

June 19, 2001
Vol. 175, No. 24**WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SBC**

James Merritt The Southern Baptist Convention's president from Georgia was elected to his second term without opposition. In his address, Merritt urged messengers to confront cultural rebellion. *Page 2.*

Kentuckians Once again, Kentucky Baptists helped churches in the host city with Crossover, the pre-convention evangelism blitz. *Page 3.*



Editorial What is the Southern Baptist Convention's vision for the 21st century? *Page 5.*

Motions/resolutions Messengers responded to issues ranging from the family and homosexuality to the persecution of Christians in the Sudan. *Page 6.*

Protest A group seeking acceptance of gays staged its second annual protest at the SBC. *Page 7.*

James Dobson In the closing address, the founder of Focus on the Family urged Southern Baptists not only to work to defend the institution of the family, but also to safeguard their own families. *Page 8.*



Reports Both the International and North American Mission boards encouraged Southern Baptists to consider their response to God's call to missions service. *Page 9.*

Message New Orleans pastor Fred Luter made history by becoming the first African-American to deliver the convention sermon. In his address, Luter asked Southern Baptists to consider whether Christians are doing what God intends them to do. *Page 11.*



Woman's Missionary Union Baptist World Alliance President Billy Kim was among those urging WMU members to move "Beyond Belief." *Page 12.*

Pastors' Conference Jerry Falwell urged fellow pastors to become anointed visionaries who will "ask God to double our denomination." *Page 13.*

Southern Baptists focus on the family

By Bob Allen & Marv Knox
*Associated Baptist Press
& Texas Baptist Standard*

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—Departing from a recent trend of grabbing headlines in their annual meeting, Southern Baptists this year focused on the family in a quiet convention with a smaller-than-normal crowd.

A blue-ribbon Council on Family Life presented guidelines to the annual meeting for developing a family saving strategy and creating "Great Commission Families."

The convention later approved a resolution calling for "covenant marriages," a step also designed to strengthen the family.

Building on the family theme, Focus on the Family founder and president James Dobson closed out the June 12-13 meeting in New Orleans.

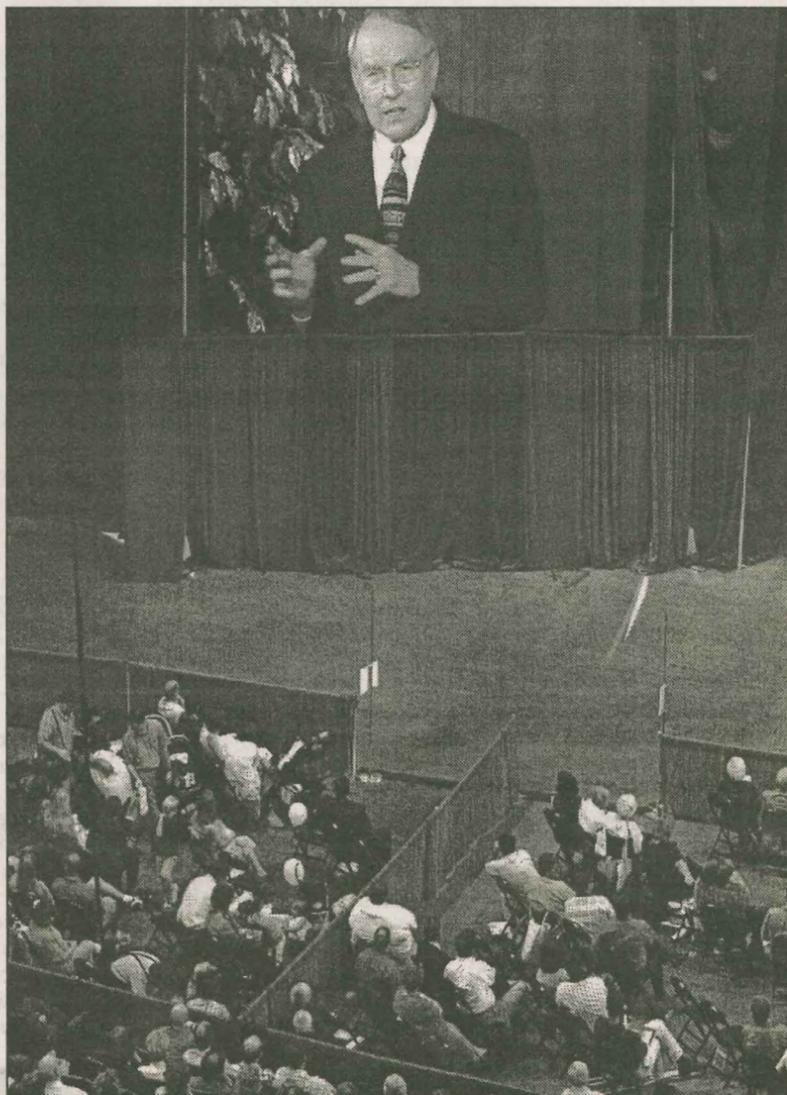
"I know of no other denomination that has taken the steps you have taken today to preserve the family unit," Dobson said. "You have taken leadership."

With 9,561 messengers registered just prior to the final SBC session Wednesday afternoon, it was the smallest convention since 1973 in Portland, Ore. The last meeting in a southern city as small as Oklahoma City in 1949.

Not only have the sizes of recent SBC annual meetings been a fraction of the 45,519 record crowd in 1985 in Dallas, registered during the height of denominational conflict, the decline carried over into the 1990s.

The last time the SBC met in New Orleans, 1996, more than 13,700 messengers were registered. Last year's meeting in Orlando, Fla., drew 11,950.

Observers attribute the decline to the absence of moderates, who are sitting out the annual gathering because of the convention's strong conservative shift.



JAMES DOBSON The founder of Focus on the Family spoke via satellite to Southern Baptist Convention messengers after engine problems prevented his flight to New Orleans. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazier)

Peril facing the family punctuated several presentations during the SBC meeting in New Orleans.

"We believe it is time for us to decide as a convention that we're going to stand for the families in America,"

declared former SBC President Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., and chairman of the family council.

The council cited a litany of
□ See SBC annual meeting ..., page 8

One year later, debate resumes on 2000 Baptist Faith & Message

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—The biggest debate from last year's Southern Baptist Convention carried over into this year's meeting, as messengers turned back three attempts to amend the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

In one, Tony Woodell, a messenger from Pulaski Heights Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., petitioned the convention to restore a phrase deleted last year from the statement's article on the Bible: "The criterion by which Scripture is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ."

That change was one of the most hotly debated of a number of revisions approved to the SBC's official faith statement last year, the first major rewrite since 1963. A study committee proposing the revisions said abuse of the phrase allowed liberals to infiltrate seminaries and oth-

er convention agencies in the 1960s and 1970s. Opponents, however, said the article without the sentence makes an idol of the Bible by equating it with Christ.

"If we do not recognize that Jesus Christ is Lord over Scripture, we fail in our recognition that Jesus Christ is Lord of all," Woodell said.

Richard Land, a member of last year's study committee that drafted the revised Baptist Faith and Message, reminded messengers that last year's convention "resoundingly defeated" language similar to Woodell's proposed amendment.

"This sentence was used to try to set up a false dichotomy between Jesus and the rest of the Scripture," said Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

A leading apologist for the criterion phrase, however, disputed Land's assessment.

"This idea that there is a false dichotomy proposed between Jesus and

Scripture is a false statement," said Charles Wade, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"Those of us who believe the sentence, in all its elegant praise to Jesus Christ, should have been left in the 2000 statement want to be on record as saying we do believe in the full authority of Scripture."

Wade said defenders of the sentence have been "falsely accused" of using it to explain away problem passages.

"The New Testament interprets the Old Testament and Jesus Christ interprets all the Scripture," Wade argued. "There is no one who teaches us more about Scripture and how to understand it, how to interpret it and how to apply it than the Lord Himself."

Chuck Kelley, another member of last year's study committee, countered that an editorial in the Texas Baptist Standard illustrated for him that the convention was right in removing the

phrase. Kelley, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said the editorial suggested that Paul contradicted himself in writing about the roles of husbands and wives in Ephesians and "Jesus would help us understand which of Paul's two statements was right."

"Southern Baptists have always believed the whole Bible is the Word of God," Kelley said.

Baptist Standard Editor Marv Knox said later that Kelley misrepresented his editorial, which said Jesus' words and examples should be the guide when trying to reconcile Bible passages that are seemingly "at odds" like Paul's words on submissive wives in Ephesians and "there is neither male nor female" in Galatians.

"Jesus' words and actions clarify and separate the timeless and universal from the culturally specific," Knox quoted from part of the editorial.

Wade, who has cited disagreement
□ See Baptist Faith ..., page 6

Merritt re-elected president, affirms SBC's 'stand for truth'

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Litton, Pinckney elected convention vice presidents

Southern Baptist Convention messengers elected Alabama pastor Ed Litton first vice president. Litton, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Mobile, Ala., was elected by a vote of 2,176-636 over Ted Stone, a member of Grace Baptist Church in Durham, N.C.

T.C. Pinckney, elected second vice president by acclamation, is editor of the conservative Baptist Banner in Virginia. A member of Good News Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., he also serves on the SBC Committee on Order of Business.

In other elections, Lee Porter was re-elected registration secretary and John Yeats was re-elected recording secretary.

Porter, a retired pastor and denominational worker, has served as registration secretary since 1978. He was re-elected by a vote of 1,717-950 over Jim Wells, a director of missions from Missouri.

Yeats, editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, has served as recording secretary since 1998. He was re-elected by acclamation.

NEW ORLEANS—Insisting he doesn't "lead by looking in the rear-view mirror," Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt said anyone who chooses to leave the SBC, "I think it's their loss."

Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., was elected by acclamation June 12 to a second term as SBC president.

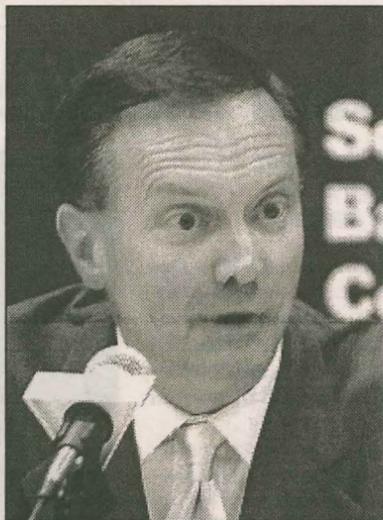
Other officers elected during the June 12-13 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans are first vice president Ed Litton of Alabama and second vice president T.C. Pinckney of Virginia.

During a press conference after his re-election, Merritt was asked about his reaction to recent actions by the Baptist General Convention of Texas reducing funding to several SBC entities and offering alternative giving plans.

"I think it's a tremendous tragedy," he told reporters. "It's a sad day for a lot of Baptists in Texas to have to be given that choice."

Describing the SBC as "a convention that is willing to stand for the truth," Merritt said, "I don't choose to major on people who are against us or people who feel like they need to leave us. I would say that to anyone, whether it's Baptists in Texas or anywhere else."

Merritt has held several key SBC positions during the denomination's conservative shift of the past two decades. He has been president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference (1995) and chairman of the SBC Executive Committee (1995-97), Resolutions Committee (1993) and Tellers



SBC LEADER Former Kentucky pastor James Merritt was elected last week to a second term as SBC president. (BP photo by Bob Carey)

Committee (1987).

Merritt was nominated by Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Describing Merritt as "faithful, forceful and fearless," Mohler said he has led the SBC "wisely, winsomely and well."

At his press conference, Merritt addressed issues ranging from Bold Mission Thrust to homosexuality.

Messengers received a brief final report on Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' ambitious ministry plan launched in 1976. The convention fell short of several key goals in such areas as baptisms, new congregations, Sunday school enrollment, mission volunteers and Cooperative Program support. Some observers have sug-

gested the conservative political focus of the past two decades took time and energy away from the convention's ministry emphasis.

"I have never bought into the idea that the conservative resurgence had any negative impact on evangelism and missions," Merritt responded. "The only people I believe really are aggressive in the areas of missions, evangelism and soul-winning are those who have the theology to do so and I believe those are the conservatives of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Noting that Bold Mission Thrust "was probably overly ambitious," he said, "A lot of the goals we set, regardless of what would have happened in our convention, were just unattainable."

He added, however, that Bold Mission Thrust's lofty goals "raised the bar" for Southern Baptist mission and ministry efforts, leading to significant gains in overseas baptisms, career missionary appointments and other achievements.

Merritt also responded to a question about his decision against meeting with Mel White, executive director of Soulforce, a homosexual rights group that has protested the SBC's stand against homosexuality.

"There is a fundamental disagreement and difference between those who represent Soulforce and those of us in the Southern Baptist Convention," Merritt said. "I know that only God can change the mind of Rev. Mel White or Soulforce or anyone else. I can assure you they're not going to change our minds. I did not see any good that could come out of meeting" with Soulforce leaders.

Despite that stand, Merritt added, "I love Mel White. We love homosexuals. When we say to the homosexual, 'You're living in sin, you need to repent and get right with God,' we're doing the gracious, loving thing. We're not being unkind and intolerant."

Merritt said his goal is for "the world to know what Southern Baptists are for, not necessarily what Southern Baptists are against."

"Really and truly, what Southern Baptists are all about is not about fighting homosexuality; it's not about ranting and raving against the culture; it's not about trying to come up with a laundry list of how many things we don't like or how many things we're against."

By contrast, he said, "What we're really all about is there are millions of Southern Baptists who came in contact with and had the greatest experience of their life when they met a man who lives named Jesus Christ. ... We must continue to be in the vanguard of taking the gospel around the world."

Noting that "we still call sin what the Bible calls sin," he added, "I'm grateful to God to be a part of a denomination that is willing to face a culture that worships the god of political correctness. We do this out of a heart of love for those who need the Savior—with no malice whatsoever."

Merritt, 48, was elected last year as the SBC's first baby boomer president. A graduate of Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., and Southern Seminary, he has been pastor of First Church, Snellville, since 1985. He previously was pastor of churches in Kentucky and Mississippi.

Merritt challenges Baptists to confront 'cultural rebellion'

By Mark Wyatt
California Southern Baptist

NEW ORLEANS—Sounding a "clarion call" for biblical morality and doctrinal purity, Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt urged Baptists to confront America's "cultural rebellion" with fearless faith and a renewed commitment to personal evangelism.

Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Snellville, Ga., spoke in New Orleans June 12 during the opening session of the SBC annual meeting.

Using a military theme inspired by the legendary "Battle of New Orleans," Merritt noted that the historic 1815 battle was "not really worth fighting" because it took place two weeks after the Treaty of Ghent formally ended the War of 1812.

In contrast, Merritt said, Southern Baptists "need to be on the front line" of five contemporary battles worth fighting.

The first, he said, involves a "cultural rebellion" gripping the United States.

Drawing from the teachings of the Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 3 and 4, Merritt likened modern-day America to Paul's descriptions of "a society that is pushing the self-destruct button."

"There is an assault on the family today that is unparalleled in the history of the nation, and much of the damage is self-inflicted," he said. "Dads ought to be the heads of the home, but increasingly we are seeing fathers abdicate the throne of authority by allowing children to execute a bloodless coup of the home."

"No wonder the inmates are running the asylum and the monkeys are running the zoo," he declared.

