

June 18, 1996
Vol. 170, No. 25

FOR THE RECORD

This week's Recorder is devoted to coverage of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, held last week in New Orleans.

Beware
SBC President Jim Henry warned the convention's conservative leaders to beware of going too far in their drive for uniformity. *See page 2.*

Call to prayer
In the convention sermon, Ronnie Floyd declared God told him to call Southern Baptists to a week of prayer and fasting in the fall. *See page 2.*

Editorial
Two unrelated, yet related events made last Wednesday a banner day for Baptist race relations. *See page 5.*

Resolutions
SBC messengers adopted 14 resolutions, mainly focusing on political issues. *See page 8.*

Restructuring
Plans for restructuring the SBC's agencies and institutions gained final approval last week, with implementation scheduled for one year from now. *See page 9.*

SBC collects \$281,000 for burned black churches

By David Winfrey
News Director

NEW ORLEANS—Seeking to put actions behind last year's words condemning racism, Southern Baptists raised more than \$281,000 June 12 to rebuild African-American churches destroyed by arson.

The offering, collected during the denomination's annual meeting, was one of several actions taken in response to the fires, which have claimed more than 30 churches in the past 18 months.

"What we said is, 'We feel your hurt in such a way that we want to

participate in a tangible way,'" said Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry.

Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., also condemned the fires during his convention message.

"We deplore these acts of blind hatred," he told messengers June 11. "We urge every resource available to be marshalled to bring the guilty to justice. Evil must not triumph."

His comments were greeted with a prolonged standing ovation from the 13,000-plus messengers.

Within hours of the Southern Baptist offering, fire struck another

African-American church—First Missionary Baptist Church of Enid, Okla.

SBC messenger James Wideman, pastor of a white SBC congregation in Enid, told messengers the next morning he had already spoken to Al Baldwin, pastor of the burned church, and assured him of Southern Baptists' prayers.

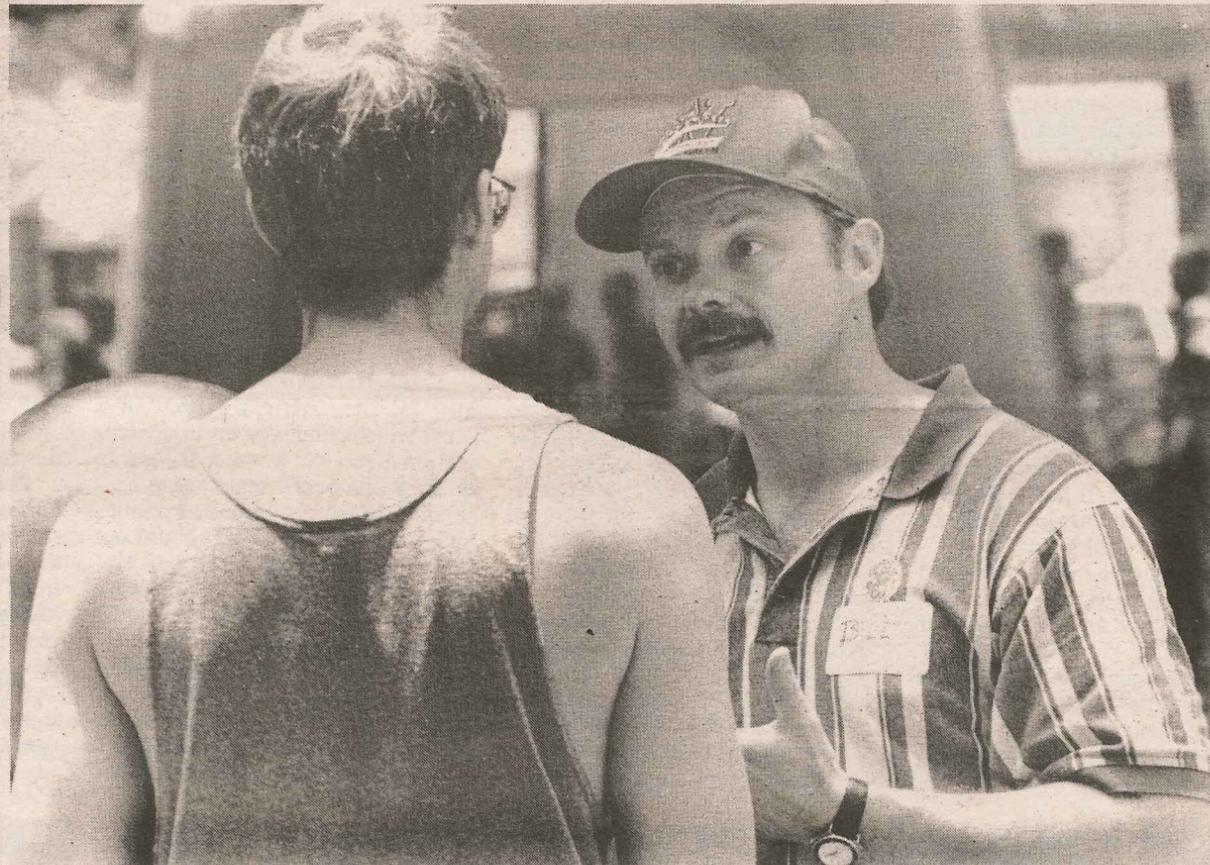
"I told him of our actions here on the national level," Wideman, pastor of First Baptist Church, said of the offering. "I was proud as a Southern Baptist to tell him we have begun acting on this. ... Please pray for them."

Baptist construction teams totaling about 17,000 members have been asked to stand ready to assist any burned church. "Our people are ready to move in to help," Henry promised during a press conference.

Eleven resolutions and motions concerning the fires were introduced from the floor of the convention.

Messengers to last year's annual meeting passed a resolution asking forgiveness for past racism by the SBC, which was started, in part, to allow slaveholders to serve as missionaries.

This year's offering and resolution *See SBC helps burned ..., page 11*



CROSSOVER CONVERSATION Bill Fort, pastor of Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green, visits with a man attending a block party at Ponchartrain Baptist Church in New Orleans June 8. The block party was one element in a massive evangelism blitz called Crossover New Orleans held prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in that city. Members of Rich Pond Baptist Church have participated in the pre-SBC evangelism efforts for the past five years. *See story on page 3.*

Messengers want boycott of Disney Co.

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—Convinced the Walt Disney Co. has abandoned its wholesome image for an "anti-Christian, anti-family" agenda, messengers to this year's Southern Baptist Convention called for a boycott of the entertainment giant June 12.

A resolution adopted during the annual meeting in New Orleans calls on the nation's 15.6 million Southern Baptists to stop buying Disney products or visiting its theme parks, in part because of the company's alleged support of homosexuality.

"Mickey and Donald have changed their values," said Larry Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Commerce, Okla.

"We're going to do some things that cost Disney some money," predicted boycott advocate Wiley Drake, who said more subtle attempts to persuade Disney to change its ways have failed.

The boycott—a rarity for Southern Baptists—is voluntary since the SBC holds no authority over its congregations or their members.

And convention officials are unclear about a timetable for the boycott, saying they will delay implementation until Disney has a chance to respond. They extended an olive branch, saying they would abandon the boycott if Disney changes its products and policies to their liking.

Initial reaction from Disney showed no hint of capitulation.

"We find it curious that a group that claims to espouse family values would vote to boycott the world's largest producer of wholesome family entertainment," the company said in a statement.

SBC leaders conceded other entertainment companies are morally culpable, but they said the contrast between Disney's past and present is especially disappointing.

"There has been a philosophical shift at the highest levels of this *See SBC messengers ..., page 12*

Elliff elected president without opposition

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—For the first time in 50 years, the Southern Baptist Convention last week elected a new president unopposed.

Tom Elliff, a former missionary to Africa who has been pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., since 1985, was elected June 11 on a show-of-hands vote. He was the lone candidate for the SBC's highest post when the convention opened its annual meeting in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

The presidency provided the focal point of SBC political battles from 1979 to 1990, when the convention's conservative branch successfully won 12 consecutive ballots

for the top post of the nation's largest non-Catholic faith group.

By controlling the presidency, conservatives influenced the process of selecting trustees for all convention agencies and institutions. Eventually, they gained control of those organizations—something conservatives called a "resurgence" and moderates termed a "takeover."

Those battles ended the last time the SBC met in New Orleans, in 1990, when the conservative candidate defeated the moderate standard-bearer by a 60-40 margin in a contest among 38,403 messengers.

Afterward, moderates vowed to drop their quest for political control of the convention. Many of them formed the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an umbrella organization *See Elliff elected ..., page 13*



NEW PRESIDENT Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention without opposition last week—the first time in 50 years a first-term president was elected without a challenge. (BP photo)

Moving? See page 4 (0618)

Beware of going too far, Henry warns conservatives

"There must be a clear rejection of this legalistic and narrow spirit."
SBC President Jim Henry

NEW ORLEANS—In his final message as president of the Southern Baptist Convention June 11, Jim Henry warned that the conservative movement that carried him to power is in danger of going too far.

Henry, the latest in a 17-year string of conservatives to hold the powerful office of SBC president, completed his second one-year term June 13. He is pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla.

Henry, who has been credited with opening up denominational leadership to centrist conservatives, warned the conservative movement must not replace its original goal of restoring biblical fidelity with a desire to consolidate power.

"We are making strides in widening the participation level across a wider range of our Southern Baptist family, but there are a few who demonstrate a need to continually manipulate the procedures for denominational service and control beyond the call extended to Southern Baptists several years ago to return us to biblical authority," he said.

If the effort to steer the convention to the right goes too far, he warned, it will "cast suspicion on the original intent," which was biblical authority.

"If it exceeds the original intent, let us expose this for what it is—political manipulation that freezes the work of the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ," he charged. "It is a shadow on the soul of Southern Baptists, and if it lengthens, it has the potential to be more damaging than our struggle for the Bible."

Henry warned against giving too much importance to high denominational positions as a measure of achievement.

"Principles and integrity can be sacrificed on the altar of accommodation and blind loyalty to a temporal kingdom under the mask of continuing the conservative resur-

gence," Henry said.

He also called on conservative leaders to shun the intolerance, legalism and extremism that characterize "some among us."

"There must be a clear rejection of this legalistic and narrow spirit," he warned.

Henry's address cited eight keys to revitalizing the SBC:

■ **Wholeness incorporating diversity.** "We, as Southern Baptists, are a diverse people," he said. "This is a source of our richness, but this is also a source of challenge for us as a denomination. To succeed and be revitalized, we must have more than tolerance and sympathy. We must appreciate and appropriate this diversity for the common good."

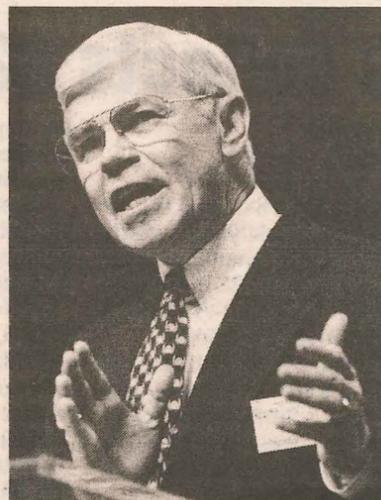
■ **Shared values.** "Diverse parts are brought together by shared values and beliefs," Henry said. "The diversity becomes a university—united under one God, one faith, one baptism."

While the people of God cannot agree on everything, they can and should agree on some basic things, Henry asserted. He cited the Bible's authority, inerrancy and infallibility.

Those who ignore the Bible's truth become "ecclesiastical Kevorkians, assisting those around them to commit spiritual suicide," he said.

"If we stay true to this book, we will not fail. We will not have to have study committees meeting for years to discuss if same-sex marriages are acceptable, if priests/bishops/ministers who marry them are heretics, if abortions are permissible, if suicide on demand is a right to choose, if racial discrimination is optional, if gambling is a social benefit to our communities, if poverty is tolerable."

■ **Caring, trust, teamwork.** "As a family and a church provide a climate of trust and care, we as a denomination must also be an umbrel-



Jim Henry

la to those in our Baptist family, to ensure the accomplishment of our group purposes," Henry asserted. "Somehow we must find a way to help our pastors and staff members, who—by their own moral choices, emotional burn-out or by church conflict—have been forced to the sidelines."

■ **Effective participation.** "One of our most daunting challenges is to see that there is a sense of participation, information and opportunity for all of us—without compromising our biblical principles," Henry said.

Southern Baptists must intentionally involve African-Americans, other ethnics and women in denominational service, he said. Failure to do so would be a "tragic waste."

The growing number of ethnics and women in the SBC should not be ignored or given token opportunities, he said.

"While we are making progress in this area, we must continue to press forward," Henry said. "Affirmative action and growing inclusiveness should not be debatable in this matter."

■ **Affirmation.** Henry urged

Southern Baptists to rally around the Cooperative Program unified missions budget and to proudly wear the name "Baptist."

"Let us make no apologies for challenging our churches to be unapologetically supportive of our Cooperative Program," he said. "They also have the right to expect those in leadership to lead by example and to call us to a growing faithfulness in this pipeline of life."

■ **Links beyond the community.** "We must do a better job of producing Christians who can see the world through the eyes of Christ," Henry said. "Jesus saw the world through God-sized eyes."

