

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Convention sets \$136-million budget

By Al Shackelford

ATLANTA — Messengers to the 129th Southern Baptist Convention elected Adrian Rogers of Memphis as president; approved a \$136-million Cooperative Program budget-goal for the 1986-87 convention year; and approved the report of the Peace Committee which was created by the 1985 SBC.

Unofficial registration figures indicate that 40,891 messengers attended — becoming the second largest convention in SBC history. A record 45,519 attended last year's convention in Dallas.

In other actions, the messengers approved the Committee on Boards' nominations after defeating four challenges; approved the Committee on Committees' nominations after defeating one challenge; and referred to the SBC Executive Committee an attempt to remove Southern Baptists from participation in the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

In addition, the convention passed 12 resolutions, supporting religious liberty, the Constitutional right of voluntary prayer and Bible reading in public schools, the involvement of blacks and other minorities in SBC life, and the plight of American farmers, while opposing pornography, abortion, beverage alcohol, gambling, and child abuse.

Baptists shelter S. African youth

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries and the Baptist Union of South Africa have begun sheltering homeless black African youth near the violence-stricken area around Cape Town, South Africa.

Using relief funds from Southern Baptists and donations from within the Baptist union, workers at the home are preparing for an influx of refugees fleeing battles between rival blacks in the sprawling shanty settlement of Crossroads.

The home, named Khayamandi, was opened in the black community of Langa in May to help Xhosa-speaking youth who left their homelands to come to the city and survive by living on the street and doing odd jobs. But now, Khayamandi (meaning "sweet home") promises also to be a shelter for youth whose homes in nearby Crossroads have been burned and whose parents have been killed.

The Western Province Baptist Association, part of the Baptist union, has taken special interest in Khayamandi, but other Baptists are interested too.

"I'm getting calls from all over the country (South Africa) from Baptists asking, 'How can we help, and what do you need?'" said Missionary Terry

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Rogers, pastor of Memphis' Bellevue Baptist Church, was elected SBC president over Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, by a 21,201 to 17,898 margin. These were the only two nominees.

Other officers elected were first vice-president, Jack Stanton of Bolivar, Mo.; second vice-president, Ray Roberts of Asheville, N.C.; recording secretary, Martin Bradley of Nashville; and registration secretary, Lee Porter of Nashville.

The messengers approved the first report of the SBC Peace Committee which was created by last year's convention to identify causes of the denomination's theological and political controversies and to recommend ways to deal with the crisis.

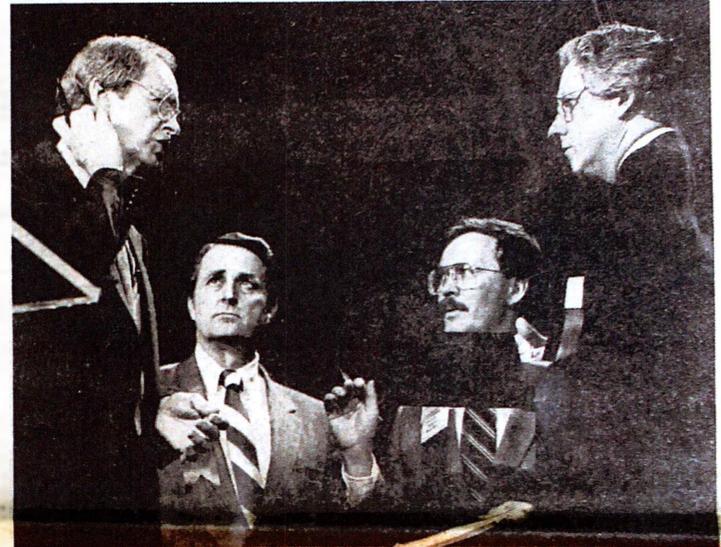
The report from the 22-member committee contained seven recommendations, one of which requested a one-year moratorium on political activities in order for the committee to fulfill its assignments "without being constantly besieged by an emphasis on the political controversies" in the 14.4-million-member denomination.

The moratorium asks for a "deceleration, if not a dismantling of the political power structures, allowing the Peace Committee and SBC agency leadership to work without distractions on the theological and political problems before us during the year 1986-87."

The committee also recommended:

- That Southern Baptists observe 1986-87 as a "year of intercession";
- That Baptist Press, state Baptist newspapers, and the "autonomous independent journals be especially careful to be fair and accurate in reporting events in the convention and refrain from labeling and attributing improper motives";
- That the newly elected SBC president and the convention nominating committees "be especially mindful of fairness in all appointments and nominations so that they are representative of the convention"; and
- That the convention support the committee-initiated prayer retreat with SBC agency leadership and seminary presidents.

In addition to eight meetings of the full (Continued on page 9)



SBC PARLIAMENTARIANS — SBC president Charles Stanley (left) consults with the trio of parliamentarians he appointed to help him preside over the convention last week. From left are Jimmy Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas; H. Barry McCarty, professor at Roanoke Bible College, Elizabeth City, N.C., and a certified parliamentarian; and John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La. Photo by Stanley Leary.

Messengers to SBC elect Adrian Rogers as president

ATLANTA — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention elected Adrian Rogers, pastor of Memphis' Bellevue Baptist Church, as SBC president, casting 21,201 votes (54.22 percent) to soundly defeat Winfred Moore, who drew 17,898 (45.78 percent).

Of the 40,462 registered messengers at the time of the election, 96.6 percent cast ballots.

Rogers was nominated by Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., who one day earlier was elected president of the SBC Pastors' Conference.

"God has prepared a man for times

like these," Price said, calling Rogers the "candidate for peace and truth." Price also noted that Rogers presided over the "orderly and amiable" 1980 convention when he previously served as SBC president.

Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, who served during the past year as first vice-president of the SBC, was nominated by Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church. Jackson said Moore is "Biblically a fundamentalist, theologically a conservative, and ecclesiastically a cooperating Southern Baptist. Winfred Moore knows the truth, believes the truth, preaches the truth, loves the truth, and above all, tells the truth."

Jack Stanton, director of the Institute of Evangelism at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., was elected first vice-president, defeating Henry Huff, attorney and lay member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. Huff was the second vice-president during the past year. Stanton garnered 58.2 percent and Huff received 41.8 percent of the votes.

Stanton was nominated by C. B.

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SBC committee nominations survive four challenges

ATLANTA — Four unsuccessful challenges were made to nominations from the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees June 10 before the SBC messengers approved the committee's entire slate of nominees.

In his opening remarks, Lee Roberts Sr., committee chairman, apologized for statements he made at an April 22 rally in Nashville which have been considered inflammatory by some individuals.