"Our convention ought to be known as a family-friendly convention and as a convention that unapologetically stands for marriage between a man and a woman, period, end of discussion."

He challenged Southern Baptist preachers to speak out against abortion and other evidence of America's declining morals. "In our country, ... profanity, pornography (and) perversity are becoming commonplace," he said. "Forty-one thousand Southern Baptist pulpits must not be silent."

"One president commits sexual sin in the Oval Office, and the Christian right is told to shut up. Another president speaks openly of his faith in God and his trust in Christ, and he is told to shut up. Well, I believe 41,000 Southern Baptist pulpits should not be silent," Merritt repeated. "There is a

cultural rebellion we must confront. That is a battle worth fighting."

Baptists also must condemn "doctrinal recklessness," Merritt said.

"I don't believe we ought to be heresy hunters," he said. "But I do believe we ought to be heresy fighters. If truth is worth believing, then truth is worth defending."

Merritt recalled a "media frenzy" in the Atlanta area earlier this year when a Southern Baptist association refused to expel two churches for "accepting openly-avowed homosexuals" as members and leaders.

"I want to say this straight," Merritt told the SBC audience. "I believe in local church autonomy. I don't want any leader, agency, institution or convention giving orders to me or my congregation."

"But hear me, and hear me well. The ocean of church autonomy stops at the shore of biblical authority. Local autonomy without biblical authority becomes spiritual anarchy," he declared.

Third, Merritt called Southern Baptists to fight to "commend scriptural revelation."

"There is no moral majority in America. We are the minority," Merritt said. "We may be out-manned, but we are not out-gunned."

Lifting his Bible, Merritt exhorted Baptists to preach, promote and "prac-

tice this book; and any time this Word is diluted, denied or debased we ought to defend it with pride. That is a battle worth fighting."

Merritt said Baptists also must complete their "personal responsibility" through a renewed commitment to evangelism.

"Twenty years ago, our battle was against live liberalism," Merritt said. "But today I candidly tell you that my greatest fear for the Southern Baptist Convention is not live liberalism, it is dead orthodoxy. I fear becoming a denomination that is straight as a gun barrel theologically but as dry as a gun barrel spiritually."

"Southern Baptist and soul-winner ought to be synonyms," he said, endorsing a plan by the denomination's North American Mission Board to promote personal evangelism through a "Saved to Share" emphasis the first Sunday in October. He challenged 16 million Southern Baptists to lead at least one person each to Christ before the 2002 SBC meeting in St. Louis.

Merritt concluded by calling Southern Baptists to consider "an eternal reward" greater than the battles they must fight.

"Southern Baptists, let us individually and collectively finish well," he urged. "I know the temptations are great and the enemy is strong, but finishing well is a battle worth fighting."

Kentucky Baptists sing, share in Crossover New Orleans

By David Winfrey
News Director

NEW ORLEANS—Neither rain nor a wreck could stop Kentucky Baptists from assisting with the evangelism blitz held in New Orleans before the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

More than 1,200 people made professions of faith as a result of Crossover New Orleans.

Heavy rains from tropical storm Allison put a damper on several Crossover events, but at least 41 churches hosted evangelistic block parties, door-to-door visits and other outreach activities June 9-10, according to Fred Dyess, director of missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans.

Two quartets from Campbellsville University kicked off their summer tour by participating in Crossover. Their van was in a wreck in Nashville during the trip to New Orleans, according to Scott Burress, a member of New Horizon, a Southern gospel quartet. No one was injured, he added, and the tour will not be interrupted.

Volunteers from Lakewood Baptist Church in Louisville didn't let the wind and rain stop them from helping an area church with its block party.

"We kept busy and wet," said Youth Minister Art Sauer. The church team of 16 teenagers and 15 adults performed with puppets, drama, a band and interpretive movement.

Sauer said the church where his group originally was scheduled to work postponed its party because of rain. When he called another church to offer help, he found that church's entertainment had not shown up.

"I said, 'We can help you.' ... It was just divine providence," he said. "We just let God work. It was awe-



CROSSOVER VOLUNTEERS ■ Above: Tobie Ross, left, and Lindsay Evancho give the weather report for heaven in a skit during their work for Crossover New Orleans, an evangelistic blitz prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. (Photo by George Martin) ■ Right: Campbellsville University students who make up the quartet New Horizon sing at First Baptist Church of Belle Chase.



throughout the country to sing, cook, counsel or offer other assistance.

Heavy rains kept many neighbors away from the party at First Baptist Church of Belle Chase, where the Campbellsville quartets performed. But the church needed the fellowship and the opportunity to work with volunteers from other congregations, according to Pastor Freddie Williford. "It reaffirms that we're not in this alone," he said.

"We needed this as well, and God knew this day was going to be the day it was long before we did, and He knew we needed this," Williford added. "Being willing to be obedient determines success, not numbers."

Crossover leaders said another 128 people became Christians as a result of NAMB's evangelism response center, a network of phone counselors who talked with people responding to television ads offering information about the Christian faith.

Lakewood's Sauer said their church's participation in Crossover has led the youth to want to minister more in Louisville.

Sauer said he wished more churches would take part in Crossover activities.

"It's so easy to do. It's a lot of planning, it's a lot of coordination, but it really pays off to watch God work," he said. "The stories that we bring back are invaluable."

With additional information from Lonnie Wilkey, editor of the *Tennessee Baptist & Reflector*

some."

The bulk of conversions during Crossover New Orleans resulted from an inner-city evangelism team sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. That team, which spent time on the city's notoriously bawdy Bourbon Street, was responsible for 520 professions of faith, according to Don Smith, a Crossover coordinator for NAMB.

Other people took part in a "kindness explosion." Evangelist Jeff Harvel of Morristown, Tenn., and his family handed out bottles of water, free long-distance phone cards and packets provided by Woman's Missionary Union groups from Louisiana.

Stationed in an area near the popular Cafe Du Monde in New Orleans, the family shared Christ with people from all walks of life, he said. "We were able to minister to the world in that one spot."

Jerry Drace of Jackson, Tenn., said he talked about his Christian faith to four lesbians who said they traveled to New Orleans specifically to protest the SBC annual meeting.

The opportunity to minister came when one of the women passed by Drace and he offered her a bottle of water. When asked "what was the catch," Drace replied: "There is no catch. We are giving it out in the name of Jesus, who is the living water."

That gesture enabled Drace to talk with the four women in a non-threatening way, he said. "They were very surprised that I did not confront them, but rather presented the plan of salvation to them and told them God loves them."

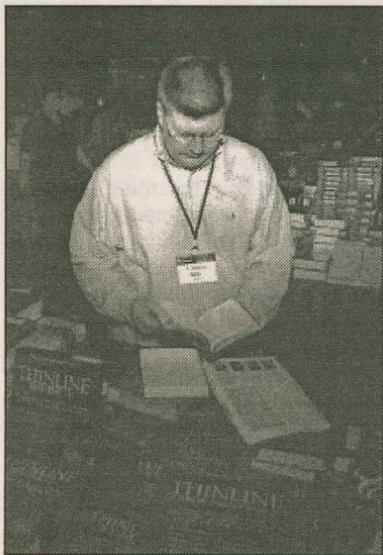
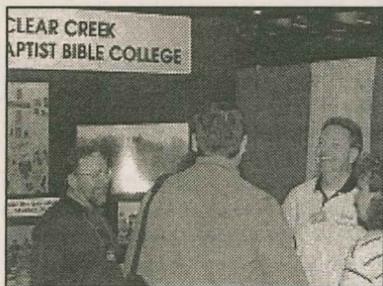
Another 299 decisions were recorded at block parties. Hosted by area churches, volunteers provided entertainment, meals and fellowship to reach out to the neighborhoods. Helpers came from congregations

Bluegrass Gumbo

■ **Two Kentucky** Baptists were among 70 people named to the 2001 Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations. William Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, and Janice Rogers, a member of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, will serve on the committee. The group, which will nominate people to serve on SBC boards, commissions and committees, will present its report at next year's SBC annual meeting in St. Louis.

■ **An estimated 430** Kentucky Baptist messengers attended last week's Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, down from 588 Kentucky messengers a year ago in Orlando, Fla. Georgia led all states with 936 registered messengers; Kentucky ranked 10th. Total SBC attendance was 9,561, more than 2,000 below last year's attendance of 11,951. Registration also declined by more than 4,000 from 1996, the last time the SBC met in New Orleans.

KENTUCKIANS IN NEW ORLEANS Officials say more than 400 Kentucky Baptists were in New Orleans for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, June 12-13 in the Louisiana Superdome. ■ **Top left:** Jay Barnett, left, and Donnie Fox, of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, talk with Clear Creek alumni Gary and Kristin Nunn, at the Clear Creek display booth in the convention's exhibit area. The Nunn's currently serve at First Baptist Church of Vidalia, La. ■ **Top right:** Paula Benton of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton takes advantage of the free health screening offered by the SBC Annuity Board. ■ **Bottom right:** John Michael, a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Louisville and chairman of the SBC Committee on Nominations, presents the committee's report. Michael also is president of Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network, an organization seeking to keep the Kentucky Baptist Convention closely aligned with the SBC. ■ **Bottom Middle:** Retired Kentucky pastor Chester Badgett, left, talks with Southern Baptist missionaries Leon and Sharolyn Wilson. Campbellsville has been a regular exhibitor at the annual meeting. ■ **Bottom left:** Wesley Noss, pastor of Lebanon Baptist Church, looks through the convention bookstore in the Superdome sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources.



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

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Africa needs modern-day Good Samaritans

By Jerry Rankin

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The story of the Good Samaritan is an all-too-familiar one for Christians. Our indignation rises whenever we are reminded of the pious, busy religious leaders hastening to their appointments, ignoring the man suffering by the side of the road.

However, it is hard to escape the indictment of the story when we realize how self-centered we tend to be, focusing on the demands of our self-imposed agenda and busy lifestyles. It is not that we neglect doing good. We are faithful to our church. We give to support its ministry to those in need and even occasionally might witness to a lost person.

But the challenge is to see beyond our narrow provincialism and self-interests to recognize that those who are different are our neighbors. We have to be willing to go out of our way and be inconvenienced if we are going to reach out cross-culturally to those who are suffering and dying.

Africa is dying. Marginalized by the accumulating wealth and affluence of the West and developing countries, this continent of 800 million people is crippled by a debt burden of more than \$200 billion. Devastated by wide-

spread drought and ethnic strife, which exacerbates the debilitating economy, Africa is a picture of deteriorating health care, education, communication and basic infrastructures.

The relentless progression of AIDS and other diseases is decimating the adult population in many countries, leaving millions of orphans, but also leaving schools without teachers, factories without workers and businesses without staff. Infant mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa are 12 times as high as developed countries.

Genocide between the Hutu and Tutsi in Rwanda and Burundi continues with tribal warfare in Angola, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. As many as 300,000 people have been killed in the last three years in the Congo, and all over the continent millions of refugees succumb to hopelessness in squalid refugee camps.

But these tragic conditions have nothing to do with us. After all, what happens in Africa has little impact on America and world affairs. Like the battered traveler lying in the ditch, Africa is of little concern to us and our lifestyle priorities. Out of sight, out of mind.

Like the Good Samaritan, we have an opportunity to stop on our daily

journey and minister to a continent that is hurting through 2001-PRAY (Pray 'Round Africa-Yes!). 2001-PRAY is a massive, unifying appeal for Christians to join in a crescendo of prayer for Africa during the remainder of 2001. In August dozens of prayer teams will be dispersed among cities and countries to intercede for the peoples throughout this continent.

Local churches need to mobilize as a part of 2001-PRAY on Aug. 3. What an impact could be made as we seek God's face and plead before His throne on behalf of those who are our neighbors in Africa.

It is not unlikely that God will move our hearts, as He did the heart of the Good Samaritan, to minister to those in need. We may be led to give more generously to spread the gospel and alleviate suffering. God may stir your heart to join a volunteer team or even to give of your life to join the missionaries who are seeking to touch Africa with the love of Jesus.

Africa is responsive to the gospel, but more than half of its people are still lost. Islam is aggressively spreading its influence from the north while animism and traditional religions keep the people in bondage to fear and superstition. You can make a difference. Will you be part of Pray 'Round Africa-Yes?

Jerry Rankin is president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

COMMENTARY

What's the fair way?

I read "Casey's driving force" in the June 5 issue of the Western Recorder with tongue-in-cheek hope.

You see, I also am handicapped. I suffer from Flaccidus-bicepses, a congenitally inherent disease for most 81-year-olds. Since golf is about the only passion I have left at this point, the aforementioned incurable disease is causing me a lot of grief.

The article about Casey Martin inspires me to take my cause to God (aka: Supreme Court?) and see if I also can get the game of golf defined downward. My drive is a dribble anymore and I dub the fairway shots and wield a nervous putter.

So I am praying to God about my game and asking Him to let Tiger Woods drive off the tee for me, then do the approach shot into the green and putt for me and I can drive the cart.



BAPTIST FORUM

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In honor of godly men

Father's Day has led me to reflect on godly men I have known and how they have impacted my life. It is recorded in Psalm 1 that a godly man delights to obey God and produces the fruit of righteousness.

My father read the Bible and the Sunday school teacher quarterly long after his teaching days. God used the Bible to shape his godly character and intimate relationship. When my father prayed, you knew he was experiencing God. He could speak to me about needs in my life that only God could have revealed.

He was in physical pain much of his adult life with migraine headaches but that did not distract him from his walk with God. He did not have much money to give but one of his delights was to support missions and his local church. He was known to take a stand for the Cooperative Program long before I was in ministry.

After selling his construction business, my brother and his wife spent

three years with International Mission Service Corps in Brazil constructing mission chapels. He has continued the coordination of chapel construction from his home in South Carolina while holding a full-time job. Twenty-four chapels were constructed last year. During family crises he has become a real student of the Bible which continues to shape his life and legacy.

Today I know godly men who are walking through very deep waters but have chosen a godly path. They are trusting God to sustain them and Christian brothers to encourage them.

Recently, when I spoke at First Baptist Church of Erlanger, it was a special privilege to visit a young adult Sunday school class taught by Bill Ellis, our KBC campus minister at Northern Kentucky University. As I observed this room filled with young adults I was reminded of how important it will be for them to live godly lives.



Bill Mackey

This slight altering of the rules would compensate for my disability and should just about equalize my deficiencies and put me on par with Mickelson, Duval and the balance of the Tour. I'm not asking for an advantage; I only want things evened up.

While I have sympathy with Martin's physical problem, I lament and protest changing the rules of the game to accommodate the weakness of any aspiring player. Golf is a test of skills, and a part of skill in this instance is strength.

John Huffman
Louisville

FAMILY

Managing one's finances is harder in today's world

By Jeremy White

Do you think it is harder to manage your money and possessions now or 50 years ago?

Most participants in my financial seminars agree it is harder now.

By various economic measures our affluence has increased over the past 50 years. If we are wealthier as a nation, the natural follow-up question is: "Why is it harder?"



FINANCIAL FORUM

The answer lies in combinations of the following factors:

■ **So many goods, so many temptations.** The vast selection in superstores, malls, mail order catalogs and on the Internet causes more financial temptations. In the past, the limited items in the general store in town helped limit people's wants.

