

Conservatives dominate SBC annual meeting

by Roy Jennings

With conservative forces capturing almost all major elective offices, messengers to the 133rd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans moved their religious liberty function closer within the denominational umbrella, approved a basic operating budget of \$137 million and took positions on child pornography and environmental stewardship.

The convention attracted 38,478 messengers, making it the third-largest in the 145-year history of the body.

However, the messengers left so rapidly after the elections and mission reports that business on the final day was eliminated. Leaders couldn't find the 9614 messengers, 25 percent of registration, minimum needed to do business.

Left in the wings were 12 pending resolutions on such subjects as tax relief and equity for families, opposition to government support of obscene and offensive art, homosexuality and civil rights, sensible advertising restrictions on alcoholic beverages, endangerment of religious liberties, sanctity of human life and suspension of patronage of businesses which support pro-abortion organizations.

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., won the SBC presidency by defeating Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church, Atlanta, 21,471 to 15,753.

Joining the conservative standard bearer were Douglas Knapp, retired foreign missionary of Gainesville, Fla., as first vice president, and Fred Lowery, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La., second vice president.

Conservative candidate David Atchison of Nashville unseated recording secretary Martin Bradley of Nashville, who had held the post for 12 years.

However, Lee Porter of Nashville won a 13th term as registration secretary over Bob Mowrey of Nashville.

In a post-election news conference, Chapman said the question of whether the biblical inerrancy issue is settled in the convention depends upon the 42 percent of the messengers who voted against him: "The large majority of Southern Baptists believe the issue is settled. Whether the issue is settled in its most practical form is largely up to

those who have been voting otherwise, who have insisted that we are not a group who have believed in the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible."

Meanwhile, Vestal appealed for moderate and conservative Southern Baptists to schedule a formal dialogue on the future of the denomination.

Upon recommendation of the convention's Executive Committee, the messengers transferred the primary religious liberty function from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to the Christian Life Commission, allowing the social action agency to address religious liberty issues as well as Christian social ethics.

At the same time, the messengers approved a budget which reduced the allocation to the Baptist Joint Committee by \$341,796, or 87 percent, and increased the allocation to the CLC by 40 percent, or \$365,328.

In contrast to other business, messengers approved without debate resolutions urging laws against the possession of child pornography and calling Southern Baptists to environmental stewardship.

The resolution on possession of child pornography urged Southern

Baptists in 28 states and the District of Columbia which do not have laws prohibiting private possession of child pornography to work for the enactment of legislation.

The environment resolution encouraged Southern Baptist people, churches and other groups to make an environmentally responsible ethic a part of their lifestyle and evangelistic witness.

Messengers heard reports from 20 of their agencies which evoked responses ranging from questions to challenge and inspiration.

They also heard a motion calling for removal of trustee Jerry Johnson, an Aurora, Colo., pastor, for his 16-page article criticizing Southern Baptist Theological Seminary president Roy L. Honeycutt and five professors.

Messengers referred the issue to the Southern Seminary trustees after legal counsel said the convention constitution and bylaws do not provide a procedure for removing a trustee.

Presentation of the home mission and foreign mission reports provided messengers challenge and inspiration.

Charles Chaney, vice president of extension at the Home Mission Board,

urged messengers to accept a goal of starting four new churches a day.

Southern Baptists now are starting churches at the rate of more than three each day and are ahead of the board's goal of having 50,000 churches by A.D. 2000.

While commissioning 34 new foreign missionaries, R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, called on Southern Baptists to use their wealth in a more generous way to help spread the gospel around the world.

Pointing to changes in Eastern Europe and Asia as examples of God's timing, Parks said Southern Baptists must do the right thing while God has provided the right time.

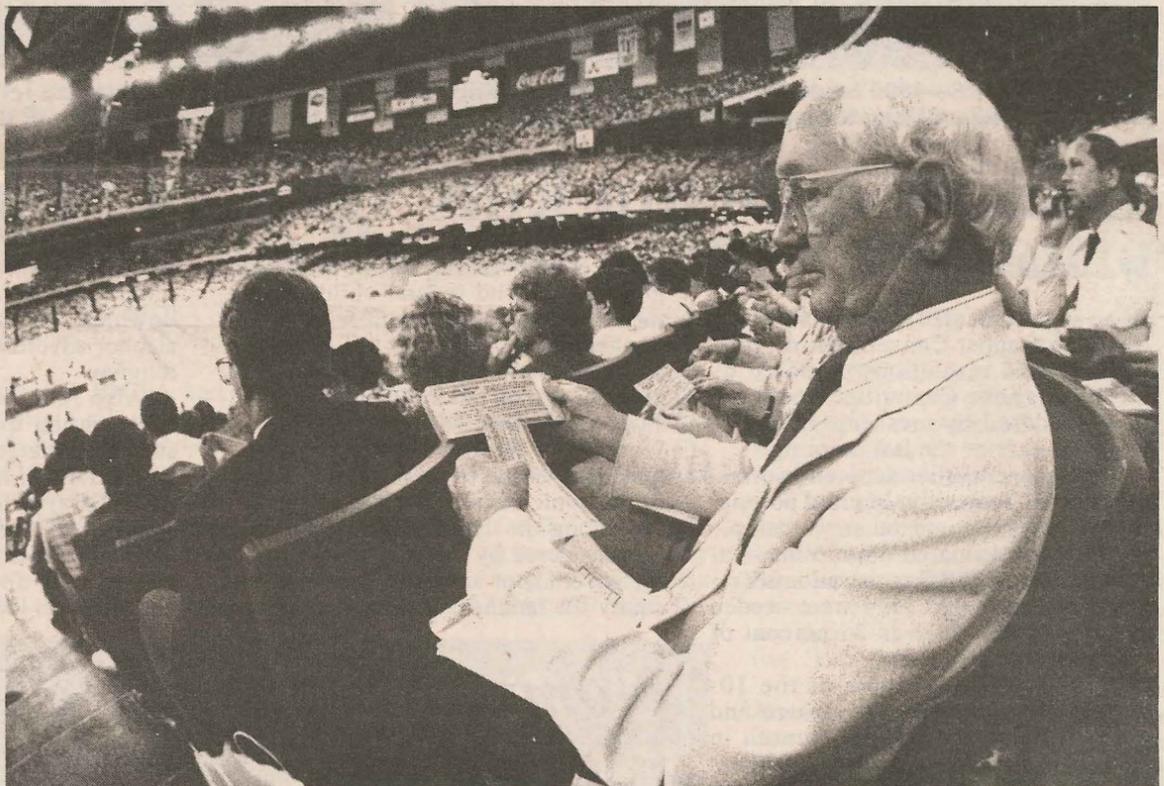
Outgoing SBC president Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., urged messengers to remain alert to doctrinal error else the SBC "could become a mustard seed monstrosity with bureaucratic branches infested with blasphemous birds."

In the annual convention sermon, Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., called for repentance of pride and a return to prayer essential before God's spirit can bring a modern-day awakening. (BP)

DEMOCRACY AT WORK—
Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans June 12-14 voted their convictions about the future of the SBC.

The votes carried denominational conservatives to victories over their moderate colleagues.

(SBC photo by Van Payne)



Chapman wins presidency; Atchison tops Bradley

by Mark Wingfield

Southern Baptists elected three conservatives as top convention officers during their annual meeting in the Louisiana Superdome.

The new officers are Morris Chapman, president; Douglas Knapp, first vice president; and Fred Lowery, second vice president.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Tex., defeated Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Chapman received 58 percent of the vote, or 21,471 votes, compared to Vestal's 42 percent, or 15,753 votes.

Knapp, a retired missionary to Tanzania who now lives in Gainesville, Fla., defeated Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union

who retired last year to marry and become a pastor's wife in Cincinnati.

Knapp received 16,348 votes, compared to Crumpler's 10,688 votes.

Lowery, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bossier City, La., defeated two candidates for the second vice president's post: Raymond Boswell, a layman from Highland Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., and Steve Tondera, a layman from First Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala.

Lowery received 6347 votes compared to Boswell's 1407, and Tondera's 2178.

David Atchison, a Nashville layman, was elected recording secretary,

defeating Martin Bradley of Nashville, who had held the post for 12 years.

Atchison received 9206 votes to Bradley's 8044.

Atchison is the son of Joe W. Atchison of Rogers, Ark., a director of missions and trustee of the SBC Christian Life Commission.

The recording secretary of the SBC holds a seat on the Executive Committee by virtue of office.

Lee Porter, registration secretary, won another one-year term by defeating Bob Mowrey, a Nashville pastor, by a vote of 13,242 to 5048.

Porter has been registration secretary for 12 years. (BP)

Next week—SBC coverage continues

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Over 35 motions offered by 1990 messengers

by Kathy Palen

Messengers to the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention meeting dealt with more than 35 motions in New Orleans.

The motion receiving the most visible response from messengers called for the removal of a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustee. Some messengers gave a lengthy standing

ovation to a motion by W. Lamar Wadsworth of Baltimore, Md., that Jerry Johnson be removed immediately as a trustee of that institution.

