

Join hands in unity to touch the world, speakers say

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LEXINGTON—By joining hands as brothers and sisters, Baptists could lead the world to embrace the family of God, speakers at last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention

New president hopes for more state harmony

By Marv Knox
Editor

LEXINGTON—Glenn Mollette wants to maintain the harmonious spirit that propelled him into the Kentucky Baptist Convention presidency.

"I'm amazed I was the only nominee" for president, Mollette said last week, less than two days after he was elected KBC president without opposition.

"I never dreamed I could be elected by acclamation. Before the annual meeting, I heard of two and possibly three other candidates, so I'm amazed at the outcome."

Mollette credited his election to convention unity. "My name had been widely circulated as a candidate," he explained. "I'd like to think there was a feeling of harmony and everyone seemed to be pulling together as a state convention."

"Last year, we had division over leadership," he said. "I don't think the Kentucky Baptist Convention enjoyed that kind of tension. This year was an effort to remove ourselves from that kind of struggle in our state convention."

"I want to continue that spirit of harmony and cooperation. The work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention must be an effort on everyone's part. The convention is bigger than any group or faction or personality."

"My attitude would be to continue to promote the work of the convention with everyone working together."

continued on page 6, "New president ..."

said repeatedly.

From the president's message to the multiple theme interpretations, speakers addressing the KBC's 154th annual session rallied around the theme of celebrating Christ through unity and commitment.

"We've got to get the word out: we can

be brothers without being twins," said Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

God can have more than one right way of doing the same right thing, Carter said.

But finding unity with a fellow Baptist who holds a different opinion is more diffi-

cult than finding unity with believers of other denominations and other races, he noted.

The answer to unity is found in accepting the lordship of Jesus Christ, he said.

"I believe every syllable in this book is God's word," Carter said, holding up a Bible. *continued on page 9, "Speakers call ..."*



SINGING TOGETHER—Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Secretary-treasurer William Marshall (right) joins hands with other messengers to last week's annual meeting in Lexington while singing the theme chorus, "God Still Moves." In his annual address, Marshall presented a historical overview of the KBC, which he called "a gift of God, created to serve the kingdom of God."

How they voted: KBC business summary

LEXINGTON—Messengers to last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention in Lexington made decisions on a wide range of issues:

■ **Officer election:** Glenn Mollette, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pikeville, president; Floyd Price, pastor of Buck Grove Baptist Church in Ekron, first vice president; Ginny Sisk, member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, second vice president; Wilma Simmons, clerk of Salem Baptist Association, recording secretary; Joe Priest Williams, retired pastor from Louisville, assistant secretary.

■ **Addition of at-large members:** Eight at-large members will be added to the KBC Executive Board, one from each region of the state. Other Executive Board members are nominated by 78 district associations.

■ **Baptist Joint Committee:** The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs will be added to the KBC budget for an unspecified amount beginning with the 1993-94 fiscal year.

■ **Ruschlikon resolution:** Messengers asked Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees to reconsider their action to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

■ **Reduced budget:** The KBC budget adopted for 1992-93 is \$17.34 million, a 3.1 percent decrease from the current year's budget goal of \$17.9 million. The reduction was recommended after last year's gifts to the Cooperative Program fell short of the previous year's total for the first time since the Great Depression.

■ **CP study committee:** The special committee appointed last year to study the Cooperative Program unified budget was granted a one-year extension.

■ **Qualifying contributions:** A motion to change how churches qualify for participation in the KBC was referred to the special Cooperative Program study committee. The change would have qualified churches on the basis of any contribution to Kentucky Baptist work rather than solely by contributions to the Cooperative Program.

■ **Church Annuity Plan:** Unrestricted gifts to the Cooperative Program no longer will be the only way to qualify for participation in the Church Annuity Plan. Churches now may qualify also on the basis of unrestricted contributions to the KBC operating budget.

■ **Layperson as president:** A proposed constitutional amendment to require the election of a layperson as KBC president once every four years was withdrawn upon recommendation of the constitution and by-laws committee.

■ **Executive Board nominees:** A proposed constitutional amendment to allow district associations to nominate one person for each vacancy on the KBC Executive Board rather than the two nominees currently required was withdrawn as recommended by the constitution and by-laws committee.

■ **Public affairs committee:** A proposal to require the committee on public affairs to work with the SBC Christian Life Commission was withdrawn as recommended by the constitution and by-laws committee.

■ **AIDS resolution:** Messengers passed a resolution expressing compassion for AIDS victims but encouraging abstinence from sexual relations outside marriage.

■ **Evangelism events:** Prior to future KBC annual meetings and evangelism conferences, the KBC evangelism office will offer to assist host associations with pre-meeting evangelism events in their areas if desired by the association.

■ **Obituaries report:** The committee on obituaries was changed from a committee to a single person and alternate appointed to bring an annual report.

■ **Foundation fees:** The Kentucky Baptist Foundation was authorized to charge fees for some of its services. Also, an amendment process was ratified for the Foundation's covenant agreement with the KBC.

■ **Western Recorder:** An amendment to the Western Recorder's covenant agreement with the KBC was approved to correct trustee-selection items inadvertently omitted when the document first was adopted.

■ **Charitable trust resolution:** A resolution calling on state government to enact laws favoring charitable gift annuities was approved.

■ **Committees:** Recommendations of the committee on committees and committee on nominations were approved with a few amendments.

■ **Appreciation resolution:** A resolution expressing appreciation to Elkhorn Baptist Association, Immanuel Baptist Church and KBC officers was approved.

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South Carolina Baptists take school to court

around the sbc

South Carolina Baptists voted last week to take Furman University to court in an attempt to stop university trustees' plan to become a self-perpetuating board.

During the annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, messengers voted 2,011-1,973 to appoint a committee to pursue a declaratory judgment action against Furman, a school supported by the state convention.

Messengers never voted on a covenant agreement reached between Furman's executive board and a committee of the state convention. "I never dreamed that the South Carolina Baptist Convention would take Furman University to court after our attempt to compromise," Furman President John E. Johns said afterward.

■ **Maryland/Delaware cuts BJC.** Messengers to the annual meeting of Baptists from Maryland and Delaware deleted a \$3,600 contribution to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs from the budget of their two-state convention. The amendment, which passed 210-169, was the only change to the convention's \$4.4 million budget.

■ **Virginia to fund Ruschlikon.** Virginia Baptists voted last week to send the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, \$100,000 previously earmarked for the SBC Foreign Mission Board if FMB trustees do not rescind their decision to defund the Swiss seminary. The \$100,000 would be deducted from the \$1.6 million the state convention has budgeted for the FMB in 1992.

■ **WMU leaders object to FMB.** Six national leaders of Woman's Missionary Union have signed a letter protesting the decision of Foreign Mission Board trustees to stop funding the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. The letter calls for FMB trustees to "put political considerations aside and rescind this action for the greater cause of world missions." Signers include Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien, President Carolyn Miller, Recording Secretary Martha Wennerberg and Associate Executive Directors Joyce Mitchell, Bobbie Patterson and June Whitlow.

■ **North Carolina gives to seminary.** North Carolina Baptists voted last week to send \$30,000 from a missions reserve fund to the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. The money will be sent directly to the seminary, bypassing the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

■ **Melzoni's church decides.** Members of First Baptist Church in Hickory, N.C., voted Oct. 13 to send their contributions for world missions through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship rather than the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program. The church's pastor is Tom Melzoni, former pastor of Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville. The church drew attention in August by inviting SBC President Morris Chapman and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Moderator John Hewett to discuss missions-funding options.

■ **Former Kentuckian to D.C.** Jere Allen, former pastor in Ashland, was elected executive director/minister of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention last week. Since 1979, Allen has worked with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Texas Baptists approve Baylor compromise

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

WACO, Texas (ABP)—Texas Baptists granted Baylor University more autonomy in selecting trustees Nov. 11, climaxing more than a year of bitter struggle for control of the nation's largest Baptist university.

Before approving the new relationship, the record 10,800 messengers to the annual meeting of Texas Baptists turned back an attempt to derail the compromise agreement. By a 56 percent vote (5,976 to 4,714), messengers defeated a motion by Houston pastor Ed Young to settle the dispute either by binding arbitration or by a lawsuit against the school.

Young's substitute motion was an attempt to get Baylor's governing board to "negate or overturn" its 1990 charter revision, which gave the school a self-perpetuating board. Formerly, Texas Baptists elected all the school's trustees.

In July, leaders of Baylor and Texas Baptists negotiated a compromise intended to grant the school almost full autonomy while preserving the school's Baptist character.

Although the agreement requires that all Baylor regents be Baptist, it allows Texas Baptists to elect only 25 percent of them. The regents themselves will elect the other

75 percent, with input from Texas Baptists.

After Young's substitute motion was defeated, messengers approved the compromise agreement by a slightly wider margin—59 percent to 41 percent.

Baylor's board already has approved the agreement but now must rewrite its charter to incorporate the changes, said Baylor President Herbert Reynolds.

The agreement "will guarantee the secularization of Baylor University," charged Dallas pastor Joel Gregory, a two-time Baylor graduate. "I believe Baylor will secularize with such velocity that some of the people who voted for this agreement will be shocked," the pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas said after the vote.

But Reynolds, who described the charter change in 1990 as a necessary defense against a threatened takeover by conservatives, promised to keep Baylor true to its Baptist roots.

"It's not the convention that makes us Christian, it's Jesus Christ," Reynolds said in a news conference after the vote. "We have no intention of getting on our horse and riding off in a different direction."

Bolstered by Baylor's successful get-out-the-vote campaign, moderates this year solidified their control of the Texas convention. They won every convention office and held off every other challenge, including one

that would have cut funding of Baylor by 70 percent.

For more than a decade, Texas Baptists have been fighting over Baylor, described by some as "the crown jewel" of Texas Baptists.

Although many people hoped the latest agreement would settle the Baylor dispute once and for all, last week's decision was greeted with warnings that the issue is far from over—and may end up in court.

After the Baylor compromise survived Young's challenge, opponents sought to block it on parliamentary grounds but were turned back.

The parliamentary challenge was developed by Barry McCarty, the Church of Christ minister who has served as parliamentarian for every Southern Baptist Convention president since 1986.

During debate, McCarty huddled with Gregory, Young and other opponents of the agreement and later told Associated Baptist Press he was hired by the Baylor Restoration Committee, a group opposing the Baylor compromise.