"In keeping with the theme of our convention, 'Love Never Fails,' I ask your forgiveness for those comments," he told the 40,000 messengers. His previous comments were interpreted by many to say that Winfred Moore, candidate for the SBC presidency, does not believe the truth.

When the Committee on Boards' report was presented, the first challenge was the nomination of Ben Loring of Lawton, Okla., to replace the committee's nomination of Alma Ruth Morgan of Bartlesville, Okla., on the Christian Life Commission.

Other challenges offered from the floor were: Paul James of West Palm Beach, Fla., to replace Jack Graham of the same city on the Home Mission Board; Joe Gentry of Charleston, S.C., to replace Daniel Collins of Taylors, S.C., on the Sunday School Board; and R. Wellington Johnson of Fairly, W.Va., to replace Jan Lyons of Huntington, W.Va., on the Executive Committee.

All alternate nominations were defeated on hand voting by the messengers.

All 23 Tennesseans nominated by the Committee on Boards went unchallenged from the floor. Elected were:

Executive Committee: Donald Whitt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Milan, replacing Richard Patton, pastor of First Baptist Church, Portland, who had served two terms and was not eligible for re-election.

Foreign Mission Board: Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, re-elected to a second term.

Home Mission Board: Jerry Glisson, pastor of Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis, re-elected to a second term.

Sunday School Board: Winford Hendrix, pastor of Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, re-elected to a second term.

—Eugene Mims, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cleveland, re-elected to a second term (local trustee).

—Raymond Langlois, pastor of Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, re-elected to a second term (local trustee).

Annuity Board: Ronald Earl, a member of First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, re-elected to a second term.

Golden Gate seminary: Mrs. David Butler, a member of Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, re-elected to a second term.

Midwestern seminary: Joseph Johnson, a member of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, re-elected to a second term.

Southeastern seminary: Jack May, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis, replacing Bill Bruster who moved from the state.

Southern Baptist Foundation: Raymond Langlois, pastor of Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, agency representative for the Sunday School Board.

—Harold Brundige, a member of First Baptist Church, Martin, agency representative of the Radio and Television Commission.

—Clarence Edmonds, a member of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, re-elected to a second term (at large).

—John Gifford Sr., a member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, re-elected to a second term (at large).

—Warren Gregory, a member of Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, re-elected to a second term (at large).

—Edward Smith, a member of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, re-elected to a second term (at large).

—Osta Underwood, a member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, re-elected to a second term (at large).

American Seminary Commission: Edsel West, pastor of South Harriman Baptist Church, Harriman, replacing Norman C. Herron, a member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville.

—William Hill Jr., a member of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, replacing Troy Woodbury, a member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, who had served two terms and was not eligible for re-election (local).

—Roy Fisher, a member of First Baptist Church, Donelson, replacing Stephen Taylor, who moved from the state (local).

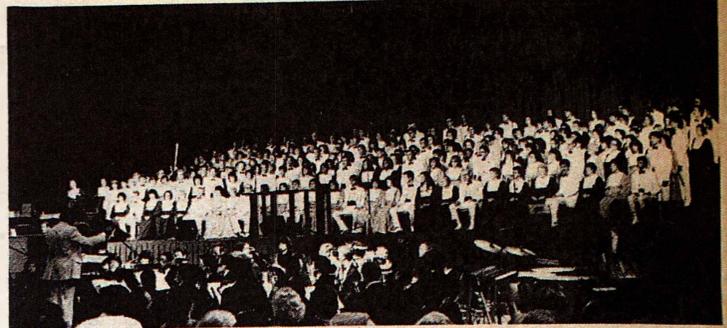
—Marshall Gupton, pastor of Una Baptist Church, Nashville, re-elected to a second term (local).

Education Commission: William Palmer, president of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy Seymour, replacing Tom Madden, TBC executive secretary-treasurer, who had served two terms and was not eligible for re-election.

Brotherhood Commission: Richard Emmert, pastor of Manley Baptist Church, Morristown, re-elected to a second term (at large).

Denominational Calendar Committee: Ted Ingram, pastor of Lincoln Park Baptist Church, Knoxville, elected to a three-year term.

Due to a charter change by the Historical Commission eliminating local members, two Tennesseans whose terms expired this year were not replaced. These are Carolyn Blevins, a member of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, and Stan Rushing, pastor of First Baptist Church, Leland.



CONVENTION INSPIRATION — The combined adult choirs and orchestra of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis led by Jim Whitmire, the church's minister of music, provided music during the Wednesday morning session of the convention.

Tennesseans participate during Atlanta convention

ATLANTA — Southern Baptists from Tennessee were actively involved in last week's Southern Baptist Convention at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, preached the convention sermon on Wednesday morning. Rogers was also elected SBC president by the messengers at the Tuesday afternoon session.

The choir and orchestra of Bellevue Baptist Church provided special music at the Wednesday morning session. Jim Whitmire is minister of music for the church.

Martin Bradley of Nashville served as SBC recording secretary and Lee Porter of Nashville served as SBC registration secretary. Both were re-elected to those positions.

Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, was appointed by SBC president Charles Stanley as chairman of the Credential Committee. Also appointed was John Lee Taylor, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, to serve on the Tellers Committee.

Serving on the Committee on Committees during the convention were Rick White, pastor of First Baptist Church, Franklin, and Frank Steil, a member of Central Baptist Church, Hixson. These were also appointed by President Stanley.

The Tennessee members of the 1986 Committee on Boards were J. C. Parrott,

pastor of Knoxville's Black Oak Heights Baptist Church, and Don Allen, a member of Briarcrest Baptist Church, Memphis.

Serving as a Royal Ambassador page was John Herron, a member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville. Two Brotherhood workers, Wendell W. Crews of First Baptist Church, Athens, and Leonard Brannan of White Oak Baptist Church, Chattanooga, served as microphone monitors.

These Tennesseans appeared on the program making reports of various SBC agencies of which they are the chief executive: Harold Bennett, SBC Executive Committee; Lloyd Elder, Sunday School Board; A. Rudy Fagan, Stewardship Commission; Hollis Johnson III, Southern Baptist Foundation; Lynn May Jr., Historical Commission; James Smith, Brotherhood Commission; Foy Valentine, Christian Life Commission; and Arthur Walker Jr., Education Commission.

Walker also presented the report of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville. Wilmer C. Fields, vice-president for public relations for the SBC Executive Committee, presented the denominational press report.

Tennesseans named to nominating group

ATLANTA — Two Tennesseans were elected to the 1987 Committee on Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention when the Committee on Committees' nominations were approved by the messengers at last week's convention.

Elected to the 54-member committee were Mike McGinnis, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Chattanooga, and Amos Sides, a member of Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis.