■ **Advertising.** This generation is the first to be barraged by various forms of advertising their entire lives. From radio to TV to billboards to cereal boxes, marketers continually encourage us to part with our money.

■ **Credit, credit everywhere.** Bankers tended in the past to be cautious before lending money. Now the average family receives at least one "pre-approved" offer per week.

■ **Secular humanism of society.** As God has become less relevant to many people in our country, they put their trust in materialism.

■ **Keeping up with the Joneses.** If material possessions mean more to a society that places less value on spiritual things, then people naturally strive for "more meaning" by seeking to win the money game over their peers.

■ **The toll of taxes.** Sales taxes, income taxes, payroll taxes, gasoline taxes (currently about 49 cents per gallon) and property taxes increase the financial burden of Americans.

■ **Wealth, leisure and more expensive toys.** When families spent most of their time working on the farm to survive, they did not have the time for the bigger toys—boats, swimming pools, golf outings—to amuse themselves.

To reflect God's light in our financial lives, Christians must remember we are managers of God's money. We are called to serve God, not money; be in the world, not of it; and store up treasures in heaven.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. Free financial tips are available on his Web site at www.consultcpa.com.

Quality, consistency of day care influence children's behavior

Q: Does time spent in day care increase aggression and disrespect in my child?

A recent study by the National Institute of Child and Human Development reports that the more time children spend in day care, the more aggressive they become. The study has re-ignited a long-term debate over the effects of child care and made many working parents anxious.

Several factors deserve consideration, especially the quality and consistency of supervision. The ratio of workers to children and the qualifications and commitment of those workers will go a long way in determining what kind of relationship the child will have with the adult in charge. That, in turn, will determine to a great extent how issues of aggressive behavior and disrespect are handled.

Parents pondering this issue also should consider the friendships a child forms at day care, and the influence of those friendships. Although aggression and disrespect are behaviors most children exhibit at some point in their development, they also can be learned from others. The Bible cautions against forming friendships with those who have not learned self-control.

Finally, day care has been described as "your child's other home." What is important to you might not be important to day care workers. Due to the number of children they are responsible for, even the best day care workers might not notice attitudes and actions you would not allow in your home. If they notice, they might not choose to deal with it in the same way you would as a parent.—David Garrard

Q: What Scriptures can be helpful to share with a friend or co-worker who is going through the pain of divorce?

Scriptures can offer words of hope and healing to people experiencing the extraordinary stress and grief often associated with divorce. Although a person going through divorce might not be ready to hear all that the Bible has to say on the issue, many passages provide a good biblical picture of God's ways of responding to such crises.

In addition to Psalms and other Old Testament passages presented last week, New Testament verses include:

■ **Mark 11:25**—"Forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive. ..." Forgiving others removes the blocks to forgiveness in our own hearts and lives.

■ **Romans 12:18**—"If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." It always helps to withdraw the weapons of warfare from the battle zone as soon as possible.

■ **Ephesians 4:31-32**—"Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." This points out a key test of recovery. Since what we really want from God is grace (not what we deserve) it makes sense to live a lifestyle of grace toward those who would be our enemies.

■ **Ephesians 5:1-2**—"Be imitators of God and live in love, as Christ loved us. ..." God's love in Christ is our model of non-retaliation toward others.

■ **Hebrews 4:15**—"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin." Because of what Christ has done for us, we know One who feels with us as we walk through our own personal times of torment, indecision and pain.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are Suzanne Coyle, director of Cornerstone Counseling for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children; David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; Jon Rainbow, a clinical gerontologist and professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Wade Rowatt, director of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville; and James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail us at wesrec@ntr.net.



What is SBC's vision for the 21st century?

What will Southern Baptists next bold initiative be—and when will it be launched?

Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention's global ministry plan for the closing years of the 20th century, was unveiled in 1976. Its foundational objective was to provide "every person in the world ... the opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ" by the turn of the century.

Tragically, the start of Bold Mission Thrust was soon followed by the divisive political battle that dominated denominational life for the past two decades.

Conflict between conservatives and moderates quickly overshadowed Bold Mission Thrust. As SBC annual meetings lapsed into showdowns between the "battling Baptists," the 1980s became known primarily for denominational infighting.

During the 1990s, as conservative leaders tightened their control on the national level, the focus shifted to denominational restructuring and placing key conservatives in influential leadership positions. By the early '90s, most moderate leaders had turned their attention to newly formed alternative Baptist organizations such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Alliance of Baptists.

With the SBC's conservative direction firmly entrenched by the end of the '90s, leaders moved their focus to the convention's historic Baptist Faith and Message statement. A major revision a year ago solidified the conservative view of Scripture, women in ministry and other issues.

While conservatives applauded the new document, many moderates expressed concern about deleting the phrase, "The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ." An effort last week to restore that language was overwhelmingly defeated by SBC messengers.

Richard Land, a member of last year's Baptist Faith and Message study committee, said the language should be rejected because it "was used to set up a false dichotomy between Jesus and the rest of the Scripture."

Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Director Charles Wade, a leading proponent of the criterion language, countered that "the New Testament interprets the Old Testament and Jesus Christ interprets all the Scripture." But convention messengers were in no mood to amend last year's action and quickly defeated the amendment and two other proposed changes.

Study committee member Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, describes last year's Baptist Faith and Message revision as "the capstone of the conservative resurgence that has transformed the denomination over the past quarter-century."

With that transformation now complete, Mohler warned messengers last week that "continually revisiting the Baptist Faith and Message ... is confessionally reckless." He even claimed that further changes to the document's language "would impugn our testimony before a watching world."

Frankly, with all the rancor and rhetoric in Southern Baptist life in recent years, it's hard to imagine that fine-tuning a faith statement is what will impugn our testimony.

Amid such discussion and developments, Bold Mission Thrust quietly faded from the SBC radar screen last week. The SBC's final Bold Mission Thrust report revealed that Southern Baptists fell short of their lofty goals in such crucial areas as baptisms, new congregations, Sunday school enrollment, international missionary appointments and financial giving.

Bold Mission Thrust "was probably overly ambitious," SBC President James Merritt told reporters last week. "A lot of goals we set, regardless of what would have happened in our convention, were just unattainable."

Maybe so. But imagine what could have happened if Southern Baptists had spent the past 25 years giving undivided attention to making Bold Mission Thrust a reality.

What will our next bold initiative be? Perhaps it's time to pursue more "overly ambitious" goals for the cause of Christ. And this time, let's not get sidetracked.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

V.I. Masters and Kentucky Baptists face a changing world

By Duane Bolin

When Victor I. Masters succeeded J.W. Porter as managing editor of the Western Recorder in 1921, he had no way to know that his editorial tenure would coincide with three of the most dramatic and traumatic periods in American and world history: the "Roaring '20s," the Great Depression and World War II.

The decade of the 1920s marked a period in which Americans sought to come to terms with a new modern age produced by World War I. For many people, modern urban values replaced traditional rural values as increasing numbers of Americans moved to the city; the 1920 census was the first American census to record more urban dwellers than rural dwellers. It was the urban scene that produced the Jazz Age, but because of the radio the new music could be heard in the front parlors of farmhouses as well as in the clubs of New York, New Orleans and Louisville.

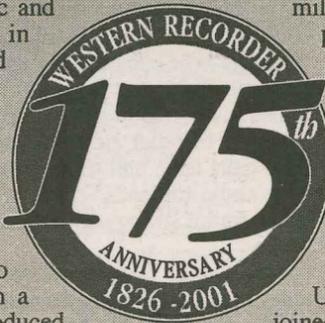
With the Wall Street crash in October 1929, the boom turned to bust and Kentucky, the nation and indeed the world struggled with hard times. With the aggressive military campaigns of Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini in Europe, and the military conquests of Japan in the Far East, the crisis of the Great Depression at home was superseded by the even more ominous crisis of another world war. After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the United States officially joined the struggle to protect democracy against the onslaught of totalitarianism.

V.I. Masters witnessed these developments and he struggled with presenting a Baptist response to a world in crisis. Born in South Carolina, Masters earned degrees at Furman University in his home state and at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. The new editor had extensive and valuable experience in Christian journalism before coming to the Western Re-

recorder, having served as an associate editor for the Baptist Courier in South Carolina and in a similar position with the Religious Herald in Virginia. From 1909 to 1921 Masters held the position of superintendent of the publicity department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta. These varied experiences in Baptist journalism and publicity served Masters well as he took over the reins of the influential Kentucky paper. Nothing, however, could have sufficiently prepared him—or anyone else—for the issues and crises of modernity in the post-World War I world.

The new age produced by World War I had an immediate impact on Christian theology. Indeed, the issue as it related to Baptist life often was referred to in the 1920s as "the modernist controversy." Masters assured his readers that "we are certainly not going to promise to keep quiet on Modernism." His determination not to shy away from these volatile issues marked the Western Recorder as a serious publication, a paper willing to confront head-on the controversial concerns of the day.

James Duane Bolin is associate professor of history at Murray State University



Motions' primary topic: Homosexuality

By Charlie Warren
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

NEW ORLEANS—More than one in five motions made during last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting addressed the issue of homosexuality.

Three of the six motions related to homosexuality were referred to SBC entities for further consideration and two others were ruled out of order.

A proposal calling on the SBC to ask President Bush to proclaim Heterosexual Family Pride Month was declared to be a resolution rather than a motion. It was referred to the SBC Resolutions Committee which declined to take action on it.

"Southern Baptists are on record several times saying we believe homosexuality is a sinful lifestyle," Resolutions Committee Chairman Danny Akin told reporters. "As a result, we did not feel a need to speak to that again."

Among motions referred to SBC entities:

■ Terri Brown of West Monroe, La., who identified herself as the mother of a gay son, asked that the appropriate SBC entity "develop ministry resources for those of us who for so long have suffered silently." Brown's motion was referred to the North American Mission Board.

■ Tim Wilkins of Wake Forest, N.C., asked SBC seminaries to "explore and implement methods to train students in reaching homosexuals for Christ and discipling them." His motion was referred to the six seminaries.

Resolutions range from marriage to the Sudan

By Lacy Thompson
Louisiana Baptist Message

NEW ORLEANS—Displaying a unified front on weighty issues ranging from human cloning to campaign finance reform, Southern Baptist Convention messengers approved nine resolutions last week without discussion or debate.

Resolutions Committee Chairman Danny Akin noted that the rapid approval of resolutions was "pretty unusual." Akin, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, added that he thought it shows Southern Baptists "are very much of one mind" on the issues addressed in the resolutions.

In addition to a customary resolution on appreciation for the host city, the resolutions take strong stands on:

■ **Covenant marriage.** The statement affirms the sacredness of marriage and the devastating impact of divorce. "The disintegration of marriage has tragic implications for the future of our churches and our nation," it reads.

In response, the resolution affirms the current covenant marriage movement in many states and encourages its spread. The movement seeks to impose a higher standard of marriage on couples seeking marriage licenses, requiring types of counseling and setting tougher guidelines for divorce.

■ **Human cloning.** The resolution repudiates the movement toward cloning

Robert Stith of South Lake, Texas, asked the SBC to form a task force to "inform, educate and encourage our people to be proactive and redemptive in reaching out to those who struggle with unwanted same-sex attractions." His motion was referred to LifeWay Christian Resources.

Motions ruled out of order were: ■ Randy Thomas of South Lake, Texas, asked that "the appropriate entity of the convention" invite a former homosexual to give a testimony at next year's annual meeting.

■ Gary Rucker of Largo, Fla., argued that since homosexuality is "a sinful decision," all SBC agencies "no longer refer to them as homosexuals as if they were so created, but as those who are living a homosexual lifestyle."

Messengers introduced 28 motions during the two-day meeting. Among them, with action in parentheses:

■ Loren Hutchinson of Lee's Summit, Mo., asked the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission to oppose President Bush's plan for funding faith-based ministries. His motion was referred to the ERLC. A second motion to overturn the decision by the Committee on Order of Business to refer his motion was unsuccessful.

■ Richard Boswell of Fort Worth, Texas, requested appointment of a committee, including bivocational ministers, to explore programs to give assistance to bivocational ministers, including a national Web site. (Referred to NAMB.)

■ William Blosch of Dunedin, Fla., asked NAMB to stop endorsing

women as chaplains. (Referred to NAMB.)

■ Keith Hynds of Birmingham, Ala., urged development of a program similar to Acteens for young men. (Referred to NAMB.)

■ Rick Dominic of Fort Towson, Okla., asked NAMB and the International Mission Board to change their missionary appointment policies regarding divorce and remarriage to include those who were divorced for biblical reasons and remarried. (Referred to the two mission boards.)

■ Calvin Wittman of Wheat Ridge, Colo., asked the convention to study the feasibility of combining Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. (Referred to the seminaries.)

■ Ron Wilson of Thousand Oaks, Calif., requested that IMB trustees reconsider their decision regarding the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message and require all current missionaries and staff to sign the statement. (Referred to the IMB.)

■ Paul Blizard of Beckley, W. Va., asked LifeWay "to produce a video or video series on the history of the SBC with emphasis on the conservative resurgence of the Southern Baptist Convention." (Referred to LifeWay.)

■ Richard Powell of Fort Meyers, Fla., asked the Executive Committee to "document the history of each co-operating state convention's distribution of CP dollars year by year." (Referred to the Executive Committee.)

to protect Internet users.

■ **Euthanasia in the Netherlands.** Noting that the Netherlands recently became the first democratic country to legalize active euthanasia, the resolution affirms the sacredness of life and decries euthanasia as "immoral ethically, unnecessary medically and unconscionable socially."

■ **Discrimination against military chaplains.** The resolution notes that a current lawsuit contends the Navy has discriminated against Southern Baptist and other evangelical chaplains. It renounces such unconstitutional treatment and urges the Navy to implement policies that "insure free religious practice for all military personnel, without discrimination."

■ **Protecting free speech in campaign finance legislation.** The resolution notes that some proposed versions of campaign finance reform legislation "threaten freedom of political speech by restricting individuals and organizations from exercising their divinely granted and constitutionally protected right to their consciences in the public square."

It vigorously objects to "any attempts to abridge the free speech rights of any American citizen or group" and reaffirms Southern Baptist commitment to defend freedom of political speech.

In a subsequent news conference, Akin explained the resolution should not be construed as opposition to campaign finance reform but to measures that would threaten free speech.

Baptist Faith & Message debate continues at SBC annual meeting

Continued from page 1

over the new Baptist Faith and Message as a cause of recent tension between the SBC and the Baptist General Convention of Texas, told reporters he "didn't want to cause trouble" but felt the issue was too important to ignore.

Messengers overwhelmingly rejected Woodell's amendment, however, along with amendments offered to the article on Scripture and one on the Lord's Day.

Fred Malone of Clinton, La., suggested that a new article on the Lord's Day "inadvertently" weakened Baptists' commitment to the Sabbath by leaving appropriate activity up to an individual's conscience. He sought to strengthen it by adding an appeal to Scripture.

"In the last 50 years we have lost the culture war on our Lord's Day," Malone said. "We are losing the sanctity of the Lord's Day. It belongs to the Lord and not to us."

A member of the study committee, however, said it would be "reckless" for the convention to continue to tinker with its faith statement year after year.