■ **Development of young people, evangelizing and discipling the rising generation of young adults.** Revitalization of the SBC also will depend on nurturing young people, Henry added.

He pointed to the decline in the percentage of total baptisms of youth. Better education and mentoring for young people called to the ministry is needed, he said, and getting young people involved in the denominational processes is also necessary.

"This generation is more interested in making war on the devil than in our denominational civil war," Henry said. "The reason they don't attend many of our programs and meetings is because we are too often out of touch with their mindset and they tune us out."

■ **A forward view.** The plan for denominational restructuring is a step in the right direction but is "not the ultimate solution for revitalization," Henry said. "Revitalization is of the heart. It occurs in the prayer closet, in seasons of fasting, in experiencing God in our personal walk."

"The God of yesterday and today is also the God of tomorrow, and you cannot walk with him without walking forward."

Floyd calls all Baptists to week of prayer and fasting

"For the past few weeks I felt I have been between the God of heaven and the Southern Baptist Convention."
Ronnie Floyd

By Michael Clingenpeel
Virginia Religious Herald

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—Claiming to possess a clear directive from God, Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd has called Southern Baptist churches to set aside one week this fall for fasting and prayer in an effort to produce spiritual revival.

Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., told Southern Baptist Convention messengers June 12 he had been "with the Lord on your behalf."

Floyd issued a series of challenges that would involve every church, pastor and denominational leader in eight days of intense spiritual preparation designed to lead to "spiritual revival in our personal lives, in our churches and in our nation."

Floyd, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, made his appeal in the convention sermon at the June 11-13 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans. He said God spoke the plan to him during the 22nd day of a recent 40-day period of fasting and



Ronnie Floyd

prayer.

"For the past few weeks I felt I have been between the God of heaven and the Southern Baptist Convention," Floyd said.

"I struggled with God over this because of not wanting to be misunderstood in any way," he said. "I

don't want anyone to think wrong of me or question my motive. But you know what the Lord affirmed to me again? 'Ronnie, pay the price. Get on the edge, son. What I care about is what I want you to do and you do it. It doesn't matter what they think of you. You get out there and you tell them what I said and if they love me they'll do it and if they don't they won't.'

"So I'm coming today to represent our Lord, and if your spirit agrees, I pray you will follow the Lord your God today," he said.

Floyd, who just prior to the annual convention was elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, urged all Southern Baptists to observe Wednesday, Oct. 30, as a "day of humiliation, prayer and fasting."

He also called on every pastor, evangelist and denominational leader to:

■ **Devote their Sunday morning messages on Oct. 27, 1996, to the topic of fasting and ask Southern Baptists to fast and pray for revival**

one day that week.

■ **Lead their churches in a solemn assembly that evening, asking people to repent of sin and pray for revival.**

■ **Preach on the topic of spiritual revival in morning and evening services on Nov. 3.**

"The most desperate need in the Southern Baptist Convention is a mighty spiritual awakening" to counter a spiritual crisis in Baptist life, Floyd said.

This spiritual revival can happen now that "a revival to the word of God"—a reference to the convention's conservative swing—and denominational restructuring have taken place, Floyd said. But it will occur only when Christians model brokenness, humiliation and repentance, he added.

He predicted the next controversy in the SBC will be over "the supernatural moving of the Holy Spirit of God." He called for churches to develop "a liberty of the spirit" and "to let God blow open and destroy your old wineskins."

Rich Pond Church gives SBC witness for fifth year

By David Winfrey
News Director

NEW ORLEANS—Members of Bowling Green's Rich Pond Baptist Church drove half a day last week to spend five hours telling New Orleans residents about Jesus.

For five years, Rich Pond members have participated in the evangelistic blitz in the host city preceding the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Pastor Bill Fort and 11 others visited homes and witnessed at a block party in the community of Ponchartrain Baptist Church.

Across the city, hundreds of volunteers visited homes, staffed parties, performed Christian entertainment and sponsored prison worship events as part of Crossover New Orleans. At least 2,180 people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ and one church was started.

Fort has attended the convention

and Crossover, and he said he enjoys witnessing more than business meetings.

"I'm not very parliamentary, but I love doing this," he said. Rich Pond Baptist Church also conducts a Crossover Bowling Green every summer, after members have been to the SBC version and caught a vision for outreach.

Tim Phillips, pastor of Ponchartrain Baptist Church in New Orleans, said Rich Pond members helped his church reach people who wouldn't come to the church building. They also helped show the community that Ponchartrain Baptist Church cares, he said.

Rich Pond members used surveys in the Bucktown neighborhood to question residents about their religious views. The polls sparked conversations allowing surveyors to share their Christian testimonies.

College ministries director Tracy Smith said she still gets butterflies

walking up to knock on a door.

"You don't know what's going on in the house," she said, adding that participating in the SBC blitz helps her witness when she returns to Bowling Green.

Fort said Crossover is as beneficial for his members as for the church they help or the residents they meet.

"Every year we have somebody who says, 'I'm scared to death, but I've got to go.'"

Member Johnny Hunt said he got to tell many residents about Christ, including one woman who was almost persuaded. "She was going to call her Baptist friend to make sure we were telling her the truth," he said.

"I'm not saying she'll become a Baptist, but I do think she'll become a Christian," he concluded.

Highview Baptist Church in Louisville also participated in this year's Crossover New Orleans effort.



WITNESSES Tracy Smith and Rick Shulte of Rich Pond Baptist Church in New Orleans walk down a New Orleans street during a door-to-door evangelistic effort that was part of Crossover New Orleans.

Mohler: Seminary stands on solid rock

NEW ORLEANS—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary stands "on the solid rock and on the cutting edge" to serve Southern Baptists, President Al Mohler reported to the Southern Baptist Convention June 12.

"Southern Seminary is moving forward under the power of God," Mohler said during the report of Southern Baptists' six seminary presidents.

Mohler said the seminary enters a "new season of forward momentum" committed to being confessional in character, evangelical in conviction, Baptist in commitment and congregational in focus.

"In the church field, where the spirit of God is at work, we want to stand on the solid rock and on the cutting edge," he said.

"There is no neutrality in theological education," he continued. "Every theological institution is either a blessing to the church of Jesus Christ or it is a curse," he said, adding that his prayer is Southern would be a blessing.

Students continue to lead Southern with vision, conviction and passion to serve Jesus and the church, he said.

During the time for questions, Lindell Reed, a former seminary trustee from Missouri, praised Mohler and the other seminary presidents for their integrity and stand on the Bible.

"I thank you, presidents, and I thank you, Dr. Mohler. We love you and we appreciate you so much," he said, drawing a standing ovation from convention messengers.



KENTUCKY SOLOIST Marshall Kellam, a full-time vocational music evangelist and member of Springdale Baptist Church in Louisville, sings during the Tuesday evening session of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. (BP photo)

'Step into the light,' Jeanette Henry urges ministers' wives

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—"Life isn't always fair, but the light who created life is, and I'm stepping into the light," Jeanette Henry told a capacity crowd of 800 women at the 41st annual conference of Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives June 11 in New Orleans.

Henry, in a rare appearance as a public speaker outside Sunday school classrooms, told of her growth experiences as a minister's wife. Her husband, Jim Henry, is pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., and outgoing president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In other conference actions, Carolyn Weatherhood Crumpler, former executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, was presented the Mrs. J.M. Dawson Distinguished Service Award for "distinct denominational contribution beyond the local church."

Conference participants also learned \$75,000 has been raised for the Ministers' Wives Endowment Fund.

In her presentation, Henry described herself as "a small-town country girl" from Cave City, Ky., in a senior class of 29. Although she was fearful and shy, she "came with excitement into this life" of being a minister's wife.

Addressing the luncheon theme of "Stepping in the Light," she said: "I remember always knowing about the light. But I really saw the light when I was 9 years old."

Becoming a Christian gave her purpose in life, Henry said, "and that purpose was to please (God)."

However, Henry said she did not have a focused purpose "until I fell in love with a 120-pound hunk of personality who loved people and politics and who wanted to be the governor of Tennessee."

She knew Jim Henry "was struggling with the decision to be a preacher," she said. She was struggling herself with the need to be focused in her spiritual life.

On the night she made a commitment to full-time Christian service

while a student at Georgetown College, she had no idea Jim Henry would tell God the same night, hundreds of miles away in Panama City, Fla., that he wanted to give up his dreams of political life and do whatever God wanted him to do.

"Up until that night I had a purpose, but I didn't have a passion," she said. "Purpose is passive. Passion is active. Purpose is the active way I work out the purpose."

Now Henry had purpose and plan, but "I had a long way to go," she said. "I needed polishing. I had a lot to learn."

Learning to share her faith on an individual basis was quite a struggle for her, she said, but "I needed to learn to obey" God's command to share the light.

Learning about God's gifts was another important step in her life, Henry said.

"I always wondered why I never thought of taking a pie or casserole to someone, and when I was supposed to fix something, I always had

to be reminded.

"Then I found out I don't have the service gifts. I have the teaching and leading gifts," Henry said.

"That knowledge relieved me of the guilt I had for years. I still had a responsibility, but now I could focus on how God really wanted to use me. I learned God gifts us all in different ways."

While the path of each minister's wife is different, "our purpose is the same," Henry said. "We step in the light, and the light gives us purpose, passion, provision and peace. We have different paths and we wear different shoes, but we are one body and each member belongs to the other."

Officers elected to lead the ministers' wives group for 1997 are Dolores Taylor, president, Gainesville, Ga.; Marcie Hatfield, vice president, Lewisville, Texas; Jo Ann Berger, corresponding secretary, Hattiesburg, Miss.; and Peggy Walker, recording secretary and treasurer, Elizabethtown.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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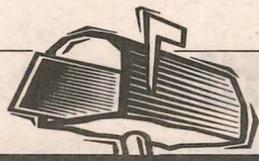
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BAPTIST FORUM

Thanks to WMU

I am the administrator of Lyndon Lane Nursing Center in Louisville, home of the Stephen Miller specialty unit for persons living with HIV/AIDS. This specialty unit provides long-term nursing care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The residents and staff wish to express their thanks and appreciation for the donations we have received from many of the Baptist churches throughout the state. The donations were the result of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's leadership in education about HIV/AIDS and ministry to persons living with HIV/AIDS.

As persons who deal daily with persons living with HIV/AIDS and all the different problems that arise with this disease, we are excited to see the church begin to learn the facts. We encourage each church to continue to talk about HIV/AIDS and develop plans to become an "AIDS friendly church." A person living with HIV/AIDS can go to Jesus knowing he or she will be loved. The question remains, "Can a person living with HIV/AIDS or a family member or friend living with HIV/AIDS go to your church without fear of hate and judgment and find love and acceptance?"

Once again, let me say thanks as a fellow Baptist and encourage each of you to take responsibility to continue to learn and care.

Brian A. Williams
Administrator
Lyndon Lane Nursing Home

Need new paper

In 1899 there was a great controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention. It is commonly known as

The after life

All creatures of earth have death. Mankind is the one that can ponder death in advance—anticipate it, think about it, dread it, fear it, sometimes postpone it, yet plan for it; and hear this: even imagine and dream of overcoming it—getting through to the other side of it.

The great majority of human beings either believe in some manner of immortality, or, if not, cherish a hope for it or wish there were life beyond that silent-waiting cemetery lot.

We love life at any age. This yearning, this appetite for ongoing life

even beyond death is universal among the learned and unlearned, the rich, the poor, the strong, the weak, among both modern and ancient human beings.

It seems that from all manner of mankind has come Job's question of long ago: "If a man die, shall he live again?" Why is this unquenched

the "Whitsitt Controversy." William Whitsitt was president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Whitsitt believed Baptists got their start in England in 1641. This view was considered heresy at the time, but it is widely accepted today as the correct view of Baptist beginnings.

During the controversy, the editor of the Western Recorder was T.T. Eaton. Eaton opposed Whitsitt and wrote many editorials against Whitsitt. Whitsitt's friends decided the Western Recorder was stepping outside its bounds. They got together and started a new Baptist paper called the Argus.

If there was ever a time for a new Argus to be started, it is now. The Western Recorder has stepped outside its bounds once again and is in need of some competition. Over the past seven years in which I have lived in Kentucky, I have been amazed by the editorials written about the SBC and her institutions. The editorial staff has turned the Western Recorder into the Western Distorter, Kentucky deserves better than this, and hopefully the vindication of Whitsitt will take place once again for the SBC and her institutions.

Ronald E. Cooper
Louisville

Roles different

Jesus said that in the resurrection there would be no marriage, for we will be as the angels of God in heaven (Matthew 22:30). Paul said that in Christ there is neither male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

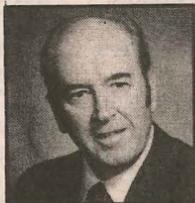
We believe that as Christians, God has a definite plan and purpose for each of us. The question is: Does God choose whether we are to be male or female? Does he determine before we are born what our role in the physical world should be? Psalm 139:14-16 seems to indicate he does. If so, will we be judged on our fulfillment of that purpose?

It is important to note that when

thirst in the soul of human beings at every level of life? Whence came this longing, this intuition of man so like the ever accurate instincts of the animal world? We believe it came from God, who made us like we are.