Johnson, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Aurora, Colo., wrote an article critical of Southern Seminary president Roy L. Honeycutt and five professors. Johnson has refused to resign.

Wadsworth's original motion was

ruled out of order because, according to the convention's legal counsel, it would be impossible to provide Johnson with the fundamental protections of a notice and a hearing during the SBC annual meeting.

But following that ruling, Wadsworth was given the opportunity to introduce a second motion, referring the proposed action to Southern Seminary's

trustees. Messengers approved that second motion.

Lack of a quorum on June 14 prohibited the convention from conducting business and thus from acting on some motions.

One of those motions, introduced by David Martin of Cary, N. C., called for the convention to sever all financial support to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs as soon as legally possible.

Other motions left pending:

- Addressed racism.
- Asked support for churches involved in Christian day schools.
- Proposed the SBC Public Affairs Committee be instructed not to endorse political candidates.
- Recommended the appointment of a woman to the Committee on Order of Business and of a disabled person to the local arrangements committee for future SBC annual meetings.

Messengers referred to the SBC Executive Committee three motions to amend the SBC constitution or bylaws to prevent a member of a non-cooperating church from serving in an SBC office.

Other motions referred to the Executive Committee called for:

- Requiring all SBC trustees to be at least 30 years of age.
- Studying the terms "cooperating Baptist church" and "in friendly cooperation with" to determine the definition as it relates to the SBC.
- Allowing Baptist state conventions to select their members on the SBC Committee on Nominations and Committee on Committees.
- Placing all future SBC elections, motions and resolutions on ballots to be sent to participating Southern Baptist churches so elected messengers there could vote.
- Amending SBC bylaws to provide "fellowship states" with a greater chance of having representation status on SBC entities.
- Limiting representation from Southern Baptist churches affiliated with other denominations. (BP)

(Kentuckians offer motions, resolutions—see page 5.)



NEW LEADERS—1990 Southern Baptist Convention officers are president Morris Chapman (c) of Wichita Falls, Tex.; first vice president Doug Knapp (r) of Gainesville, Fla.; and second vice president Fred Lowery of Bossier City, La.

Lack of quorum kills 12 of 14 resolutions

by Linda Lawson

In an unprecedented development at a Southern Baptist Convention meeting, twelve of 14 resolutions proposed by the Resolutions Committee could not be considered by messengers due to lack of a quorum the last morning.

Messengers earlier adopted two resolutions on possession of child pornography and environmental stewardship.

With an estimated 38,456 messengers registered, SBC registration secretary Lee Porter said 9614 were needed for a quorum, which is 25 percent of registered messengers.

Mark Cortis, chairman of the 10-member Resolutions Committee and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N. C., said he "will explore if there is any way to get mileage out of these" 12 resolutions proposed by the committee but never considered.

"I would like to seek some way to get distribution for these resolutions as an expression of the committee," said Cortis.

Because the SBC Executive Committee is designated to act on behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention between sessions, some questioned privately whether the Executive Committee could consider the resolutions in September.

Chief parliamentarian Barry McCarty said consideration by the committee would require a referral by the convention, a business action that could not be taken without a quorum.

Of the two resolutions adopted without debate, one on possession of child pornography urges Southern Baptists in 28 states and the District of Columbia which do not have laws prohibiting private possession of child pornography to work for legislation.

The resolution also asks the Christian Life Commission and other appro-

appropriate entities to call on the U.S. Congress "to amend federal child pornography statutes applying to federal land and facilities."

The second resolution adopted by messengers, on environmental stewardship, notes that while Christians are "forbidden to worship the creation," they are "called to be faithful stewards of that which is entrusted to us."

Among the 12 resolutions unable to be considered by messengers were calls for government action on tax relief and equity for families, standards to prevent

funding of so-called obscene and offensive art through the National Endowment on the Arts, restrictions on alcohol advertising and free exercise of religion.

Also included were resolutions on appreciation for smaller churches, insurance needs for churches with smaller memberships, homosexuality and civil rights, prayer for spiritual awakening, sanctity of human life, patronage of businesses that support pro-abortion organizations and appreciation for the host city and local Baptists. (BP)

Nominations receive OK from SBC messengers

by Kathy Palen

Messengers to the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention voted to adopt the report of the convention's Committee on Nominations despite challenges to several nominees and to the committee's chairman.

The report included 263 individuals nominated to serve on the boards of trustees of the 24 entities related to the 14.9-million-member denomination.

Chairman Roland Lopez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in McAllen, Tex., recommended four changes in the committee's report as released through Baptist Press in late April.

Lopez recommended the replacement of two nominees, both of whom are members of his congregation. Because of a failure to make contributions to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget, that church is no longer considered to be a "cooperating" Southern Baptist church.

On those same grounds, Lopez's own service as chairman of the Committee on Nominations came under question, but it was sustained.

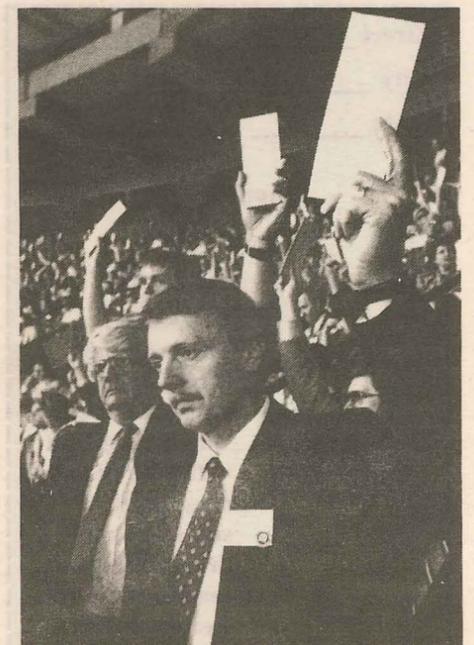
The committee recommended that Home Mission Board nominee Wencelago Rangel be replaced by J. Walter Carpenter of Houston and Education Commission nominee Antonio Villalobos be replaced by James Stewart of El Paso, Tex.

In addition, the committee recommended the addition of Joe Wedan of Chanute, Kan., as a member of the Brotherhood Commission and John Bisagno of Houston as an at-large member of the Baptist World Alliance.

David Montoya, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gravette, Ark. and a member of the Committee on Nominations, announced in May that he had prepared a minority report containing more than 30 "alternate nominations" to the committee's report.

Montoya's attempt to present those nominations was scuttled when Vines refused to reverse a ruling that only one challenge to the committee's report could be made at a time.

Two attempts to amend the report, including one made by Montoya, failed. (BP)



David Montoya failed to amend the SBC nominating committee's report. (SBC photo by Van Payne)

SBC witnessers blitz 'Big Easy'

by Sarah Zimmerman

In one day of door-to-door witnessing, Southern Baptists recorded 521 professions of faith in Christ before their annual meeting in New Orleans.

"I think it was tremendous," said Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. "All the people I'm talking with say it was worthwhile."

This year's event attracted 1334 volunteers. They contacted 14,011 homes, discovered 2818 prospects and enrolled 391 people in Sunday school.

The totals do not include results from three associations. The director of missions for the associations could not be reached for his report.

Throughout southern Louisiana and Mississippi, 113 churches participated. Volunteers from 29 states were matched with local church members to canvas neighborhoods, asking for responses to a religious opinion survey.

The survey asked residents about their religious preference, why American families are under stress and if it is possible to know for certain that a person has eternal life.

Philip Pinckard, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Metairie, a suburb of New Orleans, said he liked using the survey approach: "It's a very natural way to lead to asking questions about the person's spiritual life."

The witnessers were told people in New Orleans are "very religious."

"The people of New Orleans believe

most everything we believe, they simply don't know how to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior," said Buford Easley, pastor of Williams Boulevard Baptist Church in Kenner.

At least two passers-by stopped surveyors to ask what they were doing. One, a woman, stopped Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis to inquire about the activity. Kneeling outside her car and talking through the rolled

down window, he led her to accept Christ as Savior.

Not all residents were as eager to listen. Bob Martin, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Paragould, Ark., said people were usually cordial, but many did not allow the volunteers to ask the survey questions.

The witnessing effort was sponsored by the Home Mission Board and the Louisiana Baptist Convention. (BP)



A resident of Flower Gate Apartments (r) talks with Joy Martin of Calvary Baptist Church, Paragould, Ark., and Mary Pennington (l), a Baptist who also lives in the apartments. The two Southern Baptist women participated in the SBC's door-to-door witnessing effort June 9. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)

Kentuckians join New Orleans push

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

At least 29 Kentuckians participated in the witnessing blitz in the New Orleans area on the weekend prior to the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Home Mission Board officials said about 1000 Southern Baptists brought 90-degree heat drenched in 63 percent humidity to conduct door-to-door surveys in the area.

Volunteers included pastors, laypeople and denominational workers.

