

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention



WORLD CONGRESS SITE — Los Angeles, Calif., will host about 20,000 delegates to the 15th Baptist World Congress, July 2-7.

Baptist World Congress expects 20,000 Baptists

More than 20,000 Baptists from throughout the world are expected in Los Angeles, Calif., next week for the 15th Baptist World Congress. The delegates and visitors are expected from about 100 countries.

Held every fifth year, the congress is sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance, which is a fellowship of 131 Baptist conventions or unions with headquarters in 93 countries.

The congress will open on Tuesday night, July 2, with a drama based on the congress theme, "Out of Darkness into the Light of Christ."

The closing plenary session on the night of July 6 will feature the inspiring parade of flags and a message by Billy Graham, Southern Baptist evangelist.

The congress will conclude on Sunday morning (July 7) with worship services in Los Angeles-area churches.

Other major speakers for the 1985 Baptist World Congress will be Duke McCall, BWA president and former president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Birgit Karlsson, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Sweden; Jimmy Carter, former president of the United States; Alexei Bichkov, general secretary of the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the Soviet Union; Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.; Billy Kim, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Suwon, Korea; and Douglas Waruta, principal of Baptist Theological Seminary of Eastern Africa, Tanzania.

Next week's meetings in the Los Angeles Convention Center will feature a colorful blend of celebrations, business sessions, Bible studies, proclamation, and sharing of experiences and ideas.

Major business items include the election of president and vice-presidents, the passage of resolutions, and the selection

of the site for the 1990 Baptist World Congress. It is expected that the congress will vote to hold the 1990 congress in Seoul, Korea.

Choirs from several different countries of the world will participate in the congress. William Reynolds of Southwestern seminary is in charge of the music for the congress.

Begun in 1905 when the first Baptist World Congress was held in London, England, the meeting was intended to be held every five years, but world conditions have forced that schedule to be altered.

Other sessions have been held in Philadelphia (1911); Stockholm, Sweden (1923 and 1975); Toronto, Canada (1928 and 1980); Berlin, Germany (1934); Atlanta (1939); Copenhagen, Denmark (1947); Cleveland (1950); London (1955); Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (1960); Miami Beach (1965); and Tokyo, Japan (1970).

Prior to next week's congress, a number of subsidiary organizations related to the Baptist World Alliance will hold meetings in Los Angeles. Some of these are the Evangelism and Education Committee; the Women's Department; the Men's Department; and the Youth Department.

Messengers to SBC give \$77,428 to hunger relief

NASHVILLE (BP)— Messengers to the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas gave \$77,428 to their denomination's hunger relief program in a special offering taken on the second evening of the three-day meeting.

The hunger relief offering had been proposed in the convention's opening session by messenger Cecil P. Staton of Welcome, N.C.

Contacted after the convention, Staton said he was pleased with the positive response to his motion, although he was disappointed that less than half of the record 45,000-plus messengers were present when the offering was taken.

The 27-year-old pastor said the idea for suggesting the offering came a few weeks before the convention as he was studying for a sermon in support of the

North Carolina state convention's world hunger emphasis.

"It was so clear from the Bible that the problem of hunger is something we Christians ought to be doing something about," he said. "Also, I was weary of all the conflict in the denomination, and I wanted to see something positive happen at the convention."

When he discovered that on a per capita basis, Southern Baptists' record 1984 hunger relief contributions of more than \$7.1-million represented only 50 cents per person, Staton's motivation increased.

"I told my congregation if a group of rock singers could raise \$6.5-million on the first royalty check for 'We Are the World,' surely Southern Baptists could do better than 50 cents a person."

Baptists aid cyclone survivors in Bangladesh by digging wells

FENI, Bangladesh (BP)— Responding to government requests for aid, Southern Baptist missionaries will see that about 200 tube wells are sunk into the soft soil of the Bangladesh coastline, where fresh water supplies were destroyed in a cyclone May 26.

Missionaries expect also to supply materials for bamboo homes with corrugated tin roofs, at a cost of about \$500 per structure, and to import ducklings from Bangkok, Thailand. To get the farm-homestead culture of the area back on its feet, the government requested 2-million ducklings. Southern Baptist relief efforts are expected to total about \$100,000.

Man-made ponds and canals, used by the people as water wells, were all tainted when tidal waves in front of the storm washed over a 2,000-square-mile area. More than 200,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. Conservative estimates numbered the dead at 10,000.

Early in June, Missionary R. T. Buckley, coordinator of relief for the Bangladesh Baptist Mission, brought the machinery for 50 wells to the mission station at Feni, about 15 miles from the northwestern edge of the devastated area. Working out of Feni, teams of

about five men will put down the wells under Buckley's direction during the next several months.

Because fresh water in the coastal area is found relatively high — about 20 feet underground — each team will be able to sink two to three wells a day. Total cost to set up each well is \$100 to \$200.

Much of the new well machinery will be cast by students at the Christian Industrial Center in Faridpur, a vocational school run by the Baptist mission. Fifty well heads were already on hand when the storm hit.

George Capps dies

George E. Capps Jr., associate director of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, died June 21 following an apparent heart attack. He was 58.

Before assuming that position in 1975, Capps was pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville, and First Baptist Church, Parsons.

Active in Tennessee Baptist life, Capps was elected as vice-president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1963 and as president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference in 1973. He was a trustee of Nashville's Baptist Hospital for nine years, and was a member of the TBC Executive Board for 12 years, serving as president of that body on two occasions.

Capps was chairman of the Executive Board committee which directed the planning and construction of the board's building in Brentwood.

In Southern Baptist life, Capps was a trustee of the SBC Education Commission.

Rogers to preach at 1986 SBC

DALLAS — Adrian Rogers, pastor of Memphis' Bellevue Baptist Church, has been named to preach the convention sermon at the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Ga. Rogers served one year as SBC president in 1979-80.

The selection of Rogers for the 1986 convention sermon came when the messengers approved a recommendation from the Order of Business Committee.

Named as alternate for next year's convention sermon was Homer Lindsey Jr., co-pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

William Reynolds, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., was selected to direct music for the 1986 SBC.

(Continued on page 3)

Supreme Court deadlocks over driver's license case

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) — For the second time this spring, the U.S. Supreme Court has deadlocked on a key church-state case, leaving a sticky issue essentially unresolved.

By a 4-4 tie vote, the high court affirmed a lower federal panel's ruling that a Nebraska woman must be given a driver's license in spite of her refusal to have her photograph made for the license.

Frances J. Quaring, who claims no religious affiliation and attends church infrequently, argued throughout her challenge to a Nebraska law requiring the photo that to have her picture made would violate the second of the Ten Commandments ("Thou shalt not make unto

thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing . . .").

In an earlier proceeding, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with Quaring, holding her free exercise of religion was unduly burdened by the state law. Nebraska then brought an appeal to the nation's high court.

The tie vote means that Quaring may receive her driver's license without a photo and that federal courts in the Eighth Circuit (encompassing the states of Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) must rule accordingly in similar cases.

But the 4-4 ruling, occasioned by the recent illness of Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr., does not bind other federal courts.

Although the high court deadlock leaves the driver's license controversy unresolved at the national level, the justices agreed to hear a pair of new cases next term that address similar questions.

Sometime after it convenes for a new term next October, the court will hear arguments in disputes involving a Pennsylvania man's refusal to allow authorities to assign a Social Security number to his young daughter and an Air Force officer's insistence he be allowed to wear a yarmulke — or Jewish skull cap — in accordance with his religion's teaching.

Stephen J. Roy, a Native American, has refused to meet requirements in the Social Security Act and the Food Stamp Act that his daughter, Little Bird of the Snow, be given a Social Security number. He maintains that to meet the requirement would violate his religious precepts.

He has argued he considers Social Security numbers to be part of a "great evil" afflicting modern society. The "great evil" idea is the central tenet of a belief system based on the legend of Katakhdin, a system that condemns computers, modern society's reliance on computers, and weaponry that employs computer technology.

The government has argued that "the individual's interest in religious liberty must yield to the greater interest of society in the efficient administration of its welfare programs."

In a second case accepted for review, the high court will decide if Air Force Captain S. Simcha Goldman, a practicing Orthodox Jew, may be forced to remove his yarmulke while in military uniform.

Goldman, a psychologist in a military hospital, has argued his free exercise of religion was abridged by an order that he refrain from wearing the skull cap while on duty.

The government, on the other hand, has upheld the order because of its concern for discipline and the uniform appearance of Air Force personnel.

Tennesseans receive Midwestern degrees

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Six Tennesseans were among the 97 persons receiving degrees during commencement exercises at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary June 1.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were David Russell Adams of Chattanooga; Terry N. Hodges of Dyersburg; Gene A. Mullins of Kingsport; J. Mark Meyers of Maryville; Richard C. Van Cleave of Paris; and David M. Webb of Greenback.



TENNESSEANS FOR PEACE — Jack May (left), Tennessee state convention president, and H. Franklin Paschall (second from right), former SBC president and retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, who had earlier announced a peace effort of his own, met with the 36 other state convention presidents to announce a "peace plan" at a news conference on the eve of the annual SBC meeting.

SBC motion calls Baptists to work together for peace

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, Tex., earlier this month approved a motion to create a special "peace committee" to study the causes of the current SBC controversy and to recommend possible solutions.

A story about this special committee was included on page 1 of last week's Baptist and Reflector. The motion, however, has been printed below to allow readers to see it in its entirety.

SBC "peace" motion:

"With gratitude for God's bountiful blessings on us as Southern Baptists and with recognition of our unparalleled opportunity to confront every person on earth with the gospel of Christ by the year 2000; and with acknowledgement of divisions among us, which if allowed to continue, inevitably will impede our progress, impair our fellowship, and imperil our future; and after much prayer: it is moved:

"(1) That a special committee be authorized by this convention, in session in Dallas, June 1985.

"(2) This committee shall seek to determine the sources of the controversies in our convention and make findings and recommendations regarding these controversies, so that Southern Baptists might effect reconciliation and effectively discharge their responsibilities to God by cooperating together to accomplish evangelism, missions, Christian education, and other causes authorized by our Constitution, all to the glory of God. 'By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another' (John 13:35, John 17:21).

"(3) This committee shall follow the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement in regard to theological issues and shall operate within the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"(4) To accomplish its work, this committee shall recognize the role of trustees and shall work with and through appropriate boards, commissions, and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention. The committee shall report on the progress of its work to each meeting of the Executive Committee. The trustees, boards, and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, and their officers and employees, shall fully cooperate with the committee to accomplish the purposes outlined in this motion.

"(5) Staffing and professional advice for this committee shall be in accord with the Business and Financial Plan of the Southern Baptist Convention. Fund-

ing shall come from Cooperative Program funds received by the Executive Committee as a priority item before the percentage division and allocations of Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program allocation budget.