Has our Creator mis-designed us? Has the "Divine Architect" mis-sent us to the wrong planet where our wants don't fit the provisions? Has he made a half-hinge? Has he erred? God forbid.

ON MISSION TOGETHER



Franklin Owen

Yes, I am a creationist. I believe God created it all—and us. No, I don't want to argue about evolution. It is only of casual interest to me whether the Almighty "zapped" the world and whatever else into being or "hand-made" it in six 24-hour days or spent millions and millions of years presiding over his process that might look like evolution from the human viewpoint. When it was finished, if it is finished (which I doubt), it was God's marvelous work.

The book of Genesis seems so poorly understood. It is not a scientific

Jesus was born into the physical world, he took on a role subservient to his Father in heaven. Philippians 2:6-11 tells that "though Christ Jesus was in the form of God and thought it not robbery to be equal with God, he made himself of no reputation and took upon himself the form of a servant and become obedient unto death." In our 20th century world, to humble oneself under the authority of another is almost anathema.

It doesn't take a genius, though, to see what has happened to our society since the so-called liberation of women. Perhaps God in his wisdom ordained roles for women in this life which were different from those of men for our own good.

On the day of judgment, I would rather stand before the Lord having fulfilled my calling as a woman than to vainly proclaim, "Lord, I prophesied in your name and in your name I did many wonderful works" (Matthew 7:21-23).

Roberta Mays
Madisonville

No sympathy

There has been a lot in the newspapers and on television news lately about President Clinton's veto of the bill to ban partial-birth abortions. I am confused, first of all, that the American public would allow any abortion to be legal in the first place.

I have heard some Christians support the woman's right to choose. Is this not going against everything we have been taught? Psalm 139 proves that God knows us in the womb, which would lead me to believe that the practice of abortion is evil and totally against God.

Having been through a recent miscarriage, my wife and I have no sympathy with anyone who would deliberately end the life of their child. I can only pray that this November, America will elect a president that will uphold the Christian values this country was built on.

Jacob L. Vaughn
Louisville

writing and never so intended. Its name means "beginning." Beginning of what? There are 50 chapters in the book. The first 11 chapters seem a very compact reader-orientation sketch of things gone before—possibly eons of time. Then the beginning of the redemption history of fallen mankind—39 chapters devoted to three generations following the call of Abraham from whom God raised up a people for his name and witness.

But back to the subject of the afterlife: ministers, maybe you have a copy of the old Cokesbury Funeral Manual. Turn to page 181 to the quotation from Addison, as follows:

"It must be so Plato thou reasonest well! Else whence this pleasing hope, this fond desire, / This longing after immortality? / Or whence this secret dread, and inward horror / Of falling into naught? Why shrinks the soul / Back on herself, and startles at destruction? / 'Tis the Divinity that stirs within us; 'Tis heaven itself that points out an hereafter, / And intimates eternity to man."

Franklin Owen, former KBC executive secretary-treasurer, is writing this column while Bill Marshall is in Russia.



FAMILY FORUM

Teen violence

By Wade Rowatt

Q. Is violence among teenagers getting worse? What can be done?

A. Teen suicide pacts, youths shooting each other and random attacks on innocent people leap out of the headlines.

Several factors contribute to the increase. Children who are victims of physical or sexual abuse become more violent. Alcohol and drugs limit youths' ability to think clearly. A steady stream of brutality against people dances across the big screen and lunges from the TV.

As parents, we need to examine carefully the whole issue of physical punishment. Spank children today, and when they grow up, they will whip someone. Ephesians 6:4 indicates that parents are to discipline children without making them angry. Certainly that calls for creative discipline, not beatings.

Teen alcohol and drug usage increases each decade. We need hard-hitting alcohol and drug education programs.

If parents even suspect their child is using alcohol or taking drugs, they should take action. Confront the youth. Shut off the supply. Turn in adults who make it available. Make facts available about alcohol and drugs.

Combat the glamorized media image of alcohol.

The ability to think straight disappears when the mind is altered by drugs. Fight to keep your teens drug-free.

Movies become the image for the future. Don't watch movies and TV shows that build on abuse and violence!

The time to affect our youths' appetite for such shows is while they are young. Pay closer attention to what 10-13 year olds are watching. Get involved in their lives and give them more fun options than watching violence.

Put a lock on every gun. Don't allow youth to keep a gun. Provide safety instructions on their proper use.

One final note: Teens are out there looking for fun and excitement. Why aren't more churches offering activities that are fun and exciting? Keep youth active and involved, and they don't get into as much difficulty.

Wade Rowatt is director of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville.

Send your questions about children, teens, marriage, singles or aging to "Family Forum," Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Sleep deprivation researchers ought to take a look at parents

IT SAID



Alison Wingfield

Parents of young children would be perfect subjects for sleep deprivation studies. I think we spend the rest of our lives trying to gain back the sleep we lose when our children are babies.

Every time one of our friends or relatives has a baby for the first time, they ask us, "How did you do it with two?"

Our stock answer is: "We don't know. All we know is that we lost a whole year, and we can't remember anything about it."

If it weren't for the pictures and videos, I think we wouldn't believe there was a first year with our twin boys, we were such zombies.

Now that we have an opportunity to get a good night's rest, we seldom take advantage of it. There is always something to be done once the boys go to bed. And, I have to admit, I tend to collapse on the couch for awhile and enjoy the uninterrupted time to myself.

Another phenomena related to sleep is the strange relationship between Saturday mornings and children. The one day we can all sleep in, at least one of our kids wakes up earlier than he has all week. And they aren't even in school yet!

The other thing that seems to be happening as we grow older is that my sleep is interrupted by my beloved spouse's very loud breathing noises (the polite way to say snoring). Granted, this syndrome comes and goes with the pollen count, but in Louisville that's not much consolation.

IT SAID



Mark Wingfield

I never knew a person could survive on so little sleep until we had children. This new relationship changed life forever and probably doubled the life-expectancy of our bed, since we now sleep in it about half as much as before.

I now daydream about the time our children go off to college and we will have a chance to catch up on 18 years of sleep deprivation. Hopefully there will be something of our brains left to be stimulated by a full night's sleep.

Before children, I was a morning person and Alison was a night person. Now, we're both morning and night people; the two have simply run together.

Aside from being late to bed and early to rise, we have learned that the ultimate test of love in a marriage is determining who has to get up for those middle-of-the-night cries. I had a distinct advantage in this department for the early months because Alison was breast-feeding. I simply could not perform the service being demanded, so I slept on.

We've tried the one-night-it's-yours-the-other-night-it's-mine routine, but that didn't work. We both were so tired we couldn't remember whose night it was.

So now we've made it a matter of skill rather than memory: Whoever can sleep through or tolerate the child's thrashing about, crying or whining gets to stay in bed.

Amid all these sleepless nights, though, we've learned something more than what crazy things they air on late-night TV. We've gained a new appreciation for the love of our Heavenly Father who cares for us around the clock and, as the Psalmist wrote, "neither slumbers nor sleeps."

Mark Wingfield is editor of the Western Recorder.
Alison Wingfield is a freelance writer.

Two lessons in racial reconciliation

Last Wednesday, June 12, was a great day for Southern Baptists' and Kentucky Baptists' witness to the world on race relations. Two events that are unrelated yet related happened that day.

First, due to the leadership of outgoing Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry, messengers to the SBC annual meeting took up an offering of \$281,000 to aid the black churches in the South that have been torched by arsonists in recent months.

Messengers also passed a resolution condemning the fires and expressing support for the churches' rebuilding efforts. The words were nice, but the money was even better.

This provided a tangible means for the SBC to begin following up on last year's resolution on racial reconciliation. While it is unfortunate that so many black churches have been set ablaze, it is fortunate that Henry had the insight and courage to pass the plate at the SBC. After years of giving ourselves bloody noses and black eyes in annual meetings, this one act provided a new high point of positive action.

Bill Tichenor, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, issued a statement in response: "Although it appears obvious that Baptists everywhere would deplore racism and intolerance, it yet seems right to express our concern regarding the tragic burning of black churches in America. I appreciate the actions taken at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting, and I encourage all Kentucky Baptists to stand against the acts and attitudes of bigotry which exist today. We need to hear and heed the words of 1 John 3:18, which tell us to love in deed and in truth."

No doubt, Kentucky Baptists of all political and theological persuasions applaud this initiative to re-

build through love what hate has burned down.

But a second thing happened last Wednesday that demonstrates some among us have been about racial reconciliation for years.

National Public Radio's afternoon news program, "All Things Considered," aired a lengthy feature story about the integration of a Little Rock, Ark., high school in 1957. For the broadcast, they interviewed one black student who was thrust into the previously all-white school and one white student. The white student had been named by this African-American woman as one of the precious few students who offered any kindness, much less acknowledged the black students' existed.

Nearly 40 years after the fact, she gave a stirring testimony in vivid detail about how this one white student had demonstrated respect and dignity for her when few others would.

That white student was Ken Reinhardt, a longtime member of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville and a trustee of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. When asked by the interviewer why he had acted differently than all the other white students, Reinhardt explained that he had been raised in a Christian home where he was taught that all people are of value in God's sight. That's a lesson he taught his children and his children are teaching his grandchildren, he said.

Seldom, if ever, has a clearer testimony of God's love in action been broadcast on the national news.

Although Reinhardt's testimony and the SBC offering happened independently of each other on the same day, both remind us of the long-lasting power of living for Christ in both word and deed.

— Mark Wingfield

EDITORIALS

Reconciliation required before renewal

I agree with Ronnie Floyd: The Southern Baptist Convention surely could benefit from a God-given dose of spiritual renewal, and a call for prayer and fasting is a step in the right direction.

But I disagree with Floyd, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, on his notion of the other precursors to spiritual renewal outlined when he delivered the convention sermon at last week's SBC annual meeting.

Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark., said God told him to call all Southern Baptist churches together in a week of prayer and fasting for spiritual revival. God revealed the plan to him on the 22nd day of a 40-day fast, the pastor said. (See story on page 2.)

Floyd said the SBC is now ready for a spiritual awakening because conservatives who affirm biblical inerrancy have won their battle for control of the convention and are implementing a denominational restructuring plan.

His speech was given at the same meeting where the new SBC president, Tom Elliff, told reporters that anyone who doesn't interpret the Bible as literally as he and other SBC conservatives do ought to "repent." The implication was that one must be his kind of biblical inerrantist to be a true Christian.

Floyd's speech was given the same week Elliff's brother-in-law, Bailey Smith, told the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference that editors of publications like the Western Recorder have halted "God's revival" by speaking out against conservatives' political movements.

These three inter-related claims sure are interesting, but they sure aren't biblical.

Nowhere in the Bible, given by divine inspiration from God through men and women of old, will you find a passage declaring belief in the SBC's political brand of biblical inerrancy as a requirement for becoming a Christian or standing in right relationship with God. Jesus' call to repentance recorded in the New Testament is a call to turn from walking toward Adam's death and begin walking toward new life through confessing Jesus Christ as Lord.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved," Paul and Silas told the Philippian jailer in a summary of the plan of salvation. That's as literal an interpretation of God's message in the Bible as you can find, and it doesn't mention a word about repenting because one doesn't affirm biblical inerrancy.

I also have searched the Bible in vain for any reference to denominational restructuring as a precursor to spiritual awakening.

To understand the context of Floyd's message better, remember he spoke at the same meeting where Elliff was elected president without opposition—the first unopposed election for a first-term office in 50 years. Elliff's election was a clear indication that Southern Baptist moderates and centrists have been drummed out of any hope for significant involvement in their national convention.

To declare that the SBC is now ready for revival because one faction has consolidated power and silenced any competition from brothers and sisters in Christ with differing viewpoints is not God's way.

In fact, Jesus himself said: "If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

Floyd is right that the SBC and our entire nation need spiritual renewal. He is right to call for prayer and fasting to prepare the way.

But how can one stand at the altar of God and declare the pathway to revival has been cleared while the stench of division, power-plays and partisan politics hangs heavy in the air? How can one call for a united appeal to God when the body remains sorely divided?

If revival and renewal are to come to Southern Baptists, repentance and reconciliation must come first. If Floyd and other SBC leaders want to bring about revival, they should seek reconciliation with their Baptist brothers and sisters who have been cut off and cast aside.

That kind of humility could not fail to induce a great awakening.

— Mark Wingfield

Don't neglect children, Garland pleads

By David Winfrey
News Director



Diana Garland

NEW ORLEANS—Churches are following society's failed model of caring for children, Diana Garland told those attending the annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union.

"Our society neglects children, and our churches do too," warned Garland, former dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Garland, who currently is working on a Lilly Endowment research project on families and faith, helped WMU kick off its ministry emphasis for 1996-97, "Project HELP: Child Advocacy."

She cited Jesus' object lesson with a child, telling disciples that they invite God into their presence

when they serve young ones.

"If we really believed Jesus, we would have waiting lists to teach Sunday school and work in vacation Bible School," she said.

Also, churches wouldn't relegate children to their own service, she said. "Don't you think it's strange that we try to provoke God's presence with us through prayers and hymns while we segregate the very ones Jesus said were God in us?"

Serving Jesus requires putting children first, which will bear fruit in churches and in society, Garland said. "If we really believed Jesus, we wouldn't be able to find enough children for our church folk to tutor or enough at-risk youth for our church folk to befriend and mentor."