Although several opponents of the Baylor agreement implied a lawsuit might be in the works, both Gregory and Young denied they are involved in any such plans.

"We want to avoid that at all costs," Young said.

Baptists in England & Germany 'wait and see'

By Stanley Crabb & Robert O'Brien
SBC Foreign Mission Board

BRISTOL, England (BP)—British and German Baptists will "wait and see" what Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees do about the Ruschlikon seminary controversy in meetings in December.

But the two national Baptist bodies, meeting separately in Bristol, England, and Dorfweil, Germany, indicated a negative response could damage future relationships.

The 200-member Council of the Baptist Union of Great Britain approved a long-negotiated working relationship with Southern Baptists, according to David Coffey, general secretary of the union.

But Coffey said that decision will be placed "on hold" until they see how FMB trustees respond to widespread calls for them to reverse a 35-28 vote that removed \$365,000 from the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

"We will not be doing anything further" in regard to future cooperative arrangements with Southern Baptists "until the situation is clarified," Coffey said. "We want Southern Baptists to help us win Europe for Christ ... but for now we must wait and see."

German Baptist leaders also will bide their time. "We are looking for the new decision," said Gerd Rudzio of the German Baptist Union. "We are taking a wait-and-see attitude" before deciding what to do.

Leaders of the two unions tempered their protests with praise of past cooperation with Southern Baptists, including two Southern Baptist fraternal representatives.

In the wake of widespread protests over the seminary defunding action, FMB trustee Chairman Bill Hancock has called a meeting Dec. 5-6 in Richmond. Hancock is pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Leaders from European Baptists, the Ruschlikon seminary, FMB trustees and

FMB staff will air their views at the December meeting.

That meeting will precede the trustees' regular meeting Dec. 9-11, at which they will have the option of reconsidering the action. They also are expected to receive an opinion from board attorneys about whether their action was legal in light of past agreements. Previous FMB boards of trustees voted to fund the seminary budget through 1992 and then on a descending basis thereafter.

"It is my desire that Southern Baptist and European Baptist leaders will maintain a spirit of prayer and patience and not respond with divisive emotions and verbal expressions as we go into these meetings," Hancock said in response to the escalating protest.

"In view of the fact that trustees acted without consultation with Ruschlikon and European Baptist leaders, this meeting is designed to bring all parties together to discuss the factors and real issues involved."

900 profess faith in Cuban ministry

By Wendy Ryan
Baptist World Alliance

WASHINGTON (BP)—More than 900 Cubans made first-time decisions to follow Jesus Christ during a nine-day evangelistic venture by a delegation of Baptist pastors and leaders.

Afterward, participants described the trip as being like "a first century Christian experience."

"It was fantastic," said Enrique Torres, an American Baptist from Los Angeles. "Every worship service was packed to capacity, and people were even standing on the outside."

"We felt like revival was happening and breaking out in every place" said Michael Catlett, a Southern Baptist and senior pastor of McLean Baptist Church in McLean, Va.

Catlett and Torres were two of the 13 English- and Spanish-speaking American Baptists and Southern Baptists in the venture sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance Oct. 25-Nov. 4.

"Wherever we went in Cuba, we saw a tremendous thirst for the gospel, especially

among young people," said Tony Cupit, BWA evangelism director.

"The response was just marvelous," said Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. "The statistics do not begin to express all that took place. The seed of the gospel was sown in many hearts, as well as those who made commitments. I preached 10 times, and there were decisions every single time."

Team members preached in as many services as possible, with each person preaching in churches at least twice a day. When not in churches, they were making pastoral calls, speaking in schools and hospitals and doing personal witnessing, a sign of a new openness to religion in Cuba.

"Personal witnessing on the street, in buses and in trains is acceptable and effective," Cupit said. "There is great openness everywhere."

Besides evangelism, the visit also strengthened Cuban Baptist leaders. "One of the best contributions we made was strengthening the churches," said Cupit, who was moved by the faith of Cuban Baptists.

Israelis study boat from Jesus' time

CHICAGO (EP)—The Israeli Antiquities Authority has released a report on an extensive study of a 27-foot boat believed to be the exact type used by Jesus and his disciples.

The boat was discovered in mud at the edge of the Sea of Galilee in 1986 by two fishermen. The mud protected the boat's wood from bacteria that would have rotted it.

From an archaeological standpoint, the boat is not significant, the director of the restoration project said, because older boats have been excavated. But this is the first wooden boat found from the period of Jesus' ministry on earth.

Preserving the boat has been difficult because the wood was waterlogged and had the consistency of wet cardboard. However, with careful restoration, the boat should be ready for display in the future.

Budget, Joint Committee among actions

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LEXINGTON—The budget went down, the Baptist Joint Committee came back and the Cooperative Program remained intact as Kentucky Baptists made decisions about their money last week.

Dollars-and-cents decisions dominated business sessions during the 154th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington Nov. 12-13.

With no discussion, messengers approved a 1992-93 KBC Cooperative Program, operating budget of \$17.34 million, a 3.1 percent decrease from the current year's budget goal. Business and finance committee Chairman Howard Beauman said the committee "agonized over" this recommendation but thought it necessary because of decreasing contributions from churches.

The KBC ended its 1990-91 fiscal year Aug. 31 with total Cooperative Program gifts falling 5 percent below the budget goal of \$17.9 million. This was the first time since the Great Depression that gifts failed to surpass a previous year's total.

Despite a decrease in available funds, messengers voted 331-195 to place the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in the state convention's unified budget.

The Washington-based religious liberty agency historically had been funded through the portion of Kentucky money forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program. However, the Joint Committee was defunded by messengers to last summer's SBC meeting in Atlanta, and its program assignments were given to the SBC Christian Life Commission.

Bill Messer, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ashland, presented a motion requesting the KBC Executive Board to "find a way to provide funds in the 1993-94 budget and subsequent budgets to allow our convention to continue to support the Baptist Joint Committee."

Messer said this action would "allow the Kentucky Baptist Convention as an autonomous body to continue our direct support of a committee Southern Baptists helped create."

Despite the SBC's move away from the Joint Committee, the Kentucky Baptist Convention "has not changed, ... has not moved," he said.

Messer said there is "no other group, no other committee today that can effectively do what the Baptist Joint Committee does."

He said his motion specifically did not include a dollar amount because the real issue is the autonomy of the state convention, not the amount to be given. Adopting the motion would prevent churches from designating to the Joint Committee money that otherwise would have been channeled through the KBC, Messer said. "This is not a threat but a reality."

Mike Morris, pastor of First Baptist Church in Wickliffe, said the action was unnecessary: "Kentucky Baptists as individuals and churches already can fund the Baptist Joint Committee."

Morris said adding the Joint Committee to the KBC's budget would take money away from other worthy causes. Further, "once the can of worms is opened," the Cooperative Program could be radically altered at each year's annual meeting, he said.

"The Cooperative Program should be supported if we want unity," he added.

Ken Bolin of Manchester agreed the issue is "too divisive" and would "open a Pandora's box."

Further, he said, the proposal is not feasible economically—"we can't afford it."

He then said the Joint Committee does not stand for the things he thinks a religious liberty agency should stand for. "I wonder if George W. Truett would approve of the way the Baptist Joint Committee is being run today," he said.

Scattered voices from the crowd shouted "Yes!" interrupting Bolin's statement.

Truett was the longtime pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas who made a fa-

ther than being divisive, this could be a unifying action, Holladay said, because it would allow churches upset about national SBC decisions to continue as cooperating churches by supporting the state's unified budget without supporting the national unified budget.

"I do not want the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention to become a divisive litmus test for our work in the state," Holladay said. "I want us all to stay together."

In addition, he said this action would allow greater participation by churches dually aligned with the National Baptist conventions or American Baptist Churches.

At this time, Kentucky Baptists "don't need to be narrowing the parameters" for participation, he said. "We need to be expanding the parameters."

Ray Cummins, pastor of Glenville Baptist Church in Utica and chairman of the constitution and bylaws committee, spoke against Holladay's proposal, saying it had the potential to divide rather than unite.

Greg Brooks, pastor of Willisburg Baptist Church in Willisburg, then moved that the issue be referred to the special study committee on the Cooperative Program for further review. His motion carried.

Immediately afterward, parliamentarian Eldred Taylor, retired Kentucky Baptist pastor and former president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, added another motion. The intent was to clarify that the proposed amendment would return to next year's convention for a second reading, not as a new motion, he said. Messengers concurred.

A question then was raised about whether the issue

should have been referred back to the constitution and bylaws committee rather than the special study committee. After a statement from study committee Chairman Eugene Siler that his committee would bring a joint recommendation with the constitution and bylaws committee, a motion to that effect passed.

Earlier in the meeting, messengers had approved giving the special study committee a one-year extension.

The committee brought two recommendations concerning participation in the Church Annuity Plan but had recommended no changes in the Cooperative Program eligibility formula.

One change in the Church Annuity Plan allows churches to participate based on all contributions to the KBC's work rather than solely on the basis of undesignated Cooperative Program gifts. The other stipulates that a portion of the cost previously borne by the SBC will be picked up by the KBC.

Both of these recommendations passed with little opposition. However, the recommendation to continue the committee for another year drew debate and an attempted amendment that would have dismissed the committee.

After the amendment failed, the original recommendation was approved by messengers. The special committee will hold its next meeting Jan. 21.

Eight at-large spots added to KBC board

By Marv Knox
Editor

LEXINGTON—The Kentucky Baptist Convention expanded the size of its Executive Board last week, allowing participation by at-large members from the state's eight regions who will not be nominated by the convention's 78 district associations.

Traditionally, the associations have controlled the nomination of all Executive Board members, providing two nominees for each vacancy on the governing body.

The constitutional amendment to add the at-large members first came before the convention in 1989, but a second reading and vote were delayed last year to allow more time to study the issue.

This year's KBC constitution and bylaws committee recommended the amendment be withdrawn. But Robert DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church in Harrodsburg and author of the 1989 amendment, convinced KBC messengers to override the committee's recommendation and consider the amendment.

Committee Chairman Ray Cummins, pastor of Glenville Baptist Church in Utica, supported the committee's recommendation, citing reasons developed by the committee: That regional representation on the board would not necessarily increase, since seats already are based on Baptist population of associations in the regions; the eight cooperating KBC churches that are not members of associations would receive disproportionate representation; the KBC provides other avenues for participation in convention life; and former KBC presidents—a group singled out by supporters of the amendment—remain involved in convention life.

