commit to being a candidate for the presidency next year. Vestal is pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta.



PEACE PRAYER—Members of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America journeyed to a nuclear test site in the desert near Las Vegas following the annual luncheon sponsored by the fellowship and Baptist Peacemaker newspaper.



FLAG PARADE—A parade of flags kicked off the Foreign Mission Board report. The flags represented the 116 foreign countries where 3855 missionaries minister in the name of Christ. FMB president R. Keith Parks challenged Southern Baptists to proclaim the Christian gospel to the world. Southern Baptists have not yet decided whether reaching the world for Christ is worth the cost, he said, noting, "We have lost the passion for reaching a lost world."



ON AIR—The Baptist Telecommunication Network provided gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. The production involved equipment, staffing and technical assistance from the Sunday School Board, technical assistance from the Radio and Television Commission, a satellite uplink from the convention's Woman's Missionary Union and a news crew provided by the Foreign Mission Board.



Curtis C. Mooney
Executive Director
10801 Shelbyville Road
Middletown, KY 40243

homes for children

Growing up

This past weekend SuEllen and I took Jason and Andrea to Holiday World in Indiana. Right at the entrance to the park are the rides for the younger children. Both SuEllen and I started out there and thought that was where we would spend the day.

Andrea, our six year old, rode one ride and noted immediately that the rides were too tame and she wanted something more challenging. She and I began to walk through the park in search of the log ride which she had seen in the brochure. When we found it, I reluctantly agreed to ride it with her though I was not sure I liked the idea of the final plunge. She thoroughly enjoyed herself on that ride and the other more daring rides during the day.

Like all parents we are having to recognize the growing independence of our children and we must help them learn to handle that independence.

The same is true for the youth in care at Spring Meadows and Glen Dale. Our staff recognize that they need greater structure and control when they first come into care and then as they learn and mature, the structure and control must be replaced by increased freedom.

We have in place on both campuses "levels systems" which provide the necessary structure for such a system to work. Ideally each child receives additional freedom to make his/her own decisions as he/she exhibits the maturity to handle it.

We also have programs on both campuses which teach life skills necessary to help the youth live on their own after they leave our care. In addition we have an aftercare worker whose primary role is to help each of these young people make a positive adjustment from care to independence.

Our programs work well, but like all parents it is often difficult for us to see them step out totally on their own.

We at times want them to avoid our mistakes and guide them too much. Invariably there are some lessons in life which can be learned only by experience and no amount of advice can prevent some of the problems from occurring.

Letting go or staying involved is a tough call, but it is of utmost importance in the role of every parent.

Las Vegans agree Southern Baptists are nice, friendly and patient people

Las Vegans agree: most Southern Baptists are nice, friendly and generally eager to talk about Jesus.

"They're more considerate than other convention groups," said Jack Smith, supervisor of security for the Las Vegas Convention Center. "They've been more cooperative. Maybe it's because of their religion."

Robert McMaster, a security guard for the convention center, said nearly everyone has tried to witness to him. "But I just tell them I'm Catholic," he said. All that witnessing doesn't bother him, he said. "Nothing offends me."

"They've all been really nice," said Christy Franciosi, a cashier with the convention center's food service. "And I love the way they dress. It's like a fashion show."

One of the shuttle bus drivers who gave her name as Sam also noticed the difference in the way Southern Baptists dress. She stopped several times Sunday night to pick up people walking to the convention center who were dressed in suits.

"There's another Southern Baptist," she said as she pulled to the curb and offered them a ride. "It's so good to have people on my bus who are not drunk or cussing."

"I just don't think it's right for people to run other people down, or to make you think they're better than you are," she said.

A roulette dealer for a local casino who didn't want her name used said she

had not had any direct contact with the Southern Baptist messengers, but she had been "finding a lot of (witnessing) pamphlets around."

She hasn't noticed any drop in the amount of gambling "because of the fight (between Thomas Hearn and Sugar Ray Leonard)," she said. More

"When it's time to go to a meeting, they all get up and go. They stand in line forever, without complaining."

people have been in town to attend the boxing match and they have made up for any slack in gamblers Southern Baptists might have caused, she said.

Lee Harris, the Las Vegas convention center's coordinator, said the people she has dealt with have been extremely warm and friendly. But requirements have been a bit different.

We don't normally set up 17,000 chairs," she said. "Most of our conventions have more exhibit space and fewer people." Hours, too, are longer with Southern Baptists. Most other convention groups close their booths at 6 p.m. The longer hours for the SBC have caused the center to provide more security people and work longer hours, but "it hasn't been a problem," Miss Harris said.

Fran Gregory, hostess for a casino buffet, said Southern Baptist customers have been very polite, very nice and very patient, even when they're waiting in long lines. "I wish all the people through here were like them," she said.

"I haven't seen one get mad," said Bob Shattuck, supervisor of services for a local hotel. "They're much more patient than other conventioners."