Too many churches consider their duties to children accomplished if they

hire professionals, provide attractive classrooms or offer a four-minute children's sermon, she said. "Our church is living out our culture's understanding of providing for children, not Jesus' understanding."

Even children who have their physical needs met are deprived of interaction with a caring, loving community of adults, Garland asserted.

"It isn't that parents are failing children, it's that we are failing as community," she said. "Today children have fewer significant adults in their lives than any other time in history."

Great churches should be identified by how they care for children, she said. "Jesus is saying to the people of God, 'Put children first, and that will make you great.'"

O'Brien reviews advances, looks for clarity

By David Winfrey
News Director

NEW ORLEANS—Despite an unforeseeable future, Woman's Missionary Union continues to support missions and make a difference, said WMU Executive Secretary Dellanna O'Brien.

A "vacuum of knowledge" about the Southern Baptist Convention's changes has made it difficult for WMU leadership to anticipate the agency's new role, O'Brien said during her address to the WMU annual meeting.

"This next year will be significant as we finally know the details of our denomination's reorganization," she said. "But God knows, and that is enough."

O'Brien recapped the year's events. "This year we have reached out in the usual ways: ordinary

women doing extraordinary things," she said.

Among the year's highlights:
■ **Project Help: AIDS.** Woman's Missionary Union has given almost 250,000 items and nearly \$20,000 to hospices in America. More than \$100,000 has been given for foreign missionary Karen Gray's House of Hope hospice in Vitoria, Brazil.

■ **Christian Women's Jobs Corps.** A new venture to assist welfare mothers has five test sites: San Antonio, Texas; Bismark, N.D.; and three places in South Carolina.

■ **Olympics.** More than 1.8 million hospitality packets, with gifts and Christian tracts, were donated for distribution. Also, more than 800 women and Acteens will volunteer at the games with the Home Mission Board, she said.

■ **North Korea.** Woman's Missionary Union responded to Chris-

tian Service International's request to give food after flooding in the closed country. So far, 30 containers holding 35,000 pounds of food each have been shipped.

Cataloging all WMU activities would be impossible, O'Brien said. "Suffice it to say, we are continuing in the steps of our foremothers, seeing needs and responding in the name of Christ."

In other business, WMU elected new officers.

Wanda Lee of Columbus, Ga., and president of Georgia WMU since 1993, was elected president. Janet Hoffman of Hornbeck, La., a former Louisiana WMU president, was elected recording secretary.

They replace outgoing President Carolyn Miller of Huntsville, Ala., and Recording Secretary Martha Wennerberg of DeFuniak Springs, Fla. Both completed five-year terms.

PRAYER TIME Anna Mary Byrdwell, Women on Mission consultant with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, leads a prayer during the national WMU annual meeting in New Orleans last week.



WMU at 'crossroads,' Schaller says

By David Winfrey
News Director

NEW ORLEANS—Woman's Missionary Union stands at a crossroads for determining its future, Lyle Schaller told those attending the group's annual meeting.

Southern Baptist Convention restructuring and shifts in church focus are forcing the crossroads, said Schaller, a church growth analyst and author of more than 40 books.

"One hundred and twenty years ago, congregations began to say 'We need help in fulfilling the Great Commission beyond our immediate neighborhood,'" Schaller said.

Today, however, that focus has shifted, he said.

"Churches are asking for help in reaching new generations of people," he said. "Congregations are asking, 'We need help in fulfilling the Great Commission in our own community.'"

Options for WMU range from continued support for SBC mis-

sionaries to disbanding, he said.

Schaller, however, encouraged the group to consider becoming a Baptist research and development arm for missions. In that role, WMU could pioneer new ways for Christians to reach new generations of people, he suggested.

Needed ministries include children's issues and strengthening marriages, he said.

Such a purpose requires new structures appealing to those new generations, he noted. "People are much more interested in pioneering the new than in joining the old."

Schaller also noted that three missions agencies he has admired have restructured: Southern Baptists' Home Mission Board, the Board of American Missions of the Lutheran Church of America and the Board of Church Extension of the Southern Presbyterian Church.

The effectiveness of the Lutheran and Presbyterian agencies suffered after restructuring, he added.

Rankin and Lewis tell of urgent needs

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Southern Baptists face an urgent need to reach the world with the gospel of Christ, the presidents of Southern Baptists' two missionary-sending agencies told participants in the 1996 Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting June 9.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis emphasized the urgency to reach the United States for Christ by the year 2000. He cited at least five instances in the Bible which he said show that Jesus directed his followers to reach everyone in the world with the gospel.

"If we're to be about anything as a people of God, it's to be sharing the gospel," Lewis said. "People without Jesus are damned, doomed and condemned. Until we believe that, we're not going to get very excited about missions."

More than 200 active and retired foreign missionaries introduced themselves during a separate session highlighting foreign missions.

"The harvest on traditional (mission) fields is multiplying, with more than 800 baptisms every day and more than 50 churches started each year," said Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin. "But I believe we are in danger of neglecting the harvest. We need to quit commending ourselves and realize God is doing something new. We need to recognize the terrible darkness of the night for those without Jesus Christ."

Rankin said FMB personnel have identified 2,466 people groups that have not been accessible to missionaries. And while foreign missionaries reached 41 new people groups last year, he said, the systematic effort to reach such groups cannot be accomplished quickly enough.

"Millions will die before we can reach them with the gospel," Rankin said.

In a tribute to the contribution of WMU to missions endeavors, Rankin called WMU "the missionary conscience of Southern Baptists, challenging us to financial support for those who go."

"Because of your sacrifice, we continue today," he said, noting that the auxiliary to the SBC has cumulatively contributed more than \$2 billion to the support of foreign missions and provided funds at critical times in FMB history.

Pastors called to prayer, fasting & Bible preaching

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Pastors were called to prayer, urged to fast and encouraged to preach Bible-based sermons during the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference June 9-10 in New Orleans.

The conference is held each year prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark., was elected by acclamation as president of the 1997 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. He will succeed Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.

Mike Routt, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, was elected secretary-treasurer for next year's Pastors' Conference. Ronnie Yarber, pastor of Gross Road Baptist Church in Mesquite, Texas, was elected vice president.

The theme of this year's conference was "Fruit That Remains."

"God's gateway to supernatural power in your life, your church, the SBC and our nation is by humbling ourselves through prayer and fasting," Floyd said in one of numerous sermons delivered during the two-

day meeting.

Floyd, who said he has completed two 40-day fasts over the past 18 months, said the time to fast is "when you are desperate for God to do something great in your life, ministry and country. People in America are not desperate. There is no urgency, no serious thought about God doing something miraculous. How desperate are you?"

Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., echoed the urgency for revival.

"The great movements of God are led by people who believe it's a life-or-death issue and they're not afraid to speak it," he said.

Spiritual renewal and revival must make its presence felt in society's political and social climate, said evangelist Bailey Smith.

"I'm not proud of a president of the United States that claims to be a Southern Baptist that backs every damnable cause that comes down the pike," Smith said as the audience erupted in a standing ovation. "It's time the people of God that have standards have a president in the

White House. We need a revival in the White House. We need a revival in the church house. We need a revival in your house. We need a revival in my house."

Evangelist Junior Hill of Hartselle, Ala., said too many God-called men have been carelessly handling the word of God for too long.

"I'm tired of seeing old-time preaching—preaching that once convicted the saints and converted sinners—now being replaced by dull and listless dialogue constructed upon doubt and built up by intellectualism and propped up by human reasoning," Hill said.

Hill said the church has lost its voice in America because many preachers have stopped proclaiming the "infallible, inerrant Holy Bible."

"I'm tired of seeing old-time righteousness, old-fashioned Bible separation that made our forefathers strangely different from the world, now meekly retreating before the common demands of homosexual preachers, beer-guzzling deacons and baby-killing abortionists," Hill said.

Mack Brunson, pastor of Green

Street Baptist Church in High Point, N.C., said preachers should never stray from the text of God's word when standing behind the pulpit.

"We've been called to preach a word from divine revelation and not something from our sanctified imagination," Brunson said. "A lot of us have fallen in love with the sound of our own voice. ... It matters whether or not you met the master in the text."

With revival comes conflict, warned James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Snellville, Ga.

"The enemies you make by taking a firm stand for what is right will have more respect for you than the friends you have for straddling the fence," he said. "Those who stand tallest for God will always be the ones to draw the fire."

Before revival may begin in the church it must start in the home, Adrian Rogers said.

"The measure of a man of God, whether he is in the ministry or out of the ministry, is the spiritual condition of his children," said Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn.

Mike Routt, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, was elected secretary-treasurer for next year's Pastors' Conference.

Bailey Smith: Critics of conservatives halt 'God's revival'

NEW ORLEANS—Baptist newspaper editors who have been critical of the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative swing in the past 17 years have opposed God's will for revival, evangelist Bailey Smith said June 10.

Smith, elected SBC president in 1980 and 1981, made the comment as part of his message to the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

"State editor, I want to say directly to you, if you keep writing those blistering editorials against the movement of God, you're standing in the way of what God wants to do in revival in the Southern Baptist Convention," Smith said.

Bill Webb, president of the Association of State Baptist Papers, called Smith's comments "at the least, irresponsible, and at most, mean-spirited."

"State editors are a diverse group of Baptists committed no less to Christ than is Bailey Smith," said Webb, editor of Missouri's Word & Way. "His suggestion that state paper readers are subjected to a continuing diet of editorials against a movement of God tells me he has not been reading state papers very carefully."

In his sermon, Smith called for an end to criticism of the SBC's conservative leadership.

"I know that a few years ago those that would not go with us called themselves denominational loyalists," Smith said. "The denominational loyalists under their loyalty are now stealing denominational schools, taking denominational mission money, taking denominational seminary students under the guise of being cooperative Baptists.

I wish our state Baptist editors would be as concerned about that organization that is dividing us as they have been about the great conservative resurgence that never once sought to divide the Southern Baptist Convention."

He also criticized the editors' credentials to comment on current affairs. "I tell you frankly, I'm tired of non-soul-winning editors who go to non-soul-winning churches who have not seen a revival in 50 years telling us what's wrong with ours," Smith said, drawing a resounding ovation from the audience.

Smith defended the convention's conservative swing.

"We have been told since 1979 that the enemies of this denomination were Adrian Rogers, Charles Stanley, Jimmy Draper and Jerry Vines," he said. "My friend, they're

not the enemies of this great Bible-believing, Bible-preaching denomination. Enemies of the Southern Baptist Convention through the years have been those in our schools that have destroyed the faith and the power of a young man, to send him out to destroy your church, and the administrators that allowed it to happen."

Smith is the brother-in-law of Tom Elliff, who last week was elected SBC president. Before entering full-time evangelism, he was pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., where Elliff now is pastor.

Smith gained worldwide notoriety during his term as SBC president for his public assertion that "God Almighty does not hear the prayer of a Jew."

Based on a Baptist Press report

"If you keep writing those blistering editorials against the movement of God, you're standing in the way of what God wants to do in revival in the Southern Baptist Convention."
Bailey Smith, speaking to state Baptist paper editors in his Pastors' Conference message

Nettles and Coppenger address Calvinist group's breakfast

NEW ORLEANS—Affirming the authority of the Bible and calling for spiritual revival are good steps, but they aren't all the Southern Baptist Convention needs, according to a speaker at the annual breakfast for Southern Baptist Calvinists held during the SBC annual meeting.

Tom Nettles, church history professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., was one of two speakers addressing the annual breakfast meeting of the Founders Conference. The Founders Conference is a group of Southern Baptists who embrace a theology commonly known as Calvinism, based on the teachings of the 16th century theologian John Calvin.

"A greatly increased awareness of the importance of the Bible's place in God's gracious revelation of himself to man has arrested the flight from biblical authority and catapult-

ed Southern Baptists into an unprecedented era of theological reaffirmation," Nettles said.

"This reaffirmation will be best served if the door is opened for confident and respectful theological discussion and a more comprehensive theological recovery," he continued.

While biblical reaffirmation was necessary, "this has never been recognized as a sufficient Christian confession," he said. "Likewise, the desire for revival and the search for an experience with God will have the stamina of bread dough unless braced and mobilized by believing and critical doctrinal reflection."

By going back to their "founding fathers," Southern Baptists would discover the teachings which have the potential of a great spiritual revival, Nettles said. "Such a reformation and revival among the Southern Baptists under God could signifi-

cantly influence the missions, theological education, worship and evangelism in the entire modern evangelical world."

Many, but not all of the SBC's founders and early presidents embraced Calvinistic doctrines, also known as Reformation theology.

This theology is built around five major principles: the total depravity of humankind; unconditional election by God of those who will be saved; a limited atonement by Christ that is effective only for those pre-selected by God for salvation; the irresistible grace of God that will draw all the elect to his salvation; and the perseverance of the saints, also commonly called the belief that "once saved, always saved."

The other speaker at the breakfast meeting was Mark Coppenger, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City,

Mo. Coppenger addressed the debate concerning church growth techniques.

The danger in some church growth techniques, Coppenger warned, is that churches may sometimes "satisfy unregenerate dispositions."

"Clearly, there are rocks on both sides," Coppenger said. "The revivalist and church-growth zealot can crash on the rocks of compromise, irreverence and reticence. The Calvinist can crash on the rocks of studied awkwardness and insolence."