"The main point (of the amendment) has been forgotten," countered DeFoor. "The main point is to allow the nominating committee to appoint some qualified persons" to the Executive Board.

Also, those eight non-associational churches gave \$51,000 to the convention last year, more than the totals for 17 associations, he said.

In addition, associational politics keep some members of churches with minority positions—both moderate and conservative—from ever being nominated to the Executive Board, he stressed.

"This will allow the nominating committee to look for talented, committed people, irrespective of church or association," he said. "There is no agenda about this. Nothing hidden. As far as I know, it's not political."

Gates Bowman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Eddyville and a former Executive Board member, opposed the amendment.

"I didn't look at myself as representing either my church or my association," Bowman said. "I looked at myself as serving the whole state convention."

He also protested the cost, which DeFoor said would be a maximum of \$3,500 per year.

Ted Sisk, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, favored the amendment

continued on page 5, "Lay presidents ..."



'Remain faithful to the Cooperative Program for the sake of the commandment of the Lord Jesus Christ'

In his president's address, J. Robert White called for Kentucky Baptists to continue supporting the Cooperative Program unified budget.

mous speech about religious liberty on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

Kenneth Chafin, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, contended that restoring funding to the Joint Committee was not the divisive action. "When the group that has historically represented Southern Baptists on church-state issues was defunded, that was divisive to me," he said. "When the Baptist Joint Committee's program assignments were given to the Christian Life Commission, that was divisive to me."

Another potentially divisive issue was referred to a committee for further consideration and a possible second reading at next year's convention.

At last year's meeting in Paducah, a motion was presented to allow allocation of KBC messengers based on giving to the state convention's work rather than on undesignated Cooperative Program gifts.

Constitutional amendments must be introduced at one annual meeting and then voted on at the next year's meeting. This year's constitution and bylaws committee recommended that this amendment be withdrawn from consideration.

However, Jim Holladay, pastor of East Baptist Church in Louisville, presented a motion that the amendment not be withdrawn. Messengers sustained Holladay's request and agreed to consider the amendment for its second reading.

In next week's Recorder:

- Directors of missions
- Music ministers
- Religious educators
- Women in ministry
- Ministers' wives
- Bivocational ministers

State needs to hear Baptist harmony

editorial

Marv Knox

The Raymond McClain Family and Friends trio tuned up one of the most memorable moments of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 154th annual meeting last week.

Three fine voices—accompanied at various times by guitars, banjo and mandolin—delivered the gospel in tight, sweet harmony.

Sometimes they sang the same words, but on different notes. Sometimes they sang different words and notes altogether, weaving individual melodies and lyrics into the theme of the same tune. Every once in awhile, they stopped singing and let the pickers strum a variation on the theme.

But no matter how the McClain trio approached their songs, two things never changed: They kept right on making beautiful music. And they never stopped praising the Lord.

The trio's wonderful harmony symbolized the spirit of the KBC annual meeting in Lexington: We didn't always sing the same notes or voice the same words, but we made beautiful music singing the same song.

The annual meeting's theme, "Celebrate Christ in Unity and Commitment," well described that "song." Over and over again, speakers repeated the tune: Keynote preachers encouraged Kentucky Baptists to rally around their commitment to Christ and Christ's ministry for them and to find unity of purpose. Speakers who delivered the good news of Kentucky Baptists' combined ministry illustrated what has happened when Baptists joined voices in songs of work and service. Our unity was defined by our commitment to Christ. And in that spirit, we celebrated.

As we proceed from this annual meeting into another year

of service, we would do well to remember the difference between singing in unison and harmony.

A chorus sung in unison—all voices singing the same words and notes at the same time—can be beautiful. But harmony—each voice singing its own part, united with the others by the common theme of the tune—produces the most uplifting hymns.

Kentucky Baptists need the harmony of all our voices. The trend in our larger denominational life, the Southern Baptist Convention, has been to force Baptists' voices to sing in unison. Everybody must sing the same tune or get out of the choir. But just as any hymn is enriched by harmonizing voices, our convention is strongest when all voices are heard.

Ironically, the voices which have been all but shut out of the national convention, the moderates', seem to be dominant in Kentucky. But our common hymn to God will be fuller and richer if moderates resist the temptation to do unto others as has been done unto them. They must struggle to make sure all the Baptist voices of our state are heard.

Kentucky has the opportunity to be the model for inclusive participation in Baptist life. While numerous state conventions experienced sharp division this fall, ours was marked by a remarkable degree of unity and commitment. That is a gift from God.

Kentucky Baptists' song has been shaped by our many voices—conservative and moderate, Landmark and progressive, mountain and valley, east and west, urban and rural.

Our state needs the harmony of those voices, the gospel tune we can live out before our fellow citizens, as a witness to the reconciling power of our Lord.

That task begins with each of us. Are you humming a tune in harmony?

Noses on glass, boys lift prayer for snow to fall

down home

Two little boys climbed onto the window sill and pressed their noses to the glass.

They had outlasted their church's Wednesday night family meal, children's choir and, finally, Mission Friends. In all, well more than two hours of midweek reverence at the end of a long day.

And they had been good, as 5-year-old young men go: They bounced around the room like rubber balls for the last hour. Their teachers tried to tell them about missionaries and far-away places, but things spiritual and missionary and Baptist seemed lost on 4- and 5-year-old children, especially energetic boys with Ninja Turtles on their minds.

By the way, have you ever noticed the connection between the length of the day and a child's attention span? We probably should gather them at the church house and tell them about missionaries before they start the day; Mission Friends at 6:30 in the evening seems more like Mission: Impossible.

And have you ever noticed how kids seem to get more mobile as the day wears on? Sitting still after school and church seems harder than running a marathon on 18-inch legs. I remember an adult commenting about me when I was that age: "I wish I had as much energy when I wake up as he does when he goes to bed." That seemed absurd back then, but now I know what she meant.

Anyway, James and Samuel had been their usual selves—laughing and wrestling and ignoring the girls and imagining themselves as super-heroes. They couldn't sit still if a lifetime supply of Gummi bears depended on it. To be fair, they weren't alone. The other kids giggled and squirmed, too.

But James and Samuel remained after the other kids' parents had picked them up. That's when they climbed into the window. And that's when they started to pray.

They didn't bow their heads and shut their eyes. Closed eyes are heresy to a boy in kindergarten. But they prayed just the same.

One of them remembered that someone on the radio had said we might get snow that night. Never mind that the moon was shining brightly over the newly-naked trees. Clear skies shouldn't get in the way of childhood hopes.

Then the other boy decided to help the weather along: "Dear God, let it snow!" he shouted. "Dear God, let it snow!" the other one shouted back. Soon, their prayer became a child's chant: "Dear God, let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!"

Their prayer-chant was our benediction that night. And to tell you the truth, I forgot all about it. Until I dusted the snowflakes off my car the next morning.

— Marv Knox

CLC 'has not taken a position' on vouchers

response

I'm writing in response to John Dunaway's Viewpoint column, "Education vouchers: A public dilemma" (WR, Oct. 22). Dunaway, a board member for the Baptist Center for Ethics (established recently as the alternative to the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission), makes an assertion which could lead readers to believe that the Christian Life Commission has taken a position on vouchers or educational choice. Dunaway says, "The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and many of the super churches which operate schools support this indirect aid."

This is inaccurate. The CLC has not taken a position on this issue. We have sought to foster a discussion among Southern Baptists in order to develop a consensus on this matter. To that end, the October-December

1991 Light (the CLC's magazine) has a "point-counterpoint" on the subject of educational vouchers. Dunaway's column seems to respond to these articles. The very fact that he has written this column demonstrates the efficacy of our endeavor.

At the Southern Baptist Convention this year, messengers overwhelmingly adopted a resolution which generally endorsed the concept of educational choice. This resolution seems to represent the views of a significant number of Southern Baptists. However, we also recognize that a significant number of Southern Baptists are categorically against vouchers. Additionally, there are a large number of Southern Baptists who are unsure of their views on this controversial issue. In light of this, we have determined that there is not a consensus which would allow us to advocate certain public policy measures related to vouchers and educational choice.

It is our conviction that we should not advocate public policy measures in which

there is not a consensus among Southern Baptists. We believe this is proper and wise because if we misrepresent Southern Baptists, we will eventually lose credibility with our constituency and public policy officials in Washington. Most importantly, we will have abused a trust placed in us by Southern Baptists.

Finally, the CLC will always oppose direct aid to churches. We recognize the evil of this concept. As to the matter of indirect aid and the right of parents to rear and educate their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," Southern Baptists should engage in a healthy debate about the multitude of educational choice proposals which are under consideration around our nation.

When a consensus is achieved, then, and only then, will the CLC advocate certain public policy measures on this issue.

James A. Smith
Director of Government Relations
SBC Christian Life Commission
Washington

western recorder

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



ALL TOGETHER—Messengers and visitors to last week's 154th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention fill the sanctuary of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Total attendance reached 1,803, with 1,508 registered messengers.

Lay presidents, evangelism debated at KBC

continued from page 3

ment on two principles. "The autonomy of the Kentucky Baptist Convention allows us to select our board members any way we choose," he said, also noting the amendment would allow participation by people disenfranchised by their associations.

In a somewhat related matter, the convention supported another constitution and bylaws committee recommendation regarding associations' nomination of Executive Board members.

A proposed constitutional amendment would have allowed associations to nominate one candidate—instead of two nominees currently required—for each vacancy on the Executive Board.

"The current procedure is based on a covenant between autonomous district associations and the convention," Cummins said. "The process works well, but the proposed change would not allow the (KBC) nominating committee autonomy."

Odell Beauchamp, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Owensboro, disagreed. "This amendment does not conflict with the autonomy of the convention, associations or churches," he said.

Associations are best suited to know who should serve, he added: "The nominating committee doesn't always know the people. In our associations, we know these people better than anyone."

Eldred Taylor, a longtime pastor and retired president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, and Bill Dodson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Benton, argued against the amendment and for the committee's recommendation on principles of Baptist polity and history.

"I understand our convention to be a convention of messengers," Dodson said. "If we go to one person elected by the association, we move from the convention's right to conduct its business."

In other business, messengers:

- Agreed to withdraw a constitutional amendment that would have required election of a layperson as KBC president within every four-year period.