While other Kentuckians may have participated in the witnessing blitz, those preregistered with the Home Mission Board were:

Russell Adkisson, Brandenburg; B. J. Bennett, Clinton; Danny H. Creech, Louisville; George D. Darnell, Owensboro; Joe W. Diggs, Louisville; Frank Dorris, Bowling Green; Joyce Dorris, Bowling Green; Charleston Farber, Drakesboro; Michael L. Felts, Dry Ridge; Ferrill Gardner, Louisville; Warren Herring, Corydon; Monte L. Hodges, Mayfield; Marsha Hopper, Louisville; Chester Irvin, Louisville; David Key, Louisville.

Also, Randy McPherson, Pineville; Larry McSwain, Louisville; Ronald Pickel, Louisa; David P. Powell, Louisville; Stan Prewett, Carrollton; Benedict Principe, Brandenburg; Linda Principe, Brandenburg; R. Douglas Sharon, Stanton; Terry M. Sills, Hardin; Charles Thompson Jr., Ewing; Norma Turnbow, Louisville; Bill Vaught, Russellville; Ray T. Vinson, Henderson; Thomas R. Webb, Central City.

SBC alters relationship with Baptist Joint Committee

by Robert O'Brien

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention completed a series of votes June 13 to alter the SBC's historic relationship to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

By a show of hands, messengers adopted a Cooperative Program budget recommendation of the SBC Executive Committee that includes an 87.2 percent cut of the BJCPA's bud-

get. The action decreases the BJCPA's 1990-91 budget from \$391,596 to \$50,000.

Before this action, the BJCPA had survived five attempts in six years to either defund it or to alter the method by which its funding was provided. The previous day, messengers voted 17,915 to 13,608 to amendment to the recommendation to restore the then-proposed cut.

The amendment, by messenger

Frank Ingraham of Franklin, Tenn., called for the BJCPA, the SBC Christian Life Commission and the SBC Public Affairs Committee to receive 1.89 percent increases in line with increases for other SBC entities in the \$137.3 million Cooperative Program budget proposal.

Besides slashing the BJCPA budget, the CP budget proposal, as finally passed, increases the CLC budget by 40.7 percent to \$1,262,836 and the

PAC budget by 5.47 percent to \$25,000.

The CLC increase was granted after messengers approved an Executive Committee recommendation to add a religious liberty function to the CLC, the convention's ethics agency.

That action passed by a show of hands after messengers defeated, 14,789 to 12,626, another motion by Ingraham to strike the committee's recommendation. Ingraham is an attorney and former member of the SBC Executive Committee.

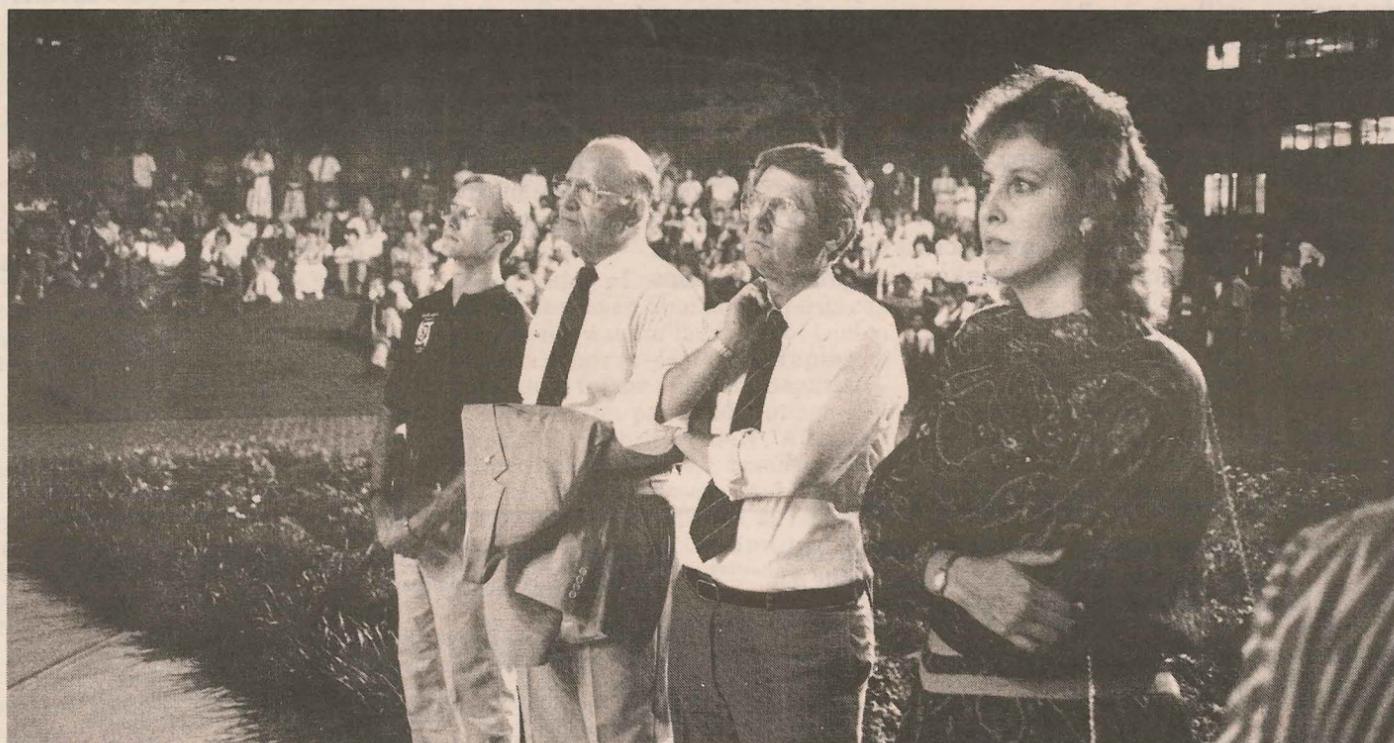
Historically, the BJCPA, a First Amendment/religious liberty organization in Washington, has handled religious liberty concerns for Southern Baptists. The BJCPA, made up of nine Baptist denominations, has had a 53-year relationship with the SBC through the 18-member PAC.

The BJCPA has been a center of controversy in the SBC's 12-year-old political/theological debate on such matters as school prayer and the relationship of religious liberty to moral and social concerns.

In a news conference, James Dunn, executive director of the Joint Committee, said he expected interested Southern Baptist individuals, churches and state conventions to more than cover the loss of funding with direct gifts.

In a related action, messengers approved an Executive Committee recommendation to delete the PAC's program statement.

That action does not end the PAC, which will continue to function under a set of guidelines drawn up by the Executive Committee. The committee recommended deletion of the program statement because only SBC agencies have program statements. (BP)



TWO GENERATIONS—Lisa Welch (r) a semester missionary serving at Friendship House in New Orleans; Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board; R. Keith Parks (with coat) president of the Foreign Mission Board;

and Chris Walker, a summer missionary from Magnolia, Ark., listened to a speech at the rally sponsored by Sons and Daughters of the Southern Baptist Convention June 11 in New Orleans. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)

Life or death: New Orleans '90 changed SBC

Editorial
Marv Knox

Depending on who's talking, the Southern Baptist Convention either came to life or died in New Orleans last week.

Conservatives celebrated yet another triumphant SBC annual meeting: Their standard-bearer, Morris Chapman, routed the moderates' Daniel Vestal for the convention presidency. They finally wrested the convention's religious liberty lobby from the nine-denomination Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and gave it to the SBC Christian Life Commission, which they dominate. They also approved an SBC Cooperative Program budget that gives the Christian Life Commission the money it needs to expand its Washington enterprise and slashes 87 percent of the SBC's contribution from the Baptist Joint Committee budget.

Meanwhile, moderates mourned their loss: They had thought Vestal was an attractive candidate, running against what they felt was the conservatives' weakest ticket in a decade. They believed recent attacks on Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary and its president, Roy L. Honeycutt, had stirred moderates to new levels of commitment to attend the convention and vote. They felt similarly about the Baptist Joint Committee issue, expecting friends would turn out en masse to support the 53-year-old relationship between the SBC and the Washington committee. Not only did they lose ballot votes, but they felt shut out of meaningful participation in parliamentary proceedings.

So, while conservatives consolidated their power and cheered the fulfillment of their dreams, moderates watched in disbelief as each successive vote smashed their hopes on the rock-hard Superdome floor.

Ironically, moderates and conservatives in New Orleans finally agreed on something: The overt campaigning and hardball politics of recent years is over.

Almost in unison, moderates admitted they cannot beat conservatives at getting out the votes. They said they shouldn't even try; many insisted they will not come to vote again. This suits the conservatives, weary of the strain of continued politicking, too.

Another consensus also emerged from this an-

nual meeting: The Cooperative Program is in grave danger. Many moderates frankly admit they will designate their churches' gifts to the national level of the budget. They say they want the Baptist Joint Committee to be funded, and they will see that it gets their money. But this is only the proverbial camel's nose under the tent. What will happen when other agencies and ministries, to their estimation, are over- or under-funded? How can churches continue to support missions and evangelism and simultaneously follow their consciences regarding contributions to more controversial organizations?