"We should not be in the business of continually debating the Baptist Faith and Message on the floor of the convention," said Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"Southern Baptists need to be clear about where we stand and what we believe," Mohler added. He said ongoing revisions "would impugn our testimony before a watching world."

Baptist Faith and Message study committee chairman Adrian Rogers also spoke against the amendment. "God does not lay down specific rules for the Lord's Day," said Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn. "Any revision is superfluous."

A third amendment, offered by Steve Barrett of Waseca, Minn., sought to remove a reference to "religious" opinions in the article on biblical authority, arguing that the Bible is "sufficient" in all realms of knowledge.

Mohler responded that current language "by no means seeks to limit" the Bible's authority.

"If we felt the word 'religious' limited Scripture," he added, "we would have deleted it last year."

In related action, Chris Hughes of Toombsboro, Ga., proposed a motion seeking to give power and support to Baptist associations "to use correctional measures" against churches that "deliberately and willfully disregard" the Baptist Faith and Message and the Bible. His motion was ruled out of order.

Messengers OK \$178.3 million CP budget

NEW ORLEANS—Southern Baptist Convention messengers voted last week to approve a 2001-02 Cooperative Program goal of \$178.3 million.

The Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified ministry budget, was approved during the convention's annual meeting in New Orleans June 12-13.

According to convention policy, the 2001-02 Cooperative Program budget, which begins in October, will be the same as CP receipts for the 1999-2000 budget, the latest to be completed. The goal for the current year is \$168 million.

The new budget proposes to channel \$89.1 million to the International Mission Board; \$40.6 million to the North American Mission Board; and almost \$38.6 million to theological education, including six national seminaries.

It also earmarks nearly \$2.7 million for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; about \$1.4 million for the Annuity Board; and \$5.9 million for the SBC operating budget, which channels the majority of that amount to the Executive Committee and \$425,000 to the Baptist World Alliance.

Cooperative Program giving has increased for the past seven consecutive years, setting a record each year, noted Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

This year, receipts are running less than 1 percent behind last year's pace, Chapman added, calling for Southern Baptists to give more to keep the string of increases going.

Protesters for acceptance of homosexuals arrested again

By David Winfrey
News Director

NEW ORLEANS—Thirty-four demonstrators protesting the Southern Baptist Convention's position on homosexuality were arrested June 13 outside the Superdome where the SBC annual meeting was being held.

This was the second consecutive year Soulforce has demonstrated at the annual meeting and staged civil disobedience resulting in arrests.

Last year's demonstration coincided with the adoption of a revised Baptist Faith and Message that says homosexual behavior is sinful.

This year, protesters claimed Southern Baptists' attitudes about homosexuality result in spiritual and physical persecution toward homosexuals.

"We're here to say the violence must end," said Mel White, executive director of Soulforce.

White, a former ghostwriter for such evangelical leaders as Billy Graham and Jerry Falwell before White acknowledged his own homosexuality, accused Southern Baptists of isolating themselves from the world they purport to serve. "The Southern Baptist Convention is the only denomination who has no one

studying the issue," he claimed.

Protesters staged a New Orleans-style jazz funeral parade in front of the Superdome coinciding with the noon recess from the SBC meeting.

A casket held the photos, names and stories of homosexuals whom White said had faced persecution because of Baptists' stated and implied attitudes of condemnation.

Protester Jerry Greenlee, a former volunteer staff member at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, said he left that congregation because he felt its leaders didn't support his attempt to provide a ministry to homosexuals. "It was my experience that the staff was not sympathetic."

Ron Sisk, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, said Greenlee was never a paid staff member at the church but served in association with his seminary training at Wesley Theological Seminary.

"While it's inappropriate for me to comment on the reasons why any member chooses to leave our church, Crescent Hill, in the spirit of Christ, ministers to anyone who comes through our doors," Sisk added.

White said Soulforce leaders sought to meet with SBC President James Merritt, but received no re-

sponse. Merritt said during an unrelated press conference that he recently responded to their letters but, "I did not see any good that could come out of meeting with Soulforce."

Merritt added that he perceived the invitation to be an "ultimatum," and "I don't respond to ultimatums."

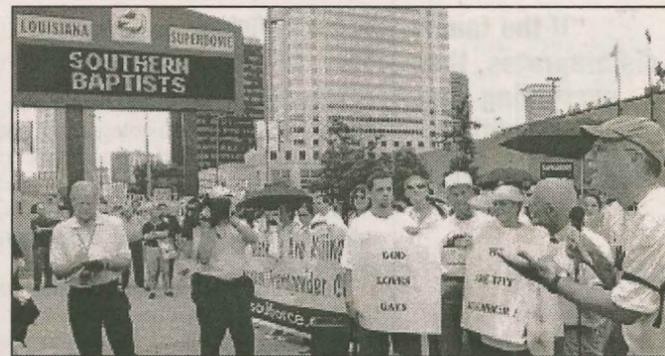
White said the group at least wanted an SBC leader to come to the protest and join the group in condemning persecution against homosexuals.

At the press conference, Merritt said Southern Baptists hold no malice as they "call sin what the Bible calls sin."

"I can say as the president of this convention that we abhor any physical violence against anyone regardless of his or her race, nationality, political philosophy, religion or sexual preference," Merritt added.

In a scene coordinated with police, Soulforce leaders said at the end of their press conference that because no SBC leader would come out to hear their concerns they would attempt to take the casket full of stories inside to the SBC messengers.

A police officer outside the Superdome's main entryway told the group their attempt to enter the building was in violation of a city code and asked the protesters to leave.



At that point, most of the protesters went back to the area where they were allowed to protest while 34 demonstrators stayed put. After a final warning by the police, officers handcuffed the demonstrators and placed them in a van to go to jail.

A Soulforce media coordinator said New Orleans' city attorney declined to charge those who were arrested and released them later that day.

Protester co-leader Karen Weldin, a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and a lesbian, said the group had been successful in its goal of starting a dialogue with individual Southern Baptists attending the annual meeting. "We've spent the last two days with people willing to listen to our stories."

PROTEST Mel White, right, executive director of Soulforce, leads a press conference with demonstrators in front of the Louisiana Superdome. Soulforce, which promotes the acceptance of gays, lesbians and transsexuals by churches, also protested last year's SBC meeting, when 27 demonstrators were arrested. This year 34 people were arrested. (BP photo by Bob Carey)



2001 KBC Annual Meeting

November 13-14, 2001

Murray State University
Regional Special Events Center
Murray, Kentucky



For more information, contact Denise Withers by phone: **502.254.4731** or **888.254.5713** or e-mail: **Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org**

MURRAY AREA ACCOMMODATIONS

Rates do not include tax (except Jonathan Creek). Taxes vary between 9-10%. Rates and other information not listed below was unavailable at time of printing. Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates. Most blocked rooms are non-smoking.

Murray*

Amerihost Inn
1210 N. 12th St. (U.S. 641)
1.270.759.5910
\$69
Free continental breakfast
Reservation deadline: 11/1

Calloway Inn
(formerly a Holiday Inn)
U.S. Highway 641 South
1.270.753.5986

Days Inn
517 South 12th St.
1.270.753.6706
\$54 (1-4 persons/dbl or single)
Free continental breakfast
Reservation deadline: 10/12

Holiday Inn Express
1504 North 12th St.
1.270.759.4449

Shoney's Inn
1503 North 12th St.
1.270.753.5353
\$53 (1-4 persons/dbl or king)
Free continental breakfast
Reservation deadline: 9/11

*All facilities in Murray are at capacity. Do not delay in making lodging arrangements in other facilities outside Murray.

Draffenville (I-24, Exit 25A)
(23 miles from Murray)

Holiday Inn Express
(Exit 25A off I-24)
1.270.527.5300
\$70 (1-3 persons/double or single; \$10 for 4th person)
\$75-\$110 (suites)
Free continental breakfast
Reservation deadline: 10/10

Calvert City/Gilbertsville

(I-24, exit 27)
(30-32 miles from Murray)

Foxfire Motor Inn
3457 U.S. Highway 62
1.270.395.7162
\$35.88 (1 person)
\$39.88 (2 persons)
[Add \$6 for each add'l. person]
Reservation deadline: 10/25

Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park
166 Upper Village Drive
(near U.S. Highway 641)
1.270.362.4271
1.800.325.0146
\$45 (1-4 persons)
On-site restaurant
Reservation deadline: 10/12

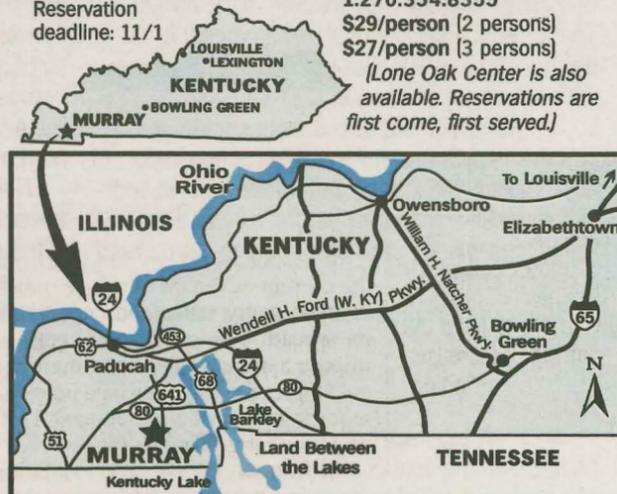
Ramada Inn
2184 U. S. Highway 62
1.270.362.4278
\$50 (1-4 persons)
On-site restaurant
Reservation deadline: 11/1

Super 8 Motel
3503 U.S. Highway 62
1.270.395.5566
\$52 (1-4 persons)
Free continental breakfast
Reservation deadline: 10/25

Hardin
(17-22 miles from Murray)

Kenlake State Resort Park
542 Kenlake Rd. (off Hwy 68)
1.270.474.2211 or toll free 1.800.325.0143
\$42 (single) / \$52 (double)
On-site restaurant
Reservation deadline: 9/12
(Requests received after this date will be filled if space is available.)

Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center (motel)
3043 Beal Road (off Hwy. 68)
1.270.354.8355
\$29/person (2 persons)
\$27/person (3 persons)
(Lone Oak Center is also available. Reservations are first come, first served.)



Dobson: Safeguard your personal family & the institution

"If the family disintegrates, then everything goes with it."

James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family

By David Winfrey
News Director

NEW ORLEANS—America's traditional families are disintegrating, but Christians must continue to work to protect God's plan for marriage and child development, James Dobson told the Southern Baptist Convention June 13.

Speaking to the closing session of the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans, the founder of Focus on the Family encouraged Baptists both to work to preserve the institution of the family and to safeguard their own families.

Dobson spoke via satellite from his office in Colorado Springs, Colo., because his jet had malfunctioned en route to New Orleans, forcing him to return home.

Recently released statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau show the critical status of American families, Dobson said. According to the census statistics, during the past 10 years:

- The number of households headed by unmarried partners increased 72

percent.

- The number of households headed by single mothers increased 25 percent.

- The number of households headed by single fathers increased 62 percent.

Additionally, Dobson said, census figures state that for the first time in American history households with both a married couple and children in the home have fallen below 25 percent of all households.

"The family is disintegrating. It's not just Christians or conservatives who are drawing this conclusion," Dobson said. "If the family disintegrates, then everything goes with it because our government, our institutions, our way of life, everything sits on that foundation of the family."

Two byproducts of disintegrating families are suffering children and declining family evangelism, he said.

Dobson said the chaos and unpredictability of a failing family affects boys more harshly than girls.

He said he recently completed a book titled "Bringing Up Boys."

Among his findings were that boys are three times more likely than girls to be on drugs, five times more likely to commit suicide and 12 times more likely to commit murder.

"Why are boys in such trouble? The reason is because of the breakup of family," Dobson declared.

"Boys, because of their nature and testosterone and all that makes up what a boy is, are more likely to get in difficulty when there's chaos in a family," he added. "They need stability. They need predictability."

Dobson said boys also need male role models to teach them what it means to be a man. Boys are born emotionally attached to their mothers but transition that attachment to their fathers between ages 2 and 5, the psychologist said.

"Boys are not born knowing what it means to be a boy. They certainly aren't born knowing what it means to be a man. ... They learn that from being around the male role model, hopefully a father."

In some cases when boys have no male role model to learn from, they can attach back to their mothers and develop homosexual tendencies, Dobson asserted. "You hear often that homosexuality is genetic in nature. Don't you believe it," he said, adding that there's not "a scrap of evidence" to document that claim.

The disintegration of the family also has the potential of yielding entire generations of families that don't know about Christ, Dobson said. "The soil in which the seed of the gospel is planted will turn acidic if there are no

families."

Dobson noted that researcher George Barna has stated that people who have not committed to the Christian faith by age 18 have only a 6 percent chance of becoming Christians.

"The family is the greatest vehicle ever devised for transmitting the value system to the next generation," Dobson said.

Dobson applauded the Southern Baptists Convention's Council on Family Life, created a year ago to study how SBC agencies can help strengthen families.

"Focus on the Family is going to stand with you in this initiative in every way that we can," he declared. But he warned that talk about families is insufficient to preserve them.

"Your families are in danger too," he said.

To laymen, Dobson urged daily prayer for their families and to be conscious of what they are teaching by their actions.

To pastors, Dobson asked whether the growth of their churches had become a greater priority than the health of their families.

He noted that when he was a teenager his father, a prominent Nazarene evangelist, cancelled a four-year slate of speaking engagements to be with his family when Dobson had become a rebellious teenager who was too difficult for his mother to control.

"He saved me, he pulled me in. ... He let me know that I mattered to him," Dobson said. "He paid the price to invest himself in my life, and I'm very grateful that he did."

SBC annual meeting puts focus on the family

Continued from page 1

American family woes, including:

- "One million children a year see their parents divorce."

- "In the last 40 years, pregnancies out of wedlock have increased 600 percent."

- "In less than 40 years, cohabitation by unmarried couples has increased almost 1,000 percent."

In his SBC president's address, James Merritt also emphasized the decline of families.

"There is an assault on the family today that is unparalleled in the history of the human race, and much of the damage is self-inflicted," said Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga.

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman, who proposed the family emphasis a year ago, also decried the decline of the family.

"For the first time ever, married couples with children make up less than 25 percent of the America population," Chapman said, citing data from the 2000 U.S. Census. "It's our prayer and hope we'll be able to save the families of America."

The Census data Chapman referenced show 23.5 percent of U.S. households are comprised of married couples with children in the home. That reflects a decline of about 2 percent in the decade of the 1990s. But married couples either with or without children in the home still constitute 52 percent of U.S. households.

Census data reveal the decline is due in part to Americans living longer, with more widows and widowers alive than ever before, as well as many Americans waiting until later in life to get married and have children.

The council's interim report to the convention outlined five guidelines to structure its work as it develops long-term strategies. The council stated a family-saving strategy must:

- "Draw together both our resources and our people with the goal of elevating our families and

the meaning of the word 'family' to God's standard as clearly stated in Scripture."

SBC messengers articulated that meaning in a 1998 amendment to the SBC Baptist Faith and Message statement. It gained most notoriety for stating wives should "graciously submit" to the "servant leadership" of their husbands.