The recommendation to withdraw the amendment noted messengers "strongly encourage the election of laypersons for convention leadership."

The major problems with the amendment were that "it could create the false impression of lay election only one time every four years, and it could violate the will of the body," Cummins said.

- Decided to cooperate with local associations to conduct evangelism emphases at KBC annual meetings and evangelism con-

ferences.

The original proposal, developed by a special committee created last year to study the issue, originally proposed an emphasis to be held in conjunction with the KBC annual meetings.

But Allen Baugh, co-director of missions for Severns Valley Baptist Association in the Elizabethtown area, proposed an amendment that would tie the emphasis to evangelism conferences.

Messengers debated the merits of both proposals, and then Doyle Searcy, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Somerset, urged messengers to combine the proposals.

"It's ridiculous to argue about whether we do it at the state convention or the evangelism conference," he said. "I move we do it at both."

Stan Prewitt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton, said he had worked in similar events at SBC annual meetings and promised, "It's the most thrilling experience of your life."

- Heard an amendment to the covenant agreements of the three KBC senior colleges—Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown—to allow each school to have eight trustees from out of state.

The amendment would stipulate that trustees still must be active members of Southern Baptist churches. And trustee candidates still would be presented to the convention by its nominating committee.

The amendment will be considered at the 1992 KBC annual meeting in Louisville.

- Withdrew a proposed change in the description of the KBC public affairs committee that would have mandated that the committee "work in close cooperation with" the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in addition to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Constitution and bylaws committee Chairman Cummins noted the public affairs committee did not favor the change because it wanted to keep its options open "to continue dealing with whatever entity they feel led to."

- Approved the nominations of 28 people to serve on seven convention committees and selected five speakers and five alternates for reports to the 1992 annual meeting.

The committee elections featured one substitution. Don Mathis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin who recently was elected executive director of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, proposed Rick Hatley, minister of education at Central Church, to take his place on the KBC nominating committee.

- Elected 136 people to serve on KBC boards and chose Brad Johnson, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, to bring the convention sermon in 1992, with Robert H. Johnson, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, as the alternate.

- Approved two changes in the Kentucky Baptist Foundation's covenant agreement with the KBC.

The first change allows the Foundation to supplement its convention-provided budget "by reasonable fees charged for services rendered by the Foundation."

That change brings the Kentucky Foundation in line with the majority of the largest foundations operated by Baptist state conventions, said Foundation Chairman Arnold Caddell, a banker from Burlington.

The second change provides a process for amending the covenant similar to amendment processes outlined in the covenants with other KBC institutions.

- Approved a change in the Western Recorder's KBC covenant agreement to stipulate the nominating process for new members of the newspaper's board.

The paragraphs about that process inadvertently were left out of the original covenant, but are similar to the trustee-nomination processes detailed in other KBC institutions' covenants, said Recorder Vice Chairman Greg Earwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Murray.

- Voted to hold the 1994 KBC annual meeting in Frankfort. Messengers also accepted a conditional offer to meet at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown in 1993 if First Baptist Church in Bowling Green cannot rebuild its sanctuary on time. The Bowling Green building was destroyed by fire this fall.

- Agreed to dissolve the KBC committee on obituaries and replace it with an annual obituary report delivered by an individual.

- Received new KBC President Glenn Mollette's first leadership appointments, the chairmen of eight convention committees.

They are Brad Johnson of Bowling Green, committee on committees; Howard Cobble, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church, order of business; Michael Watts, pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, credentials; Gates Bowman of Eddyville, arrangements.

Also Ken Holden, pastor of First Baptist Church of Flatwoods, nominations; Billy Hurt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Calvert City, public affairs; Brett Robbe, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, resolutions; and Eldred Taylor of Louisville, constitution and bylaws.



**on
mission
together**

William W. (Bill) Marshall
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Box 43433
Middletown, KY 40253

Nurturing the gift of time

My wife brought home with her some information which was distributed at a recent conference she attended at Cedarmore.

The conference, designed for ministers' spouses, is co-sponsored by the minister church support division and Woman's Missionary Union of Kentucky.

Although there are plenty of "time management" seminars around, a flood of videos on the subject, and tons of books, it is still a valuable exercise for all of us to periodically evaluate the way we spend time, a commodity very precious in these days of accelerated living.

From a list of 49 "basics" in time management, I have selected several to share with the reader. (If someone would like the entire list, please call or write me.)

- Learn how you spend your time by auditing your time usage with a time log.
- Do it now.
- Assert your right to control your time by saying "no."
- Have a place for everything and keep everything in its place.
- Concentrate on one thing at a time.
- When in doubt, throw it out.
- Commit your business goals and your personal goals to paper.
- Plan daily, weekly and monthly.
- Set deadlines for yourself as well as for others.
- Break larger or long-term tasks into manageable sections.
- Set your own priorities.
- Insist that meetings begin and end on time.
- Insist that meetings stick to the agenda.
- Don't waste the time of others. The Golden Rule applies.
- Avoid perfectionism except on critical items.

- Don't postpone difficult tasks.
- Make definite appointments: confirm time and keep them.
- Do your most important work during your high energy periods.
- Identify and systematically eliminate time wasters.
- Focus on being effective (doing the right things) rather than efficient (doing things right.)
- Look for new techniques to make you more effective and efficient.
- Plan realistically; everything takes longer than expected.
- Concentrate your attention on the present. Be here now.
- Manage your time to get satisfaction and pleasure out of life.

"Buying back" precious time is worth the effort. But it isn't a one-time deal; only those who become consistent will reap the fruits of their efforts.

Give yourself a nice gift this Christmas: 30 more minutes of "quality living" every day. It might even turn out to be a gift to somebody else.

Five officers, only one contest

By Marv Knox
Editor

LEXINGTON—Kentucky Baptists elected five new officers but saw only one contested race during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting last week.

President Glenn Mollette, First Vice President Floyd Price, Secretary Wilma Simmons and Assistant Secretary Joe Priest Williams all gained office by acclamation.

Second Vice President Ginny Sisk won her post over three other contenders on the first ballot.

Mollette has been pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville since 1984. Before that, he was pastor of Stamping Ground Baptist Church in Stamping Ground and First Baptist Church of Highland Heights.

"He has really excelled where our work is done—in the local church," said David Nelson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, in nominating Mollette.

"I found in him a pastor to win the lost and build up the church," said Nelson, who reported the Pikeville church has had 600 additions, more than doubled its budget and Sunday school enrollment, added parking, renovated its sanctuary, contributed \$159,000 to missions and erased its debt during Mollette's ministry.

Price is pastor of Buck Grove Baptist Church in Ekron.

He began his ministry as a lay preacher while serving in the U.S. Air Force in the Philippines, reported his nominator, Jimmy Gentry, pastor of Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro. Price's stateside ministries have included churches in Jellico, Tenn., and Paoli, Ind., as well as Hardinsburg Baptist Church in Hardinsburg.

Buck Grove Church has doubled the percentage of its budget that goes to the Cooperative Program during Price's eight-year ministry there, Gentry said, noting the

church now gives 18 percent of undesignated receipts to the convention's unified budget.

Sisk became only the second woman vice president of the KBC. Her nominator, Betty McSwain of Louisville, was the other one.

Sisk is a former president of the Southern Baptist Conference of Ministers' Wives and has been active in Woman's Missionary Union. Her husband, Ted, is pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Other nominees for second vice president were Cloys Bruce, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Benton; Gene Crowder, pastor of Columbia Baptist Church in Columbia; and Jerry Lowrie, pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg.

Simmons, of Ekron, has been clerk and secretary of Salem Baptist Association for many years, noted her nominator, Doris Yeiser of Louisville.

She also has been active in Woman's Missionary Union and among other duties has been the secretary for the field representative of Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

She succeeds Yeiser, who has been the convention's secretary since 1987. Yeiser also is the convention's archivist and was administrative assistant to the KBC executive secretary-treasurer until her retirement in 1987.

Williams was the pastor of Baptist Tabernacle in Louisville for more than 25 years until his retirement, noted Eldred Taylor of Louisville, a longtime Kentucky pastor and retired president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, who nominated him.

Williams lives in Louisville and continues to teach at Boyce Bible School.

He replaces G. Allen West, retired longtime director of missions for Long Run Baptist Association in Louisville, who was assistant secretary since 1988.

New president asks support for CP

continued from page 1

That means bridging generation and political gaps, he stressed.

At age 36, Mollette noted, he possibly is the youngest person ever elected KBC president. His earliest appointments included both retired and young pastors.

"I count it an honor to work with older leaders," he said. "On the other hand, I've nominated some younger people. I see this as being very important in our state—young and old working closely."

Cooperation also is important among Kentucky Baptists who hold varying positions regarding the Southern Baptist Convention controversy, Mollette said.

"A spirit of trust is very important," he insisted. "Kentucky Baptists need to trust one another and work hard to stimulate faith in each other. I don't believe there are many Kentucky Baptists out there trying to grind an axe or disable the convention."

"Most Kentucky Baptists want what's best for the Kingdom's sake, what will further the cause of Christ. Most Kentucky Baptists believe the Bible and have a strong love for Christ. If we can see that and continue to work together as we have this year, it will continue to further the cause."

Personal friendships among Kentucky Baptists also can promote harmony within the convention, Mollette said.

"I have many friends on both sides. It's important that we work on our friendships. We need to eat more with people perceived to be on the other side of the fence, to be in other churches, breaking down the barriers of perceptions and disillusionments that may not be deserved.

"I would like to have the opportunity to spend time with people across the state, ... to promote the attitude that we're all in this to-

gether."

Mollette also intends to promote the Cooperative Program, Kentucky and Southern Baptists' unified budget. In fact, his church—First Baptist of Pikeville—recently gave almost \$25,000 over its regular contribution to the Cooperative Program.

"The Cooperative Program is a great vehicle, and all of us can participate in it," he said. "I want to enhance the Cooperative Program."

Mollette also wants to promote positive change. "I'm interested in seeing our churches become a little more progressive to change," he said. "I'd like to see us work a little harder at trying new methods. An unwillingness to change is almost an unwillingness to grow. We need to try new means and methods, to be open to new ideas."