Moderates openly discussed their dilemma in New Orleans. Some spoke despondently; others exuded an air of cautious optimism, hoping something exciting will break out. Conservatives also acknowledged the situation, many remembering days when they faced the same dilemma from the other side of the theological/political fence.

Following New Orleans, the publicly political situation has abated, and the internal funding matter has grown more complex. Consequently, the "new" SBC resembles a duck swimming on a lake. On the surface, it's cool and composed; underneath, it's paddling furiously to keep afloat.

Convention demands response from Kentucky Baptists

Changes brought about by the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans demand a variety of responses from Kentucky Baptists.

- You who have supported the conservative movement of the past decade need to urge your leaders to be true to their promise to "enlarge the tent" of participation within the SBC. They have said 90 percent of Southern Baptists agree with them about the nature of the Bible, yet they consistently have included only the 60 percent who voted with them. By their statements alone, meaningful participation in the convention can be extended to an additional 30 percent of its members.

Expanding the tent can be an act of generosity and reconciliation. The same Jesus who ate with sinners dined with religious leaders. He who beckoned a zealot to follow him also extended the invitation to humble fishermen and affirmed the faith of a Roman soldier. He trained men to be his disciples and taught women his most profound lessons. Compared to Jesus' diverse following, surely moderates ought to be welcomed into the SBC tent.

But don't enlarge the tent just for the moderates' sake. The convention needs the fruits of their labors, the lives of their children, their vast array of resources. Drive down tent stakes that all Southern Baptists hold in common, stakes strong enough to hold a great big tent—stakes of

adoration of Christ and obedience to God, recommitment to missions, reaffirmation of cooperation and fellowship, inclusion and acceptance, forgiveness and repentance.

- You who grieve over the moderates' losses have compared yourselves to the Hebrews in exile. You feel you no longer belong to the convention of your youth. You say the ideals of the priesthood of the believer and an open Bible no longer prevail, and you don't feel at home anymore.

You saw the irony in the Life and Work Sunday school lesson you studied when you got home from the convention. Through the prophet Jeremiah, the Lord told the exiles: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.... Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Yours must be a creative, Christ-like response to circumstances you did not choose. Yes, you are struggling with your consciences, trying to decide how to support what you can while holding back from that which you do not like. But did you not rejoice when nearly 4000 missionaries went around the globe? Did you not celebrate when a similar number fanned across our nation? Did you not weep tears of thanksgiving when your sons

and daughters—10,000 of them—placed themselves in God's hands and went to seminary to learn how to serve Him? Do not forsake these and countless other ministries and servants. Right now you are angry, but do not let your wrath truncate your love, generosity, spirit of cooperation and willingness to repent and forgive.

- You who have not chosen sides share a variety of feelings: Relief that the political battle now may be over. Anger that it lasted so long and took so many hostages. Confusion, because you count among your friends good, well-meaning brothers and sisters from both sides of the conflict.

Yours is a ministry of reconciliation and peacemaking. You know the virtues of combatants from both camps; you can commend them to the others. You also know the individual weaknesses, and you can provide a prophetic word, a call to repentance, a model of forgiveness.

- All of us in the commonwealth share another identity. We're not just Southern Baptists; we're Kentucky Baptists. Our actions here have indicated our inclination not to import the national strife across the borders of our state. We have exhibited a spirit of harmony for which we should thank God.

We must pray that He will continue to bless us with unity of spirit, even as the larger picture of Baptist life unfolds before us.

Marv Knox

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A LOT OF HURT. Three days before the convention began, a small group entered the rotunda of the Louisiana Superdome. In the hush, before the frantic activity of the following days, we stood gazing. I broke the silence, saying: "You know, on Tuesday there's going to be a great deal of hurt in this room." From past experience we seasoned observers realized there would be some anxious moments for most, and frustrating, perhaps angry and disappointing moments for many.

GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE. Any way you slice it the 15-year-old 27-story Superdome dwarfs every other facility in which Southern Baptists meet. Its 52 acres provide parking for 5000 cars and 250 buses, seating for up to 87,500, 92 box suites, 88 rest rooms, 44 snack bars, 32 escalators and 10 elevators. We met there in 1982 and this reporter observed two major drawbacks then: it was easy to get lost in it and acoustics were deplorable. Most can attest it is still easy to get turned around in the Superdome but the sound quality seemed vastly improved. The Superdome is the only facility our denomination regularly visits which can easily accommodate us now. We are to return there in 1996 and 2001.

MIDDLE INCOME. As conventions go, messengers' pocketbooks weren't bent totally out of shape in New Orleans. Doubles in downtown hotels went for \$77-\$115, typical of convention cities. That's deceiving, however: add to it parking fees (\$9 daily average), 75-cent

Convention impressions

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

local phone calls, room service and other amenities (such as in-room safes, \$4 average), state and occupational taxes (about 13.3%) and daily rates rise sharply. Cafe au lait and beignets at 75 cents each are still a bargain in the French Quarter. A sundry shop in Poydras Plaza, adjacent to the headquarters hotel, dispensed freshly made sandwiches for \$1.25, a find. Parking lots were plentiful, although main arteries were clogged at peak hours.

DIFFICULT DECISIONS. Normally more than 100 members of the convention press corps are elected messengers of Southern Baptist churches. Those whose primary assignment is in the news room have participated in the balloting process at the same time it is conducted on the convention floor. We mark ballots just as other messengers do, then a page has carried them to the tellers' room for counting. No so at New Orleans. Upon recommendation of tellers chairman Tim Hedquist of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn., president Jerry Vines canceled a longstanding policy. There, in practice, every time a vote came up, scores of newsmen literally raced en masse from the press room up a long corridor and into the hall to vote at the precise moment ballots were collected, or lost their vote. From our standpoint, it meant a continuing work flow interruption. Thus, in making it more difficult to vote, this large group might become

frustrated and skip it. That perception was expressed by secular and religious news media. Whatever the reason, it was restrictive, not inclusive, while Baptists are repeatedly told "inclusion" is the new order of the day.

EPITAPH. Said Executive Committee member Charles Sullivan of Tennessee from the platform, defending the proposed deletion of 87% of the Baptist Joint Committee's 1990-91 budget allocation from the SBC: "It is illogical to believe that any church or state convention would withdraw its support of the Cooperative Program because we decreased funds (to the BJCPA)." But if avowed statements and actions of numerous churches and state conventions (including Kentucky) become reality, Sullivan's words will drive nails in the coffin of the Cooperative Program as the greatest tool we've ever had in joint support of far flung missions and evangelism enterprises.

END OF AN ERA. Chauncey R. Daley, former Western Recorder editor, nominated Martin B. Bradley of Nashville for the post of SBC registration secretary at the Kansas City, Mo. meeting in 1977. Bradley was elected that year and reelected every year since. His defeat in New Orleans removes one of the more durable and committed servants from Southern Baptist elective office. This man of unquestioned integrity gave his denomination far more than he received. He is appreciated and will be missed by those who have seen his contributions up close.

Kentuckians present motions and resolutions

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Among a precedent setting 87 resolutions and high number of 43 motions offered by Southern Baptist Convention messengers meeting in New Orleans, several were given by Kentucky Baptists. Five motions and eight resolutions were recorded as introduced by messengers from the Bluegrass State.

Motions, and those who introduced them:

1. Giving greater care to the handicapped attending the SBC—Cherri Hill, First Baptist Church, Wharton.

2. Tightening qualifications for those elected to SBC service—William Shoulta, First Baptist Church, Providence.

3. Reprimanding the SBC Public Affairs Committee for endorsing political candidates—Max D. Hester, Calvary Baptist Church, Louisville.

4. Tightening qualifications for those elected to SBC service—J. Rodger Clark Jr., Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, Louisville.

5. Calling on SBC officers to produce the inerrant Bible so all may have access to it—W. Robert DeFoor, Harrodsburg (Ky.) Baptist Church.

DeFoor's motion was declared out of order because the convention had "no authority to force a response." The other Kentuckians' motions, while introduced, were not reported to the convention body for action.

Kentuckians' resolutions:

1. Safety and release of hostages—Harold F. Skaggs, Cadiz (Ky.) Baptist Church.

2. Rights of those holding minority opinions—Joseph R. Estes, Beechwood Baptist Church, Louisville.

3. Caring for God's creation—Stuart G. Collier, Goshen (Ky.) Baptist Church.

4. Support for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary—Ray Hayes, Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville.

5. Peacemaking with all people—Z. Allen Abbott, Burlington.

6. Foreign missions and South Africa—Jim Holliday, East Baptist Church, Louisville.

7. Appreciation for small churches—Greg Burton, Casky Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

8. Signs in the convention hall—Leroy Reardon, Cherry Hill Baptist Church, Central City.

The convention adopted a resolution on environmental stewardship after re-

ceiving four requests similar to that offered by Stuart G. Collier of Goshen.

The resolutions committee proposed a resolution on peacemaking with all people in response to that offered by Z. Allen Abbott of Burlington. However, due to the lack of a quorum present Thursday morning, business could not be conducted on that matter.