"(6) The committee may conduct its business in open sessions and may hold public hearings, but the committee may also hold executive sessions to accomplish its work.

"(7) Any vacancy or vacancies on the special committee shall be filled by the Executive Committee at its next meeting after such vacancy occurs. In the filling of any such vacancy, balance of representation shall be maintained.

"(8) The committee may make its final report and recommendations to the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention and request that it be discharged, or the committee may make a preliminary report to the 1986 convention and may recommend that the special committee be continued in existence for an additional year, in which instance, the committee shall make its final report and recommendations to the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention.

"(9) All Southern Baptists are urged to exercise restraint, to refrain from divisive action and comments, and to reflect Christian love while the committee is doing its work."



HEALING HUG — Much of the tension of the convention meeting was eased when Winfred Moore (left), pastor of First Baptist Church in Amarillo, Tex., was unexpectedly nominated for first vice-president of the SBC after losing to Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church in Atlanta. Stanley called Moore to the platform to ask if he would allow his nomination for first vice-president.

James Stafford dies June 13

James Leonard Stafford, 71, retired pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church, Nashville, died June 13 and was buried in Nashville.

He was also pastor of Rankin Baptist Church, Newport; Narrow Valley Baptist Church, Rutledge; Tarrant Road Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex.; First Baptist Church, Wartburg; South Harriman Baptist Church, Harriman; East Athens Baptist Church, Athens; and First Baptist Church, Hermitage.

Stafford was a graduate of Harrison Childhovee Baptist Academy, Seymour, and attended Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; daughter, Mrs. Anne Armstrong; son, James Stafford; three sisters; and four grandchildren.

Union to feature preachers' school

JACKSON — The annual West Tennessee Summer Preachers' School has been scheduled for July 8-12 at Union University.

The school will feature a week of doctrinal, Biblical, and practical studies for pastors, church staff members, and their wives. Participants from throughout west Tennessee and several adjoining states are expected to attend the summer event.

Leading the conferences will be Jack Taylor, president of Dimensions in Christian Living in Fort Worth, Tex.; Herb Hodges of Spiritual Life Ministries in Memphis; Curtis Vaughan, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth; and Nell Bruce, associate to the director of spiritual awakening at the Home Mission Board.

Taylor will address the subject "Singing Songs in the Night." Vaughan will lead a study of the book of Hebrews. Bruce will lead mini-seminars for pastors' wives entitled "Serving with Him for Him." Hodges will speak on "The Service of the Singing Saint."

The cost of the conference is \$12.50 for each individual and \$20 per couple. The fee includes all meals, study sessions, and lodging on the Union campus.

For additional information, contact the office of religious affairs, Union University, Jackson, TN 38305.

Food shortages in Ethiopia slow Baptist relief efforts

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (BP) — Food shortages are hampering Southern Baptist famine relief efforts in Ethiopia. But missionaries and volunteers remain optimistic and are seeking additional volunteers to aid in the hunger relief project.

While rains closed roads to a feeding station in remote Rabel, the center's population soared as people in destitute Welo Province to the north heard about the feeding station and walked miles to camp around it. Twice recently, the center ran out of food.

At the same time, the government has delayed giving approval to Southern Baptist plans to open four new feeding stations in nearby Merhabete province until the mission can work out a way to provide an adequate food supply.

Difficulty in moving food from the coast to more central warehouses is at the heart of both problems, said Davis

Saunders, the Foreign Mission Board's director for eastern and southern Africa.

While missionaries continue to negotiate with the various relief agencies about supplying food for new stations in Merhabete, they have promises from the British Royal Air Force to continue air drops to Rabel for another two months,

he said. When food ran short recently, the RAF was able to fly grain from the port in Djibouti to warehouses in Addis, where it was repackaged so they could drop it at Rabel. The center was never without food for more than a day.

The Rabel station has been almost overwhelmed with people from Welo

Province, said missionary Lynn Groce. The station gives most people a month's dry rations to take home with them, keeping only the sick for daily feedings and medication. But the number of hungry people camped outside the station awaiting dry rations has swollen from 150 to 400 in recent days.

In spite of difficulties, the Baptist mission is proceeding with plans to open four feeding stations and an operations center in Merhabete, where Groce says conditions are the worst he has seen since Rabel.

The mission has requested 21 volunteers for at least six months to help with the expanded feeding program. Because of the critical need, the Foreign Mission Board is enlisting them while awaiting government permission to open the centers.

The mission asked for a field supervisor for the operations center in Alem Ketema, the Merhabete district capital, and four assistant field supervisors for the four feeding stations to come as soon as possible. They also asked for a transportation supervisor to live in Addis, an assistant project supervisor to help volunteer Ed Mason in Addis, a water development engineer, and an agriculturalist with an interest in soil conservation and forestry. Other urgent needs are for a doctor to work with all feeding stations in Ethiopia, 10 nurses, and a veterinarian.

Belmont adds features for women to Summer Ministers' Conference

NASHVILLE — The Middle Tennessee Summer Ministers' Conference at Belmont College, July 8-12, will include a special program for women.

Special features each morning for ministers' wives and guests will be based around the theme, "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you."

All sessions during the week will be led by leading Baptist women. Program guests include Lib Laida, Anna Lee Stacker, Rita Burgett, and Shirl Glover. In addition, Ron York and Suzanne Ezell will be on the program representing Nashville's Mistletoe Shop.

Thursday will feature the Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference meeting with the Summer Ministers' Conference on the Belmont campus. Pastors attending the Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference are encouraged to bring their wives with them to the Summer Ministers' Conference.

The Thursday program for women will include special music by Reed Powell and a devotional on "Beauty for All," led by Sandra Page. Powell is a senior at Antioch High School, Antioch, and is an active member of First Baptist Church, Nashville. Mrs. Page is the wife of Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville.

Also included on Thursday's program will be an analysis of color and a fashion show.

Conference registration will be July 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the lobby of the new dorm, adjoining Wright Hall. The week's activities for the preachers, their wives, and other conference guests will begin with a dinner at 5:45 p.m., followed by an evening session.

Housing will be in Belmont's new dorm. Registration for the week is \$20 for

husband and wife, or \$15 per individual. No provision will be made for children.

To register or for more information, contact the office of religious affairs, Belmont College, Nashville, TN 37203.

Ministers to hear Roberts, Wood

NASHVILLE — The Middle Tennessee Ministers' Conference at Belmont College, July 8-12, will feature Ray Roberts, conference preacher, and Fred Wood, Bible study leader.

Roberts served as executive secretary of the Ohio Baptist Convention from 1954 until his retirement in 1980. Wood, a writer and Bible teacher, will be teaching the book of Hebrews, the 1986 January Bible study book.

Gerald Stow, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes; Bill Vernon, pastor of Twelve Robes Baptist Church, Nashville; and Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, will also speak during the conference.

The evening session at 6:45 July 8 will begin the conference. Registration will be from 3 to 5 p.m. in the lobby of the new dorm, adjoining Wright Hall. The week will close following the Friday morning session. Morning and evening sessions are planned with afternoons free for sightseeing, visiting, or other leisure activities.

Housing will be in Belmont's new dorm. Registration for the week is \$20 for husband and wife, or \$15 per individual.

No provision will be made for children.

For more information contact the office of religious affairs, Belmont College, Nashville, TN 37203.

Missionary dies in Haskell, Tex.

HASKELL, Tex. — Maye Bell Taylor, missionary to Brazil for almost 35 years, died June 6 in Haskell, Tex. She was 80 years old.

Taylor, a Texan, founded and directed the Baptist goodwill center in Aracaju, Sergipe, Brazil, for eight years before she retired in 1973. Before that she was principal of the Baptist primary school in Aracaju for 10 years.

She spent the first 14 years of her missionary career on the faculty of the Seminary of Christian Educators in Recife, first as associate director and then as director.

Born in Eldorado, Tex., Taylor grew up in Haskell. She attended Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and was a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, and Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now merged with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), Louisville, Ky.

Before going to Brazil, she taught school in Texas for more than seven years.

Missionary dies June 5 in N.C.

MATTHEWS, N.C. — William E. Allen, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil for more than 40 years, died June 5 at a nursing home here. He was 93 years old.

Allen, whose career centered on leadership training and then Bible publishing, retired in 1962 to Wingate, N.C. His wife, Edith, died in June 1980.

A member of First Baptist Church, Wingate, he had been active in the congregation until entering the nursing home almost five years ago.

After missionary appointment in 1921, Allen taught Greek and New Testament to future Brazilian Baptist leaders at the former Baptist College and Seminary in Rio de Janeiro. When the seminary became a separate entity in 1936, he became head of its New Testament department.

The last 21 years of his career were spent as an editor with Bible Press of the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

Allen also served as a pastor during much of his career, 20 years at one Rio de Janeiro church, 14 at another.

A native of Amory, Miss., Allen was a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.; and Colgate University, Hamilton, N.Y.

George Capps . . .

(Continued from page 1)

A native of Alabama, Capps received a degree in civil engineering from Auburn University, Auburn, Ala. Following graduation, he came to Tennessee as an engineer with the Tennessee Valley Authority. Responding to God's call to the ministry, he graduated from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Seminary. Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1976.

Capps served in the U.S. Navy (1944-46) and the U.S. Air Force (1951-52).

He is survived by his widow, the former Betty Tipler, a daughter Linda, and two sons, Paul and John, all of Nashville; and a brother, Tommy Capps of Talladega, Ala.

The funeral was held June 24 at Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, where Capps was an active member. Officiating at the service were Tom Madden, TBC executive secretary, and Rick Carpenter, minister of pastoral care and church administration at Judson Baptist Church. Burial was in Grand Junction Cemetery, Grand Junction.

Floyd Cates dies in Bolivar

Floyd Cates, a retired pastor and missionary, died at his home in Bolivar on June 8 and was buried in Bolivar. He was 68 years of age.

He pastored four Tennessee churches: son; First Baptist Church, Alamo; First Baptist Church, Bolivar; and First Baptist Church, Pulaski. He was director of missions for Taylor Association in Perry, Fla. Cates served on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, as a trustee of Belmont College, Nashville, and on the board of Baptist Hospital in Nashville.

He is survived by his wife, Katherine Cates, of Bolivar, and two sons, Bob Cates, and Bill Cates of Nashville.

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Alvin C. Shackelford, Editor

Charlie Warren
Associate Editor
Doris Elliott
Advertising

Baptist and Reflector

Connie Davis
Assistant Editor
Mona Collett
Church News Assistant

Betty Walker, Production Assistant

Established 1835
Post Office Box 347, Brentwood, TN 37027
Telephone: (615) 373-2255

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EDITORIAL

'Interpretation' focus shifts to bylaws, rules

Following the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention earlier this month, the controversy in Southern Baptist life has apparently shifted from differing interpretations of the Bible to differing interpretations of the SBC Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order.

According to a dictionary, bylaws are "any set of rules adopted by an organization or assembly for governing its own meetings or affairs."