- "Deal with both our internal practices and the external perception of our convention." This guideline would lead to strategies to help Americans see Southern Baptists as "great for the community because we are great for the family."

- "Assist in the development of strong Great Commission-oriented families."

- "Enable pastors and church leaders to mutually identify and affirm key biblical principles for marriage and family."

- "Emphasize our desire to provide an authentic ministry to those whose lives and families have been fractured and ravaged by the adversary; seek to provide ... compassionate restoration and encouragement typified by our Savior, made possible by the grace of God and consistent with the clearly stated principles of the Scripture."

The status of marriage and related issues also was on the minds of messengers to the convention. Six items presented as motions or resolutions from the floor addressed homosexuality, with one calling on President Bush to declare June Heterosexual Family Pride Month.

The resolutions committee brought a statement on covenant marriage that passed without discussion or dissent.

The family council's task is large, Elliff acknowledged as he looked to its work over the coming year.

"Families are not going to be rescued simply because we hope so, simply because we think God owes us," he said. "But because we decide we're going to do something about it."

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Dying missionary asks messengers to consider God's call

By Shawn Hendricks
Missouri Word & Way

NEW ORLEANS—Dying of lung cancer, missionary Charles Beaty limped onto the stage of the Southern Baptist Convention June 12 to urge Baptists to share the gospel throughout the world.

"It has to be us," said Beaty, whose challenge climaxed the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's report to the SBC annual meeting.

Before he appeared on stage, messengers saw a video about Beaty, who traveled with his wife, Christy, one last time to North Africa after being diagnosed with terminal lung cancer.

"Is the Lord calling you to go to the people who have no voice?" Beaty asked the audience. "Then my challenge is to go and not wait, because we are not promised tomorrow."

Beaty was one of several IMB representatives who shared testimonies of lives being changed on the mission field. Baptists held hands and prayed for Beaty before he left the stage.

IMB President Jerry Rankin said more Baptists must follow Beaty's example.

"What about you?" Rankin asked messengers. "The urgency of reaching a lost world has led many others to respond."

Ray Davis, an associate director for IMB work in southern Africa, described the plight thousands of Africans face each day as they die without knowing Christ.

"There is a thief stalking our con-



DYING PLEA Former Southern Baptist missionary Charles Beaty, center, whom doctors predict might die this summer from cancer, begs God to touch the hearts of Baptists to go in his place. Beaty stands with his wife, Christy, and Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board. Beaty spoke as part of the annual IMB report during the SBC annual meeting. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazier)

tinient. The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy," Davis said. "But ... (Jesus) came that they may have life and might have it abundantly."

Mike Hamlet, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg, S.C., related how mission participation has changed his congregation.

"Our church believes we can make a difference," Hamlet said. "And our people began to see that."

Bill Fudge, the IMB's regional leader for work in Southeast Asia, said God is working in that part of the world. He described church planting

movements and monthly baptisms that number in the thousands.

But Fudge also described 84 cities in China that have more than 1 million residents each and little Christian presence. He also noted that more than 1 billion people have yet to hear the gospel. "It is no time for business as usual. It is time to go."

Last year, 873 new missionaries were sent out by the IMB, Rankin reported.

"Many going to places we would have never imagined," he said. "The uttermost is being reached as the num-

ber of people groups and strategic population segments being impacted by your missionaries has almost tripled to more than a thousand in just the last three years."

In the last two years, the number of short-term volunteers has increased from 20,000 to more than 30,000, including more than 3,500 college students and almost 2,000 high school students, Rankin said.

"Record numbers of college graduates are giving two years to the Journeyman program, more and more Southern Baptists 50 years and older are offering themselves for service with the Masters program, and the number surrendering their lives for career appointment continue to grow," he said.

Missionaries also reported 451,000 overseas baptisms in 2000—a 24 percent increase over the previous year, Rankin said. Church starting movements continue to rise as more than 38,000 additional mission congregations were reported, he added.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering reaped more than \$113 million for overseas mission support, Rankin said.

Yet with all the advances, Rankin warned that the task of saving a lost world is far from complete.

"In spite of this progress, multitudes are still waiting," he declared. "How long must they wait until we go?"

With additional reporting by Brittany Jarvis of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

"How long must they wait until we go?"

IMB President Jerry Rankin

NAMB president recruits for 'rescue mission'

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Southern Baptists should go on a "rescue mission" to save millions of Americans and Canadians "lost at sea" without a personal relationship with Jesus, according to SBC North American Mission Board President Bob Reccord.

NAMB's rescue-themed presentation highlighted the stories of several individuals and families who are "on mission" to share Christ with those around them.

Reccord challenged others to join those on-mission families personally and through the work of the missions agency.

"Frankly, my friends, North America desperately needs more heroes—common people with an uncommon commitment to the highest of all calls: the Great Commission of Jesus Christ," he said.

Reccord noted that with most on-mission heroes, there is usually a common foundation—a base of support that helped them develop the passion for reaching others.

"Bottom line, they come to us from on-mission churches, churches that know Christ, and go out and make Him known right in their own communities," he said.

Reccord also announced the release of two new television commercials. The spots are being made available free of charge to churches through June 30. They are two in a

series designed to boost awareness of Southern Baptists under the theme, "Southern Baptists: Changed Lives, Caring People."

Reccord also detailed in his report other aspects of how he said the agency is fulfilling its "two overarching roles" of "communicating the greatest message ever given, and equipping and mobilizing churches and Christians for the greatest mission ever undertaken."

Among the highlights:

■ Since its birth in 1997 the agency has put \$30 million more into "frontline" ministry efforts than would have been available under the three former agencies it replaced. The employee count has gone from 525 to 410—all while introducing new ministry initiatives such as the Strategic Focus Cities evangelism and church planting efforts, student evangelism, Internet evangelism and impacting the nation of Canada with the gospel.

■ In cooperation with state and local partners, NAMB helped start 1,747 new churches in 1999 and 1,658 in 2000. Fifty-five percent of those were African-American or other non-Anglo churches.

■ More than 3,000 churches are using "The NET," an innovative personal evangelism strategy introduced last year "designed with the postmodern culture in mind," Reccord said.

■ About 2,400 campuses throughout the country with NAMB's help now have student-led Christian clubs using FISH, a church-based strategy

to help students systematically lead friends to Christ. About 4,000 students each month are being led to Christ through the strategy, which was launched last fall. "The goal is to be on 5,000 campuses by the end of the year," Reccord said.

■ Strategic Focus Cities efforts that began last year in Chicago and Phoenix continue to show strong results. Attendance at participating churches in Phoenix is up 21 percent as a result of the efforts, and baptisms are up 47 percent. In Chicago over the past two years, Reccord said, there has been a 114 percent increase in baptisms and an 87 percent increase in Sunday school attendance. About 100 new churches are being planted.

■ Of NAMB's 5,081 missionaries, the number of appointed missionaries—who receive all of their funding from NAMB and its mission partners—is up 43 percent since 1997. The number of students serving as semester missionaries is up 65 percent.

"We've got so many college students saying 'I want to go' that we don't have the funds to send them," Reccord said, noting that applications for career missions service also continue to rise steadily.

"We thank you, Southern Baptists, for your record-breaking support to the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (for North American Missions), which makes everything we do possible," Reccord said.

Speakers interpret convention theme, 'Until He comes, go!'

NEW ORLEANS—Southern Baptist Convention messengers were exhorted to put feet to the convention's theme of "Until He Comes, Go" during a series of theme interpretations and presentations.

Adrian Rogers, a three-time SBC president cited Matthew 28:19-20 to say there are three truths found in the Great Commission: God's unlimited power, Jesus' unchanging program and God's unfailing promise. "And lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age," Rogers read.

"Let us remember that if God be for us, who can be against us?" he added.

Mac Brunson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, said pastors should set the example in fulfilling the Great Commission.

He encouraged all pastors to start with their own families by taking them on short-term mission projects. "It will do something for you to see your sons and daughters standing on street corners and sharing Jesus Christ with somebody."

Pastor Jack Graham of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, said God's command to go also applies to missions work in North America "Sharing the gospel, witnessing of God's grace and love is why we live."

Graham urged Christians and churches "to not conform to the culture or compromise with the culture, but rather communicate and penetrate this culture with the only message" that can change it.

Pastor Robert Webb of First Baptist Church of Malakoff, Texas, described how his church, with about 200 people in Sunday school and a 100-plus year history, finally decided to begin a mission church several years ago. Webb said the church finally "quit asking 'Why?' and asked 'Why not?'"

Members saw the "impossible become possible," he said, and now the church has started several other missions.

Bold Mission Thrust draws to a close with mixed results

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

Drug task force urges churches to take action

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—America's answer to its drug problem can be found in the family and in the church, said Richard Land, chairman of a Southern Baptist Convention drug task force established in 1998.

Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, heads the task force composed of the leaders of the 12 SBC agencies. The task force was charged with reporting back to the convention in 2001.

Land said drug use and abuse, including alcohol, is "ravaging families." He said one in four children live in a home where an adult is addicted to or abusing alcohol.

He called on churches to consider establishing Christ-centered halfway houses in their communities.

NEW ORLEANS—Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' 25-year plan to take the gospel to every person on earth by the year 2000, quietly drew to a close last week.

Just three years after its launch in 1976, Bold Mission Thrust appeared to take a back seat to denominational controversy that dominated Baptist headlines for the next several years.

Despite such challenges, denominational officials—both old guard and new guard—continued to keep track of the goals and measure successes and failures.

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee filed its final annual report on Bold Mission Thrust June 12 during the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans. Such reports have been given annually since 1976, when convention messengers set a goal "that every person in the world shall have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ in the next 25 years ... and can understand the claim Jesus Christ has on their lives."

Contrary to popular perception, Bold Mission Thrust was not constructed as a single set of goals for the 25-year period. Instead, it developed in stages, with each new set of goals more detailed than the previous set.

The first basic goals were set for the period 1977-1979. They encouraged inter-agency cooperation, increased Bible teaching, more witnessing and emphasis on mission action.

The next set of goals, for 1979-1982, called for a 12 percent gain in Sunday school enrollment, a 10 percent increase per year in baptisms, 5,800 new churches, a net gain of 1,000 career missionaries and doubling Cooperative Program giving.

This mechanism continued to evolve, until the goals for the final period, 1995-2000, fell into 13 specific categories, calling for 2.5 million baptisms over the five-year period, a total of 50,000 congregations, Sunday school enrollment of 13 million, a total of 5,000 home missionaries and 5,600 international missionaries, 400,000 missions volunteers and \$2.5 billion given to the Cooperative Program over the five years.

Were the goals met? Answers fall into three categories: Yes, no and only God knows. Some goals clearly were exceeded. Other goals are difficult to track. Some of the goals not met were, in hindsight, unrealistic. For example, the goal of increasing giving 10 percent per year was dreamed up in a time of economic inflation that didn't last.

SBC President James Merritt noted last week that Bold Mission Thrust "was probably overly ambitious." He added, however, that the lofty goals "raised the bar" for Southern Baptist mission and ministry efforts.

One of the clearest summary reports on Bold Mission Thrust was given to International Mission Board trustees in March by Senior Vice President Avery Willis. He reported on several of the SBC's overseas goals

related to Bold Mission Thrust:

■ **International missionaries.** In 1975, the SBC had 2,667 foreign missionaries. One Bold Mission Thrust goal called for increasing to 5,000 foreign missionaries, while another called for increasing to 5,600. The actual total at the end of 2000 was 4,946, an increase of 85.5 percent but slightly short of the goal. That number includes Journeyman and International Service Corps missionaries serving two years or longer.

■ **Countries served.** In 1975, the SBC had missionaries in 82 nations. The Bold Mission Thrust goal was to reach 125. By the end of last year, the actual number of countries served by the IMB was 153, surpassing the goal.

■ **Volunteers.** The phenomenal increase in Southern Baptist missions volunteers both at home and abroad is one of the greatest successes of the Bold Mission Thrust era. In 1975, the IMB reported only 1,200 missions volunteers. By the end of 2000, that number had soared to 30,362, an increase of 2,430 percent. The SBC's North American Mission Board reported 250,000 volunteers serving during the five-year period from 1995-2000.

■ **Overseas churches.** In 1975, the SBC related to 7,584 overseas churches. By the end of 2000, the number had grown to 60,988, an increase of 704 percent but short of the goal of 75,840.

■ **Overseas baptisms.** In 1975, IMB missionaries and the overseas churches they related to baptized

80,747 new believers. The goal was to increase baptisms to 807,470 annually. Although the 2000 total of 451,301 was a gain of 459 percent, it fell short of the goal.

A spokesman for NAMB said the SBC's domestic missions agency does not produce an annual Bold Mission Thrust report. Therefore, comparable numbers to those given in the IMB report were not available.

However, the final report filed by the SBC Executive Committee sheds some light on these goals:

■ **Baptisms.** Various goals were set for increasing baptisms among Southern Baptist churches. One goal called for a 10 percent gain each year. Another goal called for a total of 2.5 million baptisms in the final five years of Bold Mission Thrust. In reality, SBC baptisms in 1975 totaled 421,809. By 2000, the total was 414,657, a 1.7 percent decrease. The five-year total of 2,032,634 fell short of the 2.5 million goal for 1995-2000.

■ **New congregations.** A clear goal of Bold Mission Thrust throughout the years was to reach the 50,000 mark in number of churches and missions. The actual total at the end of 2000 was 46,831, a gain of 34 percent over the 34,902 churches and missions reported in 1975.

■ **Bible study enrollment.** Despite several years of significant growth, total Bible study enrollment in SBC churches grew only from 7,281,532 to 8,186,415. That's a gain of 12.4 percent but far short of the Bold Mission Thrust goal of 13 million.

AGENCY REPORTS

■ **LifeWay highlights resources.** LifeWay Christian Resources is seeking to meet spiritual needs through such diverse resources as vacation Bible school, a Braille hymnal and Christian bookstores, according to LifeWay President Jimmy Draper. "Vacation Bible school is still the No. 1 evangelistic outreach in our churches," Draper told Southern Baptist Convention messengers. He said 91,000 children made professions of faith in Christ during VBS last year. Leigh Scott, a visually impaired Southern Baptist from Alabama, told about a new Braille hymnal she helped produce for LifeWay. Draper also noted that LifeWay Christian Stores are celebrating their 75th anniversary. He added that LifeWay will open its 100th store next month in Knoxville, Tenn.

■ **Annuity Board aids mission volunteers.** The Southern Baptist Annuity Board wants to help develop the greatest force of mission volunteers ever seen, O.S. Hawkins told messengers. The next two generations of ministers will live longer than anyone in history, and will be capable of many more years of active service after vocational retirement, predicted Hawkins, president of the Dallas-based SBC agency. Helping ministers be financially secure in retirement will make it possible for them to do more volunteer mission work and continue to be "partners in the harvest," he said. Hawkins noted that the stock market downturn in 2000 had led to a down year for Annuity Board funds, but he said 10 of 13 funds exceeded their benchmarks and thus lost less money than the national average.