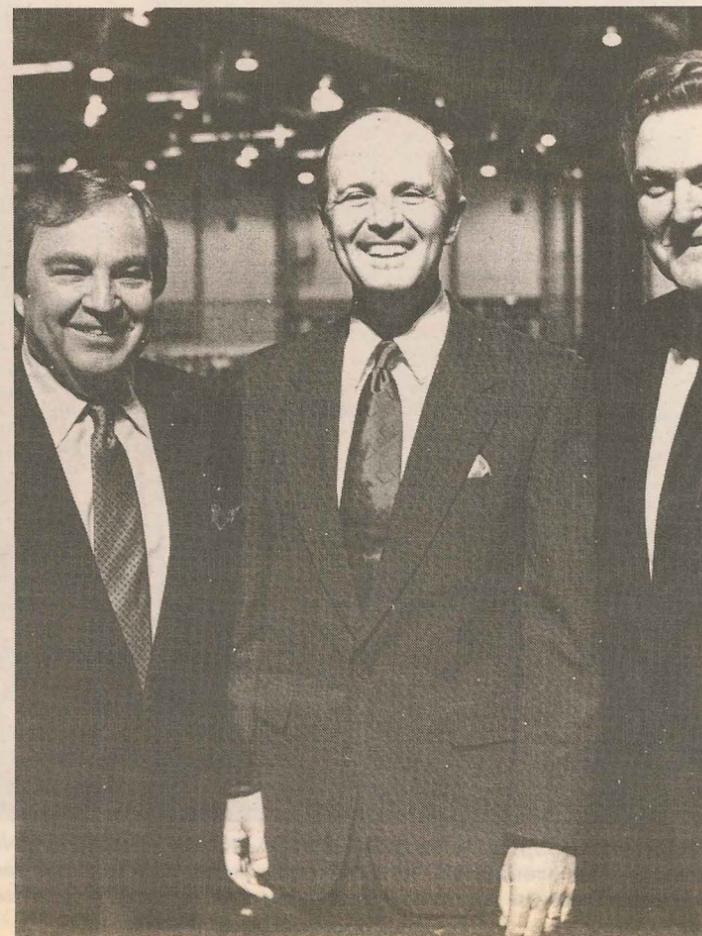
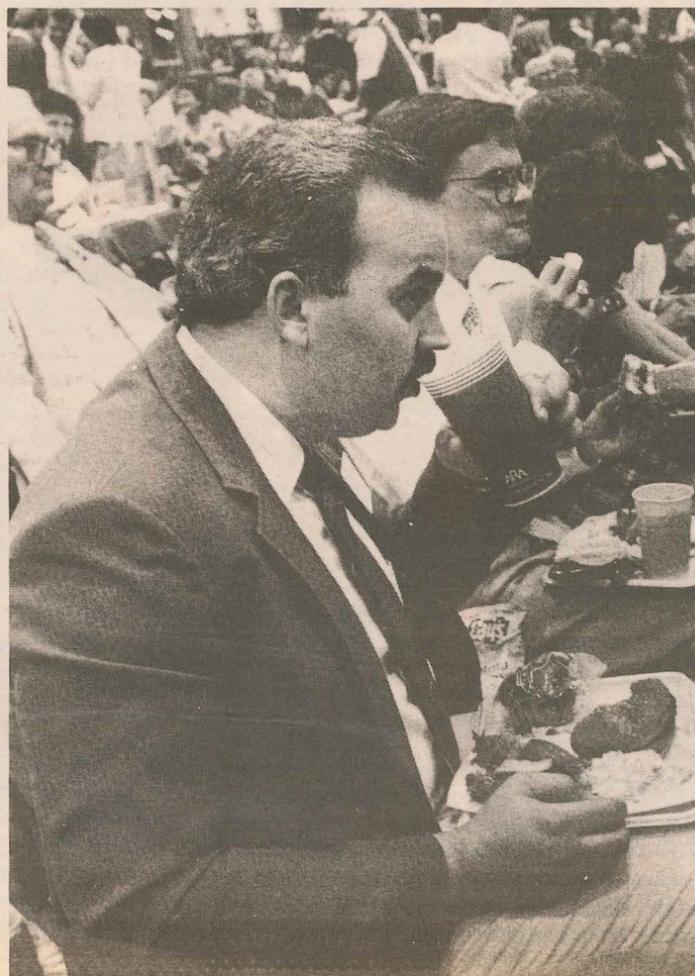
Shattuck, who supervises bell boys and valet parking attendants, said Southern Baptists are about average in their tipping.

"Doctors and dentists are the worst," he said. "No matter how many bags they have, 50 cents is the most you can expect from them."