"When properly understood, sound doctrine and thoughtful means are not enemies at all, and the sooner we get over that confusion, the sooner the Lord would bless us with bounty," Coppenger said. "Unless, of course, he wants to work a miracle of deliverance from our boneheadedness."

Political topics dominate SBC resolutions

What about dancing Masons?

NEW ORLEANS—Messengers to last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting offered a variety of resolutions that died in committee. The open nature of SBC business allows any messenger to propose a resolution. Some are passed by the convention. Some emerge from the resolutions committee much different than originally proposed. Others die in committee. Among those that never made it:

- Carol Sutton of Kingwood, Texas, proposed a resolution of appreciation for Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson, "architects" of the SBC's conservative movement.

"God's flame of truth and righteousness will continue to be a beacon to the lost and hurting here and around the world because of the work of these two men," according to the resolution.

- Freemasonry, the men's organization which has caused considerable stir at previous conventions, drew the attention of Mike Janz of Rosamond, La., who asked to declare Freemasonry a non-Christian cult.

- Daniel O'Reagan of Pineville, La., cited several interesting reasons for Southern Baptists to "reject close-embrace dancing as an acceptable social practice." O'Reagan noted that "some researchers believe that modern, close-embrace dancing actually began in a house of prostitution in Paris, France, and is still used as a tool of the prostitutes' trade."

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—With national elections approaching in November, political topics dominated resolutions passed by the Southern Baptist Convention during its annual meeting June 11-13.

A call for Southern Baptists to boycott the Walt Disney Co. drew the most attention at the convention, followed by a statement condemning a rash of arsons directed at African-American churches.

Other resolutions, however, addressed election-year issues, including partial-birth abortions, legalization of gay marriages, anti-abortion planks in political-party platforms and parental choice in education.

"We feel that this committee has been operating as the heartbeat of the convention," Resolutions Committee Chairwoman Nancy Victory said.

In all, 14 resolutions were adopted by the convention.

As time was running out in the three-day meeting, messengers adopted the last 11 resolutions on one vote and without discussion.

One resolution criticized President Clinton's veto of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act as "shame-

ful" and criticized the president for suggesting he prayed before vetoing the bill. Clinton has said he would sign the ban if Congress would allow an exemption for grave health consequences to the mother.

Another resolution called for the Republican National Convention to "maintain its strong pro-life platform" and for the Democratic Party and other parties to add similar language to their platforms.

A lengthy resolution on homosexual marriage responded to a 1993 decision by the Hawaii Supreme Court that denying same-sex couples the right to marry may violate the state constitution.

The resolution pledges to oppose efforts to legalize homosexual marriage. If same-sex unions receive legal status, "we do most solemnly pledge our decision never to recognize the moral legitimacy of any such law, policy or regulation," the statement said.

Another resolution condemned physician-assisted suicide, urging federal, state and local governments to "prosecute under the law physicians or others who practice assisted suicide."

Other SBC resolutions:

- Asked that governments fund "parental choice" measures that would provide public funding for private and parochial schools.

- Called for a 40-day "national prayer watch," Sept. 27-Nov. 5, during which Americans are asked to "pray and fast" about upcoming elections.

- Decried persecution of Christians around the world and asked President Clinton and Congress to "uphold the fundamental freedom of religion" in American foreign policy.

- Resisted ecumenical involvement which "would risk possible compromise" of Baptist doctrine and witness, but affirmed cooperation with other religious groups "in appropriate evangelistic enterprises and on issues of justice, morality and religious liberty."

- Called for establishing a gambling commission to study the industry's impact in the United States.

- Urged evangelistic efforts aimed at converting Jews.

- Urged increased giving to hunger-relief ministries in America and abroad.

Missionaries to get pay raise

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Foreign Mission Board trustees approved an immediate missionary salary increase during their June 7-8 meeting in New Orleans.

Their action allocates \$1.4 million to upgrade raises based on length of service for the Southern Baptist Convention's nearly 4,200 foreign missionaries working in 129 countries and among 336 ethnic people groups.

Meeting prior to the SBC annual meeting, trustees also allocated \$3.3 million from real estate sales in Hong Kong to meet high-priority missionary housing needs elsewhere in the world.

Stronger-than-expected giving by Southern Baptist churches and a slightly lower-than-expected growth rate in missionary numbers freed resources to finance the missionary pay raise, according to Carl Johnson, FMB vice president for finance.

SBC MOTIONS

NEW ORLEANS—African-American church arsons, SBC investments and the time and place of annual meetings were among the issues that messengers to last week's Southern Baptist Convention tried to impact through motions this year.

Messengers presented at least 27 motions, ranging from a request to "bombard" the White House with complaints of Christian persecution abroad to banning SBC agency heads from recommending candidates for trustees of their agencies.

The SBC committee on order of business reviews all motions and recommends that they be considered on the convention floor or referred to an agency that regularly deals with issues addressed in the motion.

Tom Cocklereece of Fairbanks, Alaska, proposed assisting African-American churches with financial support and volunteer labor. His motion was referred to the Brotherhood Commission.

Other motions proposing prayer and help for those churches were introduced by R. Zack Zbinden of Ringgold, Ga., and Dennis Sartain of Anderson, S.C.

Sartain later withdrew his motion after the other convention actions regarding the fires.

Robert Garringer of Memphis, Mo., moved that the Annuity Board be forced to stop investing in companies profiting from the sale of tobacco, alcohol or "materials inconsistent with biblical morality or uses profits to advocate immoral practices."

Messengers defeated the motion after Tom Miller, senior vice president for the Annuity Board, spoke against it.

Miller said the board already has a policy prohibiting investments in publicly recognized "sin" stocks. A strict adherence to the motion, however, would prevent buying an airline's stock if it sold beer on flights, he said.

Six motions asked leaders to reconsider the time, place and personnel for annual meetings.

William Miller of La Plata, Md., noted that no one on the program was from New England. His motion asked the committee on order of business to be sensitive to including SBC pastors and leaders "north of the Mason-Dixon line."

Randy Woods of Moncks Corner, S.C., proposed a motion that speakers and personnel reflect both SBC church sizes and demographics. It was referred to the committee on order of business.

John Gilbert of Berkeley Springs, W.Va., wanted a study of regional meetings of the Pastors' Conference and annual meeting so smaller churches can be involved in policies and decisions. It was referred to the Executive Committee.

Eldridge Cullum of Virginia asked that the convention meet during the third week in June. He noted many states' schools aren't finished by the second week. His motion was referred to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee also will consider two motions about the location for the meeting. David Roberts of Eastpointe, Mich., asked for conventions to be held in cities where Southern Baptist work is not well established. Bob Lilly of Maryland asked that consideration be given to meeting in northern and eastern states after 2002.

Other motions referred to the

Executive Committee and the names of their makers:

- Thomas Houston, Charlottesville, Va., to require at least one of the three top SBC offices—president, first and second vice president—be filled by a layman.

- Wyndham Cook, El Dorado, Ark., to change the bylaws so SBC agency heads or their staff can't recommend potential trustees of their entities. An effort to divide the question for an immediate vote failed.

- Albert Lee Smith, Birmingham, Ala., to prepare and distribute information contrasting SBC theological views with those of the Alliance of Baptists, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and others.

- T.C. Pinckney, Virginia, to study a way to determine when churches violate the SBC constitution regarding membership.

- David Rice, Starke, Fla., to establish a four-year liberal arts university accountable to the denomination.

- Joe Strahan, Mississippi, to establish a system for the Christian Life Commission to vote by proxy on all SBC-held investments.

- David Roberts, Michigan, to direct the North American Mission Board to develop TV and radio ads to reach people for Christ and enhance Southern Baptists' image.

- Larry Blackmon, Texas, proposed, withdrew and later re-introduced a motion to require motions be dealt with during the convention and not referred to SBC entities.

- Ron Wilson, Thousand Oaks, Calif., to create a new Cooperative Program option that splits money evenly between the convention and "the state entity the church designates."

- Fred Smith, Texas, to amend a bylaw to require full explanations from agencies for declining to act on a motion referred to it by the convention.

Two motions were referred to the Christian Life Commission:

- Anis Shorosh, Mobile, Ala., to ask the convention to "bombard" embassies and the White House, urging human rights and freedom of religion for persecuted Christians in other countries.

- Marlene Boswell, Virginia, to add the word "Christian" to the commission's new name, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Two motions were referred to the Sunday School Board:

- Kenneth Barnett, Colorado, to stop printing "the old Broadman commentaries."

- Chester Ward, Oklahoma, to stop using the name "Lifeway Press" for materials sold to other denominations or non-Baptist groups.

A motion by Martin Angell of Texas asked each SBC entity to develop ways of assisting Christian schools associated with the convention. It was referred to all agencies.

At least three motions were ruled out of order:

- Hy McEnery III of Louisiana, to petition Congress to rebuke the president and vice president on behalf of the convention and other Christian organizations.

- Wes Bel of Illinois, to spend total savings from the convention restructuring on the mission field.

- Also ruled out of order was a motion to form a committee investigating the alleged promotion of homosexuality in a Kansas City church.

Restructuring said to save \$34 million in five years

NEW ORLEANS—A massive restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention, which leaders say will poise the nation's largest Protestant body for ministry in the 21st century, received final approval June 11.

Messengers to the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans adopted constitutional changes and other legal documents to begin to implement a downsizing approved last year. The restructuring will reduce the number of convention agencies from 19 to 12.

Although the restructuring received the first stage of approval last summer, messengers to this year's SBC annual meeting for the first time heard estimates of cost-savings anticipated from the overhaul. The implementation task force charged with overseeing the transition projected savings of \$34 million to \$41 million over the next five years.

The SBC Executive Committee will approve the final legal changes necessary to carry out the restructuring, which will be in place by June 1997.

An implementation time line calls for continued monitoring and reports on the new structure, with a final implementation report scheduled in 2000.

SBC messengers approved articles of incorporation for the North American Mission Board, a new

agency that replaces three current entities: the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission.

Messengers also approved elimination of five agencies: the Southern Baptist Foundation, the Historical, Stewardship and Education commissions and the Commission on American Baptist Theological Seminary, an African-American school in Nashville. Tasks performed by those agencies will be transferred to other denominational entities.

It is unknown how many jobs will be eliminated in the downsizing, said Ted Warren, a Southern Baptist Sunday School Board executive and member of the implementation task force, predicting more details would be reported over the next 90 days.

Another unanswered question, Warren said, is what will happen to studios at the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission in Fort Worth, Texas. The restructuring plan calls for the North American Mission Board to be based at a new Home Mission Board building in suburban Atlanta.

Adding studios at that site would cost about \$9.2 million, said Robert Reccord, a Virginia pastor who chairs the implementation task force. He added the task force is considering several options, including moving the whole operation, leaving the

studio in Fort Worth and moving administrative offices to Georgia or subcontracting all future television production.

A chief executive officer for the new mission board will be nominated by a 13-member board of "incorporators" elected by the convention, which will also carry out necessary legal work.

According to the projected timeline, the incorporators should nominate that candidate before next June, when the mission board's new trustees will meet for the first time and receive the nomination.

Projected costs related to the restructuring include implementation task force costs of \$800,000, including travel, communication, legal work and consultation fees from management consultant Coopers & Lybrand.

Severance, relocation and implementation costs for the North American Mission Board are estimated at \$4.1 million to \$5.7 million.

Severance for employees of the agencies slated for dissolution will come from reserve funds at the various agencies, requiring no additional funds from the convention.

The task force projected savings of \$30 million to \$37 million in five years from the merger of the three agencies into one national mission board, depending on whether studios

at the Radio & Television Commission in Fort Worth are sold.

Net savings from closing the five agencies will total \$1 million per year, the report said.

Reccord emphasized that the restructuring will not create surplus denominational funds. "There is still an ever-increasing need for churches to be planted, for new missions work to be started, for added missionaries to the field," he said.

And Warren noted it is ultimately up to churches and individuals to revitalize the denomination in the next century. "Just changing agencies doesn't get anybody saved in your home town," he said. "It's you out there on the street and where you're working with your families that makes a difference."

The convention also approved an amendment to the convention's new mission statement, adding a reference to God the Father.

The change had been requested by an Oklahoma pastor, who said the original language could create an erroneous impression that Southern Baptists reject the Christian concept of the Trinity. The statement as originally drafted referred to Jesus and the Holy Spirit, but not God the Father.

By News Director David Winfrey and Bob Allen of Associated Baptist Press

Projected expenses and savings of the restructuring:

- Dissolving five entities (Historical Commission, Stewardship Commission, Foundation, Education Commission and Commission on American Baptist Seminary) will result in a net saving of \$1 million per year. This figure is derived from taking the aggregate Cooperative Program funding for the five entities (\$2 million annually) and subtracting the estimated Cooperative Program allocations needed to provide funds for elements of these ministries which transfer to other entities (\$1 million annually).

- Creating the North American Mission Board will result in a net savings of \$30 million to \$37 million over a five-year period. This figure is derived by estimating the one-time costs of severance, relocation of personnel and non-real estate implementation costs at between \$4.1 million and \$5.7 million. From this figure, subtract \$6 million per year for savings in labor efficiencies derived by eliminating duplicate positions and \$3 million per year for other efficiencies.