■ **Land honors 'champions for the faith.'** Introducing several "champions for the faith" Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Richard Land described them as "ordinary Christian men and women who are doing extraordinary things in obedience to their Lord." Arcurtis Shanklin, who ministers in New Orleans' French Quarter at the Brantley Baptist Center, once wandered the streets of New Orleans, Land recounted. Yet Shanklin found "eternal hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ," and instead of being served at the ministry center, he is now the center's services supervisor, Land said. He also recognized Perry Hancock and Dale Stone of Creative Ministries for the Children for their work in addressing the needs of children, helping their families help themselves and providing a positive Christian witness. He said Mike and Kelly Johnson of Baton Rouge, La., "have responded to God's call by championing the cause of Covenant Marriage at home, in church, in the classroom, in the courtroom, at the state legislature and across the nation."

■ **Seminaries honor Thiele.** The Council of Seminary Presidents, made up of the presidents of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, recognized the retiring executive director of Seminary Extension during their report to the Southern Baptist Convention. Al Mohler of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary praised the work of Edward Thiele, who will retire June 30. Mohler also highlighted the SBC's Historical Library and Archives. He invited Baptists to "deposit ... those important records, books and materials that ought to be preserved for the study of our denomination."

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Since 1918 the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has assisted in providing financial support to God's servants. The Annuity Board was founded by Nashville pastor William Lunsford because of his conviction it was immoral for Southern Baptists to al-

low their ministers, after a lifetime of selfless service, to finish their days in abject poverty.

As the first president of the Annuity Board, Lunsford made this promise: "Give yourself wholeheartedly to the work. ... We will stand back of you. If you fall in the work, we will care for you. If you die, we will not permit your family to suffer. If you grow old in it, we will comfort your declining years."

Through the Adopt An Annuitant program, the Annuity Board identifies needy ministers and widows and responds with a monthly \$75 supplement to help pay for food, utilities, prescriptions and other necessities. The Kentucky Baptist Foundation manages an endowment that provides income which is sent to the Annuity Board to be used for needy retired Kentucky Baptist ministers and widows in the Adopt An Annuitant program.

Call Laurie Valentine or me to discover how you, your church, your Sunday school class or other group can become a lifeline.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 10605 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40223; (888) 254-5701; www.kybaptistfoundation.org

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Luter breaks racial barrier with history-making message

By Lacy Thompson
Louisiana Baptist Message

NEW ORLEANS—Fred Luter made history at last week's Southern Baptist Convention—and brought thousands of messengers to their feet in doing it.

Delivering a full-throttle convention sermon, Luter became the first African-American to preach the annual address in SBC history.

Introducing Luter to the convention crowd, SBC President James Merritt noted: "The reason Dr. Fred Luter is preaching tonight has absolutely nothing to do about the color of his skin. The reason Dr. Fred Luter is preaching tonight is because he is one of the premier inspirational preachers in the Southern Baptist Convention."

For his part, Luter quickly acknowledged the honor and paid tribute to African-American leaders who have preceded him in Southern Baptist life.

"Tonight I realize that I'm standing on the shoulders of other African-American pastors and denominational workers ... who were trailblazers long before I ever was a Southern Baptist," he said. "My brothers, I honor you for your commitment to the Lord and to this convention."

Luter then launched his sermon, based on Matthew 9:35-38, in which Jesus is moved by the plight of people and calls on His followers to pray for God to send more laborers to reap the plentiful harvest.

"The theme of this convention is

'Until He comes, go,' Luter said. 'But the question of tonight is—are we doing just that?'

He asked messengers to consider what a tragedy it would be to have a fish that could not swim, a dog that could not bark or a cat that could not meow.

"It would be really sad, really tragic for none of those things to do what God created them to do," he said. "But all of those things do what God created them to do."

In contrast, consider the pain God must feel when humans do not do what God has created them to do, Luter added.

"Think of the hurt God feels when men don't want to be men. Think of the hurt God feels when women don't want to be women," he emphasized. "Think of the hurt God feels when husbands don't love and wives don't respect their husbands. Think of the hurt God feels when teenagers and children don't respect their parents in the Lord. Think of the hurt God feels when preachers don't practice what they preach."

Southern Baptists must heed God's call for laborers, Luter declared. In doing so, he reminded Baptists to remember four things found in the Matthew 9 passage:

■ *The concern of Jesus.* Jesus had genuine concern for people, Luter reminded. "People were not just numbers to Jesus Christ. ... He truly was concerned about people."

Southern Baptists must reflect the same type of attitude and love, he said.

"We must care about people. We must care about their hurts. ... We must care about their eternal destiny."

■ *The compassion of Jesus.* Luter urged messengers not to forget the humanity of Jesus, pointing out that He was moved with compassion at the plight of the people He encountered.

"He saw they were weary. They were worn out," Luter noted. "They were like sheep, scattered without a shepherd."

"That's why the Master is calling for workers tonight, so we can tell the lost ... that the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life."

■ *The cry of Jesus.* Luter urged messengers to hear the cry of Jesus that there are too few workers for the bountiful harvest that awaits.

"People need the Lord, ... but they won't know unless we tell them," he stressed. "Let's make the main thing the main thing in this convention. Too many of us are majoring on the minor."

"Soul winning is not an option," Luter continued. "Soul winning is not just for the pastor. ... Soul winning is for every child of God. ... We need every member of every church of every size of every race of every city of every state."

■ *The command of Jesus.* Because of the concern, compassion and cry of Jesus, Christians are to pray for God to send more laborers, Luter said.

"I think of no better way to get laborers ... than to ask the Lord of the harvest," he added, "because God has a good track record about answering



the prayers of His children.

"What about you, my brother? What about you, my sister?" Luter asked. "Can the Lord count on you to go until He comes?"

Luter's history-making message was a fitting honor for an amazing story.

In 1986, Luter was a street preacher in New Orleans when Louisiana Baptist leaders asked him to become pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church.

The New Orleans congregation had undergone inner-city transition and was down to a few dozen members. Although Luter never had served as a pastor, Louisiana Baptist leaders entrusted him with the church.

Fifteen years later, the church has grown to be one of the largest in the state, numbering more than 6,000 members and standing as a perennial state leader in baptisms.

CALL TO MINISTRY
New Orleans pastor Fred Luter challenges Southern Baptists to accept God's call to be spiritual laborers. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazier)

Summer of ministry

By Robert Dunston

When Cumberland College's annual commencement ceremony ends and graduates say their good-byes and drive off into their futures, the Cumberland College campus remains busy.

People of all ages use Cumberland College as their home base while attending camps and engaging in ministry.

Mountain Outreach already has begun building houses this summer. Individuals from 14 churches will minister through this program, constructing homes and building relationships.

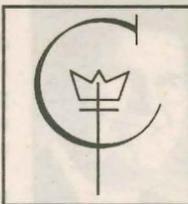
Appalachian Ministries will lead vacation Bible schools and day camps in various churches. Three churches will send volunteers to help in this wonderful ministry to children.

Kentucky Girls State already has held its annual meeting at Cumberland College. Special Christian camps for the summer include Crossroads, Champions for Christ and Crosspoint.

Cumberland's annual Pastor/Staff/Family Conference will provide refreshment and inspiration as will the Kentucky Baptist Convention for the Deaf.

Cumberland College also will host a variety of sports camps during the summer. Students involved in men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, wrestling, cheerleading and football will have the opportunity to enjoy Cumberland's excellent facilities as they hone their athletic skills.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



We enjoy having our facilities in use throughout the summer. People have the opportunity to meet and become acquainted with us even as we have the opportunity to fellowship with others and be blessed by their commitment.

Serving Christ requires not a year-long commitment, but a lifelong commitment. We at Cumberland College are proud to be partners with churches across Kentucky in ministering in Christ's name.

Robert Dunston is chairman of the religion department at Cumberland College, 6000 College Station Dr., Williamsburg, KY 40769

Say hello to the inner child

Summer is here and it is time for one my favorite KBHC traditions, camp!

I love hearing the stories from staff about the general goofiness that goes on during camp at Georgetown College and the mini-camp events at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly.

As we've told you before, many of our kids haven't had much of an opportunity to enjoy being kids before coming into our care. Many were in charge of caring for siblings, or were too busy trying to survive physically or emotionally. Others escaped into alcohol or drug use to cope with the pain of abuse, neglect and abandonment. Not much time was left for relay races, volleyball games, Bible study or praise and worship.

But at camp that inner child is tapped into—even if that inner child is someone the outer child has never met. And most importantly, our kids get to see others living out their faith. The BSU SonTeam, Son Celebration, share from their hearts how Christ has changed their lives. They are living, breathing testimonies that the Christian life is one of excitement and joy. Mike Dixon, our vice president for religious life,

embodies this too. Don't let the gray hair fool you, his enthusiasm is as fresh as it was when he came to know the Lord.

KBHC Kids Camp is a wonderful partnership between our staff, Kentucky Baptist colleges and assemblies, the BSU and you, working together to give kids the chance to learn more about God and pursue a relationship with Him. Without your contributions to the camp fund, that opportunity would not be available. Camp is something Kentucky Baptists believe in for their own children and they want it for the children and teenagers in care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Remember the kids and staff in your prayers this summer. Something new this year is a camp for foster parents and children. We are excited about what the Lord may do with that special group.

God bless you as you help us provide a summer of fun for our children, and those inner children some are just getting to know.

Bill Smithwick is president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, KY 40243. Call (800) 456-1386. KBHC's Internet address is: www.kbhc.org

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

WMU leaders outline group's principles for SBC messengers

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Missions is the heartbeat of Woman's Missionary Union, leaders of the organization told messengers during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee and WMU President Janet Hoffman used the organization's five strategic principles to describe its commitment to missions:

■ **Praying for and giving to missions.** Hoffman said prayer is a top priority for WMU members because of their commitment to missionaries. "The first thing missionaries say to us is, 'Thank you for praying,'" said Hoffman of Farmerville, La. "And the last thing is, 'Don't stop praying. We cannot serve without it.'"

Hoffman thanked Southern Baptists for their record contributions to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The 2000 AAEO surpassed \$48 million and the 2001 LMCO topped \$113 million.

■ **Doing missions.** Lee noted how WMU helps members be involved in missions through such programs as Christian Women's Job Corps and MissionsFEST.

■ **Learning about missions.** Hoffman said WMU has a multitude of organizations for preschoolers through adults to educate southern Baptists about missions.

■ **Developing spiritually toward a missions lifestyle.** Hoffman said the ultimate goal of everything done in a WMU missions organization is to help members grow in their commitment to God and sharing the gospel.

■ **Supporting the work of churches and the denomination.** Lee closed the report by highlighting the organizations on-going relationship with the two missions boards. "The two missions boards treat us as equal partners and we are committed to continuing our close relationship with the agencies as we work together to support the work of our missionaries in North America and around the world."

WMU members urged to move 'Beyond Belief'

NEW ORLEANS—God has blessed America more than any other country, but America still need's God's criteria for revival: Hope in Jesus Christ, Baptist World Alliance President Billy Kim told Woman's Missionary Union during their annual meeting last week.

Kim, pastor of the 15,000-member Central Baptist Church of Suwon, Korea, was a keynote speaker for the WMU meeting, June 10-11 in New Orleans.

Focusing on the event theme, "Beyond Belief," Kim told the standing-room-only crowd that America is a blessed country, controlling more than 50 percent of the world's wealth but having less than 6 percent of the world's population.

But violence, teenage pregnancy, crime, suicide, homosexuality and other problems plague the nation, he added.

"The world watches America, and America watches TV," he said. "If (America) forgets God, she'll have to face the wrath of God. We need people who know how to pray for revival in this nation."

Kim emphasized the important role women in Korea play in the growth and revival of his church. "They have a prayer meeting at 4:30 every morning, 365 days a year. I hope I'm not getting in trouble advocating women at the Southern Baptist Convention," Kim said. "But that's why Korean churches are experiencing revival."

"If the United States wants to see revival, mothers and daughters need

to get on their knees," he urged.

Rhonda Kelley, author and wife of the president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, encouraged the women to ask for faith, then add to their faith and remain faithful in their everyday lives. "We have to move beyond belief and add to our life of godly giving."

In her president's address, Janet Hoffman likened the "beyond belief" historical journey of WMU to the personal journey of Abraham. Reminding the women that God called Abraham to leave his own country and family to go to a place God would reveal to him, Hoffman said Abraham's journey was a "journey with a pur-

pose, a journey of faith and a journey of promise."

Since its earliest beginnings, WMU has been on a journey with a main purpose of missions, Hoffman said. Today, "our journey continues ... with that same purpose."

"We are not there yet because of the countless people ... who are still in darkness," she added. "Our journey continues until Jesus comes."

In a business session, WMU members unanimously re-elected Hoffman, of Farmerville, La., for a second term as WMU president. Yolanda Calderon of Ripon, Calif., also was re-elected for a second term as recording secretary.

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Moving in the right direction

By Ken Martin

Oneida Baptist Institute Farm Manager

At the beginning of each year, I meet with my coworkers on the farm and we set goals for the OBI agriculture program.

In January 1997, we set a five-year goal to have a student win a state contest. June 7, four years and six months later, we met our goal.

At the Kentucky Future Farmers of America convention in Louisville, two of our students placed first in state competition. Jennifer Martin won the FFA creed contest, and Becky Moore placed first in the swine proficiency placement area. In addition, our sales team placed second in the state. Jennifer Martin was the second high individual and Elizabeth Mischler was third high individual in that contest. Other team members included Bailey Pinson and Jon Colliver. Adam Clemons and Becky Moore received their state FFA degrees and were the first students from OBI to receive that honor. Becky and Justin Whitworth served as OBI's two voting delegates at the convention.

Agriculture students have recited the FFA creed since 1930. The words of the creed represent the values that have tied generations of American farmers together since the beginning of our country. Jennifer set a goal last July to win the state FFA creed contest. She spent hours upon hours this past year, not only memorizing, but also gaining an understanding of the five paragraphs in the creed. The trophy will provide satisfaction for a few days, but the skills of communication that she gained from the contest will benefit her for a lifetime.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

The proficiency contest considers the quality and quantity of work a student has put into a specific agricultural area during his or her high school years. In addition, leadership and participation in FFA and other organizations are evaluated in this contest. Setting goals to learn specific skills in the proficiency area are vital in this competition, as well as training for future challenges. Becky has worked on our school farm for four years. She is our FFA president and has gained self-confidence through involvement in the OBI agriculture program.

Teamwork is one of the fundamental concepts we try to teach in our work program. The four students on the sales team had to rely on each other and use the gifts of each as they prepared for their competition. The sales contest lasted more than three hours. These students had prepared for months for this event, and I hope the lessons of endurance and perseverance they received serve them well in the future.

Setting goals is important in our personal as well as our corporate lives. There have been many days since January 1997 that decisions have been made requiring extra hours or even days of work or travel from Oneida for myself and others involved in our ag program. Balancing the operation of the farm and the student programs requires much prayer and discernment every day. Knowing the students who went to the FFA convention this year and realizing that we are in a position to be a positive influence in the lives of many young people, I am satisfied that we are moving in the right direction.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972. www.oneidaschool.org; e-mail: president@oneidaschool.org

From graduation to ministry leadership

May graduates Travis and Melody McKee have moved from campus to a leadership position with First Southern Baptist Church of Pikeville, Tenn.

Travis is youth and children's pastor. The contact came through another student and climaxed a year of prayer and church preparation. "I am excited about working with a well-experienced pastor. He has agreed to mentor me," Travis said.