Over the years, convention messengers have adopted 36 bylaws — one of which (Bylaw 11) states: "Parliamentary Authority: The parliamentary authority of the convention shall be Robert's Rules of Order (latest revised edition)." According to this book, such parliamentary rules are superceded by an organization's bylaws.

The differing interpretations of the SBC Bylaws and the parliamentary rules erupted in Dallas when the Committee on Committees presented its nominations for the 1986 Committee on Boards, and then a motion was made to amend the Committee on Committees' nominations.

The parliamentary dispute intensified when the chair declared that the Committee on Committees presents "nominations," while the Committee on Boards (for example) presents a "report." This difference in inter-

pretation led to the manner in which the Committee on Committees' nominations were handled.

Our examination of the SBC Bylaws would indicate some inconsistencies in language of our SBC Bylaws.

We note that the Credentials Committee presents "rulings" (Bylaw 8). The Tellers "report" (Bylaw 10). The Committee on Boards prepares its "report" ... and "shall nominate" (Bylaw 16). The Committee on Committees "shall nominate" (Bylaws 16 and 21). The Resolutions Committee is "to prepare and submit" ... and "to report" (Bylaw 22). The Committee on Order of Business "shall suggest" (Bylaw 23). Agencies and special committees are to present "reports" (Bylaw 28).

More confusion comes when one cites a portion of Bylaw 32, "... the convention reserves the right to consider and amend the body of all reports." Interpreting the entire bylaw, does this apply only to "recommendations contained in reports" of agencies and standing committees?

We would urge the SBC Executive Committee to make a thorough study and possible recommendations to give consistency to our SBC Bylaws.

Editorials in Baptist state papers analyze 1985 SBC in Dallas

By Al Shackleford

Since most of you do not see other Baptist state papers, for several years I have reprinted excerpts from their editorials which analyze the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Printed below are direct quotations from last week's editorials in 11 Baptist state papers. There is no special significance in these — they are the only ones I had received when this was compiled.

The 11 papers and their editors are:

- Alabama Baptist, Hudson Baggett;
- Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Everett Sneed;
- Colorado's Rocky Mountain Baptist, Don Turner;
- Florida Baptist Witness, Jack Brymer;
- Georgia's The Christian Index, Jack Harwell;
- Kentucky's Western Recorder, Jack Sanford;
- Louisiana's Baptist Message, Lynn Clayton;
- Mississippi's Baptist Record, Don McGregor;
- Missouri's Word and Way, Bob Terry;
- South Carolina's Baptist Courier, John Roberts;
- Texas' Baptist Standard, Presnell Wood.

SPIRIT IN DALLAS

"This year's convention was unusual. Perhaps it was more representative of Baptists than any convention in many years because of the large number of messengers who attended with a purpose of voting their convictions. They represented in sizable numbers the prominent points of view among Southern Baptists." (Alabama)

"Southern Baptists are still pretty well divided in their concepts of how to go about their business, according to actions at the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas. The convention started out in good spirits and relative harmony, but before it was over it had run afoul of some of the stormiest controversy ever to trouble the annual gathering." (Mississippi)

"The Southern Baptist Convention is not split; it is definitely spread. The convention in Dallas showcased Southern Baptist diversity — its strengths and weaknesses." (Louisiana)

"Lines were drawn between 'conservatives' and 'moderates' more sharply than over any previous issue in at least

50 years. The division is quite serious, and anyone who denies this is merely refusing to face an unpleasant reality." (South Carolina)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

"Stanley won, but not by the landslide margin predicted by his supporters before the election. His victory does mean the 'inerrantists' are still in control of the appointive process of key committees in the convention. The margin of victory does mean that 'moderates' are still a force to contend with in the days ahead." (Kentucky)

"Convention officers elected last week are representative of the SBC. They represent both sides in recent conflicts. We believe they will try to work together for the good of the convention. We need to encourage them to do so." (Alabama)

"The election of Moore had to be the hand of God at work. His nomination took everyone by surprise, including Moore. The exchange between Moore and Stanley at the platform was the single most encouraging moment in the convention. The fact that two-thirds of the messengers cast their ballots for Moore was a clear signal the messengers hoped the two men would work together to lead Southern Baptists out of the wilderness of controversy." (Missouri)

PEACE COMMITTEE

"The committee has several strengths. Among these are: (1) it will provide opportunity for various sides or groups within the convention to discuss differences in a constructive fashion; and (2) it will provide opportunity to look at issues, so they can be dealt with, eliminated, or cleared up." (Arkansas)

"A peace committee of 22 members was approved by messengers. We believe they can provide a place where some of the complaints can be discussed and make suggestions which will minimize conflicts in the SBC. This committee cannot solve all the problems, but it offers hope." (Alabama)

"This is a balanced panel agreed to by both sides in the battle and containing several neutral parties. Their discernment needs to be prayed for — their judgment trusted." (Colorado)

"The peace committee has a mountainous assignment. Divine intervention is our only hope; we saw clearly in Dallas what human manipulations will produce, and that isn't peace." (Georgia)

"While the peace committee offers hope for healing, it must have the cooperation of all parties in the current controversy. Denominational leaders must not be muzzled while critics are allowed to continue their attacks. At the same time, elected officials of the convention should receive the cooperation and support of denominational employees." (Florida)

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

"It should be obvious that in a Baptist setting, no matter how awkward the wording of the bylaws might be, it is not intended that the president of the convention, no matter who he is, should have such power over the determination of the agency and institution trustees. Yet that was the ruling this year. Perhaps that is what Southern Baptists want. Perhaps it is not." (Mississippi)

"We believe this was an honest mistake by Parliamentarian Wayne Allen, who said the matter should be considered by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. But messengers always become frustrated when they feel their right to speak out has been taken from them." (Arkansas)

"One of the most significant things demonstrated by the Dallas convention is the importance of due process in the operation of a democratic system. Any short cuts will work against all concerned regardless of viewpoint." (Alabama)

"This editor wishes that 'moderate' leaders had not made their challenge to the Committee on Committees report. Regardless of their reasons, getting through this year without that kind of intense controversy would have been a better course. And in a related matter, this editor wishes that Charles Stanley had not used the autocratic style of presiding during the last days of the convention. One may control Baptists by not allowing them to have their say for a while, but eventually that kind of presiding exacts too great a price." (Louisiana)

"Few things get a bunch of Baptists as upset as when they feel they do not have a chance to fully participate in the democratic process." (Texas)

RECORD ATTENDANCE

"This had been a year in which both sides of the controversy had spent a great deal of effort in recruiting followers to attend the convention to support their

causes. It resulted in the highest registration of messengers ever: 45,431." (Mississippi)

"The record high attendance of more than 45,000 messengers to the 1985 convention is a very healthy sign. This means that more grass-roots Baptists are becoming involved in the business process of our denomination. The more Southern Baptists understand our world missions enterprise, the easier it will be to gain involvement in finances, prayer, and healing." (Arkansas)

RESOLUTIONS

"The Resolutions Committee deserves the praise of all Southern Baptists. This committee did the best job of any committee in years in presenting pertinent but non-controversial resolutions. The guidelines adopted by this committee should be permanent guidelines for Resolutions Committees of the future." (Arkansas)

FUTURE OF THE SBC

"We believe that peace and healing can take place. There is far more that unite Southern Baptists than separate us. All Southern Baptists believe in missions and evangelism. We should all pray for our president and vice-presidents during the coming year. Healing cannot take place unless we are willing to pray for our convention leadership and follow the Holy Spirit's guidance." (Arkansas)

"The Southern Baptist pendulum swings back and forth, and it continues in whatever direction it is going until Southern Baptists turn it back. This is true in any democratic operation. Southern Baptists must and will decide how far they want the present movement to go, and then they will turn it back.

"Our concern must be for what happens to us while the pendulum is far to either side as it swings. And remember, there are no liberals. We are all conservatives of varying concepts. And the pendulum, wherever it swings, is always right of center." (Mississippi)

"No peace committee or convention officer can cause us to have the spirit of reconciliation. This must come from within each of us. We believe it will." (Alabama)

"Only prayer, dependence on God, and loving one another in Jesus Christ will decide which way Southern Baptists go from Dallas." (Texas)

Letters to the Editor

Letters on any religion-related subject are welcomed. Letters of over 300 words will not be used. Other letters may be shortened at the discretion of the editor. No unsigned letters will be printed, but writer's name will be withheld for sufficient reason. Letters must contain complete address and telephone number. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of individuals.

Get behind SBC officers

Dear editor:

I attended the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas with the hope that we could see a move toward reconciliation and peace in our convention.

Our president, Charles Stanley, brought a stirring and challenging message on Tuesday morning calling for unity, love, and forgiveness. At the conclusion of his message, he asked everyone present to stand to their feet and join him in a minute of prayer, asking for forgiveness and a commitment to unity. Everyone responded.

After the benediction for that session, I overheard one of the "moderate" pastors of a Tennessee church telling someone the whole session was orchestrated. I do not understand how. There was nothing of a controversial nature presented during that session.

In the afternoon session, Stanley was re-elected with a 55 percent majority vote. To show their desire for working out our problems, the "conservatives" helped elect Winfred Moore as first vice-president with a 66 percent majority vote.

I was saddened to see opposition by the "moderates" to every item presented and a challenge of the chair on almost every issue, following the elections.

When the convention officers were presented on Wednesday night, out of respect for the office, the "conservatives" gave a standing ovation to each elected officer. The lack of that respect for the president by the "moderates" was obvious. It appears to me that the "moderates" are not willing to work toward resolving our problems as they claim. If there is really a desire on the part of all in our convention to resolve our differences, I challenge everyone to get behind our elected officers (including Stanley) and allow them to lead us to new hope and brighter days.

Ed Wood
P.O. Box K
Niota, TN 37826

80 percent are conservative

Dear editor:

Once again Southern Baptists have evidenced their conservative view by electing a great leader, preacher, and Bible believer notwithstanding the strong-arm scare tactics, the political promotional propagandist practices, and the brainwashing attempts — using invited guest speakers — to divert congregational members and messengers to the liberal camp.

We're afraid the reorganized Gatlinburg Gang, the Holy warlords, and liberal diehards are yet unable to accept the results in a spirit of cooperation and unity rather than a fashion of frustration and forbiddingness. Post-election sword rattling continues. It is not only saddening but sickening to witness the bitterness (even hatred) passed from pastor to pew leading devout saints to castigate some of the nationally recognized leading conservative clergy.

Perhaps it is time to replace political practices with prayer, praise, and preparation for powerful preaching; replace hatred with healing; and replace the Holy war with the Holy Spirit.

Estimating (personally) that over 80 percent of Southern Baptists are conservative, believing the Bible to be the inspired and inerrant, I question the criticism of one of the moderate spokesmen stating, "the Fundamentalists want to reshape the seminaries in the mold of some independent seminaries." Should that happen, no doubt it would please 90 percent of Southern Baptists, especially seminaries like Liberty Mountain, Mid-America, etc.