- The one variable related to costs for the North American Mission Board is what to do with production facilities of the Radio & Television Commission, currently located in Fort Worth, Texas. The implementation task force reported that no definitive decision has been made on this issue. However, if the production facilities are moved to Atlanta, and the current properties of the Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission are sold, the result would be a one-time expense of \$9.2 million.

Corporate changes to take place

- The Southern Baptist Historical Commission and Southern Baptist Foundation will no longer be entities of the convention. The council of seminary presidents will preserve the history of the denomination and operate the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives. The Foundation will become a subsidiary corporation of the SBC Executive Committee.

- The Southern Baptist Education Commission and the Stewardship Commission will be dissolved through the legal process of merger into the SBC Executive Committee. The mergers will cause the assets and liabilities of those entities to become the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

- The Southern Baptist Commis-

- sion on the American Baptist Theological Seminary will be dissolved. The board of that corporation has adopted articles of dissolution and the approval of the convention last week will cause this dissolution to occur September 1996.

- A North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Inc., will be formed in June 1997, merging the Brotherhood Commission, Home Mission Board and Radio & Television Commission.

- The names of the Foreign Mission Board and Christian Life Commission will change in June 1997 to International Mission Board of the SBC and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the SBC, respectively.

Formation of a new mission board

Here's how the North American Mission Board will be formed in the coming months:

- The charter approved by messengers to the 1996 convention names 13 people as incorporators of the new agency. These incorporators will offer a nominee for the presidency of the agency and will work with the implementation task force and SBC Executive Committee to prepare the legal way for this new corporation.

- The Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission will remain under the control of their elected boards until June 19, 1997, when the legal restructuring will be completed. However, these boards will begin working with the

implementation task force immediately to make preparations for the merger.

- Messengers to next year's SBC annual meeting will elect trustees of the North American Mission Board, and they will be convened by the incorporators in an organizational meeting upon the adjournment of that convention. In that meeting, the board of trustees will organize itself, adopt bylaws, elect officers and elect a president. The role of the "incorporators" ends at this point.

- As the North American Mission Board's new president and trustees deem appropriate, the organization's new structure will be put in place.

SBC BRIEFS

- **Budget adopted.** Southern Baptist Convention messengers adopted a 1996-97 SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget of \$145.05 million during the report of the SBC Executive Committee June 11. The total represents an increase of \$3.42 million or 2.42 percent over the current year's budget.

- **Transfer accomplished.** The transfer of complete governance and full ownership of assets of American Baptist College in Nashville from Southern Baptists to the National Baptist Convention USA Inc. is now complete, messengers to

the Southern Baptist Convention were told during their June 11-13 meeting in New Orleans. The school, which operates under the corporate name of American Baptist Theological Seminary, has an average annual enrollment of about 180 students and is the only four-year accredited Bible college designed primarily for training church leaders of African descent.

- **Land to preach.** Southern Baptist Convention messengers elected Richard Land to deliver the SBC's 1997 convention sermon in Dallas. Land, president of the SBC

Christian Life Commission, was the unanimous choice of the committee on order of business, according to Gary Ledbetter, a member of the committee that made the recommendation and a former CLC trustee. David Miller, an Arkansas evangelist and trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was elected as the alternate preacher.

- **Officers re-elected.** Trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee re-elected their three officers by acclamation during an organizational meeting

June 12. The re-elected officers are Ronnie Floyd, a Springdale, Ark., pastor, chairman; James Merritt, a Snellville, Ga., pastor, vice chairman; and Rex Terry, a Fort Smith, Ark., attorney, recording secretary.

- **Attendance low.** A total of 13,635 messengers registered at the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans, the lowest attendance since 1981, when 13,529 messengers registered for the convention in Los Angeles. Messenger attendance was down 30 percent from last year's annual meeting in Atlanta.



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Promise Keepers founder pleads for racial sensitivity

By David Winfrey
News Director

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—Christians of all colors must model loving relationships to answer racism that continues to plague America, Promise Keepers founder Bill McCartney told Southern Baptists last week.

"It is the cry of my heart that our people would see the pain in each other and begin to come together," said McCartney, whose stadium rallies are expected to draw 1.1 million men this year.

McCartney, former football coach for Colorado University, gave the closing message for the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention June 13 in New Orleans.

He said he has spent the past year visiting clergy of color in cities across America. "I have found things that you couldn't possibly know," he said. Racial strife, he said, "is so real. I understand why our nation is polarized."

McCartney cautioned his comments might offend his predominantly white audience. "But please be open," he urged. "There is a spirit of white racial supremacy that is reigning."

That spirit is defined by insensitivity to people of color, he said.

"How do you feel when you're in

the company of people who feel they are superior to you?" he asked. "We get caught in that kind of oppression, we can go somewhere else. I'm telling you that oppression exists for the men and women of color and there's nowhere they can go."

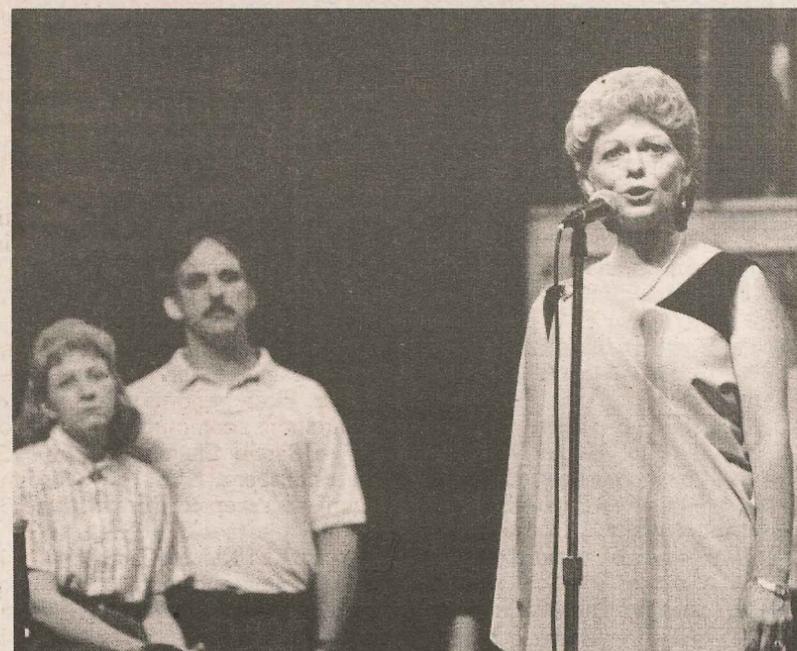
Christians must show one another that they are loved and appreciated, regardless of race, he said.

"Within each one of us, there's this need for affirmation," he said. "No one should have to earn their significance."

McCartney discussed two visions he's developing for better race relations. One is to develop a better working environment for minorities at the 300-employee Promise Keepers. The other is organizing a Christian million-man march for September in Washington, D.C.

Rather than being marked by protest or defiance, the march would be characterized by prayer and repentance, he said. "We can come in humility and unity and we can stand together and we can kneel together. And the people watching TV can say, 'Oh, how they love each other. Oh, how they love their God.'"

McCartney urged Southern Baptist men to bring someone of color to the march and develop close friendships with minorities. "Let's show the world what the body of Christ looks like."



MISSIONS EMPHASIS ■ Above: Marlene Lee, missionary to Rwanda, tells about her work among refugees as part of the Foreign Mission Board report during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting last week. ■ Right: Henry Blackaby and Randy Sprinkle, both of whom work with Southern Baptist agencies on issues related to prayer, participate in "Prayerwalk New Orleans." Here, they stroll along Bourbon Street in the French Quarter, praying as they go for strategic sites where evangelistic ministries were to take place the next day. (BP photos)



SBC helps burned churches

Continued from page 1

tion could have ripple effects on communities as messengers return home, Henry predicted.

"I think it's going to be an attitudinal thing," he said. "I think the Lord could turn these fires into something else positive."

Black Baptist leader Mac Charles Jones, associate to the general secretary for racial justice of the National Council of Churches, praised the offering as a "great moment" for Southern Baptists.

Black Baptists watched last year's SBC resolution, wondering whether it would make a difference, said Jones, pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo., a member of the National Baptist Convention of America.

"This gives some substance to what those apologies meant," he said. "That's wonderful."

The NCC is seeking to raise \$1 million for victim churches as well as provoke discussions about the harmful effects of racism.

Meanwhile, the best-known Southern Baptist—evangelist Billy Graham—applauded action by President Clinton to guarantee \$10 million in government loans to rebuild the churches and a resolution by Congress condemning the burnings.

"I applaud President Clinton and Sen. Dole for their quick response to these tragedies—at least in this one area we can be united," Graham said in a statement. "I am also grateful that leaders of both parties are speak-

ing out against this type of terrorism and enacting legislation so quickly to facilitate prosecution of cases involving arson against houses of worship."

Of the 34 fires since January 1995, arrests have been made in eight, according to USA Today. One hundred FBI agents reportedly have been assigned to the cases.

About 80 churches have been burned since 1990, Jones said. "Some of those churches that go way back still have not been rebuilt."

Several drafts of resolutions condemning the arsons were mailed to the resolutions committee before the convention, said Nancy Victory, chair of the committee.

The offering, however, was driven by Henry. "When we got here and we realized what was happening ... the Lord just laid it on my heart, let's show something more than words," he said.

No offering had been collected at the convention's annual meeting since 1986, when the plate was passed for world hunger.

Before the first plate was passed, leaders from the Florida, Georgia and Alabama state Baptist conventions pledged \$50,000 each to the effort.

Former SBC President Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., then pledged \$10,000, prompting Henry to pledge \$10,001 and newly-elected SBC President Tom Elliff to pledge \$15,000.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Part-time youth leader. Providence Baptist Church is a growing country church and is seeking a youth minister. This is a great ministry opportunity for a seminary student or anyone else who is called to minister with youth. Paid position, office and weekend housing. Contact: Sherry Hurley, (502) 222-9859; Pastor Doug Boyd (502) 532-6321; or send resumé to: Providence Baptist Church, RR3 Box 609, Campbellsburg, KY 40011.

SEEKING: If interested in an interim or the full-time position as minister of music, please send resumé to: Kaye Smith, First Baptist Church, 200 W. Lincoln Blvd., Hodgenville, KY 42748-1414. Fully graded music ministry with preschool, children, adult, senior adult and handbell choirs. (502) 358-3193.

SEEKING: Metropolitan Kentucky Baptist association of 66 churches, 200-bed convalescent center, 48-unit elder care facility, and 132-acre campground is seeking resúms for a director of missions. All applicants should have experience as a director of missions and/or demonstrated administrative skills. Resúms accepted until Aug. 5, 1996, at: James Hales, 3 Barma Dr., Cold Spring, KY 41076.

SOUND: System problems? Need consultation, training? Call Jim Cottrell, professional church sound engineer. Serving as sound/media engineer for KBC annual meetings, technical director, Severns Valley Baptist. (502) 862-9586.

SEEKING: Fourteen 12' or 13' padded church pews in good condition. Please contact Hillcrest Baptist Church at (502) 756-2608 or (502) 257-8250.

SEEKING: The First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg, Ky., is looking for someone to fill the position of minister of music. This is a full-time position with a salary package range of \$35,000-\$36,000. Would prefer seminary graduate with 0-5 years experience. Please send resumé to: Connie Sammons, committee chairperson, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 756, Prestonsburg, KY 41653. Resúms will be accepted through June 30, 1996.

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SEEKING: Minister of music/outreach for northern Kentucky SBC church. Call (606) 635-2444. Grant's Lick Baptist Church, 175 W. Clay Rd., Alexandria, KY 41001. Dr. Paul E. Broyles, pastor/teacher.

SEEKING: Front desk attendant—evening and night shifts. Seminary or college student preferred. Allows plenty of time to study. Contact: Ginger Niner at Parr's Rest in Louisville. Phone: (502) 451-5440.

SEEKING: Nursing assistant. Flexible shifts. Diploma or GED; certified preferred. Contact: Gayle Mink, nurse manager at Parr's Rest in Louisville. Phone: (502) 451-5440.

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ANNUITY BOARD

SBC messengers call for boycott of Walt Disney Co.

"We find it curious that a group that claims to espouse family values would vote to boycott the world's largest producer of wholesome family entertainment."
Statement from the Walt Disney Co.

Continued from page 1

company that is not friendly to families," said Nancy Victory of Shreveport, La., chairwoman of the SBC resolutions committee.

"In recent years, the Disney Co. has given the appearance that the promotion of homosexuality is more important than its historic family values," the resolution passed by the SBC says.

Among the offenses committed by Disney and its subsidiaries, the resolution says, are decisions to provide insurance benefits to partners of homosexual employees, permitting homosexual theme nights at its parks, hiring a convicted child molester to direct a movie, publishing a book about teenage homosexuality, and producing materials like the movie "Priest," which disparages Christian values and depicts Christian leaders as morally defective.

In its brief response, Disney added: "We question any group that demands that we deprive people of health benefits, and we know of no tourist destination in the world that denies admission to people as the

Baptists are insisting we do."

Disney said the company does not sponsor the promotional events for gays, and company lawyers have said anti-discrimination laws prohibit the company from denying park admission to gays.