Pastor Jim Whittaker, a 1987 alumnus, has 17 years of experience, most of it as a Virginia bivocational pastor. A major summer event provides a good opportunity for the two couples to work together. Travis is coordinating a World Changers youth mission trip to Shreveport, La. The church will send 28 people.

Travis accepted God's call to ministry at age 26 and was referred to Clear Creek by his youth pastor's father-in-law, an alumnus. "I fell in love with the campus the day we visited. I came single with no intention of looking for a relationship. But God brought me into one," Travis said.

In the single dorm he met Melody Middleton, a native of Harlan County. "He asked me if I knew

anything about a good church in the area. I invited him to my church, and that was the beginning," Melody said with a broad smile. They married two years later.

Their experience as single and married students motivated their encouragement of other singles. "When a friend from Harlan enrolled, I tried to mentor him and helped him secure a job. I think it meant a lot because his family was not very supportive," Travis said. For three years Travis supervised the student cleaning crew. During the summer they painted houses before new students moved to campus.

"Clear Creek has godly professors. They don't just give a lecture and an assignment. They care about students and take time to help us understand the Bible and to help us with personal problems," Travis said. "One of my last classes, children's choir leadership, was an unexpected blessing. It was great fun with campus children to do the musical, 'Levite Genes,' and it will help me so much when I decide to do a musical with the kids at church."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Falwell to pastors: 'Ask God to double our denomination'

By Charlie Warren
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

NEW ORLEANS—"It is amazing what God can do with one visionary person who is not at all interested in Harris or Gallup polls, who is not interested in being popular, who is interested only in being faithful," Jerry Falwell told the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference June 11.

Falwell, the former independent pastor who led his church to affiliate with the Southern Baptist Convention in recent years, urged his fellow pastors to become anointed visionaries who will "ask God to double our denomination."

Falwell said his vision in founding Thomas Road Baptist Church was based on claiming Lynchburg, Va., for Christ.

"Claim your city for Christ and spend your life going out to capture it for Him," Falwell urged. "Ask Him for the whole city. Ask Him for everybody in it. Ask Him for the counties around it."

Falwell's message on vision fit the overarching theme of the June 10-11 Pastors' Conference. Every speaker addressed the urgency of evangelism. The conference theme was "Until He Comes, Go."

Evangelist Bailey Smith warned that even Southern Baptist churches are full of people who never have had a genuine saving encounter with Jesus Christ. Preaching from Matthew 13, Smith spoke of Jesus' parable of the tares among the wheat.

It is possible even for pastors to be unsaved without realizing it, he warned.

Smith closed with an invitation urging conference participants to ask the Holy Spirit to convict them if they never had truly professed faith in Christ. About 30 people responded to the invitation.

In addition to Falwell and Smith, the Pastors' Conference featured a number of lesser-known preachers from across the nation, including sev-

eral younger pastors and evangelists.

One of those was Dan Spencer, pastor of First Baptist Church in Thomasville, Ga., and son of Pastors' Conference President Jerry Spencer.

"God is calling out people today to have the boldness of John the Baptist," Spencer said as he preached from Luke 3.

"Don't stop preaching about hell, pastor," he urged. "Bold preaching is needed because the audacity of our culture demands it."

Charles Roesel, pastor of First Baptist Church of Leesburg, Fla., exhorted pastors to avail themselves of God's spiritual power.

"We must first 'be' something if people are going to listen when we say something," Roesel said. "The world will listen to us when we live what we talk. The world is not impressed by our buildings. They are turned off by our budgets. They could care less how many people we baptize. But if they see us helping hurting people in love and compassion, they ... know we are showing care and compassion."

Roesel, whose church has been a model for merging ministry and evangelism, reminded the crowd that Jesus expects His followers to be fishers of men.

"Witnessing is not voluntary" for followers of Christ, he stressed. "We have forgotten our No. 1 calling—to bring a lost world to Christ. ... We are guilty of giving our first-class loyalties to third-class causes."

Bobby Moore, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Southaven, Miss., noted that 95 percent of Southern Baptists have never attempted to win anyone to faith in Christ. He added that those who have been followers of Christ for a long time tend to stop witnessing.

He suggested five motivations for witnessing: the indwelling presence of Christ, the spiritual need of the lost, one's devotional life, the nearness of the second coming and an understanding of the glory of God.

Evangelism is best done as Chris-

tians work together, evangelist Rick Gage said.

"I've seen with my own eyes the unlimited potential we have for winning the world for Christ. Yet our greatest need is for us to go together, with a broken heart and a passion to reach those who do not have a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."

Philip Robertson, pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church in Deville, La., urged pastors to go with authority. He said the authority for believers is the presence of Christ and the authority of Scripture.

He criticized the church growth movement that he said advocates meeting the perceived needs of people and preaching what people want to hear.

"Without the presence of Jesus, we are powerless," Robertson said. "Jesus never compromised the preaching of the Word of God. ... I believe you can preach the Word and people will come. ... Worship ought to be about what pleases God and not about what pleases men."

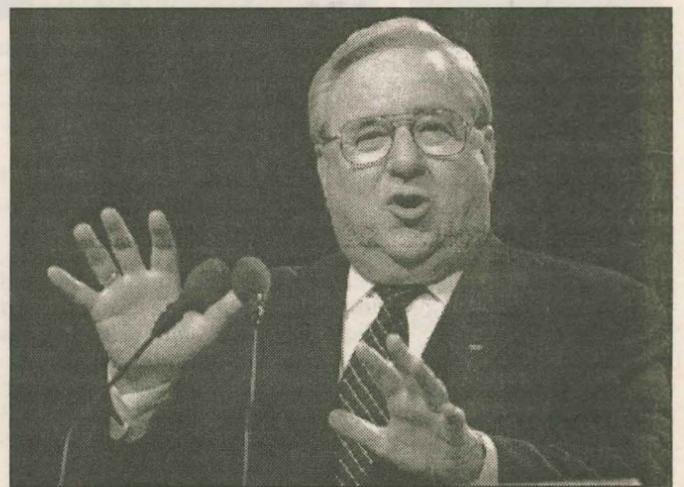
Pastors and others lose their power when they adopt the resentful, religious spirit of the Pharisees, warned Ken Whitten, pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Tampa, Fla. Basing his remarks on the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15, Whitten focused on the older brother, who resented his father's gracious spirit and refused to celebrate when the lost one returned.

Whitten spoke of those who criticize various aspects of emotional, contemporary worship as an example of people who have a resentful and rule-bound religious spirit that destroys their happiness and makes them useless.

Whitten said the cure for a resentful and religious spirit is to trust in God's abiding presence, abundant provision and achieved purpose.

Ernest Easley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Odessa, Texas, encouraged pastors to "go courageously."

He compared his own battle with cancer to the Old Testament king



Hezekiah's illness and near death. Like Hezekiah, he has learned to maximize his time to honor God, Easley said.

Easley had cancer of the tonsils that had moved to his lymph nodes. Through 44 radiation treatments, he lost about 50 pounds. He also lost his ability to taste, almost lost his voice and experienced some nerve damage.

Now, however, his voice is restored and he has been declared cancer free.

"God taught me the greatest opportunity for bringing glory to God is during the crises of life," Easley said. "When the storms come, you praise God from whom all blessings flow."

He asked what Southern Baptists would do if God said only 15 years remained. "Would our priority be winning souls?" he asked. "We have become an issue-driven convention rather than a soul-winning convention while people are dying by the thousands without Christ."

Whitten was elected president of the Pastors' Conference by acclamation. Michael Claunch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Slidell, La., was elected vice president. Charles West, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bethalto, Ill., was elected secretary.

Tony Cartledge, William Perkins and Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this article

CITY VISION Jerry Falwell challenges Southern Baptist pastors to "claim your city for Christ." (BP photo by Kent Harville)

Draper urges directors of missions to personalize persistence of Paul

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Challenging Southern Baptists to employ the ministry strategy used by the apostle Paul at Ephesus, Jimmy Draper said the gospel could be shared with every person in the world.

Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, was a featured speaker for the June 10 Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions.

Drawing from Acts 19:8-10, he challenged the directors of missions to consider Paul's strategy as he shared the gospel to a culture—like America—awash in moral relativism and religious pluralism.

"We live in a world of constant changes," Draper said. "We are trying to minister in the midst of a world where 74 percent of Americans—including 44 percent of Christians—do not believe in absolute truth. Two-thirds of Americans believe Christians, Muslims, Buddhists and Jews

pray to the same deity.

"We are not the first Christians to minister in such an age," Draper said, noting that Southern Baptists must be as persistent as Paul.

He listed a litany of evangelistic programs that Southern Baptists implemented in the 20th century, stating that any could have worked if the convention had employed Paul's persistence.

"We have a motive, not method," Draper said. "We need to adopt a method and do it and do it and do it until everyone in America has heard the gospel. When they harden, let's change our strategy. Let's be creative and act decisively."

The organization also installed officers for the coming year including President Gary Hearon of Dallas Baptist Association; First Vice President Don Reed of Kansas City (Kan.) Baptist Association; and Second Vice President Jim Freedman of Nashville Baptist Association.

Arthur: Thirsty ministers' wives need living water

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Ministers' wives might know the facts about God but might not have encountered Him for who He is, Kay Arthur told more than 1,200 Southern Baptist ministers' wives at a luncheon on Jun. 12. She said that is why some ministers' wives long for something more in their lives.

"Are you thirsty? Is there a longing in your soul?" Arthur, founder and president of Precept Ministries in Chattanooga, Tenn., asked the women gathered for Southern Baptists' 46th annual Ministers' Wives Conference.

Speaking on the theme, "Lord, Fill My Cup," Arthur said, "We're so busy. We're so entangled in the affairs of life that we really don't know God to the depth and the dimension that we need to know Him. We are in a state of such parchness that our tongues are swollen from a lack of water in our lives."

Pointing to John 4:14, in which Jesus tells the Samaritan woman of the living water which is Himself, Arthur said, "No human being, no situation, no circumstance will satisfy that longing in your soul. God built you to be filled with Him

and Him alone. God will not let you be satisfied with anything less than the fountain of living water that springs up to eternal life, a fountain that you drink from, and drink from and drink from."

Noting the persecution many ministers' wives face, Arthur asked, "Has your life, ministry, being a pastor's wife, become a chore?"

Expressing indignation toward congregations who brutalize and tear down their pastors, she said, "If you are married to a pastor, this is God's will in Christ Jesus concerning you. He will take it and if you will allow Him, He will turn the chore to a career that will bring you untold blessing."

During the luncheon, Goldia Dalton Naylor, wife of the late Robert Naylor, former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, received the Mrs. J.M. Dawson Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Minister's Wife 2001. Recognized for "distinct denominational contribution beyond the local church," Naylor also served as a minister's wife for more than 25 years in churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for these people and projects, which are part of Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Baptists in Poland, Tanzania, Europe and New England:

■ The Salwa people of Tanzania, who practice an African tribal religion.

■ Missionaries Rod and Kellie White as they work through cultural roadblocks to begin English and discipleship classes at three colleges in Tabora, Tanzania.

■ Single adult and student camps in Poland this summer.

■ The leadership of the Holy Spirit as Greater Boston Baptist Association seeks a church planter strategist.

■ Dan and Tara Byrd, who moved from North Carolina this month to start a new church in Quincy, Mass.

■ Ignatius Meimaris, director of missions for Greater Boston Baptist Association.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will observe God and Country Day July 1 with patriotic music. For information, call (502) 789-5360. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Cherry Hill Church called **Ron Noffsinger** as pastor.

■ **DANVILLE**—**Earl Burnside**, 75, died June 12. Burnside founded Immanuel Church in Danville and Piqua Church in Ohio. He also was pastor of Brandfordsville Church and Hillcrest Church in Lexington and served as interim of several churches in Kentucky. Services were June 15 at First Church, Danville. Memorials may be sent to Parksville Church.

■ **FT. THOMAS**—Ft. Thomas Church called **Joseph Boone** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Highland Church called **John Hollins** as minister of music. Hollins has served the church for eight years, first as organist and assistant minister of music. The church also called **Kathy Collier** as assistant minister of music. **Joe Phelps** is pastor.

■ **MACEO**—Yelvington Church will celebrate its 188th anniversary June 24. **Wendell Rone** will be the guest speaker. Lunch and singing will follow the service. For information, call (270) 264-4610. **Wallace Capps** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Cedar Bluff Church called **Butch Nash**, from Russellville, as pastor.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Eagle Heights Church will celebrate its 15th anniversary July 8 at 10:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be **Doug Sturgeon**. Dinner on the grounds will be followed by Volunteers for Christ in concert. For information, call (502) 955-9748. **Jack Johnson** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—**John Akers** resigned as minister of students at Beacon Hill Church to become minister of youth at a church in Greenwood, S.C.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—Temple Church will host **Ivan Parker**, of the Gaither Homecoming group, and the **New Horizon** quartet in concert June 30 at 7 p.m. at Washington County High School. For information, call (859) 336-9202.

Sullivan gets Dodd Award for Cooperative Program support

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—James Sullivan, a Southern Baptist statesman who became a Christian four years before the Cooperative Program was established, was honored June 12 with the second annual M.E. Dodd Award.

The award honors lifetime achievement in support of the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program giving plan.

The award is named after the long-time pastor of First Baptist of Shreveport, La., who chaired the commission recommending adoption of the CP in 1925.

Sullivan has served as a pastor, SBC president in 1977 and president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources), 1953-75.

In receiving the award, a bronze sculpture depicting a farmer sowing seeds, Sullivan called the Cooperative Program "the best system of denominational financing ever devised."

"Those of us in our 90s can remember what it was like before we had a Cooperative Program," he noted.



CP "HEISMAN" Southern Baptist statesman James L. Sullivan, 91, receives the Southern Baptist Convention's M.E. Dodd Award for lifetime achievement in support of the SBC's process for funding worldwide missions. During the presentation, Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, called the award the "Heisman Trophy of Cooperative Program missions." (BP photo by Justin Veneman)

"It was a wonderful day when our pastor and people came back from the Southern Baptist Convention to report we had the Cooperative Program," he said. His home church then voted to send 40 percent of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program, Sullivan recalled.

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SEEKING: Director of missions for Three Rivers Baptist Association, Joliet, Ill. Send resumé until Aug. 1 to: Don Evans, Erven Avenue Baptist Church, 1 Erven Ave., Streator, IL 61364.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth/music. Send resumé to: Double Springs Baptist Church, PO Box 70, Waynesburg, KY 40489, or call (606) 379-2145.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and worship leader. Looking for a self-motivated individual to oversee the music ministry of a mid-sized Southern Baptist church. Send resumé to: Lewisport Baptist Church, PO Box 384, Lewisport, KY 42351.

SEEKING: Full-time security guard at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. M-F, first shift. Will staff a security desk on campus. Prior police of security experience required. Retirees welcome to apply. Great benefits: paid leave; retirement; health and life insurance. Must apply by June 22. Send resumé or apply in person to: Personnel Services, SBTS, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280. E-mail: cmarrett@sbts.edu.