Some moderates (liberals) openly express desire that the conservatives withdraw from SBC. Should this happen, wherewithal the funding, the growth, and especially the baptisms?

Said of Charles Stanley by one of our greatest preachers, "I believe he has done more for our image in America than anyone other than Billy Graham."

If the liberal spokesman's statement, "the Cooperative Program is at stake under the controversy" is correct and the derision of Stanley and other fundamentalists continue, I fear for even further mass exodus from the liberal-led churches.

W. T. Barner
3655 Rhodes #4
Memphis, TN 38111

Thoughts from the SBC

Dear editor:

Two things came to mind during our recent Southern Baptist Convention.

Charles Stanley's address was very moving and inspirational. I was impressed with the message and the plea for healing he brought to the people. As I listened to him, the words of a song kept coming into my mind. "Little Drummer Boy" has these words, "Do you hear what I hear?"

I do pray that Stanley and everyone who heard these words will seek this healing. Though we hear the same words or speak them ourselves, we do not all hear the same message. To hear rightly means to me to do what is right.

The other thing that came to me during the convention is this: "Who is our driver?" Have we given Jesus the backseat, while we try to steer ourselves? If this is so, I would remind each one of us that one in the backseat usually has little authority over the driver because most drivers don't listen to a "backseat driver."

Our convention will be healed when we give to Jesus the authority to lead us.

Mrs. Alvin C. Blake
923 Beverly Dr.
Alcoa, TN 37701

Prayer from an Independent

Dear editor:

Even though I am not a part of the SBC or the TBC, what took place in Dallas will affect all Baptists. My prayers are that we Baptists (SBC, Independents, Northern, American, etc.) will stop spending the last days shooting at each other and take time to pray one for another.

I was raised in an SBC church in south Georgia and received my initial Biblical instruction there. In later years I became an Independent Baptist by my own choice and belief. Even though I made the change, I still have the honor and

privilege of fellowship with some of the finest men of God, still in the SBC.

You must know by now that I believe the forces of evil have succeeded in weakening one of the strongest spiritual chains in history, the SBC. "No," the convention is not perfect by any means, as it is worked by human nature. My prayers are that the convention will unite behind the true "Word" and become bold in the faith — preach to expose sins, enthrone Christ, and enlist souls into His service.

James Gaston
Rt. 2, Box 55
McDonald, TN 37353

Pray for peace committee

Dear editor:

I am committed to pray for peace in our convention. I am committed to pray for the "peace committee" of our convention as they seek to do the work that is before them. It will be a tough job, but with God's help it will not be too tough.

During this next year many will come forth offering all types of ideas, suggestions, and solutions to the woes that have beset us. Some will be good and positive. Some will be bad and negative. I hope no one will be hindered from coming forth with whatever suggestions they want to make.

My suggestion has to do with the position of "parliamentarian" of our annual meeting. I have no intention of being critical of the parliamentary decisions made this year. That is a tough job, and not one that many of us could handle if it were to be placed upon us. I would like to see the job of parliamentarian given to the attorney's office that serves as general counsel of the SBC Executive Committee. Let us move forward by letting those who serve our legal interests also serve our parliamentary interests. Who is better able to serve as an interpreter of the Constitution and Bylaws of our convention, and as an interpreter of Robert's Rules of Order than those who are trained specifically for that task? This change would bring continuity and non-bias interests to our annual meeting. It would make life easier and procedure better for the presiding officer of the convention.

I intend to communicate this item with the members of the peace committee and pray that it will be helpful. If it would serve only to hinder us, then the wastebasket would be the best place for my suggestion to end up.

Larry Alan Reeves
P.O. Box 220
Jacksboro, TN 37757

Rules apply equally

Dear editor:

I wish to make some observations concerning our recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas:

(1) For a long time the Order of Business Committee has, without question, scheduled the president's address before the election of officers; but now that is being challenged by the "moderates" and "liberals."

(2) For decades the president of the convention has been instructed in the bylaws to appoint the Committee on Committees, but that is being challenged from many different angles by the "moderates" and "liberals."

(3) It has long been the practice for the registration secretary to advise the president concerning non-ballot voting

by the messengers and how the vote appeared to him. It is regrettable that such a fine man as Lee Porter was indirectly charged with a lack of integrity when Charles Stanley was being blamed from the floor for simply ruling in line with Lee Porter's advice.

(4) All of the convention presidents, both "conservatives" and "moderates," have relied extensively on help from a parliamentarian, and rarely has the parliamentarian been abused and questioned as was the case in the Dallas convention. Does this mean that the "moderates" are against a president having a parliamentarian?

(5) Some "moderates" have been outspoken against organized activities on behalf of a given candidate for office, but condone similar activities against a given candidate.

(6) If a "conservative" threatens to withhold Cooperative Program funds, he is considered anti-denomination; but if a "moderate" threatens to withhold Cooperative Program funds, he is still pro-denominational.

(7) If a "conservative" in office favors his friends and associates, he is practicing political partiality; but if a "moderate" in office favors his friends, he is simply exercising good judgment. Let the rules apply equally to all.

J. Harold Stephens
304 Depot St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160

Tired of polarization

Dear editor:

It seems to me that the polarization which has taken place in the SBC has tried to remove people from the middle. I dislike and am uncomfortable with the options presented to me by the current efforts of "liberals" and "fundamentalists" to polarize our convention. In fact, I have become skeptical of "leadership" in both camps which continue to polarize people on one side or the other. Rather than help one another, we seek to defeat one another.

I often wonder how I would be labeled. I am proud to be a part of the SBC. The church I serve gives 32 percent to the Cooperative Program (\$113,405 in 1984) and a grand total of \$152,181 to missions. I am proud that I am a graduate of both Southeastern Theological Seminary and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. I am proud to be on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. I am proud to be a conservative who believes in the autonomy of the local church, the priesthood of the believer, and the Bible as the inspired and authoritative Word of God "without mixture of error." I am proud of the SBC leadership and to have Charles Stanley as president and Winfred Moore as vice-president of the SBC. Where do I fit in?

It is frustrating to witness the polarization taking place and being encouraged. It is difficult to answer my church members when they ask, "What's going on?"

I am tired of the fighting and unwillingness to accept and trust one another. Let's work toward reconciliation, admit our differences, and realize we need one another to carry on the outstanding work of our great convention. It is my prayer that all involved will cease pulling in opposite directions and start pulling in the same direction for Jesus' sake.

Joe R. Wren
317 Parkway
Sevierville, TN 37862

**Baptist and Reflector
brings you news first!**

SBC Forum attracts 5,000 people, applauds moderate stance taken

By Connie Davis

DALLAS — In a rousing meeting billed as an "alternative" to the SBC Pastors' Conference, about 5,000 participants heard five speakers address convention political activity, soul competency, and integrity in preaching at the second annual SBC Forum Monday at the Dallas Convention Center.

The attendance more than doubled last year's.

William L. Self, pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., drew the longest standing ovation when he declared, "We're not dealing at this convention with who's going to be our next presiding officer. We're dealing with bigger issues and larger issues than that."

"I firmly believe that we're dealing with some kind of coalition between certain political groups and certain religious groups, because the political groups want access to the resources of our convention."

He estimated that the SBC has \$2-billion worth of institutions at stake.

With tongue in cheek, Self proposed, "We need an '800' number for pastors to call on Saturday nights" to find out what to preach on and suggested that it be in Lynchburg, Va., where Jerry Falwell's headquarters are.

Self also warned against always defending your faith, para-church organizations, and trends that say denominational organizations are too cumbersome, style is more important than substance, independent missions is better, that you do not owe anything to those who provided your education, and that it is easier to steal a church or school than it is to build your own.

Catherine Allen, associate executive secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., also received several standing ovations.

Gospel preaching, SBC politicking highlight evangelists' conference

DALLAS — Gospel preaching and convention politics resounded during the Wednesday afternoon Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists' rally at Dallas' First Baptist Church.

Bill Stafford, evangelist from Chattanooga, preached on God's sufficient grace, recounting the struggle of Paul with his "thorn in the flesh."

Stafford said God used the thorn to teach the apostle about God's sufficiency and to keep Paul humble. That experience kept Paul rejoicing, he added.

"You can never come to the sufficiency of God's grace until He drives you out of your own sufficiency," Stafford declared.

Former Tennessean Bob Hamblin, vice-president of evangelism at the Home Mission Board, preached on the "slavery of evangelism." He referred to Paul's slavery to Christ as a credential for his ministry.

Seeing ourselves as slaves would lead to holy actions, Hamblin said. "Holiness means surrendering to a holy God. We don't need to strut. People need to see that we have been with Jesus, and recently," Hamblin observed.

In a departure from the announced program, Sam Cathy of Oklahoma City came to the podium and urged the 2,500 attenders to retaliate against the "liberals." In apparent reference to the

Speaking on "The Doctrine of First Things," as opposed to the eschatology, the doctrine of last things, Allen claimed that critics of the convention have always objected to missions, cooperation, and women, but they claim their objections are about theology.

"When they say it's not the money but the doctrine, it's the money," she claimed, adding the percentage of giving to the Cooperative Program has been going down since 1967.

Speaking of the WMU, she said, "We pray for missionaries every day. It's our ritual, and we like it that way. We know what they believe and we know what they're doing. And we are going to have the fury of a feline mother if they and their leaders are accused or abused or made to feel anxiety about their support."

She pointed out that Lottie Moon managed to live with landmarkism, liberalism, and fundamentalism. Allen said her research for the book she wrote about Moon did not confirm or deny the story that Moon gave up marriage because the man was a liberal.

The crowd gave another speaker, Cecil Sherman, sustained applause when he noted the writer of a Southern Baptist commentary suggested that the water did not turn to blood in the plagues on Egypt and that the writer was W. A. Criswell.

Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex., said, "Every interpreter has the right to make these judgments. But when I do it I'm a liberal and if he does it, he is an inerrantist . . ."

Encouraging pastors to tell the truth about the process of figurative and literal interpretations, he said, "W. A. Criswell and I use the Bible the same way. One of the problems our side has

Tuesday elections of Charles Stanley as SBC president and Winfred Moore as first vice-president, Cathy said. "Yesterday was a sham; yesterday was fakery, that the liberals, not the moderates, can take control."

Cathy continued, "People who don't believe the Bible can be mean as all hell. In grace and love and kindness, we've got to fight," he said. "We've got liberals. They've come out of the wood. We know who they are. Let's get them."

Stanley appeared briefly before the group and said, "I believe we have extended a long, warm hand of cooperation. I don't know that that's what we're receiving."

During a message on compassion for unbelievers, Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., called on those present to take the offensive against liberalism. "We need some folks who will fight liberalism in our convention," Vines declared.