The Committee on Boards, which is composed of a layman and a minister from each of the 27 recognized state conventions, will bring nominations to next year's convention for vacancies on the trustees for SBC boards, commissions, and standing committees.

Pleasant Grove Baptists call J. Tolbert as pastor

John L. Tolbert began serving as pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Covington, May 4.

The Ripley native previously led Hickory Valley Baptist Church in Bolivar as pastor. Tolbert was chaplain at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., and also associate pastor of Kensington Avenue Baptist Church in that city.

Baptists shelter youth...

(Continued from page 1)

Blakley, project director for the orphanage.

"It is cold here and it is raining, and Red Cross tents have been burned down by faction fighting," said Blakley. In winter on the cape along the South Atlantic Ocean, wind and rain are relentless. Up to 70,000 people are said to be without homes, some wandering about looking for places to stay and many wrapped in wet blankets and shivering in the rain.

Not only churches, but individuals, too, are calling in donations to Blakley. "They want to help," she said. "People have been frustrated because they've not known what to do or how to do it. This is a channel through which they can express their Christian concern."

Blakley and her husband, Keith, who work with Baptist youth at the University of Cape Town, were touched about a year ago with the plight of the thousands of young boys called "strollers." Strollers haunt shopping areas, where they offer to carry bags or do other odd jobs to earn money. They sleep on the streets

and sniff glue to escape hunger and the nausea that accompanies disease.

In May, just after the Blakleys and Baptists in the area secured a site for an orphanage in the nearby township of Langa, fighting broke out in Crossroads. When Xhosa-speaking African ministers told Blakley they knew of several refugee orphans from Crossroads, she sought relief funds from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The earliest request, dated June 11, included \$13,000 to feed and shelter up to 50 orphans whose parents have been killed at Crossroads. The money will be released only after missionaries receive written confirmation the Western Province Baptist Association will take over operations of the home after a year. That confirmation was expected any day.

Trouble in Crossroads erupted when black Africans who fled their homelands began fighting each other in the squatter region. One group was said to be trying to win favor with the government by driving out groups heavily opposing South Africa's policy of apartheid.

President speaks out at news conference

ATLANTA — Although Adrian Rogers of Memphis won the Southern Baptist Convention presidency with only 54.22 percent of 39,099 ballots cast, he said he believes 90 percent of Southern Baptists support his Biblical views.

"I don't believe by any stretch of the imagination that we are divided 55 to 45," Rogers told a news conference after his election by a 21,201 to 17,898 margin over Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas.

"I believe the great spectrum of Southern Baptists are conservative, Bible-believing people, as I believe almost every poll will show."

Rogers, pastor of the 16,000-member Bellevue Baptist Church, said he had not sought the office but found himself "drawn into" running after encouragement by friends and gaining "permission of God" through prayer.

Asked who he would appoint to SBC



ROGERS MEETS THE PRESS — Adrian Rogers fielded questions from media from across the United States after he was elected president of the convention. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, said he believes 90 percent of Southern Baptists support his views on Biblical inerrancy.

committee posts, Rogers said he would appoint "those I believe will be the best Southern Baptists denominationally, theologically, morally, and intellectually. I am not going to try to choose people from a camp. I am not going to try for quotas or segments but the very best Baptists to lead us to get on with the job."

But he said those with "classical liberal" or "Southern Baptist liberal" views should not be reflected in the appointments.

"I think our appointments need to come out of (our) vast common theology. It ought to be the Baptist Faith and Message statement (which the SBC adopted in 1963 as a statement of Southern Baptist beliefs)."

Asked how he would deal with theological problems in the seminaries, Rogers replied, "I don't plan to deal with theological problems in the seminaries. We have trustees to deal with that. I will try to create a climate of love and trust and see to it we put the very best Baptists on these committees ... and let them deal with it."

Rogers noted that the SBC Peace Committee's statement on theological diversity revealed that some seminarians do not believe in the historicity of Adam and Eve, do not accept all Biblical miracles, do question the traditionally accepted authorship of some books of the Bible, and do question the historical accuracy of Biblical records.

"I don't believe at all that this is representative of Southern Baptist thought," the new president said.

Rogers said he believes the Bible does not teach the ordination of women, but he told a questioner he would not necessarily reject an ordained woman for appointment if she were "morally, theologically, denominationally, and doctrinally qualified" and "if I felt led of the Lord to do it in that particular instance."

Rogers also dealt with a question about "alien immersion" — the often controversial question among many Baptists of accepting persons into membership who have been baptized by immersion in non-Baptist churches.

"The practice of my church is to re-

ceive those primarily who come from other Baptist churches, but we do have exceptions," Rogers said.

"If we feel a person has been Scripturally baptized by immersion in a Bible-believing church that preaches and teaches the doctrine of grace and is in like faith and order as we are — except for the name 'Baptist,' that on occasions, after conference, we may receive persons without asking them to be re-immersed."

Rogers, who served as SBC president in 1979 and declined a traditional second one-year term, said he believes in "soul freedom" and the "priesthood of the believer" and that he would not try to force his beliefs on any person.

He said he would never try to tell a seminary professor or a denominational employee what to believe. "That's between him and God," he said.

But he added, "We are saying that those who work for us, those who have their salaries paid by us, ought to reflect what the great majority of us want taught — and that is embodied in the Baptist Faith and Message statement."

Rogers said he wants to be the kind of president who "will create a climate of love, trust, fairness, and openness" and that he believes Southern Baptists "are coming back again to our great historic roots of missions, evangelism, and Bible belief — getting back to the basics."

Asked what the nature of Southern Baptist seminaries should be, Rogers used the analogy of a trade school, al-

though adding, "a trade school is not a good description of a seminary."

"A trade school teaches a man how to use his tools to get a job done. We're not just interested in teaching people for the sake of teaching. What we're interested in doing is giving men the tools, the ability to build churches, preach the gospel, and win souls."

"I'd like for our seminaries to turn out hot-hearted, skilled preachers, missionaries, teachers who can build churches, win souls, and help change this world for Jesus."

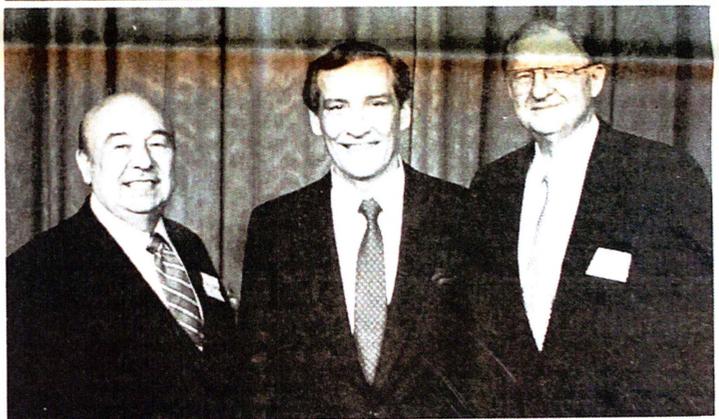
Rogers said he desires that the politicization of the convention "will diminish more and more."