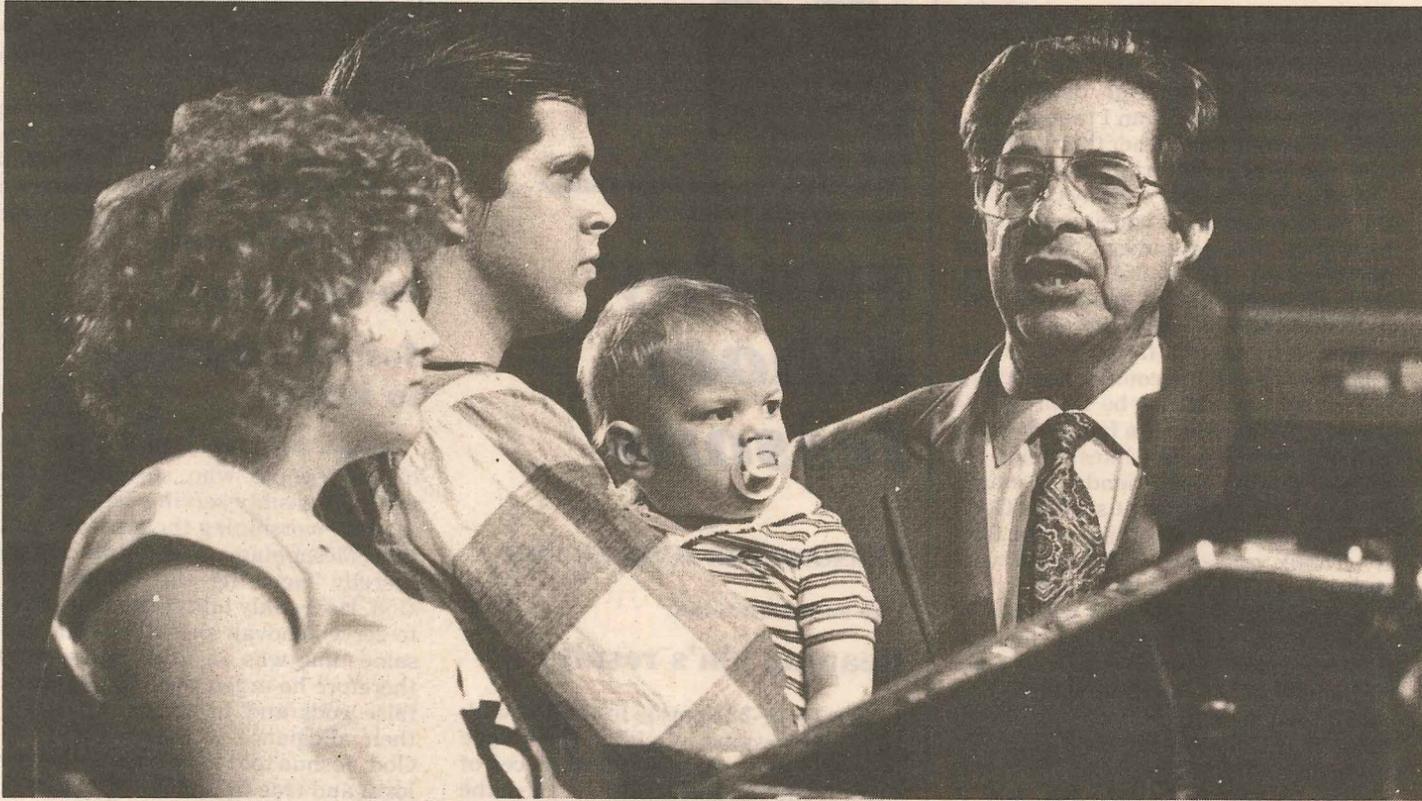
He's also noticed that Southern Baptists seem to be methodical or perhaps preoccupied in their convention activities. "When it's time to go to a meeting, they all get up and go. They stand in line forever, without complaining," he said.

But he said he was disappointed in one thing. A Christian, he's surprised no one has tried to witness to him.

Picture at bottom left: Business gave them food for thought. Sermons and songs gave them food for the soul. But from time to time, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas had to stop for food for the body. Concession stands in Las Vegas Convention Center provided snacks and meals so messengers wouldn't have to go out into the desert heat. At right: Messengers to the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention reelected Jerry Vines (c) pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., to a second one-year term as president. The convention's vice presidents are Junior Hill (r), Hartselle, Ala., evangelist, first vice president; and Ernest Myers, executive director, Nevada Baptist Convention, Reno, second vice president.



1800 Southern Baptists knock on doors in effort to reach 100,000 Vegas homes



NEW CHRISTIANS—Brand new Christians Tina and Darren Brumfield of Las Vegas, Nev., appeared on the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board report. The Brumfields accepted Christ as their savior just four days before, when Southern Baptists participating in a citywide door-to-door witnessing effort talked to them about Jesus. They were presented to SBC messengers by Bo Mitchell (r) an SBC Mission Service Corps volunteer assigned to the board's Personal Evangelism Department.