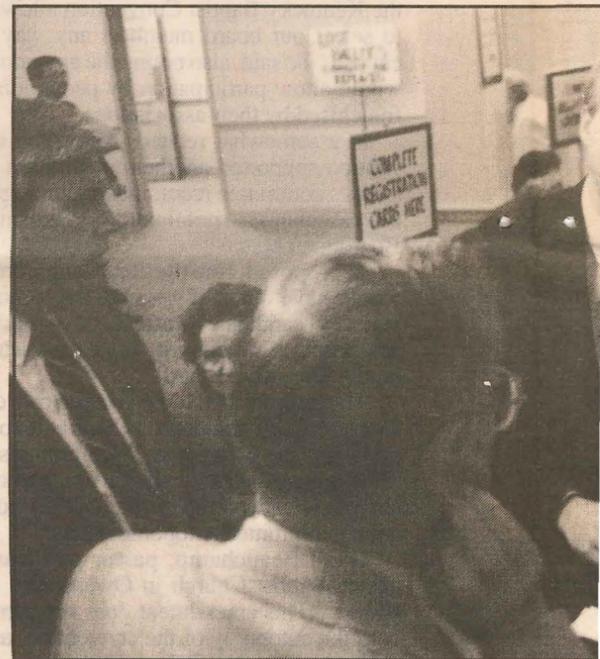
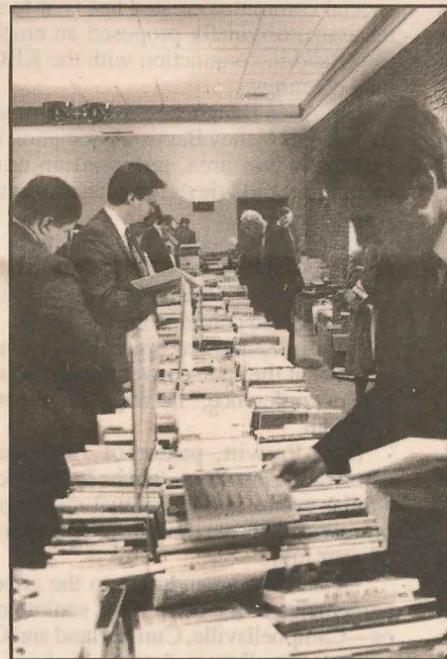
Mollette became pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville in July 1984. The church averages 380 to 420 in Sunday school and has a budget of \$490,000. It gives 17 percent of its receipts to missions—15 percent to the Cooperative Program and 2 percent to Pike Baptist Association.

Mollette grew up in Martin and graduated from Georgetown College in Georgetown and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

He has been pastor of Stamping Ground Baptist Church in Stamping Ground and First Baptist Church of Highland Heights.

He has been president of the KBC Pastors' Conference, moderator of his local Baptist association, and a member of the Western Recorder board of directors, the KBC Executive Board and numerous KBC committees. He also started and coordinates a ministry to disadvantaged children and teen-agers in southeastern Kentucky.

He and his wife, Karen, have two sons.



PHOTOS FROM TOP: ■ The Raymond McClain Family and Friends trio performs country gospel tunes ■ Messengers browse through stacks of books for sale in the convention's Baptist Book Store ■ Philip Bradshaw (center), chairman of the credentials committee, guides messengers from Central Baptist Church in Frankfort through the registration hall after their church was voted into Kentucky Baptist Con-

vention fellowship ■ N tant secretary, Wilma S ond vice president, Floyd president ■ Peggy Say tells those attending the tained her family throu



ship ■ New KBC officers are Joe Priest Williams, assistant secretary, Wilma Simmons, recording secretary, Ginny Sisk, secretary, Floyd Price, first vice president and Glenn Mollette, second vice president. Peggy Say, sister of American hostage Terry Anderson, is speaking at the Pastors' Conference that faith in God has sustained them through their highly publicized trauma.

Ruschlikon, AIDS top KBC resolutions

By Marv Knox
Editor

LEXINGTON—Kentucky Baptists voted their opinions on the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, AIDS and charitable gift annuities during their meeting in Lexington last week.

Messengers voted 418-97 to approve a resolution calling upon trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to "reconsider their action taken in October to defund the support of the Ruschlikon seminary and to find a more amicable solution to the issue."

The resolution cited the fall of communism in Eastern Europe and the need for trained Christian leadership to take advantage of the "historic opportunity to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ."

It affirmed the role the seminary has played in training leaders and noted the decision to defund the school "threatens the positive relationships existing between Southern Baptists and European Baptists."

That point was emphasized in a letter from the Baptist Union of Czechoslovakia read by Jim England, pastor of Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville, who proposed the resolution.

"We consider that (FMB) decision an unfair act against the seminary," the letter stated. "This seminary has been fulfilling the role of peacemaker in the deepest sense of the word," it added, noting the school's program is "really rich and fully theologically acceptable to us."

FMB trustee Bill Hall, pastor of Gethsemane Baptist Church in Danville, spoke

against the resolution.

He cited an upcoming meeting of FMB and European leaders and called the resolution needless. "The board is already doing what this resolution calls for," he said.

Hall said the board's action was not unilateral, stressing that the seminary had not lived up to 1988 agreements to become more conservative.

He also decried threats to withhold funds for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions in response to the board's Ruschlikon decision. "To hold our missionaries hostage is unconscionable," he said. "We need to keep faith with our missionaries all over the world."

Messengers also approved a resolution titled "AIDS, Safe Sex and Christian Morality" without dissent.

"Considerable attention and national publicity have recently been focused on the HIV virus, AIDS and 'safe sex,'" the resolution noted. But it charged that "so-called 'safe sex' falls short of the biblical standard for sexual relationships."

It stressed Kentucky Baptists "remain sensitive to the needs of AIDS victims and the need to find a cure for AIDS."

It called for "the biblical standard of morality in regard to sex and Christian lives, ... compassionate concern for AIDS victims and their families ... (and) abstinence from sexual experiences outside of marriage and faithfulness to one's spouse."

The resolution was proposed by Robert Browning, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset; Robert DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church in Harrodsburg; and Greg Earwood, pastor of First Baptist

Church of Murray.

A third resolution focused on the Kentucky Insurance Code's regulation of charitable gift annuities and proposed legislation which would help religious and charitable organizations.

The resolution defined a charitable gift annuity as a giving plan in which "a gift of cash or other property is made to a qualified organization in exchange for its agreement to pay an annuity."

The state insurance commissioner has interpreted the Insurance Code to declare that only insurance companies can issue gift annuities, the resolution said, noting this restriction "limits the giving aspirations of small donors and deprives charitable organizations of those contributions."

The resolution identified proposed legislation that will be submitted to the Kentucky General Assembly next year. It placed KBC messengers on record in support for the new law and conveyed to legislators and the governor their support for the legislation. It also encouraged messengers and church leaders to communicate their support for the proposed law directly to state lawmakers.

The resolution was proposed by Richard Carnes, executive director-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

A fourth resolution expressed appreciation to Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington and its staff for being host to the meeting, to Elkhorn Baptist Association in the Lexington area and to KBC officers.

The resolutions were presented by David Nelson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro and chairman of the KBC resolutions committee.

'God stands behind me,' sister of hostage says

By Mark Wingfield & Marv Knox
News Director & Editor

LEXINGTON—Eight ministers preached about Jesus' model of ministry at last week's Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, but one laywoman demonstrated the impact of Jesus' life through her own story.

The annual meeting was held at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington one day prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Peggy Say, sister of American hostage Terry Anderson and a member of Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz, spoke in a quiet voice and claimed she is still an ordinary housewife although she has taken her brother's case before kings and presidents.

"I don't do anything alone," she said of her six-year fight for her brother's release from his Middle East captors. "Most important is that God stands behind me, and next in importance is that my husband, David, stands beside me."

Say described the distress she faced a few years ago when three relatives died within a short period. Standing at her grandson's graveside, "I knew I had to decide whether I believed in a God who allowed these things to happen," she said. Finally, Say realized "God did not make these things happen; he allowed us to survive them."

Say recently received assurance from Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations, that all American hostages in the Middle East will be released by the end of this year, she said.

Say's pastor, Harold Skaggs, was president of the Pastors' Conference and chose its theme, "Jesus: Our Model for Ministry."

Jimmy Gentry, pastor of Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro, said some Baptists are held hostage by spiritual blindness and economic bondage.

Pastors should bring good news to these people by modeling the ministry of Jesus, he said. "Make sure you model Jesus Christ for your people. That's good advice whether you've been pastoring for one year or 60

years."

Norris Smith, a church administration consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, said Jesus modeled a ministry of reconciliation.

"Reconciliation is the work of God, not mine," he said. "But God is asking us to work with him ... to show people how they can get friendly with God again."

Kentucky native Steve McSwain, now pastor of First Baptist Church in Avondale Estates, Ga., said Jesus had authority with people because he was "a real person. He loved people, and people knew that."

On the other hand, non-Christians don't always know that modern believers love them, McSwain said. "We love the Bible, but I sometimes wonder if people think we don't love them."

Esther Burroughs of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's lay evangelism department said Jesus was an agent of change in his community.

"If we are ever going to make a difference in America, we must cross the barriers of culture," she said. "One of the biggest barriers we must cross ... is to get outside the walls of the church."

Joe Stacker, director of the Sunday School Board's church administration department, said Jesus was a leader, noting, "One of the greatest crises in the church today is the crisis of leadership."

Jesus was "the greatest leader who ever lived" because he had a sense of high purpose and a world vision, practiced tough love and worked his plan, Stacker added.

Raymond Bailey, professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, focused on Jesus' authority.

Jesus' authority came "through what he did in the world," he noted, urging pastors to follow Jesus' model.

"He was a person of prayer," Bailey said. "You can only teach as well as you can pray. Our line of authority comes through communing with the Father."

Jesus' authority also came from "going

out among the people with needs, finding those needs and meeting those needs. Some of us may be short on authority because we have failed to pour ourselves out for others. ... People cannot hear us if we cannot or will not identify with them."

Kenneth Chafin, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, said Jesus was an evangelist and insisted Christians can follow Jesus' style of evangelism.

Chafin listed six observations about Jesus' evangelism technique. First, "Jesus was able to love everyone he ever dealt with," he said. Also, Jesus "never seemed to take the same approach to two people."

Third, "our Lord was willing to go against popular prejudice," relating to people shunned by others. Fourth, "Jesus effectively integrated his witness and his ministry" to others' needs.

Jesus also "always made clear what was involved in following him and did it in a spirit of love," Chafin said. Finally, Jesus "never pressured or manipulated anyone."