The resolution, similar to one adopted last fall by the Florida Baptist Convention, was submitted to the resolutions committee by John Sullivan, the state convention's executive director.

Singling out a specific company for boycott is rare in Southern Baptist resolutions but not unprecedented. In 1994, the convention called for Baptists to boycott products of pharmaceutical company Roussel Uclaf for seeking to import RU-486, the French abortion pill.

This year's resolution initially stopped short of a boycott, instead urging Southern Baptists "to give serious and prayerful reconsideration" to their purchase of Disney products.

But messengers tightened the statement, adopting an amendment that called on church members "to

boycott the Disney company, stores and theme parks if they continue in this anti-Christian, anti-family trend."

"The Walt Disney Co. understands one thing—money," said Drake, who offered the amendment. Drake is pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Calif.

A resolutions committee spokesman told messengers the panel would not oppose Drake's amendment, which then was approved by a wide margin.

Drake, who lives about seven miles from the gates of Disneyland, told reporters Disney has not responded to repeated complaints of Christians.

"I've been supportive of Disney for years," said Drake, who discarded a Mickey Mouse tie he wore to the June 12 SBC meeting. "I'm going to start doing some things that cost Disney money."

Drake said he owns annual passes to Disneyland for his family but

he probably won't buy more.

Drake said the problems with Disney go beyond homosexuality. "They're bombarding our kids out there with satanic symbols," he charged, citing a Disneyland attraction called "Fantasmic" that he said incorporates satanic images.

Despite the overwhelming vote for the resolution, some messengers expressed skepticism a boycott will prove effective.

"I think the intention would be proper, but I doubt seriously it would ever be implemented," Robert Maggee of Ruston, La., said after the vote.

The resolution calls for the Christian Life Commission to monitor Disney productions for signs of improvement.

Outgoing SBC president Jim Henry said he will support the boycott if talks with Disney are fruitless.

The issue is personal for Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., because many members of his church are Disney employees.



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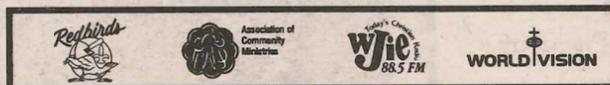


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Over the past few weeks I have again felt God's leadership. This time He is calling me back to Texas to become president and chief executive officer of DePelchin Children's Center in Houston. My work will be concentrated in the Houston metropolitan area and I will have the exciting challenge of finding creative ways to help children in an area of tremendous need.

Even though I know God is leading, leaving Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is not an easy thing. Over the past eight years Kentucky Baptists have supported me and this ministry in truly tremendous ways. Your prayers and financial support have allowed this ministry to reach out to more children and families than ever before. It has been a joy to be a part of it.

I have also had the privilege of working with a tremendous Board of Directors. They have been willing to ask the tough questions and to make hard decisions to help children.

I have also been blessed to work with a wonderful staff that is deeply committed to making a difference for children in the name of

our Lord. There is no finer group of Christian professionals.

I also leave feeling very blessed to have known some very special children. I think of young people who are today working as barbers, paramedics, counselors, teachers, and in many other productive occupations. They have overcome great obstacles and will forever be

an inspiration to me. Saying goodbye is one of the hardest tasks in life. This ministry and all who are a part of it will always be in my prayers.

"I thank my God every time I remember you" (Philippians 1:3, NIV)

Curtis Mooney is president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Rd., Middletown, Ky. 40243. Call (800) 456-1386. WWW address: <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney



FINANCIAL FORUM

Update on clergy tax audit issues

By Don Spencer

The last four years have seen a significant increase in the number of Kentucky ministers being audited by the IRS. Most of these have been Market Segment Specialization Program audits, which the IRS abbreviates as MSSP. This kind of audit differs from other types of IRS audits.

Periodically the IRS performs taxpayer compliance audits. These are extremely rigorous, examining every detail. Data from these audits is used to compile criteria for audit selection in subsequent years. Other audits are more routine in nature and often focus on specific items that appear to be in question. Sometimes these are handled by mail.

The MSSP audit is the IRS's most recent move toward audit efficiency. By looking at market segments in specific locations, the IRS develops audit technique guides. These guides provide information about tax issues that are unique for a given occupation. They are used by IRS agents to determine if those in a given occupation are paying the correct amount of tax. Through the MSSP audits, the IRS can focus on tax provisions that appear to be most abused, overlooked or misunderstood.

Ministers are subject to a number of unique tax provisions. The IRS has recently focused on three of these in their MSSP audits of ministers:

■ Did the minister file as an employee for income tax, even though self-employed for Social Security? In some cases, ministers have been required to file amended returns, switching from self-employed to employee status. Depending on other issues, several have experienced a significant increase in taxes due as a result.

■ Was the minister's housing included in computing self-employment Social Security (including rental value of a parsonage)?

■ Was Schedule C income from weddings, funerals and revivals reported?

Possibly the one positive element to the MSSP audits of ministers is an improvement in consistency.

Ministers using professional tax preparers should make sure their preparers are aware of the audit technique guide and tax provisions unique to ministers.

Don Spencer is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department

Elliff elected SBC president unopposed

Continued from page 1

that supports a variety of moderate causes but has not formally severed ties with the SBC.

In 1994, however, two conservatives were pitted for the presidency.

Alabama pastor Fred Wolfe, who had the backing of most of the leaders who guided the conservative juggernaut of the 1980s, lost to Florida pastor Jim Henry, who had the backing of younger pastors and some conservatives who said it was time for conservatives to move beyond the tight political control that brought them to power.

Henry was re-elected without opposition last year at the annual meeting in Atlanta.

Last fall, a group of about 80 leaders from both conservative camps met in Atlanta and united behind Elliff as this year's standard bearer.

While most SBC leaders downplayed talk of a rift in the conservative movement, some old-guard conservatives complained that Henry's appointments were too soft.

In a news conference after his election, Elliff sounded a more rigid tone.

Asked if he had any words for moderates who still identify with the

convention, Elliff replied immediately that anyone who "does not hold to the inerrancy of Scripture" should "repent."

Inerrancy—the belief that the Bible is literally true—was the primary battlefield of the SBC controversy.

In a similar vein, he said he would do his best to make sure his appointments as president do not result in convention leaders who believe the Bible contains errors.

Asking if he would appoint a non-inerrantist to a convention post "is like asking me if I would have in our U.S. Army someone who would not say the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country," he said.

Elliff also distanced himself from comments by Henry that some members of the SBC conservative movement have been too extreme.

"I have found them to be above board in every way," he said of SBC conservative leaders. "They're concerned about their churches, about the SBC. ... They're not acrimonious or acerbic. Every movement has people on the fringes, but I haven't met any hard, unbending" conservatives.

The 80 leaders who chose him to be their candidate did not manipulate

the SBC political process, Elliff contended. "Those 80 men have 80 votes," he said. "They're men of integrity and prayer."

He also noted any other group could have nominated another candidate.

Addressing other topics in his news conference, Elliff said:

■ Scripture does not provide any evidence to support women as senior pastors. "I feel the Bible is very clear about the role of men and women," he said. "It's not a question of value or importance. Men and women are equal in the eyes of God but have a different role."

■ Conservatives in state conventions not in complete unity with the SBC's recent direction should "find a way to support the SBC." State conventions should give "unqualified support" to the SBC, he stressed.

Elliff, 52, was born into a Southern Baptist pastor's home in Paris, Texas. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

He has been pastor of churches in Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado.

He and his wife, Jeannie, were Southern Baptist missionaries in Zimbabwe, Africa, from 1983 to 1985, until their oldest daughter was injured and they returned to the United States for medical treatment.

Other SBC officers elected last week include Bob Anderson, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., first vice president; Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, second vice president; Lee Porter of Lawrenceville, Ga., registration secretary; and David Atchison of Franklin, Tenn., recording secretary.

Asked if he had any words for moderates who still identify with the convention, Elliff replied immediately that anyone who "does not hold to the inerrancy of Scripture" should "repent."

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TOP OFFICERS The three top officers of the Southern Baptist Convention elected in New Orleans last week are President Tom Elliff (center), First Vice President Bob Anderson (right) and Second Vice President Fred Luter (left). (BP photo)

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

Pray for these specific needs related to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Russia, Boston and Utah-Idaho:

- Volunteers needed for evangelism project in St. Petersburg, Russia, Oct. 9-22.
- Volunteers needed for medical project in St. Petersburg, Russia, Oct. 9-22.
- Dentists needed in Russia Sept. 3-5, Oct. 9-22, Sept. 4-17.
- Medford, Mass., Community Bible Church which held its first worship service at the local high school June 2.
- A Boston harbor praise and worship cruise sponsored by Christian Gospel Center of Winthrop, Mass., planned for July 21.
- Kentucky mission teams working in Utah/Idaho Baptist churches this summer.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Burton Memorial Church called **Nan Doyle** as interim choir director for the summer.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Centerfield Church called **Tim Menser** as pastor. He will begin his new ministry July 1. Menser previously was pastor of Forks of Elkhorn Church in Midway.

■ **FINLEY**—Mount Gilboa Church will celebrate its 75th anniversary July 14.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Ovesen Heights Church announces that three of its members—**Stewart Skaggs, Melvin Mortensen and John Martin**—have surrendered to the gospel ministry. They are available for supply pastorates. Call the church at (502) 358-8041 for information.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Parkway Church called **Leon Greer** as pastor May 1.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Byron Fortner** resigned as minister to students at Melbourne Heights Church to become public works superintendent for the city of Sevierville, Tenn.

John Snawder, pastor at Grace Church for 25 years, will retire July 1. Snawder has been a pastor for 52 years and has served on associational, state and SBC committees and boards during his ministry. He was the founding pastor of Ralph Avenue Church in Louisville and Calvary Church in Effingham, Ill.

Midlane Park Church's drama team will present "Our Town" June 28-29 at 8 p.m.. The play will be preceded by a dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased weekdays from

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the church office, by mail or by calling (502) 491-7966 or (502) 493-8686.

Walnut Street Church called **Cathy Heberer**, a native of Lebanon, Tenn., as director of media services. Heberer is a student at Southern Seminary nearing completion of her master's degree in Christian education.

■ **MIDWAY**—Forks of Elkhorn Church ordained youth ministers **Troy and Sheri Shelton** to the gospel ministry June 9.

■ **MOREHEAD**—**Chris Hedges** resigned as associate minister of music at First Church.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Pleasant Memorial Church called **Jim England**

as pastor. England began his new ministry June 16. He previously was pastor at Petersburg Church.

Buena Vista Church called **Donald Isaacson Jr.**, native of Clearwater, Fla. as minister of education and youth.

■ **PARIS**—Central Church will culminate a year-long 50th anniversary celebration June 23. Former pastors have been honored during the year and a recommitment service was held for couples married 50 years or more. Call (606) 987-3951 for more information.

■ **WARSAW**—**Phillip Rowan** resigned as pastor of Bramlette Church May 26. He is available for supply or interim pastorates.

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One-owner, excellent condition, never smoked in. 29-passenger plus hostess seat, diesel engine, biggest available AC, overhead luggage bins, reclining seats, extra heaters. \$30,000. Phone: (502) 528-5131.

"COMING HOME!"

PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH

Frankfort, Ky., is calling all members and friends (past, present and future) to a Homecoming Celebration and Revival Sunday, July 14, 1996

Revival Services July 15-18

Guest Pastors:

Rev. Cornelious Hancock

Rev. Pierce Dodson

For information call: (502) 695-7138 or (502) 227-2478

Just another week

It's eight o'clock on a Saturday morning. I am in my office and have been thinking about this article and the events of the past week. I can see the school garden from my office window. The sweet corn is about knee high. If your garden is like ours, you are about two or three weeks behind. I love fresh sweet corn and eagerly wait every summer for that first tasty ear. I will have to wait a little longer this summer.

The tomato plants are trying to grow, but the cool damp days and nights do not agree with them. The cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower are doing very well. We have been eating these tasty delights for about four weeks now.

The farm manager and several staff took the boys who work on the farm for an overnight fishing and camping trip this week. They did not catch any big ones, but did have fun fishing, cooking over an open fire and sleeping out under the stars. When they got back to the campus, there were several hundred bales of hay to put up.

While the farm boys camped, the rest of the students were treated to a movie, pop and popcorn. They have completed their three weeks of work for the summer, and will either be going home or enrolling in summer school.

We have had three groups of volunteers here this week. Several from the Blood River Association helped with the wiring and construction on the new daycare, including a roof-covered porch for the children to play on during those rainy days. The women helped make crafts in the craft shop and did a lot of sewing.

Another group came from Munfordville Baptist Church. Four ladies helped clean and paint three apartments for new staff. They also shampooed the carpet in these three apartments and in the library. Other ladies helped remove

all of the ceiling tile from our main school building. We are replacing the window air conditioning units with central air conditioning in this building. The tile was removed so it could be painted and the men could insulate all of the air ducts. These ladies also painted a classroom and stained some new cabinets. Some of the men helped with construction on existing staff housing.

The third group of volunteers came to us from Alabama. They helped with some of the new construction. Four of these men painted four classrooms, getting them ready just in time

for summer school. Others helped with the insulation of the new air conditioning system and also helped with some electrical work, including the installation of new lights. Two women made curtains for the new windows being installed. Several in this group worked overtime to help remodel, paint, repair and install new electric switches and receptacles in an older house. A new family from Ohio will be coming next week to move into this remodeled home.