Bill Wilkinson sat on the curb of a street in southwest Las Vegas Saturday, June 10 sipping on a cold drink.

"It's a city that's open to the gospel," said Wilkinson, summing up his two days of survey work. "I wouldn't classify it as a 'sin city'. They're just like people all over the world who need the Lord. They're just everyday people," added the member of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, N. C.

Those "everyday people" were the target of Wilkinson and 1800 other Southern Baptists who canvassed neighborhoods, attempting to survey 100,000 homes in the Las Vegas valley.

"This has been a great opportunity for Southern Baptists to do something positive in this city," Wilkinson said. "People had been expecting us."

"I heard about you coming last night on television," one resident told Lynelle and Gary Cobb of Leclair Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn. "And now here you are, standing in my kitchen."

That type of recognition is what the local association of Baptist churches and organizers of the campaign at the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., had hoped to get.

"One goal of this is that people are going to know who Southern Baptists are," said Bill Underwood, pastor of First Baptist Church, Las Vegas. "We're not trying to close down the Strip or anything. We just want to tell people that Jesus cares. We're not trying to high pressure anyone into a decision."

While the presence of hundreds of Baptists in their neighborhoods was new to Las Vegas residents, their visits were expected. Media coverage prior to the campaign paved the way for the surveyors.

But the irony of Southern Baptist knocking on doors in the nation's gambling capital didn't seem to bother the hearty witnesses.

Battling 95-degree temperatures and unanswered doors, the volunteers were

relentless in their task. Clad in sneakers and T-shirts bearing slogans such as "Jesus Said Go Tell," the witnesses worked in teams of two.

In what Stanley Clark called a "Herculean effort," the teams hit the streets armed with maps and address labels. Clark and his wife Beverly are Mission Service Corps volunteers from Ohio who have coordinated the work since January.

The volunteers used an eight-question survey and tracts titled "Eternal Life," written for witnessing effort.

"The wording of the tract is really good," said Dottie Pickard. "It asks the right questions."

Pickard and her husband David are members of Victory in Jesus Baptist Church, Duluth, Ga. Along with Wilkinson, the trio knocked on 110 doors Friday and Saturday. Pickard said she found the people "very receptive" and many invited the group into their homes.

The Pickards and Wilkinson were part of a team which targeted southwest Las Vegas, laying groundwork for a new mission of First Baptist Church. Eric Griffin, a recent seminary graduate and the mission's pastor, directed the survey work in that part of the city.

"What we're doing isn't anything we haven't done before," Clark said. "It's

just more concentrated because we have more people."

Clark and Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism at the Home Mission Board, told the volunteers not to "badger" residents.

"This is a 24-hour town," Ramsey said during a training session prior to the visits. "We don't want to argue with anyone," Clark added.

The volunteers were instructed to knock on each door only once. If no one answered, they went to the next house, Ramsey said.

Bill Harris, a worker from Augusta, Ga., wasn't able to join the teams on the street because of a heart problem. Instead, Harris used a telephone. "I'm still having people accept Christ," he said.

"To me, it's essential," said Peggy Matthews, a volunteer from Crown Point Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla. "The time is growing short. We need to be sharing Jesus with these people rather than being concerned with winning money gambling."

Why Pay More for Life Insurance

Very low non-smoker monthly cost!

AGE	AMOUNT	MALE	FEMALE
35	\$100,000	\$10.30	\$ 9.30
45	\$100,000	\$13.30	\$13.30
55	\$100,000	\$25.30	\$16.30

PLEASE CALL ROY NAPIER
Toll Free 1-800-274-0776 Knoxville Area 690-0776

—classified ads—

WANTED: Waco Baptist Church is seeking a Music Director. Interested! Send resume to: Tim Vice, Chairman of the Search Committee, % Waco Baptist Church, Waco, KY 40385. 6-13-2T

SEE THE GREAT PASSION PLAY & STAY AT KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT (for Groups of 12 or more) Rt. 4, Eureka Springs, Ark. 72632. NEW AIR CONDITIONING, IN-GROUND POOL, \$7.50 TICKETS, lodging, and meals. ALL FOR \$21 EACH! Call 501/253-8418 today! EOW



Bill D. Whittaker
President
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek chronicle

Distinguished pastor-professor

Many ministers have lived past the four score mark but few have experienced as full a life as H. C. Chiles. On June 8 he observed the 65th anniversary of ordination to a ministry which has touched the entire state. He has preached in every county but two. Born in northern Kentucky, he pastored Barbourville First, 1933-48, and Murray First, 1948-70. Interim pastorates included Fulton, Manchester, Somerset and Harlan and three in Tennessee: Paris, Puryear and New Tazewell. Kentucky Baptists elected him president in 1955-56. He knows "the rest of the story" on many denominational people and events. Two hundred and eleven thousand miles have accumulated on his 1973 Oldsmobile in response to invitations to preach, lead Bible studies and celebrate homecomings.