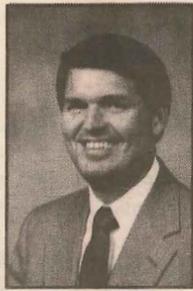
Ken Hemphill, pastor of First Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., said Jesus' ministry transformed culture.

Many of the issues dividing Southern Baptists today are cultural rather than theological, he said.

Speaking about the Samaritan woman at the well, Hemphill asked pastors to consider what is their "Samaria"—the place or issue they avoid facing up to at all costs.

Hemphill challenged pastors to confront cultural issues such as race relations, women in ministry, evangelism in gay communities, reaching single adults, the need for prison ministries and debates about the proper time and place for weekly worship.

New conference officers are Robert Browning, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset, president; Don Mantooh, pastor of First Baptist Church of Morehead, vice president; Gary Hughes, pastor of First Baptist Church of Maysville, secretary; and Barry Allen, business manager of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, treasurer.



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

clear creek chronicle

Power Team

First-year student David McQueen sanded a discarded wooden cabinet at the edge of Clear Creek. Nearby was some metal shelving he had pieced together. He told me there was no place in his room to store his dishes. "If I'm going to be here a while, I want to make it a little more like home." With a room microwave, he prepares his own meals.

"How has your adjustment gone?" I inquired. "You don't want to know my first impression, for it came out of homesickness. I really like it now. In Indiana I was surrounded by corn fields. In the nearby town we had gangs and crime and you couldn't walk down the streets. Here, you can get alone with the Lord, and I like the mountains and the creek."

Since age 18, McQueen has been involved in weight lifting. He won first place in the light-weight division at Fort Wayne, Ind. Since his salvation, he has used his strength as a witness tool to reach others.

McQueen worked some in an Indiana gym and recalls the witnessing opportunities: "When some guys get frustrated with not achieving their goal, they get angry and upset. They noticed I was not swearing, and I had the opportunity to talk to them about Jesus. I got to lead some of them to Christ."

At youth presentations, he tears apart an Indianapolis phone book, blows up a hot water bottle and breaks a concrete block. He recalls with thanksgiving one crusade in which 28 young people made commitments to Christ.

Prior to coming to Clear Creek, McQueen prayed for someone who shared his interest and with whom he could form a power team. He was very pleased to meet Berea student James Poynter.

The two of them normally work out five days a week at the Pineville gym. Poynter is getting back in shape to the days when he could squat 700 pounds.

Poynter has won three power lifting titles and set a national squat record at age 17. He became interested in this form of ministry after sharing his testimony with young people and noticing how closely they listened when he told of physical accomplishments.

"When I saw a power team (Strike Force from Texas) in April 1991, I started to pray about doing this as a ministry. Four months later I walked into the Kelly Hall game room, and there stood Dave. I knew God was about to do something. We performed our first service at Pineville First Baptist Church in October. Four young men were saved. Praise be to God alone!"

Dave and James are available for youth lock-ins and retreats.

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Speakers call for Baptists to join hands for sake of gospel

continued from page 1

ble. "But it is the lordship of Jesus Christ that binds us together in the family of God."

Baptists "come closest to celebrating Christ in unity when we say three simple words: 'Jesus is Lord,'" he explained. "That is the heart of the Christian faith."

KBC President J. Robert White said believers will be united when they recognize their own dependence on the grace of God. "We are concerning ourselves too much with what Tom and Bill and Sue believe and how they are getting along in their spiritual lives, when we need to focus upon ourselves," he said.

Drawing upon John Newton's hymn "Amazing Grace," White called Kentucky Baptists to "join hands and together celebrate Christ in a spirit of unity and commitment," declaring the "amazing grace that saved a wretch like me."

"Can we not get together in this: that though wretched, God has forgiven us?" he asked.

Other speakers concurred that Southern Baptists' 12-year-old fight over the Bible is not the path to unity.

"We are not united around the Bible,"

said Randall Jones, director of missions for Northern Kentucky Baptist Association. "That relationship is in Jesus Christ. As we believe in him and trust in him, we become unified."

"We are living in a day when our denomination is crying out for some kind of unity," said Charles Bugg, professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "There may be people on either side of the controversy who enjoy the warfare, but most of us are sick of the wounds."

Bugg related the experience he had in 1983 when his 10-year-old son developed a malignant brain tumor.

"What I didn't need at that time was for somebody to call me and offer me arguments for the Bible," he said. "What I needed was what the Bible had to say: 'Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ...'

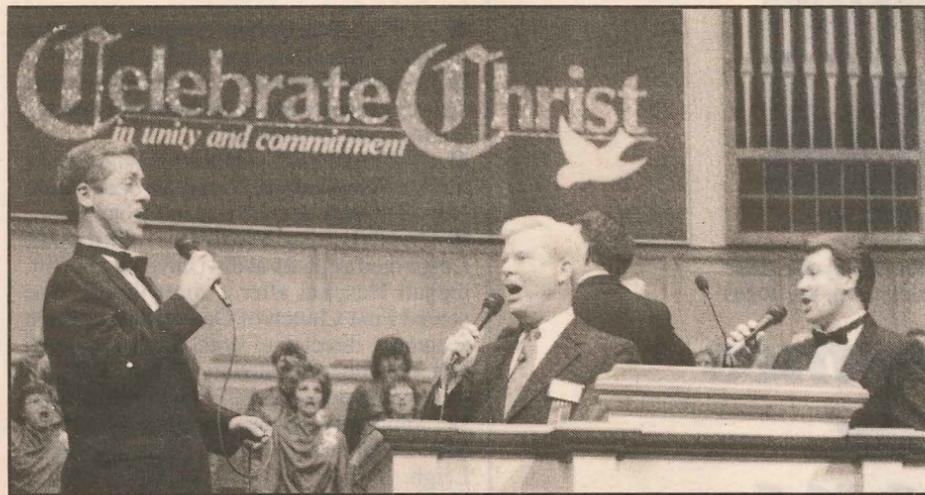
"What bore me up in those times was not that somebody came to argue about the Bible, but it was the power of those words," Bugg said.

Peggy Hicks, a member of Lakewood Baptist Church in Louisville and former missionary to the Philippines, compared the effects of disunity to the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines.

"We, too, are creating devastation and destruction, and people are dying without the gospel," she said.

Rather than spouting destructive fighting, Hicks asked Baptists to "let our stewardship flow, let it come from hearts that have committed themselves to the Lord first."

O.C. Jones Sr., pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Radcliff, said the family of God is a family the world cannot understand.



FOR A SONG—Kentucky Baptist Convention President J. Robert White (center) joins his church's music minister, Kent Jackson, and organist, Art Deweese, in a trio accompanied by the choir of First Baptist Church in Paducah prior to White's president's address to the convention.

Even Christians have trouble understanding the breadth of God's family, he said. "As we're leaning on Jesus' everlasting arms, if we look to the right and to the left, we might be surprised who else we see there."

In the convention sermon, Steve Husung, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Oak Grove, said Christians have not done as well when they are top dogs in society as when they are underdogs.

Looking at the world from the vantage point of a top dog may also be deceptive, he said: "As long as we have a tunnel vision view of our world, we look like top dogs. ... But when our vision gets as broad as our Lord's, then everything comes back into focus."

Rather than focusing on conflicts be-

tween believers, Baptists must focus on the cries of people in need of physical and spiritual rescue, said Jim McKinley, Kentucky native and missionary to Bangladesh.

"To reach the world, we must hear it cry," he said, describing several of his own experiences from the mission field.

"We as God's family of Kentucky Baptists have been called to be nothing less than God's helpers," McKinley said. "Help is costly. It cost Jesus his life. Why should we ask for less for ourselves?"

Denton Lotz, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist World Alliance, concluded the KBC annual meeting by reminding messengers that a commitment to missions is what unites Baptists across the world.

Through the BWA, "Baptists all over the world hold hands together so that no one may perish without knowing God," he said.

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MAKING • A • DIFFERENCE



Report of the Travis Estate Fund for Elderly Baptists and Ministers and Families Crises

October 1, 1990, through September 30, 1991

Medical (elderly Baptists)	\$6,019.65
Ministers Crises	\$6,015.00
Misc. Expenses (postage, etc.)	\$172.00
Total Expenditures	\$12,206.65

Note: This assistance is limited to members and ministers of churches of the Daviess-McLean Baptist Association

What do you do with preschoolers during a Children's Day Out Program?

Bardstown Baptist Church found the perfect solution--Mission Friends. Mission Friends is the WMU organization for boys and girls birth through 5 years. "Through Mission Friends," says Betty Graham, director of the program, "our children learn about the world in a way that so many preschoolers never experience. They learn that Jesus is our friend in Bardstown, in Kentucky and throughout the world. Our time is spent with stimulating learning activities that are always missions-based."

For more information about Mission Friends, contact Kentucky WMU, P.O. Box 43433 Louisville, KY 40253-0433 or call (502) 245-4101.





Curtis C. Mooney
President
10801 Shelbyville Road
Middletown, KY 40243

homes for children

Strengths

Peter Drucker, in his book "The Effective Executive," notes the importance of encouraging the work of individuals by focusing on their strengths. Positive reinforcement is always the best motivator of people.

An area of weakness is another matter. Drucker indicates that it is best to determine if you can live with the person's weakness. If you cannot, you should find someone else to do the work, for he believes it does little good to try to build on weakness.

I recently attended a training session which focused on hiring staff. The materials used in the process again focused on hiring people who had strengths in the areas needed.

In this particular training session, we focused on hiring child care staff. It was noted that we needed people with empathy and understanding for children. In addition, the person needed to be able to work with other persons on a team. They needed to be people with high energy levels, and individuals with a strong commitment to children and to helping them with their problems.

There have been times when we have had some wonderful people working with our children, but they were missing some of those critical pieces. We are trying to find out if people have the necessary skills before employment.

The apostle Paul spoke of the same type of emphasis when he described how each of us as Christians are given specific gifts from God. Those gifts when combined in the church produce great works. God normally gives us gifts based upon the innate strengths which we each possess.

As we work with the children in our care we must help them find their strengths. There is a temptation to want all of our children to go to college. The reality is that for many that would be building on a weakness and not on a strength. We are working on ways of helping our young people discover what they do best and then helping them find a way to get better at that.