On the heels of a letter from President Ronald Reagan, read at the afternoon session by outgoing SBC president Charles Stanley, Rogers was asked if he intended to consult with Reagan.

"The better question would be does he intend to consult with me," replied Rogers. "It would be presumptuous for me to say I intend to consult with the president."

"I certainly do believe in the separation of church and state, but I certainly also believe that none of us who are Christians are disenfranchised because we are Christians. Whatever makes a man a good Christian, makes him a good citizen."

Rogers said he was grateful that the president of the United States "is interested enough in spiritual values to address a convention like this."



SBC OFFICERS — New Southern Baptist Convention president Adrian Rogers (center), pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, is flanked by Jack Stanton (left), director of the Institute of Evangelism at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., first vice-president; and Ray Roberts of Asheville, N.C., former executive director of Ohio Baptists, second vice-president.

Messengers elect...

(Continued from page 1)

Hogue, executive director of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California and a messenger from First Southern Baptist Church in Fresno. Huff was nominated by T. L. McSwain, pastor of Warren Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga.

Ray Roberts of Asheville, N.C., former executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio for 28 years, defeated four other nominees to become second vice-president of the SBC. He received 50 percent of the vote on the first ballot.

Others nominated were J. Truett Gannon, pastor of Smokerise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, Ga.; Dan Ivins, pastor of Baptist Church of the Covenant in Birmingham, Ala.; Mike Johnson, a lay-

man from Huntsville, Ala.; and Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala.

Johnson boldly nominated himself, declaring, "I am actively seeking election as second vice-president." Johnson placed third out of the five candidates in the vote totals.

Martin Bradley of Nashville was re-elected as SBC recording secretary, an office he has held since 1977. The recording secretary is a convention officer and automatically becomes a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

Bradley's wife, Ruth, has served as assistant to the recording secretary for 22 years, serving with two other recording secretaries prior to her husband's election.

Moore expresses views on SBC

ATLANTA — In a news conference for the loser in the Southern Baptist Convention presidential race, Texas Pastor Winfred Moore said June 10 there would be a lot more people included inside if he were allowed to draw the circle on who could be considered a Southern Baptist.

Moore, who lost the bid for the presidency of the 14.4-million-member convention by a vote of 21,201 to 17,898 to Adrian Rogers of Memphis, pledged his complete support to efforts to bring peace and harmony to the strife-torn convention.

Most Baptists, said Moore, believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God. "The difference is in the parameters of accepting diversity of interpreting the Scripture," he added.

Moore said he preferred making the parameters wide enough to include Baptists who may not agree with him on the fine points of theology, provided those parameters are within the guidelines of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

He added Baptists ought to be able to understand that not everyone sees everything exactly alike, because Baptists believe in the priesthood of every believer and the "soul competency" of every believer to interpret the Bible, and the

Faith and Message statement for himself or herself.

He added the Baptist Faith and Message statement is a long way from being a creed, and he did not believe Baptists will ever have a creed.

If the rank and file Baptist laymen learn Baptists might be moving toward a creed, they will rise up against it, Moore said. He encouraged more and more lay members of churches to become informed and involved.

"You've got to remember that the people who vote in the convention are the people who attend as messengers, but they are not all the folks back home in the churches," Moore said. "We really don't have as big a theological problem as some people think we have."

Moore said he would continue to work for harmony as a member of the SBC Peace Committee, but he did not intend to be a candidate for SBC president next year. "I really didn't want to be a candidate this year, and kept hoping some layman would rise to the front to lead us, but that didn't happen."

He said he did not think, however, that the more moderate-conservatives in the convention would give up. "Somebody will be a candidate next year," he predicted, "but I have no plans to do it."

EDITORIAL

1986 SBC characterized by 'lack of trust'

The "fundamental-conservative party" seemed to have its way in nearly every matter put to vote at last week's Southern Baptist Convention at the World Congress Center in Atlanta.

Registration at the 129th SBC was far less than the 60,000 predicted by some last spring. However, the 40,891 unofficial messenger registration was the second highest in SBC history, surpassed only by the 45,519 messengers who registered at the 1985 SBC in Dallas.

Atlanta also has the distinction of hosting the third largest convention — 22,872 messengers attended the 1978 SBC in that city.

We commend the Baptists of Atlanta and the officials at the World Congress Center for the tremendous job they did in hosting the near-record attendance. The large attendance did strain the facilities, but the messengers responded well to the crowded conditions.

The anticipated problem of finding a place to eat between sessions was greatly alleviated by the many "short-order" food concessions scattered throughout the facility.

As expected, Adrian Rogers was elected as SBC president for the coming year with a 54.22 percent vote of the 39,009 messengers registered at the time of the balloting. Winfred Moore, the "moderate-conservative party" candidate, made a good showing, but could not garner enough votes to defeat the popular former SBC president.

The fundamental-conservative faction made a clean sweep of the major SBC offices by electing the two vice-presidents they supported.

The group also had its way in the reports of the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees — successfully electing the nominees presented after defeating four challenges to the Committee on Boards' nominees and one challenge to the Committee on Committees' nominees.

Our analysis of the entire convention actions would seem to indicate that the "fundamental-conservative party" lost only two votes — and both of these were on ballots after President Charles Stanley termed the vote by a show of hands as too close to call.

The first of these was an attempt to remove Southern Baptists from participation in the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and to create a separate SBC committee or agency in Washington, D.C. After heated debate and a close hand vote, the ballot vote of 12,001 to 9,556 referred the matter to the SBC Executive Committee for consideration and a report to next year's convention in St. Louis.

The other matter on which the fundamental-conservative faction appears to have lost was an amendment to a resolution on "Strengthening Missions." When the Resolutions Committee presented the resolution, an amendment was offered from the floor "that this convention urge every Southern Baptist church to give at least a tithe of its undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program to strengthen missions."

Two votes on the amendment by hand were unclear, so a ballot was taken. The amendment was added by a 5,129 to 4,184 vote, and the resolution was then passed as amended.

It was obvious to observers that the business sessions — perhaps even

the entire convention — was dominated by the current struggle for control between the two factions. It seemed that most of the motions and resolutions were designed to favor one faction or the other. Barbs in debate — and even in messages — were often interpreted as political.