From 1975-82 Chiles taught at Boyce Bible School and in August 1982 he joined the Clear Creek faculty as Distinguished Professor of New Testament. Friends have observed Chiles' second career fits him like a glove. His extensive pastoral and denominational experience add a practical dimension to the classroom. Pastors always leave his New Testament classes with preaching material. His good sense of humor spices our campus family. In a moment I will long treasure as a highlight of my first year, the 1989 graduates presented Chiles a plaque "in recognition of his faithfulness and integrity in the ministry." Dr. and Mrs. Chiles live in a Kelly Hall apartment. The Clear Creek family daily witnesses the devoted care he gives to Elizabeth, his wife of 60 years.

During the past few weeks friends across Kentucky have honored this distinguished Baptist by gifts to the H. C. Chiles Chair of New Testament. In amounts from \$2 to \$1000, individuals have shown their appreciation for this grand servant of the Lord. A gift to this endowed chair affirms God's word and helps undergird Clear Creek's future. The \$200,000 endowment will be permanently invested with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and annual interest will provide support for a New Testament professor to continue the kind of teaching we have received from H. C. Chiles.

"Quilts"
Want to Buy
Quilts made before 1950—Cash
Send quilt or photo to:
Shelly Zegart
12-Z River Hill Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40207
(502) 897-3819



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

'Remold our broken son'

There are many wonderful parents who bring their children to us. It is an act of love on their part. They have a desire for their children to have the many advantages of the type of education Oneida provides. But they miss their children and often we have as much difficulty with "homesick" Momma or Daddy as with "homesick" son or daughter.

Recently a fine couple wrote, "Just wanted to share a few things about our daughter. We enjoyed a super "home-going" (one weekend a month) with her. She was ready to go back to Oneida on Sunday but I still get pretty emotional about it. Although, for her sake, I don't let her see my tears. She said, 'Mom, sometimes I just sit in my bed and think, Wow! I'm really at Oneida. I did it! My husband and I are very positive about her being at Oneida and we try to come across that way. She really loves her coach and has been very impressed with the devotions they have been having during basketball practice.

"We asked her to share feelings she had about the school. Her biggest thing so far is the teachers. Everyone is so loving and kind. She notes such a contrast with some she's had in the past. Her dorm room gets crowded, but she is adjusting. One of her roommates has had a good influence on her. They are supporting each other in trying to keep their room free of bad language. I hope I haven't bored you but we are thrilled with her attending Oneida and wanted to let you know."

A mountain mother writes, "Thank

you for giving our son a chance to go to school there. There has been some change in him and I give that credit to the Lord and the school. I felt the Lord's direction in sending him there. One of the best things that has happened is his giving his heart to the Lord and becoming a Christian."

Another mother, "Our daughter is loving Oneida more than I thought possible. We came to visit her this weekend. The visit was good for all of us."

And a grandmother, "Many thanks for the months and years you and your staff have given to our grandson's growth and development. His overall attitude has changed for the better, and he has pride in himself and is happy there."

This letter from a father who is also a lawyer, "As of the coming homegoing our daughter will not be returning to Oneida. We have made a family decision to bring her home. She likes Oneida but misses family and friends so much. Perhaps at a later date it shall be God's will to reenrol her or others of our family. Thank you, as this has been a wonderful time of growth for all of us."

Another father writes, "I will ever be indebted to you for giving my son another chance. He seems to have come to the end of his rope and wanted very much to make a fresh start." About the same boy his mother wrote, "Our family and close friends spent many hours in prayer as our boy made his way to Oneida last weekend. I want to thank you for accepting him back. If God can use you and OBI to remold our broken son, I shall be forever grateful." Some months later, this young man is still with us, has given himself to the Lord, and has become a true Christian influence on our campus.

And another mother, "How much my husband and I appreciate the work you are trying to do at Oneida. Each time our son returns home we see some change and always for the better. But he still hasn't quite found himself."

An Indiana mother writes, "Thank you for the love and guidance our boy has received. I've noticed such a change in him since he has been there."

Parents writing after bringing their daughter to us, "We greatly appreciate the wonderful hospitality the school extended to us. The overnight lodging was very comfortable and the breakfast delicious. Oneida must surely be the only boarding school which offers such generosity to the family."

*Reprinted from Western Recorder
Sept. 29, 1982.*



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JUNE 25, 1989

Life and work series

Reaping sin's results

Judges 16:19-22 Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman, Delilah. Her people promised her eleven hundred pieces of silver if she would discover for them the secret of Samson's great strength. With tenacity and persistence Delilah made a supreme attempt to accomplish her purpose. Samson informed her that if his locks were shorn, his strength would be gone. His long hair was only a symbol of his Nazarite vow to God. When he broke his vow, his strength was gone.