SEEKING: Supervisor of campus security and risk management at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior police of security experience required. Retirees welcome to apply. Great benefits: paid leave; retirement; health and life insurance. Must apply by June 22. Send resumé or apply in person to: Personnel Services, SBTS, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280. E-mail: cmarrett@sbts.edu.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for Ridgewood Baptist Church in Wadsworth, Ohio. The ideal candidate will have seminary training, be over 40 years old and have at least five years of pastoral experience. We are a congregation of 250 resident members with an average attendance in Sunday school of 125. The average age of the congregation is 44. Our budget for the current year is \$225,000. We are founded on traditional Southern Baptist principles and doctrines as found in the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. We are fully supportive of the Cooperative Program. Resumés should be sent to: Dr. Dick Marshall, Ridgewood Baptist Church, 7891 Ridge Road, Wadsworth, OH 44281.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: South Fork Baptist Church, 4915 New Jackson Highway, Hodgenville, KY 42748, Attn: Personnel Committee. (270) 324-3308.

SEEKING: Erlanger Baptist Church, located in Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati area, seeks an experienced full-time pastor. EBC averages 650-800 in worship, has three other full-time and two part-time ministerial staff members. Members give to both SBC and CBF causes. The candidate should possess strong interpersonal skills, dynamic preaching and leadership abilities. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 116 Commonwealth Ave., Erlanger, KY 41018. Accepting resumé through the end of August.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education with a strong emphasis on outreach. After prayerful consideration, please send resumé to: Minister of Education Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, 720 West Seventh Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

SEEKING: Full-time minister for small, rural Southern Baptist church. We are looking to grow with you. Accepting resumé through Aug. 1. Send to: New Banlick Baptist Church, 10719 Banlick Road, Walton, KY 41094.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and children for First Baptist Church, Paris, Ky. We are located in the heart of the Bluegrass. Our resident membership is 548. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40362-0327.

SEEKING: Oakland Baptist Church, 12 miles north of Bowling Green, is seeking a part-time minister of music to lead blended worship and fully-graded choirs. PO Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159. (270) 563-4011. Dr. Tom Stokes, pastor.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth/music for 500-member Southern Baptist church. Please submit resumé to: South Elkhorn Baptist Church, c/o Laura Farrow, 4867 Versailles Road, Lexington, KY 40510.

SEEKING: Bellfield Baptist Church, 9980 Highway 136 East, Henderson, Ky., is seeking two part-time positions: Associate pastor for worship, associate pastor for youth. Qualified candidates should send resumé to the church in care of Staff Search Committee. Fax: (270) 826-1131; e-mail: bfieldch@henderson.net.

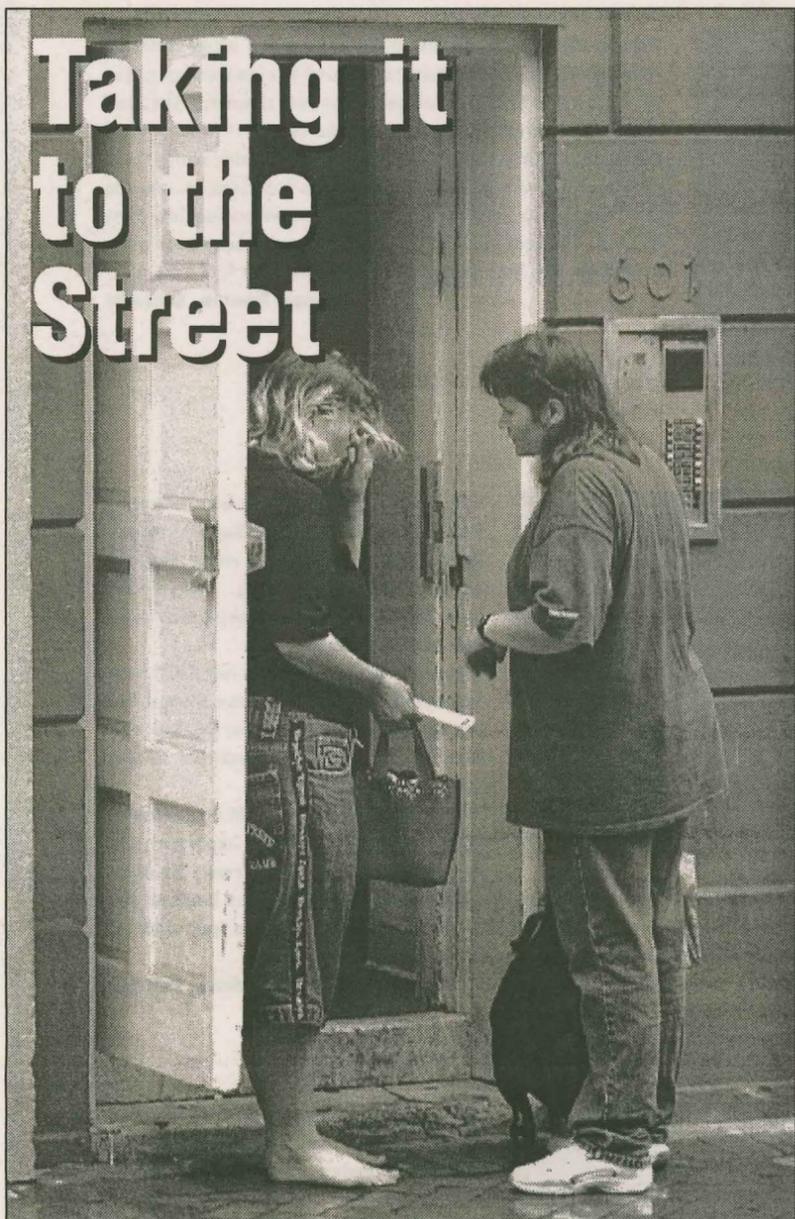
SEEKING: Full-time children/family minister. Seeking vibrant individual who is passionate about relational ministry with children (birth through sixth grade) and their families. Minister will develop, coordinate and implement a dynamic outreach/in-reach program for children and families. Seminary degree strongly preferred. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 621 E 12th, Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101.

SEEKING: Full-time minister for rural church (50 members) in the heart of the Bluegrass. Parsonage available. Contact Terry Newton, 2367 Munday Landing Road, Versailles, KY 40383. (859) 873-9160.

SEEKING: Minister of music for moderate, dually-aligned Baptist church for blended and contemporary services. The successful candidate must have experience, and a music degree is preferred. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Evergreen Baptist Church, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Farmdale Baptist Church, 5610 U.S. Highway 127 South, Frankfort, Ky., is seeking three part-time positions: children's minister, music minister/worship leader and organist. Send resumé to the church in care of Personnel Committee.

Taking it to the Street



GIFTS OF LOVE Kay Bennett, right, director of New Orleans' Baptist Friendship Center, speaks to a dancer at an exotic dancing club in New Orleans' French Quarter June 8. Bennett and others spent the day talking with dancers and giving them gifts, including New Testaments and personal items. (BP photo by Bob Carey)

Armed with dollar coins and care bags, Baptists share God's love on Bourbon Street

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—The dollar coin bearing the likeness of the Native American heroin Sacagawea gained new meaning to many exotic dancers on New Orleans' notorious Bourbon Street June 8-9.

The coin became a symbol of both God's unconditional love and the concern of Christian women willing to step out of their comfort zones to bring them small no-strings-attached gifts as a way of demonstrating that love.

About two dozen people participating in Southern Baptists' Crossover New Orleans evangelistic emphasis visited many of the strip clubs as a way of letting the working women know the volunteers care about them and want to help.

"Basically you use the woman on the coin as a symbol that God created women with special gifts and abilities," said Jean White, a Christian social ministries evangelism associate for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. "Women are created in the image of God and God loves them very much."

The coin's circle shape, she said, represents that "God's love is unending, and there is nothing they can do that's bad enough to keep God from loving them," she added. The coin's color is a reminder that "they are more precious to God than gold."

Ginger Smith, a Southern Baptist missionary who works with homeless people in New Orleans, said she first thought the coin concept was "the corniest thing I've ever seen."

But Smith said she was surprised to see how women responded at the simple expression of genuine love.

"We walked straight into Satan's territory, and it was just total peace," she said.

"So many of them say, 'I'll never spend this

coin,'" White added. "It means so much to them for someone to tell them God loves them. They don't ever hear that."

White said they would then give the women an evangelistic tract and let them know they would be welcome to contact the number on the back to talk.

The dancers also received a gift bag with some makeup samples donated by a cosmetics company, some candy and a few other small items. About 300 bags were distributed, mostly to dancers and a few to other women they met on the street.

"One girl said, 'It's been a long time since anybody ever gave me something for nothing,'" said Linda Middlebrooks, associate director of the Rachel Sims Baptist Center in New Orleans.

The group of Baptist volunteers traveled in teams, with some staying outside and praying for those who went inside the clubs.

Lura Sheppard of Dahlonega, Ga., another of the volunteers who also coordinates NAMB's Alternatives for Life ministry, said she was struck by how many of the women professed to be Christians. Others, she said, have been hardened to Christianity for various reasons.

"This is the most draining ministry I've ever done in my life," Sheppard said. "It's not the type of ministry where you can just walk up to people on the street and pray with them. It's a really tough ministry because you've got to break down the barriers that are there."

White said she hopes the effort will result in a long-term ministry to the dancers, because often it is only with repeated contacts that relationships are formed that can lead the women to place their faith in Christ.

"Now you've opened the door, and if you come again in a month they will know you," she told the group. "The more you come the more they open up to you, start sharing with you and start praying with you."



NEW ORLEANS SCENES The annual Southern Baptist Convention draws people from throughout the country. Baptist don't just come for the two-day business meeting, but also for several meetings for specific audiences before and during the annual meeting. (Clockwise, starting at the bottom left) ■ Danny and Darlene Oliver of Richardson, Texas, laughingly struggle to keep their umbrella from being blown across an entrance of the Louisiana Superdome. Tropical Storm Allison drenched many people coming to the pre-convention Pastors' Conference and the evangelistic blitz, Crossover New Orleans. ■ Jeannett Macias, a Baptist woman of Nicaraguan heritage, prays during the worship service of the annual meeting of the National Fellowship of Hispanic Baptist Churches, June 9-10 on the campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. ■ Josh Cellan, a drummer from Wisconsin, ministers with the Dave Hunt Band of Nashville as teens from Southern Baptist churches throughout the country meet in the Superdome for a worship rally held during Student Conference 2001, sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. ■ The Korean Children's Choir of Central Baptist Church in Suwon, Korea, performs a musical worship piece during the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting, June 10-11. (BP photos by Kent Harville, Jessica Webb, Bob Carey and Justin Veneman)

At Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

An education is more than just learning in a classroom setting.



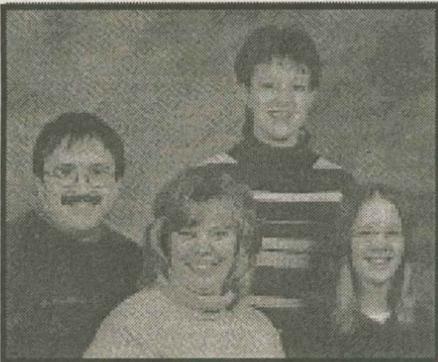
After high school, I attended the University of Tennessee. The summer after my freshman year, I was a summer missionary through the NAMB in Ocean City, MD. When I came home, I knew that God had called me into full-time missions. The college minister at my home church was attending Clear Creek and suggested that I visit the school. I came to see the campus, and God gave me a peace that Clear Creek was where I should go. God opened the door for me to attend the spring 2001 semester. My studies here are harder than when I attended the University of Tennessee. But, it is easier to put forth the effort here, because I'm where God wants me to be.

Jamey Houser, Tennessee



I chose Clear Creek Baptist Bible College for many different reasons. The most important is that God has lead me here. The next reason is that the staff made me feel at home. The staff opened their arms and heart to me the very first time I visited the campus. They stayed in touch with me weekly while I was praying for God's guidance. Ever since I decided to come to Clear Creek they have done nothing but make me feel like family here. The Lord has richly blessed me since I have been here. I could not ask for a better place to prepare for God's work.

Dennis Newton, Kentucky



Upon answering God's calling in my life to become a youth minister, God opened and closed many doors. Our family's first visit to Clear Creek in June 1999 confirmed to us that this is where God wanted our family. The close family atmosphere and family oriented lifestyle has made our transition easier. Clear Creek is a place where a Bible education and family are emphasized. We feel God showering us with his blessings daily.

Tim Bongiorno and Family, Ohio



Our first trip to Clear Creek was in December 1997 with the Georgia Baptist Carpenters for Christ. At that time we put the roof on the educational building. Little did we know that Paul would be taking classes in that same building.

We moved to Clear Creek in July 2000 from Sandersville, Georgia. Our son, Stevan, 18, has applied to Clear Creek for this fall, and Whitney, 14, will be a freshman at Bell County High School.

Our pastor and his wife, M.D. and Carol Cabe ('72), also played an important role in introducing us to Clear Creek. He often

spoke of the warm family oriented atmosphere and the personal relationships between the students and professors. We have found this to be what makes Clear Creek such a special place. God continues to bless us as we strive to answer His call.

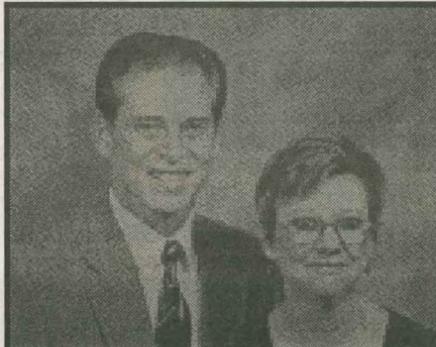
Paul Harris and Family, Georgia



It was in August of 1999 that our family answered God's call to pastoral ministry and moved from Danville, KY to attend Clear Creek. We have two children, Michael, age 15, and Tyler, age 10. My calling into the ministry began in 1978 at the age of 16. I can still remember watching the preacher and knowing that God wanted me in the ministry, while at the same time saying, God please call someone else. Since surrendering to the ministry God

has opened many doors, including being able to pastor Rocky Ford Baptist Church in Casey Co, KY. We agree that the last two years have been the best two years of our twenty-year marriage. Our family loves Clear Creek and are always eager to share what God is doing in our life. We enjoy the personal relationships with the professors, and the way they are always there for mentoring.

Bryan Cheak and Family, Kentucky



For 33 years the printing business had been my life's work. For many years the Lord had been drawing me to Himself. As a result I worked for Him as a Sunday School teacher, Sunday School Director, Deacon, and for 20 years I was a volunteer Music Director. I also worked in the Gideon ministry. During 1999, He made an impossible dream possible by opening up an opportunity for me to go to Bible school and giving my a clear call for full time music ministry. My wife Beverly and I lived in Gainesville, TX and looked on the internet for a Texas Bible college. The Lord did a strange thing by

causing Clear Creek College in Kentucky to come up in Texas schools. We sent off for an information packet and was shocked when we received it and it was in Kentucky not Texas. That is the way we made the jump from Texas to Kentucky. At age 52 I enrolled and I have enjoyed Clear Creek; it is an excellent school. I am receiving a good Bible training as well as music education. Clear Creek is good at training older women and men like myself and I am grateful for that. They also help students with financing and placing students in places of service in the area. I serve as Music Minister at First Baptist Church of Loyall, KY. I thank God for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Martin and Beverly Spicer, Texas



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