And, there was an abundance of business. According to our count, there were 85 motions or amendments and 52 resolutions presented by messengers (in addition to routine motions to receive reports from institutions and agencies).

Also, there were countless calls for a "point of order" or a "point of personal privilege."

Certainly, we would not deprive any messenger from the right to present a motion or a resolution — but the excessive number of motions and resolutions places an impossible job on the Committee on Order of Business, the Resolutions Committee, and even the messengers themselves.

We long for the "good old days" (before the controversy) when a substantial portion of a convention's agenda was allotted to sermons, devotionals, guest speakers, and Bible studies. This year, there were only two inspirational messages — the president's address and the convention sermon. Both of these messages are required to be included on the agenda by Bylaw 1(2).

By contrast, 10 years ago (1976 SBC in Norfolk, Va.) there were 13 inspirational sermons and devotionals!

The carrying out of the many lengthy business sessions was greatly aided by Stanley's spirit; the electronic system which told Stanley which microphone in the three auditoriums had next asked for recognition; and the addition of a professional, non-Southern Baptist parliamentarian. The messengers obviously appreciated the parliamentary efforts of C. Barry McCarty who provided a commendable service for the convention. It is probably the first time in history that a Church of Christ minister received a standing ovation at a Southern Baptist Convention!

It is difficult to describe the 1986 SBC, but we would use the phrase, "Lack of trust." This was evident in that nearly every issue seemed to be surrounded by the question, "What are THEY trying to do?"

For this reason, the most important matter considered at the convention was the report of the Peace Committee — which may be our last hope for unity in this generation.

Seven recommendations from the committee were passed. These are so important and so desperately needed, that we are printing these in full — with our hope and prayer that you will clip these out and seek prayerfully to abide by them during the coming year.

(1) That the Southern Baptist Convention respectfully beseech all Southern Baptists to make 1986-87 a Year of Intercession with periods of prayer, prayer rallies, and similar emphases for reconciliation and restoration in SBC life and work, etc.

(2) That the convention respectfully request there be a one-year moratorium on theological/political position meetings and a deceleration, if not a dismantling, of the political power structures, allowing the Peace Committee and SBC agency leadership to work without distraction on the theological and political problems before us during the year 1986-87.

(3) That the convention deplore the use of the type of intemperate, inflammatory, and unguarded language used by some spokesmen on both sides of the political spectrum.

(4) That the convention urge Baptist Press, the state Baptist papers, and the autonomous independent journals to be especially careful to be fair and accurate in reporting events in the convention and refrain from labeling and attributing improper motives.

(5) That the convention request our newly elected president of the SBC, the Committee on Committees, the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees to be especially mindful of fairness in all appointments and nominations so that they are representative of the convention.

(6) That this convention strongly support the Peace Committee in a planned retreat with all its members joined by SBC agency executives and seminary presidents. We will come together for a time of dialogue, getting more closely acquainted in order to know and understand each other, and soliciting assistance in the peace-making process. This should be a fruitful event.

(7) And finally, that the Peace Committee be continued one year as originally authorized by the Dallas convention action in June 1985, and that it report to the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in St. Louis, June 16-18, 1987.

Southern Baptists who went to Atlanta hoping for a decline in political bickering doubtlessly returned home discouraged. However, we have spent a decade getting into the current controversy. It will not go away immediately.

Somehow we must recapture our trust in our fellow Baptists. We have given a tremendous task to our Peace Committee.

In prayer and in patience, we must allow them to do their convention-assigned task.

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Resolutions Committee avoids divisive issues

By Charlie Warren

ATLANTA — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention last week approved 12 resolutions, addressing a variety of social and political issues and reaffirming faith in the entire Bible.

The convention went on record opposing gambling, pornography, an ambassador to the Holy See, taxation of church pension boards, and textbook censorship, while speaking in favor of religious liberty, sex education in a Christian context, involvement of minorities in SBC life, and missions.

The SBC Resolutions Committee presented the 12 resolutions from among 52 submitted, purposely avoiding resolutions submitted on "divisive" issues such as ordination of women, abortion, and controversy in the convention.

"We followed the belief that we should not address divisive matters," said Alan Sears, chairman of the committee. "Resolutions brought to us that would have done so (brought division), we have avoided them."

The 52 resolutions submitted were considerably below the 1985 record of 74, but above the 30 submitted in 1984 and 34 offered in 1983.

Of the resolutions not acted upon by the committee, five were on the role of women and five addressed the abortion issue.

Four of the committee's 12 resolutions were amended by messengers before passage, while eight were approved unamended. Except for the amendments, the resolutions drew little debate.

Following are the highlights of the 12 resolutions. In the order they were presented by the Resolutions Committee.

Gambling and gambling advertising

Resolution number one on gambling and gambling advertising was passed without discussion or amendments.

It noted that a bill pending in the House of Representatives, H.R. 3431, would remove federal restrictions on interstate advertising of casino and lottery gambling.

The resolution urged all Southern Baptists to resist "the immoral inroads of the gambling industry," and expressed opposition to the legalization of any form of gambling in upcoming elections and to the pending legislation to eliminate lottery advertising restrictions.

It also urged the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission to communicate the convention's opposition to Congress and President Ronald Reagan and to work for the defeat of H.R. 3431.

Ambassador to the Holy See

Messengers approved a resolution opposing the appointment of a U.S. ambassador to Vatican City.

Baptists, the resolution noted, view the Holy See as an ecclesiastical entity, not as a civil state. It expressed Southern Baptists' "abiding and unchanging opposition" to the continuance of such an ambassador and urged members of Southern Baptist churches to express their opposition to appropriate federal officials.

In December 1983, Congress lifted a century-old ban on diplomatic relations with the Vatican, which paved the way for Reagan to nominate William A. Wilson as ambassador in January 1984. The resolution, noting Wilson's recent resignation, urged Reagan not to fill the vacant post, and urged senators to refuse to confirm any such ambassador Reagan might choose to appoint.

The resolution further urged the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to

forward copies of the resolution to Reagan and "appropriate members" of the U.S. Senate.

An attempted amendment, to add the word "primarily" before "an ecclesiastical entity," failed.

Tax reform legislation and church pension boards

Resolution number three, passed without discussion, noted that a tax reform bill passed by the House of Representatives in December contains a provision that would revoke the tax exemption of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board and similar church pension boards.

Noting a "serious threat to the separation of church and state," messengers went on record as "opposing any and all efforts to revoke the tax exemption of the church pension boards."