Without any delay, Delilah called in one of the Philistines. She caused Samson to sleep upon her knees. In obedience to her command, this man shaved off the seven locks of Samson's hair, whereupon his strength left him.

When his temptress greeted him with the familiar cry, "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson," the hero arose with his old-time courage, unaware that his strength had departed. His foes put out his eyes, bound his limbs with fetters of brass, thrust him into prison and forced him to grind at their machines.

Verses 28-30 tell us that the Philistines were having a great celebration at Gaza in honor of their god, Dagon, whom they thought had delivered the mighty Samson into their hands. Samson was led forth by a little boy to exhibit his great strength, whereupon

the spectators began to mock him.

After a time, Samson indicated he would like to rest and the lad led him to the arched entrance to the temple. With each hand Samson embraced a pillar and stood with his head bowed. He prayed: "O Lord God remember me I pray thee, and strengthen me I pray thee only this once."

Suddenly the two pillars which upheld the roof gave way and down crashed the building burying the multitude in its debris. Samson wrought his vengeance upon the jeering Philistines, but he died with them.

International series

Joshua's challenge to Israel

Joshua 24:14-22 Joshua knew many of the people who surrounded him, while ostensibly serving Jehovah, were secretly worshipping the ancient idols of their Mesopotamian ancestors and were thereby incurring the displeasure of God. He frankly told them their attempt to serve Jehovah and other gods at the same time was an utter impossibility; therefore he urged them to abandon all false gods and to be wholehearted in their allegiance to the true and living God. Joshua told them only as they were loyal and true to God did they have any right to expect his help and blessing in the subjugation of the remaining tribes. To assist the Israelites in making the right decision, Joshua announced his own decision in the words, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"

Joshua 24:26-27 In response to the example of Joshua and his urgent appeal, the Israelites promptly acknowledged the grace with which God had dealt with them in bringing them out of Egypt, miraculously preserving them in the wilderness and bringing them safely into the promised land. Because they had been the beneficiaries of God's guidance, protection and providence they boldly declared their determination to repudiate all false gods and announced their intention of serving Jehovah faithfully. They fully intended to do what they promised, but they were not aware of their weaknesses.

When the Israelites committed themselves to God, Joshua made a record of their vow. As a reminder of what they had promised, Joshua erected a huge stone monument under an oak. All who passed by this stone would be reminded of the renewal of the covenant.



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

on mission together

Can it still happen?

The following is taken from the **November 6, 1902** issue of Western Recorder. Such reports can remind us of what the Lord can still cause to happen among us.

"A series of meetings began with Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Keene, Ky., on October 5. The pastor was joined by Dr. P. T. Hale of Owensboro, the evening of October 6, who continued with him for eleven days, preaching morning and

evening. After Dr. Hale left the pastor continued the meeting without other aid than the church until Wednesday evening, the 23rd. Up to the time Dr. Hale left there had been even 60 additions, 56 of them for baptism. Since which time 12 others have been received. It is the purpose of the pastor to renew the meetings. It is said that such a religious interest has not prevailed in this community in the present generation, if ever. Just before beginning this meeting the pastor had conducted a series of meetings at Clover Bottom Baptist Church for six days, where 19 had been received into the church. Many who were interested there followed him here and made profession and were baptized into the Mt. Pleasant church. Among those coming to Christ at this time are many of the most prominent men in the community—some of them past middle life.

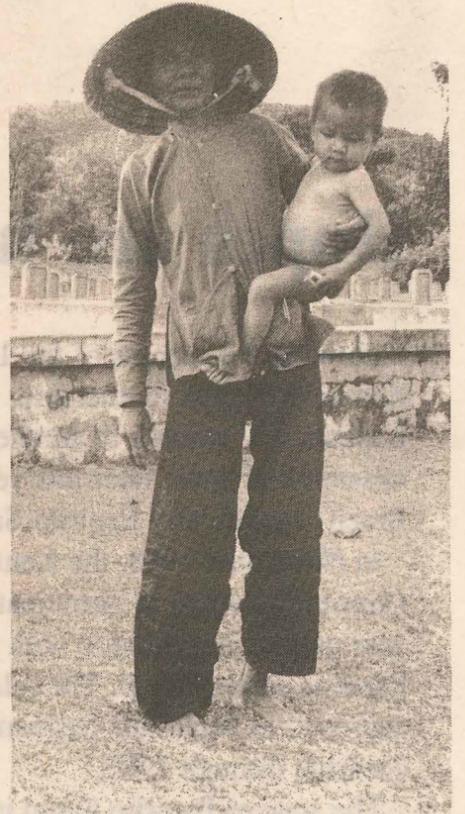
"On last Sunday afternoon, the 26th, the ordinance of baptism was administered to 55 willing and happy subjects. Long before the hour announced had ar-

rived a continuous line of carriages, buggies and other vehicles were seen making their way to the large lake in front of the residence of Mr. Earnest Cleavland, and by the time the hour arrived for the service the crowd was estimated at from 3000 to 5000. This throng gathered all around the large lake in the most perfect order. The scene strikingly called to mind the New Testament description of the gathering at Judea and Jerusalem and the region round about to hear John the Baptist and to witness his baptism in the Jordan. The pastor, unaided and without haste, baptized this great number in less than 30 minutes, and was not wearied, and would have been glad to have continued the work for two hours. The whole community seems under the influence of the spirit, and on all sides, among all denominations, thanksgivings are going up to the giver of perfect gifts."