"You can't be a liberal and be a soul winner," Vines said.

The four-hour evangelists' rally came immediately after the Committee on Committee's nominations to the 1986 Committee on Boards had been challenged on the convention floor.

During the conference, special recognitions were presented to longtime evangelists, Manley Beasley and Freddie Gage, both of Euless, Tex.

had is that we are afraid to face the Bible issue."

W. Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., said, "The call today in Dallas is a call for integrity preaching. The preacher's task is contexting not pretexting the Bible," he said.

Lolley accused some of preaching without considering the work of the Holy Spirit. He also accused some of using tape recorders rather than the Spirit to keep them honest.

Proclaiming that none was an "infallible interpreter," Lolley encouraged them to live their interpretations.

Claiming soul competency as the bedrock of Baptist principles and the single most important contribution of Baptists to religious thought in the world, Walter Shurden, chairman of the department of Christianity at Mercer University, Macon, Ga., also described it as religious liberty, freedom of conscience, priesthood of the believer, and the Baptist status of liberty.

"Though some in your denomination seek to silence me (soul competency), I beg you to speak up." Shurden said it stands as a safeguard against intimidation, coercion, and even peer pressure.

Special music was provided by Bill O'Brien, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; Darrell Adams and Cynthia Clawson, Louisville, Ky.; Ken Medema, San Francisco, Calif.; and Bob Bailey, Nashville.

Researchers hear of social needs

DALLAS — Total cities are emerging overnight and the church ought to join the economic forces that are developing them, a sociologist told members of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship.

Paul Geisel, professor of urban sociology, University of Texas at Arlington, pointed to the new wave of self-contained cities being developed across the nation which are built for the "total lifestyle" of the individual.

"Just look at what is happening in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Billions of dollars are being spent on areas where you can reside, do your shopping, and enjoy recreational facilities. But you can't go to church because the church has been excluded as a part of the development."

Geisel said that if the church is going to grow in this rapidly developing new age, it must "sit down at the table with developers and be a part of the planning session."

"Church leaders need to tell these people that religion is a vital part of the society. They need to have a say-so about where and when new churches should be built in these cities."

Ebbie Smith, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, challenged Baptists to launch a bold effort for teaching the poor. "All of our statistics indicate that we are not reaching the laboring class."

Smith said the effort should not be construed as one that excludes a class of people. "The fact is that people do not want to be a part of our middle-class churches. They want their own churches that meet their emotional, spiritual needs. We need preachers with dirty fingernails who are willing to be bivocational by choice."



SBC PAGES — Representing Tennessee as RA and Acteen pages at the SBC in Dallas were (left to right) Miller Hogan of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood; Bonnie Hughes of Edgemore Baptist Church, Clinton; and Tim Spencer of First Baptist Church, Collierville. The pages assisted in the press room, registration area, information booth, convention office, and platform area.

Executive Committee chooses lay leaders

DALLAS — Three laypersons were elected June 12 as officers of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for 1985-86.

David C. Maddox, a contractor and real estate developer from Fullerton, Calif., was elected chairman at the committee's organization meeting during the SBC.

Maddox, a member of First Southern Baptist Church in Anaheim, served the past year as vice-chairman of the Executive Committee. He defeated Jimmy Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., for the post.

New vice-chairman is Harmon Born, president of Beaudry Ford, Atlanta, Ga. Born is a member of The Rock Baptist Church, Rex, Ga.

Mrs. Lois Wenger, a businesswoman from Orlando, Fla., where she is a member of First Baptist Church, was re-elected recording secretary.

In other actions during the meeting, committee members adopted unanimously a resolution expressing a commitment to pray daily for the work of the SBC's peace committee which was elected earlier that day to recommend possible solutions to the controversies that have divided the denomination in recent years. Two members of the Executive Committee, Born and John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., are members of the special committee.

Maryland paper names new assistant editor

LUTHERVILLE, Md. (BP) — Robert E. (Bob) Allen of Marion, Ill., has been named assistant editor of the Baptist True Union, news journal for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, effective June 25.

A May graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Allen is a veteran newsman. He previously was news director at Southern seminary. Before that, he was editor of the campus newspaper, The Towers. His journalistic experience includes internships with the Western Recorder and the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, state convention papers of Kentucky and Arkansas.

Educators double number, vote \$150,000 to educate

DALLAS — The Southern Baptist Religious Education Association looked at the past, present, and future trends to prepare them better for service in their particular ministries.

A record registration of 604, almost double the previous record, voted to establish a \$150,000 endowment to support the association and to educate Southern Baptists about the issues facing ministers in educational areas.

During the meeting Will Beal, church administration consultant, Baptist Sunday Board in Nashville, reported that ministers of education are moving away from the day when they were known as announcers and toward a day they are known as planners and educators essential to the conceptualization of ministries in the church.

Beal warned educators not to "isolate yourselves from your congregations and peers. If you do, you may destroy the minister of education's servant roll and may become deserters from your original call."

William B. Rogers Jr., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., advised educators against having a "separatist and isolationist mentality that has characterized us (Southern Baptists) in too many periods."

Rogers quoted Albert McClellan, former program planning secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, saying "Re-

ligious education is essential, but not the essence; it is evangelism, but not the Gospel; it is missionary, but not the mission; it is form, but not the content; and it requires high priority, but is not itself the priority."

He added that "religious education is more than instruction in the Scripture; nevertheless, it is rooted in and derives its being from the Scriptures — the Scriptures sit in judgment on religious education; not religious education on the Scriptures."

In another address, McClellan said Southern Baptists have never been alert to finding where people are and responding to them where they are. "Research has received only a pittance in our denomination. When we have research information, we have shelved it and forgotten about it."

In other business, the educators elected Lloyd Householder, director of communications at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, as president-elect. Dennis Parrott of Tyler, Tex., will serve as president this year, and Don Denny of Dallas, Tex., as vice-president.

The three regional vice-presidents are Mavis Allen, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Katie Grogan, Lutherville, Md.; Jerry Stubblefield, Mill Valley, Calif.

Re-elected secretary-treasurer was Joe Haynes of the Sunday School Board.

Pollard, Criswell urge musicians to utilize Scripture in worship

DALLAS — Declaring that "God has given us the dignity and danger of decision," Frank Pollard, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., warned his fellow Southern Baptists against making the Bible their God during the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.

"I believe the Bible is everything it says it is," Pollard told the nearly 1,500 church musicians and guests at First Baptist Church, Dallas. "I am an inerrantist. I believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture. I believe the Bible is the Word of God, but it is not God," he said. "We need to be lifting up the Lord Jesus Christ."

Pollard challenged the church musicians and guests to emulate the servant leadership model and catch the evangelistic, missionary vision of the apostles. "They did not offer a creed. They offered Christ," he said. "They did not offer rules; they offered a relationship. They shared Christ with their world, and we must share our Lord Christ."

Earlier speakers had urged church musicians to make a "personal encounter with Jesus Christ" their foundation

for music ministry and to make "praising God" their goal. Wesley Forbis of the church music department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, asked the church musicians to examine the underlying philosophy behind their ministry, warning against making self, secular humanism, or liberation theology their philosophical foundation.

W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, examined the Biblical examples of music in worship, stressing, "There is something about singing the songs of Zion that lifts our very souls to God. I don't think we can praise God too much."

In business sessions, the conference voted to establish the John Rippon Memorial Fund to restore the marker on the London tomb of the first compiler of a Baptist hymnal, and to create an endowment fund for the purpose of commissioning new musical works.

C. L. Huling, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, and John F. Gardner III, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, were named to the executive council.

DOMs hear calls to planning, quality programs, and action

DALLAS — The importance of planning, quality programs, action, and a new retirement plan was emphasized during a two-day meeting of 310 directors of associational missions.

William Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, issued the call for action, reminding that dreams have played a central role in the history of the Christian church and Southern Baptists. "We are what we are today as Southern Baptists because of dreamers of the past."

But Pinson warned the directors of missions that a dream can become a nightmare if nothing is done with it. "Only those who persist will see their dreams come true. Live them out in the spirit and will of God," he urged.

The directors of missions previewed a new church retirement plan offered by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board and were asked by board officials to encourage churches in their associations to adopt the program.

Annuity Board officials said the expanded plan will provide for more adequate contributions, raise the level of benefits, include all ministers and lay personnel, and double the state convention's contribution.

Doran C. McCarty, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., presented a document entitled "Bold Mission Thrust Planning for the 1990s," a cooperative project of the SBC Inter-Agency Council and the state conventions. "We must see where the world is heading and determine how we can intervene with the gospel of Christ."

The document identified eight trends apparent in the 1980s and expected to influence the next decade. They included a changing world population, an accelerated information era, diversity and specialization of education, a widening of

the income gap, expanded technology, social issues, and the appearance of religion in many forms.

The document, which will not be ready for approval by the Southern Baptist Convention until 1987, will be distributed to all SBC agencies, institutions, state conventions, and associations to aid them in long-range planning.

In the business sessions, Bob Lee Franklin of Atlanta, Ga., was re-elected president. Carl Duck, Nashville Baptist Association, Nashville, was elected first vice-president.

New computer system counts record ballots

DALLAS (BP) — A new computer system operating twice as fast as the old card sorting machine was used by the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention to tabulate 45,248 ballots in almost an hour and a half.

Two Data General computers, plus a card reader and printer, were leased by the SBC from Computer Election Services in Dallas this year for the first time to count ballots for the convention, according to Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, and Tim Hedquist, convention manager.

For more than a decade, the SBC has used a mechanical IBM card sorter to count ballots during elections, but IBM has gone out of the computer card business.

Hedquist said he had ordered 36,000 sets of ballots for the Dallas convention, thinking that would be an adequate supply. When registration passed 35,000 on Monday, Hedquist called the Dallas firm and placed a rush order for an additional 10,000 sets of ballots for delivery the next morning.

Campus ministers explore past, confront ethical issues of future

DALLAS — Southern Baptist campus ministers explored their past and were challenged to confront ethical issues of the future during their two-day meeting prior to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Southern Baptist students have become desensitized to the major ethical issues confronting society, claimed Paul Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission for the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The college campus does not appear "alive and aware that there are ethical issues which need to be addressed."

Jones spoke to about 90 persons attending the eighth annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers.

He said Baptist students seem concerned with outward forms of spirituality, primarily prayer and Bible study. He challenged campus ministers to lead students into an awareness of the social implications of their faith.

Jones lumped ethical issues into three broad categories: those which relate to human survival; those which relate to human failure; and those which relate to human responsibility.

By far the most serious issue confronting society is the threat of nuclear and chemical/biological warfare, Jones said. Failure to actively work for peace leaves an impression that individuals have the right to use whatever means they want to defend their interest, he added.

Jones called on campus ministers to lead students to explore issues relating to the redistribution of the world's goods. He also challenged conference participants to do more than compete with other campuses for first place in hunger offerings.