The same is true of a proposed resolution on appreciation for small churches as offered by Greg Burton of Hopkinsville.

No action was recommended by the committee on the other proposed resolutions introduced by Kentuckians.

Repent, pray, Wolfe urges convention

by Bob Stanley

By repenting of pride and returning to desperate prayer, Southern Baptists can prepare the way for the Spirit of God to bring a modern-day reawakening, a pastor told fellow Southern Baptists.

Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., and former president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, said the hope for Southern Baptists lies in the same kind of moving of the Spirit of God that empowered the early-day church at Pentecost.

In the annual convention sermon, he called on the SBC, like the people of the prophet Zechariah's Old Testament day, to "despise not" the day of small things.

Before God can pour out his spirit, Wolfe said, his people must "genuinely repent of our pride."

For too long, he said, "we have trusted in our pride, our self sufficiency and in our might" instead of in the

power of God's Holy Spirit."

Zechariah was told that God's spirit has the power to remove the mountains of obstacles that prevented accomplishing his task, Wolfe said. Today Southern Baptists face mountains that will never be leveled by human power—"mountains that God wants to level."

One of these, he said, is the "mountain of desertion," the loss of almost half the denomination's members to non-residency as they move away to another city or drop out and fail to attend any church.

He identified decline and division as other Southern Baptist mountains that need to be leveled. Of division, he said that the SBC controversy is not to blame for current problems and declines in the convention.

Wolfe said he sees hope for the convention in the promises of God. "There has never been a time when we were more in need of a fresh outpouring of the Spirit," he added. (BP)



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on
mission
together

He who laughs, lasts

I like to laugh now and then. And I don't mean a quick smile or a snort or a squeak that never goes deeper than the throat.

Once in a while I like to laugh till my stomach and sides hurt and tears streak down my cheeks. Through laughter it seems my entire system expels fatigue, stress and all that other junk I accumulate from day to day.

But I don't make myself laugh. First off, I can't remember jokes for very long and second, I'm not as good at telling them as the folks who make me laugh. I'm grateful for the people in my life who seem "gifted" to do that. My predecessor, Frank Owen, was a gifted "laugh-maker."

Another is my good friend Elmer West, former Kentuckian, and recently-retired Foreign Mission Board staff member and colleague.

Recently he sent me some selections from a book *Dear Pastor* by Bill Adler. The book is a compilation of letters written by children to their pastor. They made me smile—I hope the reader will, too.

"Did God make girls smarter than boys? My big sister says so." Ryan (age nine).

"I know God loves everybody but God never met my sister." Arnold (age eight).

"Do I have to say grace before every meal? Even when I'm only having a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?" Wesley (age nine).

"I think more people would come to church if you moved it to Disneyland." Loreen (age nine).

"Please say a prayer for our Little League team. We need God's help and a new pitcher." Alexander (age 10).

"I like to go to church except when there is something better to do." Teddy (age 10).

Elmer shared a couple of others that he had found elsewhere:

"The mechanic told the lady that he had found the trouble with her automobile lights. 'It was a short circuit.' 'Well,' she said, 'go ahead and make it longer.'"

Maybe it would be good for us Baptists to get together and just tell funny stories. Hard to get mad at someone when you're laughing.

Personally, I think God would enjoy that a great deal more than a lot of stuff he is hearing from us these days.

SBC issue depends on opponents, says Chapman

by Ken Camp
and Mark Wingfield

Whether the inerrancy issue is settled in the Southern Baptist Convention depends upon the response of the 42 percent of messengers who voted against Morris Chapman, the newly elected president said.

Chapman held a news conference in the Louisiana Superdome the day of his election as president of the 14.9-million-member denomination.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Tex., defeated Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in Atlanta, in balloting on the opening day of the denomination's annual meeting.

In nominating Chapman, Houston pastor John Bisagno said Chapman's election would settle the inerrancy issue "once and forever."

However, after the election Chapman said that decision rests with the 42 percent of messengers who voted against him. He noted that outgoing SBC president Jerry Vines said last year the inerrancy issue had been settled.

"The large majority of Southern Baptists believe the issue is settled," Chapman said. "Whether or not the issue is settled in its most practical form is largely up to those who have been voting otherwise, who have insisted that we are not a group who have believed in the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible."

He underscored that the split isn't as great as the 60-40 vote indicated. At least 90 percent of Southern Baptists adhere to inerrancy, he maintained.

Chapman said during the next year he wants to meet with the presidents of every SBC agency and institution "to listen to their heartbeat and let them



Morris Chapman, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, answers questions from press representatives during an evening news conference June 12. Chapman is pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)

hear mine."

"For peace and harmony to be effective throughout the rank and file, elected officials and paid personnel must gain a better understanding of each other," he said. "I think we've had too many press conferences and not enough personal conferences."

In meeting with those presidents, Chapman said, he would emphasize his desire to "keep theological parameters

in place and remove any political parameters."

He affirmed the 1987 Peace Committee report. His wife, Jodi, who was seated beside him at the news conference, served on the Peace Committee.

"The Peace Committee report was adopted overwhelmingly. It is more of a convention statement than a committee statement," Chapman said.

"The Peace Committee has done a

great thing for all Southern Baptists for at least two reasons: they've helped describe what we meant all along by infallibility and inerrancy and asked us to go beyond perceived political parameters."

He declared he wants to "be a part of opening communication between trustees and administration." He affirmed trustees as the appropriate people to deal with questions raised about particular agencies and institutions.

Chapman said he does not favor "a wholesale housecleaning of any kind" in those institutions.

Asked about his own appointments to the Committee on Committees, Chapman said, "My commitment in the appointive process is to appoint those persons who believe in the perpetuation of allegiance to the perfect word of God and those who believe within the parameters of the Peace Committee report."

Reporters asked Chapman about dissension among his own congregation and messengers to the convention from that church. During the first day of the convention, at least one messenger from Chapman's church spoke against issues favored by the conservative leadership.

"The vast majority of my church and those attending the convention from my church have a great love for their pastor and great support for their pastor," Chapman replied.

Asked about the future of Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, Chapman said that in most instances the press has been "fair and honest."

"I believe they have had an honest desire to report the truth. I do believe that Baptist Press and the Baptist state papers can be of great help to us in returning our convention to harmony and peace without compromise on the infallibility and inerrancy of the word of God." (BP)

Vestal 'defeated but not demoralized'

by Jim Newton

Saying he was defeated but not demoralized, Daniel Vestal appealed for moderate and conservative Southern Baptists to schedule a formal dialogue on the future of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, lost the election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention to Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Tex., by a 58-42 percent margin, June 12.

Vestal told about 700 persons attending a June 13 breakfast sponsored by "Baptists Committed to the SBC" about his personal reactions to the election, possible scenarios for the future of the convention and appeals to those who have been involved in the 12-year struggle within the convention.

"Now is not the time to despair," Vestal said. "Now is the time to fill your life with hope-filled tasks."

He urged the executive committee of Baptists Committed to provide a forum, perhaps a retreat for invited participants open to the press, for formal dialogue on the future of the SBC.

It was one of seven appeals Vestal issued during his first public appearance following the election. He issued the following specific appeals:

- To Morris Chapman and the presidents of the SBC for the past 12 years who now control the denomination, asking them to "broaden the tent of in-

volvement" in the SBC as they have suggested publicly.

- To pastors of prominent SBC churches such as John Bisagno of Houston, Joel Gregory of Ft. Worth, Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla.; Charles Fuller of Roanoke, Va., and others asking that they live up to their promise "of a historic new day" in the SBC.

- To the trustees of SBC agencies, urging them to affirm, trust and support denominational leaders and stop embarrassing publicly "these good and Godly men."

- To those who voted for Chapman, asking them "to accept the rest of us as brothers and sisters and stop accusing us and implying we do not believe the Bible just because we don't agree on interpretation of Scripture or support your political movement."

- To those who voted for him (Vestal), appealing for them to practice Christian charity and focus their attention on a Sovereign God and on the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

- To all Southern Baptists, pleading for them "to let the love of Jesus Christ fill our hearts so that it overflows to other people."

Vestal, who was greeted with three standing ovations during the breakfast, confessed he did not expect the kind of outcome in the election the previous day. Vestal received only 15,753 votes (42%) compared to Chapman's 21,471 (58%).

Vestal said he could offer no reason or explanation for the wide vote mar-

gin, even though he had questioned the reason why all day and all night.

Vestal said the election was not about believing the Bible as the infallible word of God. "The election yesterday was about the future—whether we will be a united convention that recaptures a vision for cooperative missions and evangelism.

"That vision failed," Vestal said. Even though they failed in the election, and in the appeal for the convention to refocus its attention on missions and evangelism, Vestal said he and those who supported him have done "what is right."

Vestal said he and others involved in Baptists Committed have sought to reach out for peace, reconciliation, openness, fairness, trust and freedom.

The key question now is, "Where do we go from here?" Vestal offered five possible scenarios for the future:

- The present leadership could moderate enough to bring Southern Baptists back together by balancing the appointments to SBC committees and boards.