While we can not **make** revivals happen, we can pray that revival comes. The Lord knows we need it.

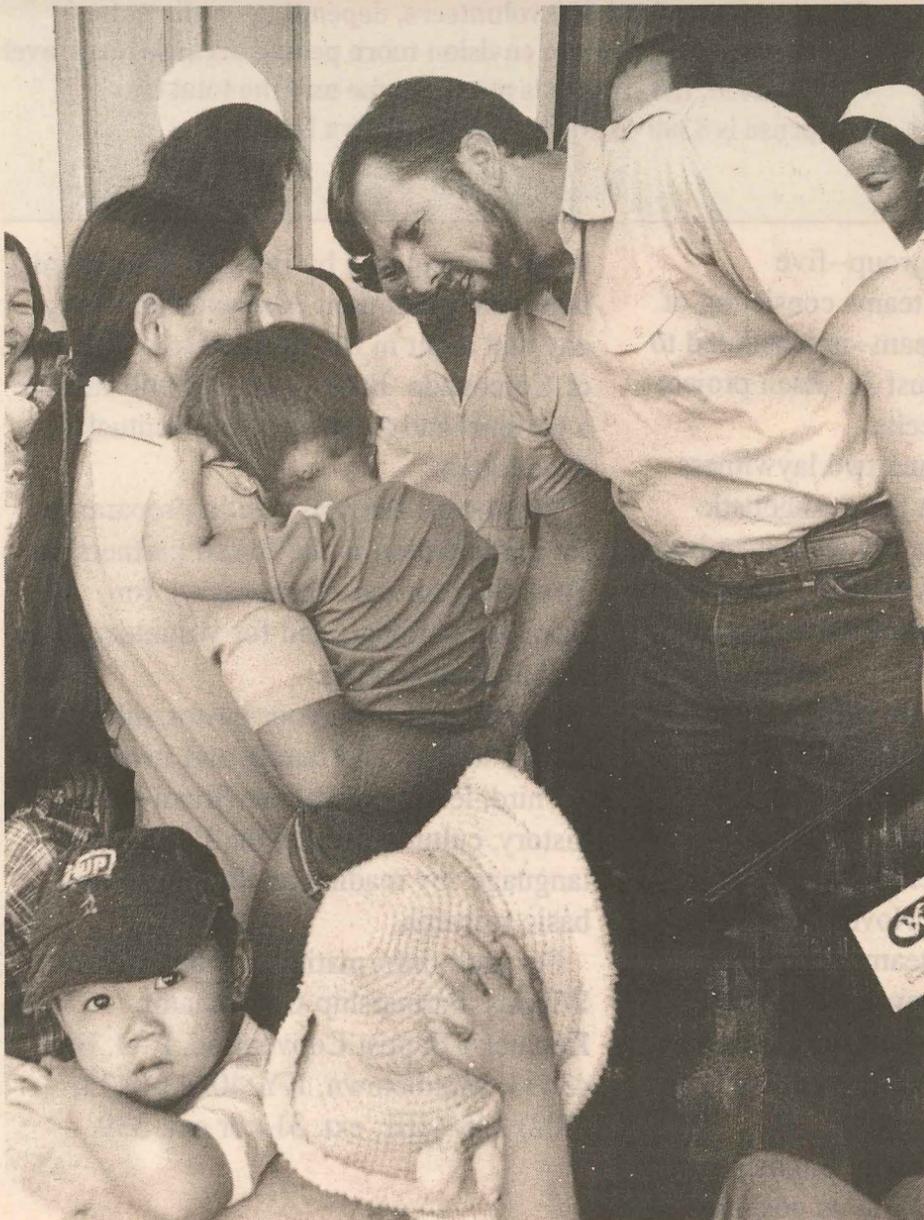


In north Vietnam, members of a Southern Baptist delegation examine plans for an irrigation project with the Vietnamese design engineer (r). The Southern Baptist-funded project, sponsored by Cooperative Services International, will improve rice production in the poverty-stricken Dinh Hoa District of Bac Thai Province. At left are CSI development worker Fred Kauffman, physician Marvin Raley and Foreign Mission Board president R. Keith Parks.