Jones said campus ministers must lead the fight against racism, national supremacy, and societal corruption. "Our call is to become the voice for those who don't have a forum, the hands for those who've had their hands amputated by indifference, and the feet for those who have been crippled by despair."

Philip H. Briggs, professor at South-

western Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, asked the group to stretch the minds of students by allowing them to question and examine their faith.

"The degree to which a student goes through the questioning process is equal to the degree to which we give them permission to question," explained Briggs. "Often the church has said to adolescents (they may) ask questions about anything except sex and the Bible."

Adult faith grows out of the alternating doubts and affirmations that characterize productive thinking, Briggs added. "Doubt is not an enemy, but a friend of understanding," he said. Healthy doubting keeps faith relevant and dynamic.

While diversity may flourish on the college campus, it is the root of Southern Baptists' current controversy, charged church historian Walter Shurden.

Shurden, chairman of the department of Christianity at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., told the group that diversity had become "tantamount to 'liberal' in the Southern Baptist Convention," but he said diversity is at the heart of the 14.3-million-member denomination's history.

The American experience, shaped by "pluralism, diversity, and dissent," Baptist distinctives, primarily the soul competency of every believer, and the denomination's own history of diverse traditions brought nurtured diversity within the SBC, said Shurden.

He called for a return to the study of Baptist history, which he claimed would allow Southern Baptists to see the mosaic of their past, which in turn would lessen fears about contemporary differences.

The association also voted to keep full membership to the organization limited to Baptist campus ministers. The group's executive committee had proposed Constitutional changes which would have granted full membership to other ministers whose primary role is relating to students. Currently those persons are recognized by the association as affiliate members.

Tennessee

LEADERSHIP . . .

Perry Warner Eaton has accepted the call of Whitehaven Baptist Church, Memphis, to serve as minister of children/youth. He comes to the church from First Baptist Church, Rockdale, Tex., where he was music and youth director. Eaton is a graduate of Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Tex. The pastor of Whitehaven Baptist Church is James Meredith.

Tom Lovorn, former pastor of East Ridge Baptist Church in Chattanooga, will become pastor of Monumental Baptist Church, Petersburg, Va., effective July 1.

Mount Harmony Baptist Church, Knoxville, has called Jerry Heflin as interim pastor and Victor Bales as music director. Heflin teaches and serves as dean of students at Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour. Bales is a student at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

David and Judi Hayes have joined the staff of Eastland Baptist Church, Nashville, as ministers of youth and education. J. L. Ford is the pastor.

Ardmore Baptist Church, Memphis, called Steve Wisner as minister of education. He will begin his ministry with the church where Norris Smith is pastor, on July 1.

David Whipple, has accepted the call of First Baptist Church, Franklin, to serve as minister of music, beginning July 1. He has been serving as minister of music at First Baptist Church, Cleveland, for 11 years. Richard D. White is pastor of the Franklin church.

PEOPLE . . .

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Talbott, where C. H. Christopher is pastor, held a deacon ordination service. Charles Howerton, Alvin Sartain, and Lane Kimbrough were ordained during the May 26 service.

Tom Cantwell, minister of youth/activities for First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, was ordained by the church on June 2. Larry Baker, a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., led the service.

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

Somewhere I have read a question that goes like this: "If there was a bank which credited your account each morning with \$86,000, carried over no balance from day to day, and every evening cancelled whatever part of the money you failed to use, what would you do?"

I would endeavor to draw out every cent every day. While we do not have a bank account like that, we do have another kind of a bank. It is called "time." At the beginning of each day, God credits our account with 86,400 seconds. We cannot carry over any balance to the next day. We cannot borrow from the days ahead. Every second has to be spent today, or it becomes cancelled.

I keep asking myself the question, "Am I making the very best use of every moment God gives me?" In all honesty, I cannot say I do. The Bible states, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

All of us should read a generous portion of God's Word every day. I cannot think of a better way to use God's time.

Along with reading God's Word, I believe God would have us spend a generous number of seconds in daily prayer.

I believe God wants us to start our week with Sunday worship.

I keep posing the question, "What would happen if all Tennessee Baptists were faithful stewards of time for the rest of our lives?"

CHURCHES . . .

New Era Baptist Church, Sevierville, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on July 28, with a special service and dinner on the grounds. Ralph Clevenger is the church's pastor.

McPheeters Bend Baptist Church, Church Hill, broke ground on May 5, for an education building and sanctuary. The pastor of the church is Larry Parrott.

The 125th anniversary of First Baptist Church, Sweetwater, will be celebrated August 2-4. Leonard S. Markham is the pastor. Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will be the guest speaker during the service on Sunday.

Calvary Baptist Church, Mooresburg, held a note-burning ceremony on June 9. Gary Marshall, pastor of the church, led the service.

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J. W. and Oseline Gamble were honored for their 50th wedding anniversary at Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Huntland. The pastor of the church is Abe Silliman Sr.

Robert Woody, pastor of Bluegrass Baptist Church, Hendersonville, will teach "Interpreting Philippians" during the first summer "J-term" at Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., June 25-28.

Floyd leaves post at mission board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A former Southern Baptist missionary who came to the Foreign Mission Board last year to organize efforts to find preacher missionaries has resigned, effective July 9.

John David Floyd, director of the board's missionary enlistment department, has been named vice-president for development and public relations at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. He left a vice-presidency at Mid-America in April 1984 to come to the board.

Floyd worked in the Philippines from 1965 to 1976 as a church starter and later as director of church growth. His work at the Foreign Mission Board came in response to expanded efforts to identify more preachers willing to be evangelists and church starters overseas.

His job was to select, train, and supervise furloughing missionaries to help him identify candidates throughout the States. He also oversaw two full-time consultants working out of the board's offices in Richmond, Va.

Floyd went to Mid-America as an instructor and later became professor of missions and chairman of the department of missions. In 1980 he was named vice-president for administrative affairs. Most recently he had been the seminary's vice-president and director of the school of world mission and church growth.

400 attend luncheon for MWBTS alumni

DALLAS — Alumni of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary honored a Southern Baptist Convention officer and a leader of new work ministry among Southern Baptists during the institution's national alumni association luncheon. About 400 attended.

Recipients of the 1985 Alumnus of the Year Award were Don Wideman, second vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, North Kansas City, Mo., and R. Rex (Peck) Lindsay, executive director of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.

Alumni also installed Michael Brown, a home missionary in Milwaukee, Wis., as national president and named Doyle M. Sager, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sedalia, Mo., president-elect.

During the luncheon, Seminary President Milton Ferguson urged alumni to celebrate their heritage of "Biblical faith," a faith which does not have all the answers but leaves room to "risk everything on the fact that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself."

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Opportunity Camp 1985

Jesus said to the ancient church of Philadelphia, "Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut" (Rev. 3:8). Each child that God gives to us is a unique opportunity, a door into the



future for that child. Creating good learning experiences for the children is part of our assigned responsibility. Our Opportunity Camp, June 30-July 4, will provide an open door into the lives of our children.

We are thankful for a fine staff who has planned our camp program and a great volunteer staff who is going to assist us with teaching. Our daily schedule will include Bible study for all ages including our adult staff, conferences on appropriate subjects, worship, recreation, and fellowship.

Many of you have provided scholarships for our children to attend and we are thankful to you for your help. Many of our children have never been to camp and this will provide a tremendous opportunity for them. The cost of the camp is \$50 per child.

Your faithful support to our ministries is an encouragement to all our staff. We continue to receive our Mother's Day Offering at the Tennessee Baptist Convention building. The response thus far has been encouraging. We are over half way toward our goal of \$630,000. Your commitment to help us continue an excellent child care ministry is deeply appreciated.

CLOWNS

A troupe of clowns recently visited the Franklin campus. This talented group of young people from a local church brought bunches of balloons and fun for each of our elementary children. We had the opportunity to play together and meet new friends as they visited with us for the afternoon. Everyone enjoyed the fun and spirit of this group and their willingness to share their talents with us through the uniqueness of their clowning ministry.

IN HIS NAME

The admissions committee meeting started on time and was flowing smoothly when a knock on the door brought news that one of our children had fallen out of a swing. It was simple enough to have Jerry D. Blasingame a staff member take him to an orthopedic surgeon and set the broken arm. Five minutes later the phone rang and news came that the thirteen-year-old water heater had burst and flooded one wing of a cottage. The solution to replace it was easy until remembering the maintenance man was already busy repairing the leaking gas line in the next cottage.



With deliberate effort the admissions committee returned to considering the numerous requests for admitting new children into care. Seeking admission were children ranging in age from nine to seventeen. As the committee was weighing each child's needs against the Children's Homes' abilities to care for those needs another call came. A local Baptist pastor explained that the recent death of a man in his community had left a mother struggling to provide financially for three beautiful

children while maintaining adequate parental supervision. Without support from relatives she was unable to meet both responsibilities. Could the Children's Home help?

The committee deliberated again and assigned a social worker to contact the family to gain further information. Cottage bed space was limited so that the children could not be placed in the same cottage immediately. Several days later the children were admitted into care and are now settling into campus life.

As the committee meeting ended for lunch, a secretary brought word that a staff member injured the day before was being admitted to the hospital for observation. Sitting down to lunch I remembered the words of James (1:2-3) "My brethren, count it all joy . . . that the trying of your faith worketh patience." Amen.

Employees of Doug Nash Equipment and Engineering in Brentwood, Tennessee, have started donating one (\$1.00) dollar each month to help clothe the children on the Franklin campus. Along with that donation goes a challenge to other businesses in the county to pay attention to the needs of the children on that campus.

Employees at the engineering firm got hooked on the children during an Easter ice cream party for which several local merchants donated supplies, and the Easter Bunny himself made a special appearance.

NEW FRIENDS

The employees at Doug Nash have become supportive friends of the children. They have provided each child with a Doug Nash T-shirt, spending money to the Franklin Rodeo and employed one of our seniors for the summer. We salute our friends at Doug Nash. SALUTE!

Twelve college students from the BSU at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville recently spent a weekend on the Franklin Campus. The weekend began with a campus fellowship filled with skits, singing, fun times and serious times. Saturday arrived as a day of work, cleaning up, trimming hedges, and assisting with the cleaning of the swimming pool. After hours of hard work we set out to play together in the same spirit of cooperativeness with which we worked. The afternoon was filled with field games and fun for all. We regretted to see our new friends leave.

TBCH is indebted to these Tennessee Baptists for sharing their talents and for seeking avenues of ministry with Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. As a staff we could not carry out our part without your continued prayerful support.



Avenues of Ministry

A willing group of men and women from the Faith Baptist Church, Loretto, recently spent a Saturday on the Franklin campus painting the outside of one of the cottages. We appreciate their willingness to help in this endeavor. Led by their pastor, this group from Loretto filled a real need for the Franklin campus.