- The present SBC leadership could maintain "its present rigid posture" and some churches would leave the SBC and affiliate with American Baptist Churches and/or the Southern Baptist Alliance.

- Southern Baptists might return to a "societal" approach creating mission societies that could receive and distribute funds to mission causes.

- New organizations might develop to provide continuing educational and political involvement.



Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody (Ga.) Baptist Church, urged Baptists Committed to seek ways to fill lives with hope and decide individually what the future holds. (SBC photo by Van Payne)

- State conventions might secede from the SBC or change the way in which they support national agencies through the Cooperative Program.

Vestal stressed he was not advocating any of the five scenarios but only echoing ideas he had heard in recent months.

Each individual Baptist must decide for himself or herself what the future holds. "No pope, no presbytery, no president and no judge can tell us what to do," he said. (BP)

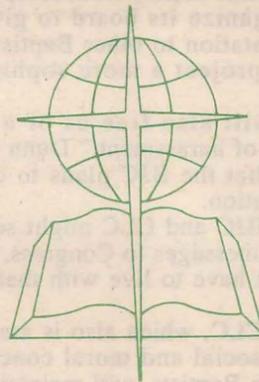
SBC 1990: New Orleans and all that jazz



EMOTIONAL RESPONSE—SBC messengers express an emotional response to events in New Orleans' Louisiana Superdome. (SBC photo by Morris Abernathy)



THEME INTERPRETATION—A portrayal of Moses' receipt of the ten commandments was part of a June 11 theme interpretation during the 55th annual Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. The theme of the event was "The Pathway to God's Presence." (SBC photo by Morris Abernathy)



BTN COVERAGE—For the sixth consecutive year, the Baptist Telecommunication Network carried live gavel-to-gavel coverage of the SBC annual meeting, held this year at the Louisiana Superdome, June 12-14. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)



NEW ORLEANS CULTURE—Southern Baptists listen to a New Orleans street musician as they sample beignets at Cafe Du Monde in the city's French Quarter. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)



Bill D. Whittaker
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clear creek chronicle

A time to laugh

Our faculty meets monthly for coordination, review and training. We begin with a delicious lunch in Kelly Hall and the session usually lasts two hours. Humor always spices our gatherings. D. M. Aldridge professor of missions Mark Terry shared this piece with us in a recent meeting:

Then Jesus took his disciples up the mountain, and gathering them about him, he taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor.

"Blessed are the hungry.

"Blessed are those who mourn.

"Blessed are the oppressed."

Then Simon Peter said, "Do we have to write this down?"

And Andrew said, "Are we supposed to know this?"

And James said, "I don't have papyrus with me."

And Philip said, "Will we have a test on this?"

And Bartholomew said, "Do we have to turn this in?"

And John said, "The other disciples didn't have to learn this."

And Matthew said, "Can I be excused?"

And Judas said, "What does this have to do with the real world anyway?"

Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus' lesson plan, and inquired, "Where is your anticipatory set? Where are your objectives in the cognitive domain?" And one of the scribes asked, "Has this scroll been reviewed by the central office?"

And the high priest demanded, "Is this class authorized under the guidelines for chapter one as listed in the revised code?"

And Jesus wept.

Dr. Chiles tells about a student he had at Boyce Bible School. With two-thirds of the course over, the student informed him, "I just realized I had this class last year under Dr. Redding. Can I get double credit?"

At Clear Creek we don't miss our "time to laugh."

Dunn, Land address CLC/BJCPA roles and budget reallocations adopted at SBC

by Jim Newton

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, outlined plans for extensive expansion of the CLC office in Washington, following adoption of a \$300,000 increase to its budget June 13.

Land said the action of the Southern Baptist Convention to add religious liberty and separation of church and state issues to his agency's program statement would greatly strengthen Southern Baptists' influence in the nation's capitol.

He discounted any fear that the Christian Life Commission would send messages to Congress that would conflict with the voice of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which represents nine Baptist bodies on religious liberty and church/state separation issues.

Both Land and James Dunn, executive director of the BJC, answered questions during press conferences following SBC actions which cut the budget of the BJC by 87 percent and increased the budget of the CLC by 40 percent.

Dunn said the action would free the BJC to raise money from other sources, to reorganize its board to give more representation to other Baptist groups and to project a more sophisticated agenda.

"It will also free us of a certain amount of harassment," Dunn said. He added that the BJC plans to continue its operation.

The BJC and CLC might send conflicting messages to Congress, but "we will just have to live with that," Dunn said.

The CLC, which also is assigned to handle social and moral concerns for Southern Baptists, will maintain its national headquarters in Nashville but strengthen its operations in Washington.

Land announced plans to add three members to the staff of the CLC's Washington office: the general counsel/Christian citizenship director, a news media director, an administrative assistant, plus the current director of government relations, Jim Smith.

Land said about 35 percent of the agency's \$1.2 million budget would support the new Washington office. The CLC is negotiating for more office space within walking distance of Capitol Hill, he added.

"My perspective," said Land, "is that we have a two-pronged assignment: to speak to Southern Baptists as the denomination's prophetic conscience on moral and social issues, and to ascertain what Southern Baptist views are and bring those Baptist convictions to bear before policy-making groups in Washington."

The CLC will follow the wishes of the SBC as stated in convention-adopted resolutions such as those on abortion and prayer in public schools, Land said.

However, he said he supports the 1962 and 1963 Supreme Court decisions on prayer in public schools, and believes that since the Supreme Court has upheld the equal access clause Baptist clamor for public school prayer

will decrease.

The CLC will focus on issues and not endorse candidates for political office, he added.

Since the CLC opened its Washington office in 1987, it has cooperated in writing at least four joint statements with the BJC on such issues as child care legislation, he noted.

"Before yesterday's action (by the SBC), we could not address the religious liberty and church/state separation issues," Land said. "Now we can, and this frees us to work more closely with the Baptist Joint Committee on joint statements."

Land pointed out that both he and Dunn always have been careful to point out they do not speak for all Southern Baptists or represent Southern Baptists. "No one can do that," he said.

The conflicts between the CLC and BJC will be far less than most people might suppose, he predicted.

The greatest threat to religious liberty in the last half of the 20th century will come from the violations of the

"free exercise of religion clause" in the First Amendment that would impinge on individuals' right to exercise their religious faith freely, he said.

The recent "Peyote case" in which the Supreme Court ruled against native American Indians' use of peyote in religious rites was a "terrible travesty that must be overturned," Land noted.

Oliver S. (Buzz) Thomas, general counsel for the BJC, said earlier that misinformation had been circulated before the convention on the BJC's position on the "Peyote case." He denied the BJC has advocated use of illegal drugs in religious ceremonies. He said he helped draft a petition for a hearing to protect the free exercise of religion but did not defend the use of peyote in religious rites.

Both Dunn and Land opposed the use of tax money for religious schools. "There seem to be some folks," said Dunn, "who believe you can take a little tax money as if you could be just a little bit pregnant."

Dunn said he plans to continue his stand on religious liberty and church/state separation just as he has in the past. "My commitment is to do the job God has called me to do, and I haven't heard God call me elsewhere," he insisted. (BP)

Southwestern's Russell Dilday and Southern's Roy Honeycutt respond to questions of politics

by Robert O'Brien

Two Southern Baptist seminary presidents fielded questions from messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention that related to the denomination's political/theological controversy.

Russell Dilday of Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., and Roy Honeycutt of Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Ky., responded to questions following annual progress reports on their seminaries.

Messenger Michael Haley of Lakeland, Fla., who said he overheard a press interview with Dilday, asked him to clarify whether he had labeled SBC actions June 12 as "satanic."

Dilday said he had not referred to the SBC meeting but to methodology used during the past 12 years in the SBC controversy.

"The comment I made in answer to press questions yesterday," Dilday said, "was that the methodology used in the takeover of the convention in these past 12 years—the crass, secular, political methodology—does have satanic, evil qualities of which I am desperately opposed."

Dilday added: "I did indicate that if Satan were interested in destroying the work of an evangelistic body such as this, the outcome we have seen in these 12 years would indeed be the kind of quality we would see in that intervention."

Michael Westmoreland White, a 1990 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from Louisville, asked Honeycutt if recent charges against him had not already been "laid to rest" by the SBC Peace Committee.

He referred to charges of "doctrinal

infidelity" made against Honeycutt and several faculty members by seminary trustee Jerry Johnson of Aurora, Colo.

Honeycutt responded that he could not speak for the Peace Committee, a group formed to study theological issues related to the controversy.

But he said Southern Seminary's trustees had taken the Peace Committee study seriously and had voted 41-11 in 1986 that there were "no charges worthy of dismissal" represented in the committee's concerns.

In his report to messengers, Dilday lauded his faculty and staff "who this past year, despite criticism and unfounded accusations, continue to serve our Lord and the churches of this convention with an admirable consistency."

He said most of the seminary's students were "12 and 13 years old when the controversy, which has so deeply divided our denomination, began a decade ago. They have grown up assuming that this is a normative pattern of Southern Baptist life."