In our fast-changing world, our young people may have several different careers. It is important for them to have a good understanding of themselves and of their personal strengths.



mountains to the mississippi

■ **AGES**—Bill Collett resigned as pastor of Ages Church. He is available for supply.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Lowell Avenue Church ordained Steve Newton and Forster Hedgespeth as deacons.

■ **CLOVERPORT**—Blackford and Breckinridge Associations hosted an open house Nov. 3 at their new offices in Cloverport.

■ **DANVILLE**—Virginia Chitwood Leigh died Sept. 25 at the University of Cincinnati Hospital after a short illness. She served First Church of Danville as assistant secretary, director of both Baptist Women and Woman's Missionary Union, and promoter of various ministries in missions, music, singles work and outreach visitation. Mrs. Leigh was the widow of the late Odell Leigh.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Keith Goretzka has been called as minister of youth by Youngers Creek Church.

Scott Wiggins has been called as minister of youth by Immanuel Church. He previously served as minister of evangelism at Parkland Church of Louisville.

■ **EMINENCE**—Eminence Church ordained Darrell Dees as deacon Nov. 3.

■ **FALMOUTH**—Chuck Beigle has been called as interim pastor by Blanket Creek Church.

■ **GRAHAM**—Johnny Davis of Dawson Springs has been called as pastor of Unity Church.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Parkway Church held a dedication service for its first building Nov. 17. The year-old church is under

the watchcare of Severns Valley Association.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—First Church of Lawrenceburg ordained Nathan Birdwhistell as deacon. The church also celebrated Bob Jones' 25th anniversary as pastor with a dinner where the Jones family was given a monetary gift and reception.

■ **LEBANON**—Central Association recognized the faithful service of two of its personnel: W.A. Clutts and Flora Foster. Clutts served the association for 25 years, the first 21 years as pastor of Woodlawn Church in Lebanon and the last four as associational director of missions. Foster recently concluded 13 years as Woman's Missionary Union director for the association. In 1978 when she became director, only eight of 18 area churches had WMU programs. There were 20 organizations with 243 enrolled. Total missions giving was \$77,268. Upon her resignation, 15 of the 18 churches have a total of 54 organizations with 537 enrolled. Total missions giving has risen to \$191,830.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Kenneth Chafin retired as pastor of Walnut Street Church Nov. 17. Chafin and his wife, Barbara, were honored in the morning service and during a reception afterward with a concert by Esther Hinds.

Bill Emerson has been called as minister of music by Jeffersonton Church.

■ **MIDDLETOWN**—David Mears has been called as interim minister of music by First Church of Middletown.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Pleasant Grove Church recognized Louise Rafferty Oct. 27 for her organization of the JOY Sunday school class in 1956. She has been the sole teacher and continues to teach at age 85. She also has been involved in WMU for many years. The JOY class presented Rafferty a plaque of appreciation for 35 years of service.

■ **PINEVILLE**—William Bramble, former pastor of Old Straight Creek Church, died Sept. 19. Bramble served the congregation 23 years. He is survived by his wife, Marie, three sons and one daughter.

■ **SMITHFIELD**—Ed Life has been called as pastor of Smithfield Church. He and his wife, Judy, are formerly from Louisville.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—Elk Creek Church ordained Keith Baird as deacon. Brad Bull, former Western Recorder staff writer, is serving the church as minister of youth and family.

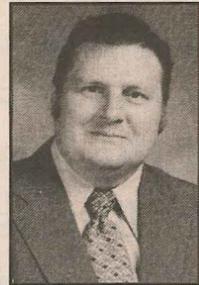
MISSIONARY UPDATE:

■ **Wiley and Geneva Faw**, missionaries to Nigeria, are on the field at Baptist Mission, Box 310, Gombe, Nigeria.

■ **Ken and Beth Perkins**, missionaries to Kenya, are on the field at P.O. Box 52, Limuru, Kenya.

■ **Vaughn and Johnene Ross**, missionaries to Kenya, are on furlough at R.R. 1, Box 14, Texhoma, Okla. 73949.

CORRECTION: Corydon Church in Corydon ordained Keith Brown Oct. 6.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Married 60 years

Preston and Ruby Baker celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Nov. 2 at Boone Tavern in Berea. More than 150 guests invited by their son, Roy, and daughter, Brenda, had a wonderful three and one-half hour dinner and time of reminiscing.

The Bakers both attended Oneida as children and nearly all their adult lives have been associated with our school. They have studied under or worked with all nine Oneida presidents.

"Pres" was a teacher or principal for 50 years, all at Oneida except for his first several years in one-room schools.

Ruby was the head cook all those years. For 12 years, she was the only adult cook on the Oneida campus.

Assisted by several of the older girls, she was responsible for putting food on the table three times daily, 365 days of the year, whether there were 20 to feed or hun-

dreds. She worked for one dollar daily. Of course, a dollar bought much more then, but still it was low pay for such hard work in a hot kitchen while being a wife and mother.

Retired Oneida elementary librarian Margaret Treadway led off the evening of spontaneous tributes by many of the guests. She recalled how Baker encouraged her when she was 40 years of age—with a husband and three children still in school—to start doing college work, commuting 80 miles daily. Subsequently she got her bachelor's, master's and rank one. She served as Oneida elementary librarian for 27 years.

Caleb H.Y. Chu, our much-loved surgeon for 35 years at Oneida and Manchester, spoke next. He was a houseboy in the palace of Chiang Kia-Shek before the communist takeover of China, and was sent to medical school in the U.S. by the Chinese president. Chu came to serve at Oneida after his medical degree. He was honored on the nationally televised "This is Your Life" show in the 1950s.

Chu, referring to himself as an "adopted cousin" of the Bakers, took up a violin bow and hauntingly played "Abide with Me" and "Going Home" on a plain hand-saw. You would have had to have seen and heard to believe! Tears were in many eyes as the old doctor, born in China, now retired and in frail health, played for his Kentucky "cousins."

Coach Gilbert Samples, who began his teaching career at Oneida in 1947, gave a moving tribute to Baker's gifts as a teacher and principal. Samples worked with him on the Oneida campus until 1954. Away 21 years, I got Samples back in 1975 as a teacher. He left us in 1981 to become chief of police of two nearby towns, and returned to begin our driver's education program four years ago.

Many other former co-workers and former students paid brief tributes.

Son Roy, a retired teacher and principal in the Ohio school system and a very suc-

cessful businessman in Tipp City, was the master of ceremonies for the evening. He graduated from OBI in 1950. Daughter Brenda, class of 1960 and a registered nurse in Louisville, also spoke briefly, thanking everyone.

More than a score of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces attended. Every guest received a large piece of a huge cake baked by niece Kay Garrison, who is noted for her delicious cakes.

It was truly an evening of warm fellowship. The Bakers looked at least 20 years younger than their ages, and this fact was remarked on by many.

After everyone spoke that wished to do so, I was invited to close out the evening. I paid tribute, as many already had, to their hard work which they carry on even today. Like so many I also was a schoolboy under Baker, and have sat to countless delicious meals cooked by Ruby.

The Bakers are famous for their generous hospitality. They raise most of their own food, keeping about four freezers filled by canning hundreds of quarts of varying foods each season. Literally hundreds eat at their table yearly.

They are remarkable for their love of family and friends. For more than 30 years, Ruby's father, "Papa", lived in their home after the death of Ruby's mother. The love of these differing generations for one another was and is inspiring even to this day. Papa was alert and active until a few days before his death at age 103.

Pres will be 83 in a few months. He and Ruby, still smiling and working daily on their farm, amaze all who know them. They are faithful at church in varying capacities, active in the Masons and Eastern Star which he and Ruby helped organize at Oneida in 1947. Pres faithfully attends every OBI trustee meeting as well as bank board meetings, serving on the conservation board, and many other service type activities.

God bless them.

Chinese secret police cracking down on 'illegal' religion

By Michael Chute
SBC Foreign Mission Board

HONG KONG (BP)—The chief of China's secret police has ordered security officials nationwide to crack down on "illegal" religious activities in the country, according to an official Chinese news report.

Police should "effectively prevent and wage a struggle against nationalist splittists and criminals who carry out sabotage in the name of religion," Public Security Minister Tao Sijun reportedly told a police conference.

Tao's remarks underscore China's latest effort to stem the "invasion" and development of religious forces from outside the country. Premier Li Peng leveled that charge in a Nov. 8 meeting.

"With regard to reactionary religious forces and secret society forces from outside our borders, we must resolutely fight them once they are discovered," Communist Party politburo member Qiao Shi told top security officials, according to an article in the *Legal Daily*. "We must absolutely not allow their existence or development."

Chinese and foreign business and religious leaders also have reported recent signs of a crackdown on religion in China. Large-scale arrests of house church leaders reportedly have been carried out since late summer in Jiangsu, Anhui, Guangdong and Zhejiang provinces, including the cities of Guangzhou, Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Public Security officials deported Australian businessman Noel Steensen Oct. 27 for holding Bible meetings in his Shanghai

home with local Chinese. Steensen, a Jehovah's Witness, claimed interrogators told him other foreigners would be expelled in a crackdown on unofficial church activities.

Steensen said authorities also told him Chinese attending "house churches" must go to government-approved churches, such as those aligned with the Three-Self Patriotic Movement, which represents Protestants. However, some Chinese sources report instances where police also have clamped down on some Three-Self churches. Most Jehovah's Witnesses in Shanghai were questioned and police arrested at least five Chinese Jehovah's Witnesses, Steensen charged.

Efforts to reach Chinese Christian officials in the Three-Self movement for comment were unsuccessful.

The crackdown on "illegal" religious activities is further evidence of China's general tightening of controls after the collapse of Soviet communism. It parallels government concern over ethnic unrest in border areas.

Besides "illegal" Christian house churches, the police crackdown also targets Buddhist and Islamic religious centers in Tibet and among Muslims in Xinjiang province, which authorities claim are fronts for separatist movements.

"Following the collapse of the Soviet Communist Party, strict ideological control has become China's long-term policy," said Jonathan Chao, director of the Hong Kong-based Chinese Church Research Center. "Religions, in particular those brought in from the West, have inevitably been reaf-

firmed as a means of 'peaceful evolution' through which neo-imperialists try to turn China capitalist."

Immediately after the failed Soviet coup, jittery Chinese leaders made the fight against "peaceful evolution toward capitalism" the nation's top priority. In the ensuing three months, a massive information campaign has called for "more class struggle" to intensify Marxist education and commanded leaders of work units to warn their employees not to meet with foreigners without permission.