In addition to our new friends from Faith Baptist Church we have welcomed two Baptist Student Union (BSU) groups this spring. A BSU group from Dyersburg State Community College spent six days on a mission tour on the Franklin campus. This group of college students painted the inside of our cottages during the day while the boys and girls were in school. During the afternoon and evening the college students became involved in activities with the young people on the campus. A special fellowship time was held for the college students to share with the

junior high and high school students from campus about college life.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for June 30

The risen Lord's challenge

By Rice Pierce
deacon and Sunday School teacher
Mt. Juliet

Basic Passage: Luke 23:50 to 24:53
Focal Passage: Luke 24:36-53

Other persons had figured prominently in the last days of Jesus' life and death: Judas, Satan, Pilate, Barabbas, Peter, the penitent thief, the centurion at the cross.

The story of Jesus often focuses upon His influence on and through persons. Joseph of Arimathea was one such person (23:50-51). Arimathea has been identified with Ramah, Samuel's birthplace. Likely Joseph had moved to Jerusalem. He was wealthy, indicated by his owning a tomb "hewn in stone" (23:53) and by his influence with Pilate (23:52). He also was a member of the Sanhedrin (23:50) and had been a secret believer in Jesus, along with Nicodemus.



Pierce

The crafty, deceitful, and manipulative Jewish religionists had not notified these two of their "trials" of Jesus, as is seen by the fact that Jesus' condemnation had been unanimous (23:51; Mark 14:64).

Joseph was a good and righteous man who also was looking for the kingdom of God (23:51). When Jesus' "candle went out," Joseph lost his hope that Jesus was the Messiah for which he had looked. But he did not lose his love and compassion for One so gentle and full of mercy. When our faith grows dim, the love which we have learned from Jesus will step in like an auxiliary power system and help us to do the right things.

The Sabbath was near, so Jesus was hastily placed in the new tomb. Dear women, last at the cross and burial (23:55) and first at the empty tomb (23:56), came at dawn on "Sunday" morning to complete Jesus' embalming (24:1). All three gospels mention the presence of women at Jesus' burial.

The discovery of the empty tomb (24:1-12)

The experience of the grief-stricken but still loving women at the empty tomb highlights this longest and most beautiful account of Jesus' resurrection. The "two men" in dazzling apparel were angels (v.23) who gently chided the women for seeking the living among the dead (v.5). But quickly they remembered the words of Jesus spoken in Galilee concerning His death and resurrection on the third day (v.7). Luke showed how even the angels began teaching the grieving, terrified, and then ecstatic disciples about the true nature of Jesus' messianic mission to earth (v.7).

The women rushed off to become the first proclaimers of Jesus' mission and

resurrection (vv.9-10). Gaining entrance to the locked door (John 20:18) behind which the fearful other disciples huddled, they perhaps all at once and with ecstatic joy told the disciples and others what they had experienced. Jesus was alive!

Luke with his precise medical terms described the apostles' response to the joyful women. The Greek word for "idle tales" (v.11) occurs only here in the New Testament. In medical writings, it meant wild talk by someone in a state of delirium or hysteria — wild ravings of hysterical women who had snapped under the strain of losing the total support upon which they had built their lives!

The apostles were simply in no mood to believe. They had not had the experience of devoted presence at the empty tomb. Duty and love had brought this exhilarating experience to the faithful women.

Peter and John at least had that spark of faith which caused them to go and check out the women's unbelievable story (see John 20:3-8).

Only Luke reported the enchanting story of Jesus' appearance to Cleopas and another person (his wife?) on the road to Emmaus after the women's report to the apostles (vv.13-35). The two rushed back to Jerusalem that same night to share the joy of their experience with the risen Lord. There they learned that Jesus also had appeared to Simon (v.34).

Hearing of Jesus' resurrection from angels was one thing, but seeing Jesus in person was the thing which gave the disciples unshakable faith in His bodily resurrection — resurrection of both body and spirit.

Jesus' appearance to the disciples in Jerusalem (24:36-43)

All the New Testament accounts reveal the mysterious nature of Jesus' resurrection body. It could appear and disappear at will. It could enter and leave doors that were closed and locked. Yet it was the real body of Jesus. He could be seen and touched. He ate food (vv.36-43). The Lord had risen indeed (v.34). The pivotal event of history had taken place. (See also 1 Corinthians 15:51, 58.)

Jesus' final instructions to His disciples (24:44-49)

Jesus' 10 appearances during the 40 days (Acts 1:3) between His resurrection and His ascension were designed to crystallize the faith of the disciples, to help them understand why He died and was raised, and to commission His followers to witness in a convincing, harmonious, and worldwide manner (vv.46-47; Acts 1:8). A Christ-honoring witness to the world is our mission today.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for June 30

The harvest of unbelief

By John H. Tullock, chairman
department of religion and philosophy
Belmont College, Nashville

Basic Passage: Micah 7
Focal Passage: Micah 7:1-7

The great Jewish commentator on the prophets, Abraham Hershel, reminds us that the God of the prophets "does not stand outside the range of human suffering and sorrow," but, "He is personally involved in, even stirred by, the conduct and fate of man" (The Prophets, 223).

This week's passage is set in the context of an address to Jerusalem (6:9-16), in which the Lord cites various evidences of the people's failure to live up to the demands of the covenant. While judgment is threatened, it is in the tone of a parent who knows that real love is not self-indulgent but that such love must hold up standards for its child to follow.



Tullock

The city responds (7:1)

The city responds to the Lord's accusations by admitting that things are not as they should be. Sin has not brought satisfaction. Instead, there is a sense of emptiness and failure. One is reminded of Jeremiah's famous lines: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved" (Jeremiah 9:20, RSV).

I like fresh fruit and, as a result, we have several fruit trees and grapevines at our home. I like to eat apples, fresh-ripe from the trees, and bunches of luscious grapes, ripened by the sun. When all the fresh fruit is gone, I miss it. Such a longing is present in the words of this verse: "There is no cluster to eat, no first-ripe fig which my soul desires" (7:16 RSV).

Union BSN degree gets accreditation

JACKSON — The bachelor of science program in nursing at Union University has been awarded full accreditation by the National League for Nursing in New York, N.Y.

The action is retroactive for one year and extends for the next eight years, according to Robert Craig, Union's president.

The bachelor's program, which was begun in 1979, is a completion program available to any registered nurse who is a graduate from an associate or diploma degree program. The BSN program is designed to supplement a basic pre-service nursing education by providing for increased nursing knowledge and clinical experiences. The curriculum provides a professional practice base and preparation for future specialized graduate studies.

Union also offers the associate of science degree in nursing which is a two-year program also fully accredited by the NLN. Both programs are approved by the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

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The prophet's confirmation (7:2-4)

The prophet confirms the guilt of the city and its inhabitants. Good men are not to be found anywhere and violence is the order of the day. It is not safe to walk in the streets because no one is to be trusted, not even one's closest acquaintances (7:2). Evil has penetrated all levels of society, reaching even the highest levels. Judges and leaders alike have made bribery a way of life. Greed has become woven into the very fabric of their lives (7:3).

The sad part of this story is that it is not just a story of the time of the prophets — it is the story that is trumpeted each night by television newscasters and which banner headlines in everyday's newspaper. Our own society is so infected by greed that human life takes a back seat to getting things.

The prophet's conclusion is that, on their own, there is no hope of redemption. They have become altogether useless and judgment is a certainty (7:4).

The prophet's warning (7:5-6)

Things are so bad that the prophet warns that the only hope for the individual to survive is to adopt an attitude of suspicion. One is not to trust even his/her nearest neighbor or relative, be it husband or wife, son or daughter, or in-law — for "a man's enemies are the men of his own house" (7:6d).

The worst hurt of all is to feel that you have been betrayed by your spouse, by your child, or by a brother or sister. But many a loving family has been torn apart by greed. Love is forgotten in the desire for some family possession which, within itself, is of little real value.

The solution to the problem (7:7)

Recently I was talking with one of our students who is doing a chaplain internship at the state prison for women. The student, who is not a Baptist, said that she was struck by how many of the prisoners claim to be born-again Christians, but are in prison for such violent crimes as murder. Then she said, "It goes to show how we in the church have failed to teach that commitment to Christ involves a change in our conduct."

Our hope is in God Who not only saves "souls" but in that act of salvation, also changes lives. Salvation, in its ultimate meaning, not only is a decision based on faith, it also involves a life lived in faith, as we grow more and more to be like Him Who died for our salvation. If we trust in Him, He will hear us (7:7).

Tennessean receives SWBTS scholarship

NASHVILLE — Thomas J. McCoy of Dickson has been awarded a president's scholarship to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex.

McCoy was graduated cum laude in the spring commencement exercises at Belmont College, Nashville. Upon entering Southwestern in the fall, he will be seeking the master of divinity degree. During the past year, he has been serving as youth director at Edgefield Baptist Church in Nashville.

His father, Don McCoy, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dickson, is a Belmont College trustee.

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for June 30

God's promise of mercy

By Fred Wood
full-time author, preacher, teacher
Memphis

Basic Passage: Malachi 3:13 to 4:5
Focal Passage: Malachi 3:13 to 4:3

The final main section of Malachi began with 3:13. The prophet once more presented his message with a Socratic formula involving a statement, a protest in the form of a question, and then an answer.

The prophet's charge was that the people had criticized God severely. When they asked for an explanation, he went into detail concerning their skepticism as to the value of serving God. Next, he told how a godly group responded favorably to God causing the Lord to feel a tenderness for them.



Wood

Malachi closed his book with a hymn depicting judgment for the wicked but deliverance to those who responded to his call for righteousness.

God's charge against the people (3:13-15)
The word translated "stout" means strong. We have a saying today that someone is "hard" on a person. The people complained that God was not fair.

They mentioned three things they had done: they had tried to serve God, they had kept His commandments which means all of His requirements in religion, and they had performed acts of penance and mourning because of their sins. Since they had done these things, the people insisted they should be blessed of God but this had not happened.

Also, they had a genuine dismay because those who defied God, called the proud or arrogant, seemed to enjoy security to the fullest. The author of Psalm 73 faced the same difficulty, speaking of the fact that he "was envious at the foolish when I saw the prosperity of the wicked" (v.3). Joyce Baldwin, an outstanding Old Testament scholar, said, "The scandal was that the advocates of evil had their own way and God appeared to condone it." They even seemed to test God by seeing how far they could go in evil deeds.

All of us have felt this way at some time in our lives. We try to live according to God's standards and see those who have no desire for righteousness become more successful and prosperous. The dif-

ficulty is that too many times we have reached an incorrect conclusion concerning daily living and rewards. We have developed the idea from a partial understanding of God's Word that when we do right we automatically will be freed from any problem and when one does wrong he immediately will be punished. Life does not work that way. The sooner we understand this fact, the better our emotional life will be.