Pornography

A pornography resolution, adopted after three amendments, encouraged Southern Baptists to urge enforcement of laws on the dissemination of pornography and commended the work of Attorney General Edwin Meese's Commission on Pornography. Resolutions Committee chairman Alan Sears, U.S. attorney from Louisville, Ky., is executive director of the commission.

Two of the three amendments to the resolution were proposed by Elton Johnson of Charleston, S.C. His first amendment urged the Christian Life Commission to prepare and distribute materials for use in battling pornography, especially cable TV's showing of "homosexuality, nudism, bestiality, rape, and infidelity" in the living rooms of America.

His second amendment asked the CLC to communicate appreciation to the National Federation for Decency, which led the effort to persuade retail corporations to discontinue the sale of sexually explicit magazines.

The resolution urged Southern Baptists to continue "legally permissible means of protest" to dissuade retail outlets from selling such materials and to communicate their gratitude to corporations that already have discontinued sales.

Prayer for farmers

Without discussion, messengers approved a resolution urging prayer for farmers, their families, and churches

and communities affected by economic setbacks.

It urged SBC agencies, state conventions, associations, and churches to be sensitive to the needs and opportunities occasioned by the farm crisis in America.

Religious liberty

After three amendments to change the wording, messengers passed a resolution on the First Amendment of the Constitution and religious freedom.

Supporting "full and free exercise of religious liberty," the resolution voiced concern over the suppression of religious expression and Christian views and objected to anti-Christian bias on television and in other media. It also urged Baptists to become politically active to defend and promote traditional Judeo-Christian values.

The most controversial paragraph decried "interpretations of Supreme Court rulings which deny the right of voluntary prayer and Bible reading in the public schools," and called upon school boards, principals, teachers, and other authorities not to suppress or discourage the prayers and religious exercises of students.

Lawson Pankey, a messenger from Richmond, Va., offered an amendment to remove the paragraph on school prayer "in the spirit of playing down controversial matters." His amendment failed.

Textbook censorship

Resolution number seven on textbook censorship drew no debate.

Noting "the omission of references in textbooks to the existence, contributions, and current role of the Judeo-Christian heritage in our society," the resolution asked Baptists to oppose censorship of the Judeo-Christian heritage as a historical fact from public school textbooks.

It further encouraged textbook selection committees not to accept textbooks that have censored the Judeo-Christian heritage.

Strengthening missions

The only resolution requiring a ballot vote was on the support of SBC mission efforts. David Travis of Lithonia, Ga., offered an amendment to the original resolution urging that "every Southern Baptist church give at least a tithe of

their undesignated gifts to strengthen missions."

A hand vote was ruled too close to call, requiring a ballot vote. The amendment carried, 5,129 to 4,184.

Another amendment, offered by Don Mason of Alabama, encouraged SBC officers and messengers to show their support of missions by attending the Home and Foreign Mission boards' presentations during the annual meeting.

"The biggest disgrace of this convention," Mason said, "is that the hall is full" for the election of SBC president yet, "our people are not interested enough" to attend the mission presentations.

His amendment carried.

Noting the Bold Mission Thrust objective to present the gospel to every person on earth by the year 2000, the resolution urged Baptists to pray for God to call out persons to serve as missionaries, for spiritual awakening, for missionaries, and for leadership in both boards.

Minorities in SBC life

Messengers encouraged SBC agencies and committees to increase the involvement of blacks and other minorities in employment, missions, and programs. The resolution passed without discussion.

Sex education and adolescent pregnancy

Resolution number 10 blamed a decline in morality on sex education programs taught from a "secular humanistic viewpoint." Noting the increase in adolescent pregnancies and the establishment of school-based clinics that test for pregnancy, dispense birth control measures, and refer pregnant teens to abortion clinics, the resolution affirmed the urgency for families and churches to educate children "about spiritual insights and Christian understanding of sexuality."

Lance Winn of Walcott, Ark., successfully amended the resolution, adding, "We also affirm that abortion is unscriptural and has a harmful effect on the mother" as well as claiming the life of the unborn child.

An attempt to amend the resolution by changing a reference to "Judeo-Christian values" to "Christian values" failed.

Appreciation

A traditional resolution expressing appreciation for the host city, the press, convention officers, and agencies of the convention passed without discussion.

Faith in the Bible

In an unusual move, the Resolutions Committee presented a last-minute resolution asking messengers to "reaffirm our faith in the entire Bible as stated in article one of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement" adopted in 1963.

The resolution had been presented by Dave Lucas of Austin, Texas, but had not been received by the committee.

After Lucas requested information on the status of his resolution, the committee huddled on the platform and voted to recommend passage of the resolution by the messengers, even though it had not been printed in advance in the convention bulletin.

After the resolution was read, it was announced that time had expired for consideration of resolutions, so the vote was taken without allowing discussion. The resolution passed.



MICROPHONE BOX — SBC officers and parliamentarians look to Morris Chapman as he operates the new "microphone ordering box" during business sessions of the convention last week. For the first time, convention microphones were placed in a sequence by a computer so officers did not have to guess which messenger should speak next. Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, was a member of the Committee on Order of Business.

BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR
brings you news first

SBC pastors examine 'Author, Finisher'

By Charlie Warren

ATLANTA — About 20,000 people gathered here June 8-9 for the 1986 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference to focus on "Jesus Christ, Author and Finisher."

The largest crowds ever to attend the Pastors' Conference heard only passing reference to the on-going strife Southern Baptists have experienced in the struggle between fundamental-conservatives and moderate-conservatives.

Several of the two-day conference's 14 speakers, however, emphasized the authority, infallibility, and inerrancy of the Bible, which has been the battle cry of the fundamental-conservative movement.

Former Southern Baptist Convention president Bailey Smith said, "We can't win this world; we can't be the Southern Baptists we need to be if we put question marks over the authority and power of God's Holy Scripture."

"We don't need religious dialogue. We don't need to discuss the religions of the world. We don't need to get together and talk about all the things we have religiously in common. We need to be twice-born men and women who have the touch of God upon our souls and we need to tell people of every race, of every religion, of every creed, of every color, that we have found the answer in the only Son of God, Jesus Christ."

Smith, now a full-time evangelist from Oklahoma City, said he is convinced that Southern Baptists have a commitment problem. "When I read that in 1950 with 6-million members, we led as many people to Christ as we did last year with 14-million members, I believe we've got a commitment problem in our denomination," Smith charged.

"There's only one thing I know that Jesus died for and that's people. We need to get about the people business, loving them, sharing our faith, letting them know that some other denomination does not have a monopoly on the Holy Spirit."

Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, explored the doctrine of the Lamb of God, the pre-existence of Jesus, and progressive revelation.