Dilday called it ironic that Southwestern Seminary is experiencing a growing appreciation "in the larger, evangelical Christian world" while it has been "the target of criticism and reproach from within our convention family."

He said Southwestern was ranked first on a list of seminaries in a survey conducted by Christianity Today, a leading evangelical theological journal. He said five of the six SBC seminaries were ranked in the survey's top 20.

Dilday and Honeycutt both reported emphasis on missions, evangelism and biblical fidelity by seminary students, faculty and staff during the past year. (BP)



H. C. Chiles
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sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JUNE 24, 1990

Life and work series

A covenant of the heart

Jer. 31:27-30 Jeremiah made it clear that once again God would deal with Judah and Israel as a unit. It became necessary for them to be informed that their unhappy circumstances were the direct result of their own sin, behavior and wickedness.

Through Jeremiah God informed the people that they were being punished for their own sins, that they should never expect to be delivered from captivity and be brought into their own land unless they acknowl-

edged that they themselves were responsible for their sinful actions, that they were truly sorry for their sins and that they desired divine forgiveness and restoration.

Jer. 31:31-32 These words contain the promise that God would make a new covenant with his people. Its fulfillment was dependent on the faithfulness of the people. The people had a part to do, and when they did their part, God could be depended upon to do his part. But the people disregarded the will of God and continued in their disobedient ways.

Jer. 31:33-34 It was encouraging to the people to learn that the new covenant was to be entirely different from the old one. Whereas the old one had been external, the new one was to be internal. Whereas the old one had been written on stone, the new one was to be written on the hearts of the people, and thereafter they would enjoy intimate fellowship with God. Whereas the old one had failed, the new one would succeed because God would do everything. He makes all the promises and is capable of keeping them.

The new covenant of grace can be summarized briefly but clearly in four words: regeneration, relationship, revelation and remission.

International series

Wisdom cries aloud

Prov. 1:1-9 Throughout the book of Proverbs God repeatedly expressed the importance of gaining wisdom. Knowledge comes by learning, but wisdom, which is far greater, comes by revelation or as a gift from God. One purpose of Proverbs is the impar-

tation of wisdom to people, teaching them how to apply the principles of righteousness, justice and equality in dealing with others. Wisdom is the ability to distinguish between right and wrong, true and false and honorable and shameful.

The beginning of wisdom consists of willingness to learn to discriminate between values, to heed the truth and to pursue the right course without deviation.

A proverb contains the essence of good sense spoken or written by one person, but easily recognized by many. The collection of proverbs recorded in this book is much like the instruction of a father to his son, but the truths set forth are applicable to all who seek to do God's will. The easiest and best time to acquire wisdom is in youth, but the pursuit should be lifelong.

Wisdom is far more than the accumulation of knowledge. True wisdom comes from God. Although man has searched for wisdom in many places, it becomes ours only through departure from wrong and by asking God for it and trusting him to give it to us.

If Christians want the strength and comfort of divine guidance, they must be willing to meet the conditions which God has laid down for them.

They should receive God's truth and appropriate it in such a manner that it will color their thoughts, mold their characters and influence their conduct. One can never become wise without readiness to listen to God, who is the source of all real wisdom, and to be governed by him. From God we learn why we are here, what we should do and where we are going. A person who is truly wise never ceases to acquire more wisdom.



Curtis C. Mooney
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homes for children

Glen Dale's homecoming '90

Across our great state, families are gathering this summer to hold reunions or homecomings. Uncles and aunts who have moved away return to see the old homestead and visit with relatives who have remained in the state. With our fast paced world of today, relatives who live close to each other often find that it takes a homecoming or reunion for them to actually get together.

Sunday June 24 a special homecoming is being held at Glen Dale Children's Home, for this one will celebrate 75 years of caring for children. Buckley and Sue Carlin, along with several alumni from the home, are busy planning a special day.

They are hoping that the first four children placed at the home will be able to return and join in the celebration. Ford Duesner, whose leadership for so many years guided Glen Dale and later the Baptist Board of Child Care, is scheduled to speak.

The day will begin with a church service at Gilead Baptist Church. A dinner under the big shade trees will follow the church service. The day will conclude with a special performance by the Homeland Singers, Glen Dale's traveling performance group.

Glen Dale's alumni feel a real closeness to the program and each year gather to relive the memories of childhood exploits along the Nolin River. Such tales as the boys going swimming in the river make me cringe at the liability the administration probably didn't realize they faced with some of those exploits.

I always feel good when I hear the alumni talk about special staff who meant so much to them. In that same way I realize that the youth in care today will always remember those special people who provide their care.

As these conversations take place, to be honest, they don't really need me there, but I wouldn't miss it, for it is an opportunity to enjoy a wonderful part of my job.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Another championship!

Oneida has won another state championship in the state track and field meet held at Lexington. It is our sixth state championship since we built our own regulation track six years ago. Before that our students ran on gravel and grass and were very handicapped when they went away from home for competition in other places. Finally we were able to get our boys and girls on "equal footing" and they have given some sterling performances since.

OBI junior Damon Tigner won the state championship in the high jump for the third time in three years. Another Oneida junior, David Dewar, came in third in the state high jump meet. He first came to us as a seventh grader. David is very active in our choir and also plays basketball.

Senior Jeff Jackson came in third in the discus throw. He is the salutatorian of our 1990 class and has received a \$15,000 scholarship to Transylvania. Jeff was also goalie of our soccer team and an outstanding swimmer. He was with us four years.

Two of our freshmen also were standouts in the state tournament. Micah Hasty, who came to us as an eighth grader, came in fifth in the 1600 meter run. Also outstanding academically, Micah is a fierce competitor in cross country and basketball. Jimmy Black, who came to us as a sixth grader, came in sixth in the state in the pole vault. He is also an excellent student and on our cross country and basketball teams. The Oneida performance overall made us sixth in the entire state.

Prior to their state performance, Oneida had won the regional championship, breaking four previously existing regionwide records, and had then advanced to win the sectional championship for the second year in a row, setting a new record for the high jump.

For competition purposes, Kentucky is divided into nine areas, and our coach Richard Coffey was voted "coach of the year" for the second year in a row by the coaches of our area. Coach Coffey, who is also our

biology teacher, is beginning his 13th year with us. His wife is also outstanding as a middle school teacher.

Our graduation ceremonies went beautifully and were a fitting climax to an excellent school year. Valedictorian Holly Gritton gave a wonderful address, as did salutatorian Jeff Jackson. Holly was a baby learning to walk when she came to our campus with her parents 17 years ago. She was a tremendous student from kindergarten on, academically, athletically, active in choir, spiritually a leader from early girlhood. Her father has coached basketball and taught French these 17 years and is beginning his fifth year as principal. Her mother has supervised our middle school program most of the years since we've had it.

We did not do quite so well this year, but a year ago our middle school basketball team had a 37-0 season. While that was going on our middle school academic team won the regional championship, defeating 13 district champs and runners-up.

The program that stood out most in our middle school this year was our choir under the direction of Patricia Schmittendorf. She and her husband have been with us five years. Those young students gave some outstanding performances.

Also, year after year, there is much excellent Bible study as a part of our daily program. One of our eighth graders, David Yoder, won the state Bible drill several months ago at Cedarmore and will represent Kentucky in the national meet held at Ridgecrest, N. C. this summer.



75 years of caring

Kentucky Baptists respond to 1990 SBC

What do you look forward to most when attending the SBC?



"If you stand in one place you'll see a lot of friends."
—Viola Reese, Barbourville



"Missions is what Baptists are all about; it was the reason we organized—it will be the reason we stay together."
—Andy Reese, Barbourville



"I look forward to meeting old friends and making new acquaintances."
—Clyde Angel, Paducah



"I trust we will enlarge our dream and reach out more in Christ's name."
—Gabe Collett, Cynthiana

What is your reaction to this year's SBC?



"The music echoing in the dome made me feel like I was in heaven."
—Dolores Welch Covington



"I thought attitudes were mending and the possibilities of improved unity were on the upswing—I was wrong."
—Keith Stillwell Hopkinsville



"The cloud of mistrust rained on both the just and the unjust."
—Chester Young, retired foreign mission field



"Lots of folks were praying for God's will to be done. I must trust the action of this convention was God's will."
—Paul Blizard, Louisville

2250 Kentuckians attend 1990 SBC

by Mark Wingfield

The 1990 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting drew the third-largest crowd and the second-largest Tuesday registration in the denomination's 145-year history.

Unaudited registration totaled 38,478, comparing to 45,519 in Dallas in 1985 and 40,987 in Atlanta in 1986. A final total will not be available until all messenger cards are tallied.

This year's registration patterns compared closely to the 1988 convention in San Antonio, Texas, said Registration Secretary Lee Porter of Nashville, when 32,727 messengers registered.

Hourly checks of registration from the opening of registration Sunday, June 10, until 6 p.m. Monday night appeared almost identical to the pattern established in San Antonio, Porter said. After 6 p.m. Monday, the New Orleans registration jumped ahead of San Antonio.