A Beijing university official reportedly insisted his staff report colleagues' contacts with foreigners. One source said officials even want correspondence with Westerners reported to the Public Security Bureau.

"We do hear rumors of investigations into religious activities by foreigners, but generally those are aimed at persons who organize secret Bible studies or illegally import religious materials into China," said Charlie Wilson, educational resources coordinator for Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization. "Southern Baptist teachers in China don't do those things which are illegal."

"Possible restrictions on foreigners is a concern. Our policy for teachers is to abide by rules and regulations and operate within guidelines set down by our host units. Our Chinese friends and cooperative units know we are Christian and we respect Chinese laws. We also respect and support the Chinese church. Our religious activities are confined to responding to individual questions

in personal conversations and regular church attendance in recognized churches. This comes under the normal religious activities protected by the Chinese constitution," Wilson said.

None of the 46 Southern Baptist teachers working in Chinese schools and universities has reported a change in personal relationships with Chinese students or teaching colleagues, according to officials with the aid organization.

"No one has experienced any problems, although some have heard rumors that students are again being required to register when visiting foreign teachers or report contacts with foreigners," Wilson added. "This happens from time to time."

Observers say new CIA chief Robert Gates hurt foreigners working in China when he told U.S. senators during recent confirmation hearings that "more can be done (in China) through expanded human intelligence collection." His comment received little attention in the U.S. media, but was reported throughout China. Some communist hard-liners view Gates' statement as proof the United States wants to topple China's government.

Meanwhile, reports out of China suggest unprecedented numbers of Chinese university students have converted to Christianity since the government crushed student protests at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June 1989. Students disillusioned by socialist shortcomings and searching for political reform and democracy apparently have embraced Christianity in recent months.

O'Brien: Affluence hinders gospel

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Convention

WACO, Texas (BP)—To reach a changing world with the gospel, Baptists must lay aside the yoke of affluence and become partners with suffering believers worldwide, according to former Southern Baptist missionary Bill O'Brien.

O'Brien, currently director of the Global Strategy Center for Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., spoke to a missions rally in Waco, Texas, last week.

Baptists should "seek out partnerships with those who have been mistreated for one reason or another and ask them to mentor us in the partnership," said the former executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"Who will stand with believers who are prisoners of apartheid as fellow-sufferers for Christ? Who will stand with believers in the West Bank concerned about the 5 percent of all Palestinian males between the ages of 15 and 55 who are incarcerated without charges?" O'Brien asked.

"Who will stand with priests and clergy jailed in Egypt for their faith? Who will partner together on behalf of the homeless in America or AIDS victims or the crack addicts? Who will stand with Christian brothers and sisters living in the midst of these conditions and others that could be mentioned? Is there such a thing as a ministry or partnership of encouragement?"

"Maybe what some of our fellow-believers need is for us to be willing to live out the questions with them. Simplistic answers are an insult to the dignity of suffering."

Drawing a parallel to the biblical story of Moses' being reared in Pharaoh's house, O'Brien said Southern Baptists have been shaped since World War II by material wealth and cultural acceptance.

"While bearing the name of Jesus in our mouths and carrying a Bible in one hand, in the other we held on to values that shaped us and marked us as 'sons of Pharaoh's daughter,'" he said. "We attempted to do what

Jesus said was impossible; that is, to serve God and mammon."

Future partnerships in Jesus' name should be marked by a refusal to be known as children of kingly culture and by a redirection of material resources to the priorities of God's kingdom, O'Brien said.

"For those of us reared in America's kingly palace, our assets may be our greatest debts," he said. "For while we attempt to walk in partnership with other believers, the harness is the yoke of affluence. And that yoke is too heavy a burden for the wilderness journey."

Pointing to doors in Eastern Europe that have opened recently to the gospel, O'Brien rebuked well-intentioned evangelicals who have responded in a paternalistic and materialistic manner.

"Not wanting Christians to suffer disgrace any longer for the sake of Christ, we have offered our treasure—but not ourselves," he said, pointing to Western preachers who exploit European Christians by leading quick crusades while staying in the finest hotels of Europe and eating lavish meals, and then returning home to brag about their accomplishments.

"Six-figure salaries, luxury automobiles and country-club privileges make it very difficult to regard disgrace for the sake of Christ as greater value than all that," he said.

Faced with the challenge of a changing world, Baptists should resist the temptation to retreat inward. Instead, they should reach out to like-minded believers worldwide in "an ecumenicity of spirit" that transcends denominations, he said.

"God has raised up millions of faithful witnesses whose denominational labels and confessional stances are different to mine. But common lordship and common commitment to the stewardship of the mystery of God has brought us to a new plateau on which we can stand and work together," he said.

"To partner effectively in a changing world calls for a willingness to leave behind the security of familiar props to persevere in the pilgrimage of the unknown."



MISSIONARY HONORED—Philippines President Corazon Aquino presents Southern Baptist missionary Harold Watson with two awards during ceremonies at Malacanang Palace in Manila. Watson received the 1991 Certificate of Merit and the United Nations' World Food Day silver medal for the work of the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center, which has pioneered farming techniques now used all over Asia. Watson said he accepted the awards "for all Southern Baptists who have given so this ministry could be effective." (FMB photo)

Baptists respond to needs in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries to the Philippines worked in the days after a deadly Nov. 5 storm to aid survivors in the devastated port city of Ormoc.

Tropical storm Thelma probably killed more than 5,000 people in the central Philippines. The storm caused floods and landslides in Leyte province that buried everything in their path and left hundreds of bodies buried under mud or lying in the streets. Ormoc, where more than 3,000 bodies have been found, suffered the most.

"At present, Southern Baptists are helping meet emergency needs of food, medicine, shelter, tarpaulins, blankets and hygiene needs," reported Manila-based missionary Sam Waldron, who spoke Nov. 11 by radio to missionaries in

the storm-damaged area.

Waldron spoke to missionaries Danny Johnson, Johnny Norwood, Keith Williams and Tom and Margaret Smith. They said the Philippines government was "responding well" to the needs for food and other emergency items. Reports in the area said more than 3,100 people have been buried in mass graves. About 3,000 people were still missing Nov. 11. Many were covered by mud or washed out to sea.

"Keith Williams asked for prayer that they will have the wisdom to know how to minister and how to set up a distribution system," Waldron said. "Many people were buried without identification. Whole families died in this tragedy which struck with such force and so quickly."

Campbellsville College Hosts Prospective Students

By Joan C. McKinney,
acting director of public relations

"Hey, look me over!" Campbellsville College said Saturday, Oct. 19. And 72 prospective students and their parents did just that.

"It was a very good program and students were satisfied and seemed very excited and interested in the College," said Andrew Wilson, admissions counselor who coordinated Fall Preview Day.

The students came from across the state to tour the campus, visit with professors to learn about Campbellsville College's curriculum and meet the College's students.

Parents were also treated to sessions concerning financial aid, student life opportunities and tuition payment options.

Among entertainment was Nancy Cox of Campbellsville, Miss Kentucky 1990 who attended Campbellsville College from 1985 until 1987, and the Campbellsville College Singers, a singing group composed of College students.

Music performance grant auditions were also conducted, and the students were treated to a winning performance by the Campbellsville College Fighting Tigers as they defeated Cumberland College's Indians 21 to 19.

Miss Cox said Campbellsville College "always feels like home. It's always so nice to come back."

She told the students that Campbellsville College is an "excellent option." She said, "The foundation is solid and there are people here who will care about you."

"You'll be a big part of Campbellsville College, and

you'll be special too," she said.

Campbellsville College President Dr. Ken Winters welcomed those attending and said the College is having a "wonderful year."

He said enrollment has increased 51 percent in the last three years with Campbellsville College now having 1,010 students.

"I hope you will be able to sense the warmth of our faculty and staff," Winters said.

"We place a great effort on being the institution you and central Kentucky want us to be," Winters said.

Trent Argo, director of admissions, and Sharon Gowin, assistant to the director, welcomed the students and urged them to apply early for college admission.

"If there is one word to describe Campbellsville College, it's 'excitement'," Argo said. Argo said Campbellsville College has faculty "who really care" and "Campbellsville College is a very unique place."



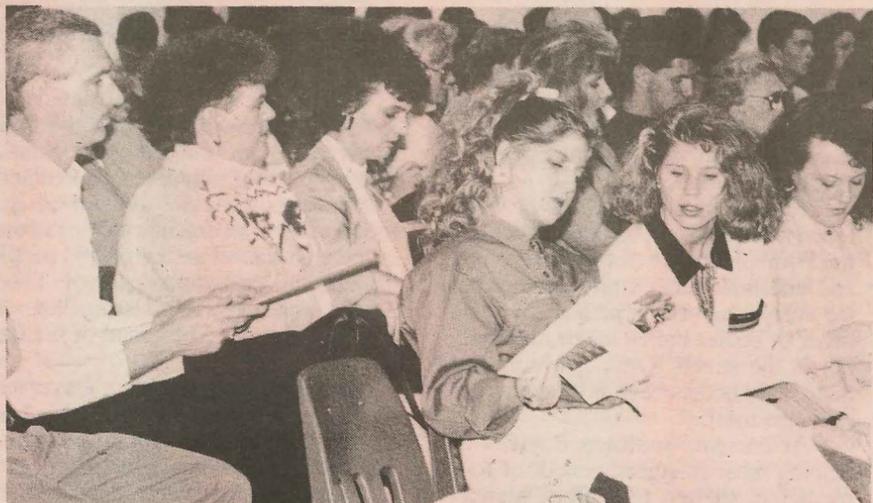
WENDY STOUT, right, of Mt. Washington, discusses the science curriculum with Dr. Milton Rogers, professor of biology, during Fall Preview Day.



DR. ROBERT STREET, professor of Old Testament and computer information systems, explains the humanities division to prospective students. Professors were on campus to advise students of classes to take.



NANCY COX, Miss Kentucky 1990 who attended Campbellsville College from 1985 until 1987, entertained during Fall Preview Day.



MELANIE MINOR, left, and Christy Davis, front row, both of Campbellsville, look over admissions material during a session with parents and students.



ANDREW WILSON, left, admissions counselor who coordinated Fall Preview Day, discusses the day's program with host Sharon Thomas of Shepherdsville, president of the senior class. (Campbellsville College Photos by Joan C. McKinney)