"If you want your belief in the infallible, inerrant Word of God to become more firmly established, study the doctrine of unfolding revelation," Young suggested. "Progressive revelation does not mean we move from error to truth. Progressive revelation means we move from the dimness of dawn to the brilliance of noonday."

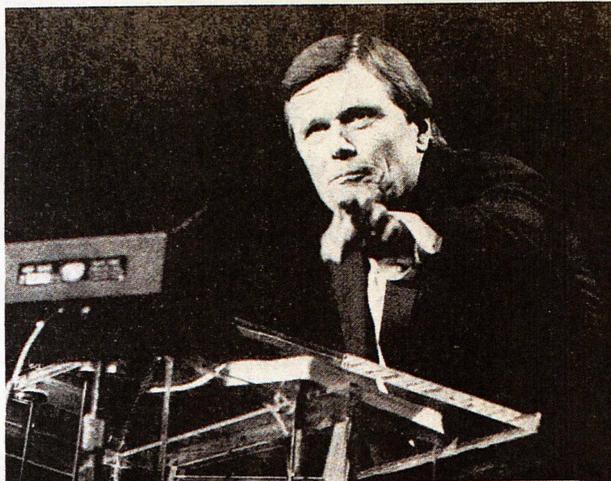
He said the most overlooked doctrine of Scripture is the doctrine of the pre-existence of Jesus Christ.

"Jesus Christ is there in pre-creation. Jesus is there in post-historic time," said Young.

The Houston pastor traced the sacrificial system of the Old Testament, focusing on the blood of an unblemished lamb, culminating in the New Testament Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

"Our calling is the same as the commission given to John the Baptist," Young concluded. "We must point to Jesus every day and say, 'Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.'"

Harry Garvin, a Southern Baptist missionary to Uganda since 1969, told the pastors of his wife's health problem, of serving during the days of dictator President Idi Amin, of being interrogated by armed soldiers who threatened to arrest his family as spies, of facing the threat of death in a boating accident, and of hav-



PROCLAIMING THE LAMB — Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, preached on Jesus, the Lamb of God.



PASTORS' OFFICERS — Elected as officers of the Pastors' Conference were (left to right) Thomas Hinson of First Baptist Church, West Memphis, Ark., vice-president; Nelson Price of Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., president; and Richard Blair of Trinity Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, secretary-treasurer.

ing their home and possessions destroyed by fire.

Despite these life-threatening experiences, Garvin stated without reservation, "The safest place on the earth is in the will of God."

"If we worry about dying, we can't win the world to Jesus," Garvin said, adding that God showed him that "the question is not staying in Uganda or leaving Uganda but staying in the will of God. The question is not living or dying, the question is doing the will of God."

Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., preached on the literal pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ.

"All who believe the Bible believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ," stated Vines. "We must not make incidental what God has made fundamental. We must believe in the imminent return of Christ."

"If there's no second coming, there was no ascension," Vines continued. "If there was no ascension, there was no resurrection. If there was no resurrection, there was no death on the cross and the whole Christian faith goes down the tubes."

He said he believes Jesus Christ will return to Jerusalem to sit on the throne of David and literally reign on earth for a literal 1,000 years.

Jay Strack, an evangelist from Fort Myers, Fla., said the Christian life is not a sprint, a 100-yard dash, or a relay race, but a race of endurance.

Relating his topic, "Crossing the Finish Line," to the convention, Strack

commented, "For years we've prayed that someday we'd be big enough as a denomination to win the world for Christ. Now we are and we must run the race and finish the course."

"God says, 'I have people called Southern Baptists and I've put in their hands the responsibility to tell the world about Jesus Christ,'" Strack stated. "We can't get discouraged, because Jesus Christ is counting on us to be faithful. He is our companion, running at our side, giving us courage and motivation to finish the race."

Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., and Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, preached on the power of the resurrected Christ to change lives.

Price, elected later as president of the 1987 Pastors' Conference, declared that the name of Jesus is a "saving name, a sustaining name, and a sovereign name" and He has the power to meet all possible needs.

Gregory noted that when the resurrected Christ ascended to be with God, He made promises which armed Christians to face the problems of the world — giving them His Holy Spirit to live within them and His presence to go alongside them.

He added that the resurrection of Jesus defeated the power of Satan, allowing believers to triumph over evil if they remain immersed in Christ.

"We don't worship a heavenly Houdini, who made promises he couldn't keep."

Southern Baptist Convention president Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, welcomed the pastors and urged attendance at SBC sessions.

"I believe every Southern Baptist Convention is important, but this one seems more important," Stanley said. "I want to encourage you to be here and put this convention above pleasure. Be at every single business meeting and conduct the business so that God Himself will be honored."

The SBC president recognized author James Hefley to present copies of his book, *Truth in Crisis* — the Controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention, to outgoing Pastors' Conference President Morris Chapman and his wife.

Hefley's book has created controversy since the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board decided not to sell it at the SBC Baptist Book Store exhibit.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist



VOCALIST — Steve Green, concert artist from Nashville, presented a mini-concert during the Monday evening session.

Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, endorsed Hefley's book, stating, "I believe this is a book that should be read by every Southern Baptist."

Tennessee Pastor Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, preached on the virgin birth (see story on page 1 of the June 11 issue of the Baptist and Reflector).

Other major speakers were Harold Carter, pastor of New Shiloh Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md.; Bill Tolar, dean of the school of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; James Reimer, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.; Dwight Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga.; David Ring, evangelist from St. Charles, Mo.; and Eugene Ridley, evangelist from Dillsboro, N.C.

In addition to Price, the pastors elected Thomas Hinson, pastor of First Baptist Church, West Memphis, Ark., as vice-president; and Richard Blair, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, as secretary-treasurer.



INSTRUMENTALIST — Vernard Johnson, music evangelist from Fort Worth, Texas, opened the Monday afternoon session with saxophone music.

WMU elects president, calls for intercession

By Connie Davis

ATLANTA — The national annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union retained its non-political position by calling its 1.2-million members to prayer, silence about the controversy, and a focus on missions during the pre-convention meeting June 8-9.

About 3,600 viewed drama, panel discussions, interviews, speakers, and special recognitions at the Georgia World Congress Center and Omni International Hotel.

Dorothy Sample, president, and Betty Gilreath, recording secretary, were honored for their five years of service.

Marjorie Jones McCullough of Alexandria, La., was elected as president and Pattie Dent of Holly Springs, Miss., was elected recording secretary for one-year terms by the unanimous acceptance of the nominating committee's report. (See story on McCullough on page 12).

Sample and Greogory

Responding with humor and emotion to gifts and other acknowledgements of her service, Sample called WMU members to become women of vision, hope, and action following the example of women she has seen all over the world.