A Vietnamese woman and her seriously malnourished grandchild stand in a military cemetery, symbolic of Vietnam's grim past and present. Millions died in the Vietnam War, but many more battle poverty for survival in today's Vietnam. Southern Baptists are trying to help ease the pain in some areas through medical and agricultural assistance.

FMB ministers in Vietnam



At a medical clinic in central Vietnam, Southern Baptist physician Marvin Raley examines a malnourished child. Raley has helped pioneer recent Southern Baptist medical and agricultural assistance in Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos.

The first Baptist convert in Vietnam, Le Quoc Chanh, is still pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Ho Chi Minh City, the only Baptist church in the country. Chanh had a chance to leave Vietnam before the final communist victory in 1975, but chose to stay. Christians have not escaped hardship, but Chanh has never regretted his decision.



CONVENTION

News Feature

Hopes are high for Kentucky/Brazil Partnership

Following the success of the 1985-1987 Kentucky/Kenya Partnership, Kentucky Baptists will embark in another foreign mission link again later this year with Brazil--specifically Espirito Santo.

In November 1988, the Kentucky Baptist Convention voted to participate in a three-year partnership mission with the state of Espirito Santo, Brazil. The relationship was approved to begin this September and continue through 1992.

The state of Espirito Santo is located north of Rio de Janeiro on the southeastern coast of Brazil. Espirito Santo, which has a population of 2.2 million, has 61 municipal districts. Grand Vitoria, the capital, is the largest city with 1.1 million people.

Portuguese is the official language of Brazil. The more educated nationals use English as a second language. Brazil has also had influences from these ethnic groups: German, Belgian, the indigenous Indians (known as Capixabas) and various other European and oriental immigrant groups.

Baptist work began in Espirito Santo (which means "Holy Spirit") over 85 years ago. Growth is continuing but more is anticipated through the assistance of partnership missions.

The Baptist Convention of Espirito Santo has adopted a five-year plan of evangelization and church growth which includes the organization of 535 new missions, 215 new churches plus doubling their current membership of 50,000.

Kentucky/Brazil partnership volunteers must meet some of the same requirements as those guidelines needed for Kenya. A volunteer must:

- (1) Be an active member of a Kentucky Baptist church in the Southern Baptist Convention
- (2) Be between 18 years of age (or a rising junior in high school) and 70 years of age (or with medical clearance from a physician)
- (3) Exemplify the spirit of Christ and be

able to share a verbal witness

- (4) Participate in orientation provided by the Kentucky Baptist Convention
- (5) Abstain from all use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages

As previously mentioned, orientation is a prerequisite for Kentucky/Brazil partnership volunteers. Marshall Phillips, who recently retired as director, Camps and Assemblies Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, will serve as orientation leader. Volunteer teams will be trained at the Baptist Building, Middletown, prior to their trip.

"We're hoping for 1,000 volunteers, depending on the nature of the requests," Calvin Wilkins, project coordinator, Kentucky/Brazil Partnership, stated. "We can envision more people because less travel is involved, the culture is not the same and the total travel expense is \$300 cheaper than the Kenya trip."

The total package cost of a 14-day Brazil partnership mission trip is \$1,525. The price includes airfare (from Louisville, Lexington, Cincinnati, Evansville or Nashville), in-country transportation, visas, insurance, room and



"We're hoping for 1,000 volunteers, depending on the nature of the requests. We can envision more people because less travel is involved, the culture is not the same and the total travel expense is \$300 cheaper than the Kenya trip."

The first volunteer group--five evangelistic-oriented teams consisting of four individuals per team--is scheduled to depart for Brazil August 31. Each project typically lasts two weeks.

A preacher, singer and two laywitness persons will comprise the evangelistic teams. Approximately 110 team members are needed by the end of 1989; 100 persons are needed in 50 churches for evangelistic crusades.

Evangelistic teams are being enlisted through 1989. The following trips have been scheduled this year: August 31-September 13; September 14-27; October 5-18; October 19-November 1; November 16-29 and November 30-December 13. Other teams scheduled through 1992 will be evangelistic but serve other ministry needs, too, such as in leadership training, music, teaching English, and construction projects.

More than 700 Kentucky Baptists served as Kenya volunteers. With its positive impact, at least 1,000 are anticipated to participate in the new Brazil partnership.

board (as required by mission assignment), taxes and gratuities. Also included are a day and night in Rio de Janeiro with a tour of Corcovado. Each volunteer will receive a tee shirt and a cap with the Kentucky/Brazil logo.

What steps can you take in preparation for participation in the Brazil partnership? First, pray for our missionaries, for Brazilian nationals and for volunteers who will and are serving.

Second, talk with your pastor, other church leaders and family and friends.

Third, learn more about Brazil--its history, culture, people, the Portuguese language--by reading and doing some basic research.

For more information, contact Calvin Wilkins, Partnership Coordinator, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Middletown, KY, 40243-0433, (502) 245-4101, ext. 314 or ext. 339.