In God's time, He punishes the evildoer but not until He feels the time is right to do it. He told Abraham that his seed would go to Egypt for four centuries because the "iniquity of the Amorites was not yet full" (Genesis 15:16).

A faithful minority (3:16-18)

No matter how dark a situation looks in a land because of moral deficiency, a godly remnant can always be found.

Malachi spoke next of a group that took God seriously and conferred with each other concerning the spiritual need. They may have been the righteous nucleus that never joined the skeptical complainers or perhaps some were people who had been a part of the critics but heeded the prophet's message and repented. Though he did not promise them that God would immediately deliver them from their discomfort, he told them about a "book of remembrance" which consisted of those that feared the Lord

and sought to do His will.

He was, no doubt, familiar with the custom of Persian monarchs who recorded in a book the good deeds done by citizens in order to reward them at a proper time. The concept of God keeping a book, however, goes back as far as the time of Moses. When interceding for the people after they had committed a great sin in worshipping the golden calf, he asked God, if He could not forgive them, to "blot me, I pray Thee, out of Thy book which Thou hast written" (Exodus 32:32).

God promised, through His prophet, Malachi, to make the righteous His unique possession, comparing them to jewels and to spare them from danger that might come.

A glorious future (4:1-3)

With God, the "best is yet to be." First, Malachi spoke of the coming judgment upon the wicked. Earlier, he told them of a refining fire (3:2). In this passage, he pictured a destructive one.

The terror of that coming day was spoken of as something resembling the heat of an oven or furnace, an expression that has been found on Phoenician inscriptions. The righteous, however, were promised the opposite. One would come

Who would bring healing for all that plagued them. When they were touched by this Coming One. Whom we recognize as the Messiah, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, they will live victorious lives. Their enemies will be crushed and life will take on new meaning.

As Christians, of course, we see more than the people of Malachi's day saw. God's Son has come and we have the joy of fellowship with God through Him.

The closing verses of Malachi's book tell us that a great cry will be sent to sinners, calling on them to repent before the final day of judgment comes.

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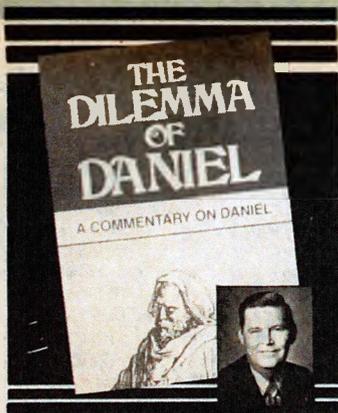
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Fred M. Wood is president of Preach-Teach Ministries, Memphis, Tennessee. For thirty years, he pastored Eudora Baptist Church in Memphis. Author of several books, his latest was *The Sunnier Side of Doubt*.

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'Contemporary' retiree keeps CSM up to date

By Michael Tutterow

ATLANTA (BP) — Even at 80, Jewell Beall keeps Southern Baptist Christian social ministries contemporary.

Ask her what she has read and she will recite a litany of the latest books on theology, sociology, psychology, or history, complete with suggestions for ways Southern Baptists could implement theory into practice.

Whether attending Southern Baptist Home Mission Board conferences or visiting the Atlanta-based missions agency's office, Beall is quick to offer observations on society and the church which challenge people to think. In short, concedes Paul R. Adkins, associate director of the board's missions ministries division, "She keeps us contemporary."

That is why the board has named a new award for Beall, who turned 80 in May. The Jewell Beall Church and Community Ministries Award annually will recognize a church, pastor, or a layperson who displays unusual sensitivity to Christian social ministries.

The first award will be presented during the Home Missions Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center this August. It is one more way to say Beall always has been one step ahead of the crowd, according to Adkins.

In the 1930s, Beall and her husband,



Jewell Beall

'contemporary' retiree

Noble, became the first whites appointed as Southern Baptist home missionaries to work with blacks, despite comments from friends that it would "ruin" their reputation in the denomination. Later, as a consultant for the board's missions

ministries division, Beall pushed for professional organizations for Baptist social workers.

"We were dealing with hurt people and we needed to stay up on social sciences in order to be the best help to people," she explained. She secured professional training for Christian social ministry (CSM) missionaries, which helped them view themselves as professionals. It also earned them respect from social work peers and grass-roots Southern Baptists.

As a consultant, Beall coordinated the work of a handful of "Good Will Centers," the forerunners of Baptist centers and other board CSM ministries.

Beall also recruited an innovative and controversial missions force for the centers — women. Her key role was support and encouragement, explained Beverly Hammack, director of the board's church and community ministries department. But Beall's choices proved to be the building blocks for Southern Baptist Christian social ministries.

Today her hand-picked recruits are well known in social work circles. C. Anne Davis now is dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Carver School of Social Work. After 27 years as director of Baptist centers in Houston, Mildred McWhorter has become one of the best-known CSM missionaries in Southern Baptist life. And Hammack who, although not recruited by Beall worked directly with her, now heads the HMB's new church and community ministries department, which works with churches and associations in developing local CSM programs.

Beall's induction into missions began in rural, deep-South Alabama, where she understood early the divisions between whites and blacks and the "haves and have-nots." Though her parents were church-goers, blacks were required to use the back door when visiting their home.

"I knew almost instinctively it was wrong that anyone would have to come to the back door to enter your house," recalled Beall.

Encounters with furloughing foreign missionaries who taught missions at Baptist Young People's Union (B.Y.P.U.) summer camps nurtured Beall's interest in missions. A summer worker at the camps, Beall recalled the daily contact with missionaries "gave us a strong sense of the importance of missions."

While attending a junior college in Alabama, Beall met and married her husband. Later they both attended Southern seminary in Louisville. Only a decline in denominational missions gifts during the early 1930s prevented the Bealls from foreign missions service.

But Noble's interest in African missions made him sympathetic to Southern blacks. While he was pastor of churches in Alabama, he became involved with local black pastors. The couple soon found themselves in the center of black Baptist work and racial controversy.

The Bealls discovered many black pastors who lacked formal Bible training, so they began an extensive education program with them. Though criticized by whites, "we played like we didn't know any better," recalled Beall. They even held classes at the church building.

Although out of step with the social code of the day, she admitted, "they (the pastors) wanted help; we decided to give it. They understood the Scripture promised learning to those who worked for it."

Their work drew the Home Mission Board's attention and in 1934, they were appointed home missionaries. After

more than a decade with the board, they moved to Florida, where they continued to work with blacks.

Noble died shortly after the move and Jewell returned to the board two years later, first as a field worker and later as consultant for the Good Will Centers.

Though she retired in 1970, Beall continues to act as a special consultant to the board's missions ministries division.

She still practices what she preaches. An active Sunday School teacher at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, she has earned the title of "the unpaid counselor." Many church members turn to her for help in resolving personal and family crises.

Beall has seen more than her share of changes in Christian social ministries, many implemented by her. Initially, CSM faced great opposition from local pastors, who viewed it as para-church work, she recalled. Ministries coordinated outside the church building were viewed with suspicion, she explained.

But CSM, said Beall, was designed "to find fresh ways of relating the gospel to those for whom the whole thing was alien." Actually, she said, the work of the Good Will Centers, American Indian missions, and increased emphasis on race relations "saved" home missions.

"We were able to help Southern Baptists move from a closed-tight view of ministry to an open ministry," she explained. Gradually, she added, CSM provided church leaders new ways to "involve Christians in missions."

The same is true today, according to Beall. Churches often fail to set concrete missions goals. "People want to do mission work but do not know where to start," she claimed. "We are cheating that person if the church does not give them well-designed assignments in missions."

But Christian social ministries allows church members to "turn good intentions into intelligent goodness," she concluded.

Ministers' wives explore 'gifts'

DALLAS — Wives of Southern Baptist ministers were encouraged to use their God-given gifts during a luncheon highlighting the 30th annual Conference of Ministers' Wives.

The women heard a musical theme interpretation of spiritual gifts presented by Ragan Courtney of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Cynthia Clawson of Louisville, a two-time Grammy Award winner for Gospel Singer of the Year.

The ministers' wives were told that while being the wife of a minister is important, it is also important to remember their own gifts are real.

Courtney said "all of you are gifted and the greatest of these gifts is love."

Officers for 1986 are Mrs. Russell Dillard, Fort Worth, Tex., president; Mrs. Peter Rhea Jones, Decatur, Ga., vice-president; Mrs. Ray Rust, Columbia S.C., secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Bill Hinson, New Orleans, La., corresponding secretary.

Elected as officers for 1987 were Mrs. Ted Sisk, Lexington, Ky., president; Mrs. John Hewitt, St. Louis, Mo., vice-president; Mrs. Jerry Hayner, Cary, N.C., secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Don Moore, Little Rock, Ark., corresponding secretary.

Epidemic of teen suicides calls churches to action

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Churches can take an active role in the fight against the rising epidemic of teen-age suicide by simply "lending a listening ear," according to Joe Richardson, personnel counselor for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Richardson, who led sessions on parent/teen communication during this year's summer youth celebrations, noted suicide is the third leading cause of death among teen-agers today, outnumbered only by accident-related deaths.

He challenged parents and youth leaders to lend a helping hand because "most persons are ambivalent about death when attempting suicide."

Explaining that research supports the theory that listening and talking is of great importance to a person considering suicide, Richardson said, "Don't think that once a person decides upon suicide there is nothing you can do to prevent it. Quite the contrary is true; part of them wants to live and anything you can do to give them a reason to live may help."

According to Richardson, the church should play an increasing role as caregiver to youth because a vast majority of teens are growing up in broken or fragmented homes or in situations where there has been no central adult model who provides care and concern.

He believes parents and youth leaders can be generalists at providing the counseling services of understanding, listen-

ing, respect, care, and confidentiality. However, he stressed the importance of not playing therapist when the problems become too great or too personal.

"The time to provide professional help is when there are serious behavior problems, personal and family problems, extreme social problems, or when you as the adult cannot maintain an objective outlook," said Richardson.

"It's time for us to realize that it's OK to seek the help of a competent outsider who can give us an objective opinion," he explained. "We need to admit that we are human and give ourselves a chance to come out of a bad situation whole by seeking professional help."

Richardson listed several clues parents and leaders can look for which may indicate a tendency toward suicide. The list includes: giving away treasured objects, sudden behavior changes, verbal clues in notes or conversations, substance abuse, and unresolved disappointments.

"We should never consider a teenager's loss as insignificant, no matter how we may feel. Failure to make the team may be a great disappointment to a youth even though adults don't see it as very significant," noted Richardson.

Richardson said in addition to caring for teens who may be considering suicide, the church must minister to the remaining victims of those persons whose attempts have been successful.

"Ministering to the families and friends of a suicide victim is a process which is long term," he noted. "The grief process can take several years and all people will at some time go through the stages of denial, anger, bargaining, depression, then adjustment," he said.

He noted these stages are God-given emotions which help a person deal with the significant loss of a friend or family member.

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