While all of this work was being done, several block layers were busy taking out some old, very energy-inefficient windows in the school building. The new windows will be much smaller, more energy efficient and much more attractive.

Another group of men poured the foundation for the relocation of a mobile home. It was moved this week to an area out of the flood plain. Two new rooms and a porch will be added, as well as new exterior walls, a lot of insulation, a new roof, windows and doors.

All of this is just another week at Oneida.

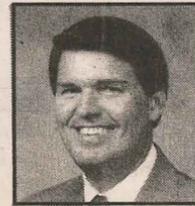
W.F. "Bud" Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, Ky. 40972

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

On mission in Russia

Six of our students and a professor participated in the Russia partnership May 8-21. In Russia the group was divided into three teams assigned to Central Baptist and Second Baptist churches in Voronezh and to Chaplain Victor and the prison ministry.

First-year students Joe Baldwin and Chris Blevins with professor Tim Searcy stayed with pastor Michiel of Second Baptist Church. The team tried to be conservative at their first church service and dressed in "black suits and ties. The temperature was about 90 degrees and many of the leaders wore short sleeve shirts without ties."

Pastor Michiel showed the visitors a photo of the Voronezh congregations at their last meeting before the Communists blew up the building. "You could see the sadness in their eyes." A three-hour drive took them to Listopaldovka village where Christians gather in a house. All three Clear Creekers preached, "trying to strengthen these Christians for the work they had to do in the village."

Another four-hour drive took them to Kreshoreshinka village. En route they passed a young girl pushing a bicycle with a broken chain. "She had been in the service two days earlier and rode her

bike to this village, about 40 miles. I helped baptize her later that day. Oh that our people would have such dedication," Searcy noted.

At the cultural center about 150 gathered. Following Joe Baldwin's message a member of the Orthodox church started asking questions in an attempt to confuse the crowd. The woman tried to forcibly stop the first person making a profession of faith. Over 50 came to repent.

Communist policy often turned Christian cemeteries into public parks. Voronezh had such a park in the center of town. Two popular people were buried there and the Communists had been unsuccessful in destroying the graves, although the crosses had been removed. One of the plots was for a poet named Neketan, the author of a Baptist hymn. His grave read, "My grave is under this cross, but my love is on the cross."

Our budget was unable to help with the financial need of this mission team, so the group raised the required \$14,515. Our Beyond 2001 campaign seeks an endowment to support short-term experiences like this.

Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. 40977

PRE-CONVENTION MEETINGS

■ **Associational Directors of Missions Conference.** More than 400 directors of missions established their first administrative staff position and adopted a resolution urging educational institutions "to raise the level of understanding, awareness and appreciation of associational missions ministry."

Churches in the 21st century will have a stronger need for local associations, which is the closest denominational entity to congregations, according to the resolution.

Nationally Southern Baptist churches work together in about 1,200 local associations.

The group voted to employ as their first executive treasurer John E. Dent Sr. of Walhalla, S.C., a retired director of missions who also serves as the organization's treasurer.

Wayne Bailey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Covington, La., praised directors of missions for their servant leadership.

"I don't believe some of you could go on, had it not been for that fire in your bones calling you to go on," he said. "But the same God who won't let you go, won't let you down."

■ **Church Music Conference.** "I want worship to be an eyeball-to-eyeball experience—this intense communication that does something to your mind and heart," Gerald Ray, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Houston, told those attending the church music conference.

Ray described the benefits of having the choir memorize the music for each worship service. "It really does help the communication," he said.

On responsive readings: "People don't hear themselves say Scripture much anymore," Ray said. "It's different than reading it or hearing it read."

Responsive reading gets people involved, he added. "In a large auditorium it's more difficult to get the people on the fringes and in the balcony to feel a part. My thing is to make people participate."

On volume control: "Soft singing helps bring a big church down to a more personal level," he said. A method Ray said has been effective at First Baptist of Houston is to sing the third verse of a hymn a capella.

"It's something to make the audience look up—to make the teenager in the balcony look up," he said. "When you get to where you can set your watch by what the choir is doing, you're in trouble."

On contemporary music styles: Ray cautioned against "letting the music publishers dictate what will reach our people. They're in the business to make money, not necessarily for the love of the church."

Yet he also noted that using the full gamut of musical styles is "very, very critical. You can go to any extreme you want, but let's not forget that it's about the Almighty God."

■ **Chaplains Convocation.** Clergy who hope to minister to devastated lives first must discover freedom from debilitating stress for themselves, a veteran counselor told an assembly of Southern Baptist chaplains June 10.

The accelerating barrage of constant change can push vulnerable individuals into stress-induced dysfunction, said Eugene Huffstetler, until recently director of pastoral services for Southern Baptist Health System in New Orleans.

Understanding the keys to emotional and physical well-being can help people act in a decisive way to transform their circumstances, he said.

Drawing from his own experiences of the consolidation of two area hospitals, Huffstetler explained how to survive monumental change—and how to help others regain control of their lives.

Southern Baptist Hospital was merged with a local Catholic hospital, Huffstetler said. The re-named Mercy Baptist Hospital was then sold to a for-profit corporation, he said.

"Chaplains at the hospital had to minister to people coping with change at the same time we were trying to deal with it ourselves," Huffstetler observed.

"Chaplains have to remember we're made out of the same stuff as the people we serve and that the best preaching is often done by example."

There are worse things in life than losing a job, Huffstetler said he told his fellow hospital employees.

"Jesus looked suffering (of the cross) in the face and prayed, 'Not my will but thine,'" he said. "Sometimes the very thing that seems most threatening to us is the one that leads to holiness."

The chaplains conference was sponsored by the Home Mission Board, which endorses chaplains. More than 2,430 chaplains and pastoral counselors have been endorsed. They recorded 27,356 professions of faith and 5,712 baptisms during the year.

■ **Ethnic Leadership Task Force.** A group of non-Anglo Southern Baptists launched a new task force June 9-10, "to lead ethnics in the Southern Baptist Convention to stay committed to traditional Southern Baptist values."

"Ethnics need to remain true to our conservative roots and free to minister as Southern Baptists," Russell Begaye told task force members. Begaye is the director of the language church extension division of the Home Mission Board.

"There are non-Southern Baptist organizations giving wrong messages to our ethnic churches that are causing them to consider joining these other groups."

"Ethnic people need to know that we are conservative and we will remain conservative," Begaye declared.

The mission statement of the task force includes a call for Southern Baptist churches with ethnic congregations to establish better avenues of communication.

Many ethnic groups have given up on

cultural religions in order to claim faith in Jesus Christ, Begaye said. Ethnics are calling Christianity "our true religion," he said. Growth has been "phenomenal" and is based on "the conservative stand we have always taken."

"We do not want to depart from that stand," Begaye said. "When we stop being conservative is when we will stop growing."

That growth has been important to Southern Baptists, he noted. Without ethnic churches, the denomination's 6 percent increase in the past year would have been a 3 percent decrease, he said.

■ **Campus Ministers.** Campus ministers must give top priority to spiritual guidance rather than turning first to the "modern gurus" of secularized psychiatry and counseling, according to Gary Furr, pastor of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

Furr, keynote speaker for the June 7-9 annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers, said too often today "when people have real problems, they go to a psychiatrist. They don't go to a pastor."

"Psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers are doing preliminary 'soul work,' and that means spiritual guidance is not being dealt with in the church like it should," Furr said.

He emphasized that a large part of the work of campus ministry involves guiding and directing young lives. "Guidance is an awesome task. It is more important than rallies, revivals and creative worship experiences," Furr said, adding that in North America the open door to God's spirit is through relationships.

In another session, Mike Nuss outlined how the campus ministry at the University of South Alabama (USA) has benefited from a shift from a program-based to a relationship-based style of ministry.

"We were doing programs and hoping relationships would start," Nuss said. "The students didn't learn to be leaders."

The ministry at USA now focuses on small groups, he said, with students leading in Bible study, outreach/evangelism and community ministry projects.

As a result, relationships are stronger, and attendance and participation is higher, Nuss noted. "Students now know other students, not just the council members."

Students are also becoming more well-rounded leaders, Nuss said. "I was concerned about how we were training future church leaders under the old model," he said. "Now I feel better about the kinds of things students can do when they leave."

■ **Research Fellowship.** One-size-fits-all models for church programing

are showing weaknesses in preliminary analysis of a Texas poll, a researcher from there reported.

"It's real clear from the study that small churches are not able to carry out the tasks of the current designs," said Clay Price, research and information services manager for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Price presented findings developed by the convention's interagency, ad hoc Church Ministries Research Team.

The study came from a 1995 survey of 805 Texas pastors and ministers of education. The purpose of the survey was to determine which ministry programs were being used and how effectively they were being used in the churches.

Preliminary results indicate a weakness in the "one-size-fits-all" method of providing one model of church program design for all size churches, he said, noting the research is still in process.

In the churches of the pastors responding, more than 99 percent offered Sunday school; music ministry, 93 percent; discipleship training, 81 percent; women/girls missions education, 70 percent; mens/boys missions education, 41.5 percent; co-ed mission education, 13 percent. The data also breaks down the information by church size.

"It's also clear that some churches are trying different approaches, especially in larger churches."

■ **Hispanic Fellowship.** Southern Baptists risk becoming "more exclusive and more 'white'" if they don't impact the coming Ethnic Millennium, a Home Mission Board official warned.

Russell Begaye, director of the HMB language church extension division, distributed a paper on "The Ethnic Millennium" during the ninth annual Hispanic Southern Baptist Fellowship Conference June 8.

"Ethnic Millennium" is a term used to describe 21st-century America as a "de-massified" new civilization focused on ethnic and cultural distinctives in values, work, political movements, religious beliefs and more.

The Cosbys and Connie Chung have replaced Ozzie and Harriet and Walter Cronkite, Begaye wrote. "In 1991, salsa out-sold ketchup by \$40 million."

New immigrants defy the stereotype of being uneducated, unruly and dependent on welfare, Begaye wrote. They are diverse and educated, he wrote, paying \$100 billion in taxes annually.

Southern Baptists must first consider cultural differences, and then present culturally relevant approaches, programs and materials, he said. Also, Begaye called on a restructured Southern Baptist Convention to consider how it should impact the coming "Ethnic Millennium."

He also called for sensitivity to cultural distinctives and for SBC agencies to employ ethnics for management positions. "If we are serious about impacting the Ethnic Millennium the new president of the North American Mission Board must be bilingual or even tri-lingual."



Helping Kentucky Baptists Make A Lasting Difference

As fund managers for all Baptists, the Foundation's objective is to encourage, assist, and make it possible for everyone, regardless of the size of their resources, to be better stewards of what God has entrusted to them.

These are examples of giving in Christ's spirit. Funds may be established to benefit a local church, missions, or a Baptist institution or agency. The Kentucky Baptist Foundation exists to serve all Kentucky Baptists; at your request, we will assist you with your planning.

A Baptist couple in Louisville asked the Foundation how they might create a fund as a memorial to their daughter who was killed in an automobile accident. They expressed a desire to create a college scholarship fund and hoped the fund could be structured so others could give to it.

With \$16,000 of life insurance proceeds received as a result of the daughter's death, the couple established a scholarship fund with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for the benefit of students at Campbellsville College, Cumberland College and Georgetown College. The donors selected the following terms for the fund:

1. Scholarships of \$750 per year would be paid from the income of the fund.
2. Eligible applicants would be students at Campbellsville College, Cumberland College or Georgetown College who are Kentucky residents, members in good standing of a Southern Baptist church and needy as determined by the colleges' financial aid officers.
3. A committee composed of the President of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, the pastor of the couple's church and a long-time pastor friend of the couple will select the recipients.

This fund has grown through the gifts of this couple and many others and now provides 7 scholarships each year to worthy Kentucky Baptist students; allowing them to secure a quality college education in a Christian atmosphere.

A Baptist man in Somerset contacted the Foundation because he wanted to establish a perpetual fund to provide income for maintenance of his church's buildings.

In addition to his limited resources, he envisioned others giving to the fund. With his initial investment of \$1000, the Foundation staff enabled this man to realize his dream of establishing an endowment fund with the following provisions:

1. The fund would accept gifts either outright or by Will from other contributors.
2. Earned income was to be re-invested until the principal had a value of \$5000.
3. When the principal had a value of \$5000, the income was to be distributed annually to the church for building maintenance.

After eight years through additional contributions from this donor and others, the fund had grown to \$10,000 and the Foundation now sends approximately \$400 each year to the church; allowing the church to direct more of its budget to missions and other ministries.

A Baptist lady in Bowling Green contacted the Foundation to guide her in making her estate plans for the future.

She already had a Will, which provided for transfer of stock, at her death, to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for support of foreign missions.

She was currently receiving 2% annual income from this stock, which she felt she could not give up, but she asked the question: "Is there a way I can give it now?" The Foundation staff's affirmative answer led to the creation of a Charitable Remainder Trust. The result for her was a large charitable income tax deduction, no capital gains tax, and her income tripled!

After her death there would be unending annual income gifts to the Foreign Mission Board. Her estate plan was thus adapted to accommodate her growing enjoyment in giving for missions causes.

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