The increased flow of registrants continued Tuesday, giving the New Orleans convention the second-highest Tuesday registration in history. Almost 9,000 messengers registered on that day.

"In most of the past eight to 10 years, we've registered 3,000 to 5,000 people on Tuesday," Porter said. "The only exception was in Dallas where 10,000 people registered on Tuesday morning."

Tuesday was the opening day of the three-day annual meeting. Most of the convention's contested elections—including the race for president and a vote on changing agency program statements and budgets regarding religious liberty—were scheduled for Tuesday.

"Many of these messengers who registered on Tuesday came from small churches in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama," Porter explained.

Based upon Porter's estimates at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Kentucky provided 2250 messengers. (BP)

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Sellers Home reunion links present with past

by Susan Todd

The Sellers Home reunion seemed a likely place to find pieces of the past. But for the two women who were more interested in the past than future, it wasn't to be.

Sellers Home in New Orleans is a maternity care center and adoption agency operated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The home, which was begun nearly 60 years ago, serves a nationwide constituency.

Rita Smith, 19, of Ball, La., came looking for her mother.

"It was just a long shot," she said. "A very, very long shot."

Smith was adopted by Betty and Richard Moore of Sieper, La. when she was five weeks old. She has been trying for some time to locate her biological mother, but the files are closed and can only be opened if both the child and the mother consent.

"It kills me to know that the files are here, and there's nothing I can do about it," Smith said. "It at least feels good to know that she was here and she walked in this building. Even if I don't ever meet her, this is the closest I'll ever be to her."

Walking where her biological mother has walked is nothing new to Smith. Two years ago, Smith found herself a single high school junior and pregnant. But unlike her biological mother, Smith chose to keep her child.

Smith married and had a baby boy one month later. She credits her adoptive parents with the fact that she has been able to complete high school. Her

mother kept two-year-old Jonathan while Smith attended classes and held down two jobs. But much of the motivation came from her biological mother.

"I feel like I was left," she said, "like I lost out a lot with her. When I got pregnant, (knowing about my mother) made me stronger."

But not every adopted child feels the same way. Julia Walsh of Polkville, Miss. has a 33-year-old son who has had a happy life after being adopted. Walsh doesn't regret her decision to place her son up for adoption after a six-month stay at Sellers.

"It's been a happy story for me," Walsh said. "I had every confidence that (Sellers) would place him with good parents."

A few years ago Walsh learned her son's story from the point when she left Sellers Home.

Through Home Life, a Southern Baptist magazine for and about families, Walsh learned of adoptive birthrights. Both Walsh and her son filed for information about the other.

"The saddest day of my life was the day I handed that baby to the lady who was in charge of the nursery, but the happiest day of my life was the day he came driving up in my yard," Walsh said.

As soon as Walsh and her son determined they were in fact mother and son, the adoptive mother sent Walsh a large box of pictures of her son's life.

"When his mother would write me, she'd call him our son."

Walsh and her biological son have

developed a close relationship over the last 11 years. She came to the reunion hoping to share her happy story with others.

"I was hoping, by some chance, I might meet one or two of the girls here today," she said. "I wanted to say to them that I hope things turn out as happy for you as it did for me."

Another group she wanted to see was also noticeably absent. Walsh hoped others who were there when she was would attend the reunion. But none of them did.

Pat and Bob Hodges of Ragley, La. came back to Sellers to show off their "new baby pig."

Almost 21 years ago, the Hodges got the call from Sellers Home saying they were the proud parents of a baby girl. Robbie was to be their second child. Matt, a two-year-old at the time, also had come from Sellers.

"We decided not to tell anybody we

were going to get another baby," Pat Hodges said. "We told my mother we were going to a hog sale. When we got home, we called my mother out to the car to see our new 'baby pig.'"

The Hodges, like many others attending the reunion, left pictures of their adopted children on a table in the foyer of the home.

But chances are that none of more than 200 visitors enjoyed the reunion more than Lucille Ladd of Baton Rouge, La. Ladd worked at Sellers Home for 25 years before her retirement as a Southern Baptist home missionary.

"It's so rewarding to think that you've done something for the children and for the families," Ladd said after she had visited with children and their families.

"The most shocking thing is that some of them are 30 and 32 years old. They're so happy. All of them." (BP)

Comedian Jerry Clower offers praises for youth

by Tim Yarbrough

Comedian Jerry Clower affirmed the accomplishments of Christian young people in presenting the Jerry Clower Award June 13 to Howard E. Ammons, winner of the 1990 national High School Baptist Young Men's Missions

Speak Out competition.

Clower spoke to 215 people at the annual Southern Baptist Brotherhood Breakfast following Ammons' winning speech. Ammons is a junior at Mooresville Senior High School and a member of Peninsula Baptist Church, Mooresville, S. C.

Fourteen states and 125 young men participated in the sixth national competition sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission. In addition to the speak out winner, the first recipients of the 1990 Award of Merit International Legion of Royal Ambassador Leaders were recognized.

Clower, a Southern Baptist who is a member of East Fork Baptist Church, Liberty, Miss., told the crowd not enough is said about America's young Christians who live their faith.

"We try to get the one who has been in jail the longest and killed the most guards and raped the most folks and been on the most dope and then was gloriously saved," Clower said. "But let me tell you something more powerful than that. When a young person reaches the age of accountability, win him to Jesus and don't never have to let me go through all that; that's a heap more powerful."

"Two percent of the young people in this country are sorry, but 98 percent of the young people are beautiful. You know what the problem is, the two percent that's sorry are getting all the publicity, and 98 percent that are great, they ain't saying nothing about them."

"If a boy reaches the age of accountability and commits his life to Jesus, he doesn't have to spend one hour of his life serving the devil."

Clower lauded Southern Baptists as a Christian people whose strength comes from their local churches.

"(The) local church is where it's at," Clower said. "That's where you have your RAs. The older I get, the more I'm convinced the local church ought to be the first place of Christian service for any Christian. And it's well known that I don't support nobody who wants to be elected to nothing that don't believe in giving to the Cooperative Program," SBC budget. (BP)



Lucille Ladd (l), a former social worker, greets Julia Walsh at the Sellers Home reunion June 13. Ladd placed most of the children that have been adopted from Sellers Home. Walsh placed her son with a family through Sellers Home and has since been reunited with him. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)

From Chicago to China

Cumberland Graduates Make Impact on American and International Educational Systems

Our alumni rolls are filled with outstanding graduates. Governors, congressmen, admirals, doctors, businesspeople, attorneys — you name it, we've got them! But, an area in which we seem to have an overwhelming number of exceptional graduates is in education.

Cumberland graduate Lawanna Scoville is the current World Book's Science Teacher of the Year and National Teacher of the Year and was most recently named to the Selby Foundation's Chair for Elementary Science. Dr. Tom Cloer, professor of education, is currently Furman University's Professor of the Year. These are educators with incredible abilities that exemplify the caliber of students our Education Department graduates.

But there are countless others of Cumberland-educated teachers, professors and administrators that have been noted for their contributions to education.

The last issue of the college's alumni paper listed no fewer than ten graduates that had been named Teacher of

the Year by their local schools and school boards — are just the ones that we found out about!

On the college level, our graduates are known for making a lasting impact on institutions. The late Dr. Cratis Williams, a 1930 graduate, became well known for his research in Appalachian literature and is honored with a building at Appalachian State University named for him. Dr. Will McCall became a member of the faculty of Columbia University's Teacher's College at the age of 24 and remained there for 41 years. Also on the faculty at the time were renowned educators E.L. Thorndike and John Dewey who, along with McCall, were invited to China to modernize its education system.

Betty Lentz Siegel is president of Kennesaw State

College, Vivian Bowling Blevins is president of Lee College, Paul Beasley is vice president and dean at Wingate College and Terry Dixon is vice president for Academic Affairs at the University of Central Texas.

The Director of the Higher Education Commission for the State of Tennessee is Arliss Roaden who is also the former president of Tennessee Theological University and former Academic Dean of Ohio State University. Howard Boozer has recently retired as director of South Carolina's higher education commission. General Benjamin Baker was a member of the Board of Trustees of Harvard University.

Countless superintendents, principals, administrators and educational leaders are graduates of Cumberland and we feel that we can take some of the credit for their

success. Highly motivated and intent on serving the cause of education, these people came to Cumberland first and were given the motivation and support that they needed to continue their lives in educational service.

Today, our students are continuing the tradition of academic excellence that is the hallmark of Cumberland College. Three of our students were chosen recently to present their research to the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society in Boston. Todd Hamilton, Caroline Machal and Burton Wilson traveled to the meeting and presented research projects on such weighty topics as "A Study of the Effect of Pyridine and Acetic Acid Complexation on the N-H Frequency of Lumichrome."

On May 12, they and 250 others graduated from Cumberland College and went on to join the more than 13,000 alumni who are making their marks on the World around them. These young people, with a background rich in academic success and moral enhancement, will be the success stories of the future — Cumberland graduates who become leaders and innovators in their fields.