"Though the dark clouds of controversy have limited our (Southern Baptists') vision, WMU will be praying that we will have a clear vision again," proclaimed Sample.

She advised women to keep their temper even though they are confused about the changes they are undergoing.

Pointing to those women before them whose work resulted in the current Southern Baptist missionary force, Sample challenged women to be mentors and to nurture others, especially children, "not out of our gender, but out of our commitment," she concluded. The crowd responded by giving her a standing ovation.

Christine Gregory, past WMU president, current Peace Committee member, and senior vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance, noted that baptisms are down in our convention and that we are becoming known in the secular world for our controversy.

Sharing one of the Peace Committee's recommendations, Gregory asked WMU to make 1986-87 a year of intercession. She encouraged Baptist women to pray and to talk about Jesus, instead of talking about others, a comment which brought enthusiastic applause from the crowd.

Anniversary celebrations

The centennial celebrations of missions literature and missions education for children were featured and the centennial anniversary of WMU in 1988 was previewed, including the goals of increasing WMU membership to 2-million and raising \$2-million to pay off the new building by 1988.

Also the sesquicentennial anniversary (150 years) of Baptist missionaries' arrival in China was celebrated.

The China emphasis included an exhibit on John and Henrietta Hall Shuck, the first Baptist missionaries to China, and the introduction of the following former missionaries to China who were present at the meeting: Lorene Tilford of Chattanooga, Everley Hayes of Maryland, Ruby Wheat of Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Winston Crawley of Virginia, Marie Conner of Georgia, Kay Bigham of Georgia, Mrs. Harold H. Snuggs of South Carolina, and Eloise Cauthen of Virginia.

Cauthen, wife of the late Baker James Cauthen who was executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, shared that she was born in China of missionary

parents and later served there with her husband. She noted that the Communist government of China caused missionaries to suffer under house arrest and in camps of internment, but that it did not kill Christianity in China.

Lewis Myers Jr., director of the Foreign Mission Board's new cooperative services international office, cited the changes in China as it has emerged from its 30-year silence.

Myers noted China today is a more united country with just one major language, it is independent of other countries, and the number of Christians is 20-million compared to 700,000 believers 30 years ago. Also, he noted the church is stronger because of suffering, the population is scattered around the world, the Chinese are seeking meaning to life, and the country's Constitution guarantees freedom of religion.

Myers predicted that China is "winable" and that it "may just be the key to winning the world to Jesus Christ."

Southern Baptists can help the Chinese by having a learner attitude, praying, and considering becoming involved through foreign missions programs.

FMB president

R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, commended the WMU for supporting missions, noting that the recent secular offerings for the needy have not produced half as much as Southern Baptists give each year for missions.

Citing perilous missions work in Uganda, Parks said, "The Lord's will is not the safest place to be." Parks added that the hope for foreign missions is more dependent on WMU than any group of which he knows.

Missions informers

David Barrett, research consultant, and Minette Drumwright, special assistant to the president for intercessory prayer, both at the Foreign Mission Board, led participants to do world-class thinking rather than self-centered thinking.

Barrett cited statistics concerning the number of non-Christians in the world, the number of persons and children in poverty, and children who are disabled.

He confirmed that he believes it is possible to reach the world for Christ because it is possible to obey the com-

mand of God and that Christians have made progress, according to reports.

He cited China as an example of our short-sighted thinking because we believed China could not be evangelized today, but experts say that 1-million churches meet currently in China.

Responding to Drumwright's question about how to reach an increasingly hostile world, Barrett said that followers of Jesus may have to follow His example and that of an increasing number of modern-day martyrs by giving their lives.

Paul Brand, the chief of the rehabilitation branch at the National Hansen's Disease Center in Carville, La., encouraged Christians to grow through servanthood, sensitivity, and despite opposition and temptation, following Jesus' example.

A graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, L'Nola Hall, a home missionary directing the Baptist Stewart Center in Atlanta, humorously detailed her experiences with the black children she helps.

"Don't do missions because you love people, because they start stinking after a while," she said. The crowd applauded her message and her children, who sang a song for the meeting.

Noel Vose, BWA president from Australia; Grace Faulkenberry, a home missionary who with her husband leads the Clincho Baptist Chapel's weekday ministry program in Clincho, Va.; and Everett Anthony, director of missions for Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association, also spoke.

A special memorial was held in memory of Marie Mathis, former WMU leader, who died in 1985.

Tennessean Scott Bennett, a professor of music at Union University in Jackson, along with Janelle Ganey, a newly appointed foreign missionary who is currently an instructor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, accompanied Angela Cofer, an instructor at the University of Arizona, who led the music and sang.



BIBLE CHARACTER — Laurita Mullins Miller of Illinois portrayed several characters from the Bible during the WMU meeting in Atlanta.



PASSING THE GAVEL — Dorothy Sample (left), presents the gavel to the new WMU president Marjorie McCullough, marking the end of Sample's five-year service as president.



ENTHUSIASTIC CHOIR — The black children of Baptist Stewart Center in Atlanta are led by L'Nola Hall, the center's director, in a song at the WMU meeting.

Wives of ministers meet during SBC

ATLANTA — Being physically fit is "the second most important thing in the world," Millie Cooper of Dallas told more than 600 ministers' wives June 10 at their annual luncheon. Cooper is the wife of Kenneth Cooper, founder of the Aerobic Center in Dallas and a noted author and lecturer on physical fitness.

Although relationship to Jesus Christ is primary, fitness is essential for sustaining ministry, Mrs. Cooper said. "We cannot be indifferent about either one." The purpose of exercising, she said, is "not getting over the finish line first but stopping to pick someone up."

Cooper rebuked the common excuse of being too busy to be fit. Even being pre-occupied with studying is no excuse, she added.

"Ladies, you aren't going to glow until you sweat some," she declared.

Cooper said her message is urgent because "women are becoming as vulnerable to heart disease as men." Five factors contributing to heart disease, she said, are inactivity, a high saturated fat diet, stress, smoking, and heredity.

Before Cooper's address, the women were introduced to 11 peers who maintain regular fitness programs. In the group was Veta Sherman of Nashville.

SBTS honors five at SBC luncheon

ATLANTA — The largest gathering in the history of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary saw four graduates honored June 11 as Alumni of the Year, Winfred Moore inducted as the seminary's first "honorary alumnus," and heard announcements of almost \$2-million in new gifts to the Louisville seminary.

Recognized as alumni of the year were Lloyd Ellis Batson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pickens, S.C.; Lien Hwa Chow, Taiwanese pastor and former professor at the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary, translator of Today's Chinese Version of the Bible; Wilmer C. Fields, who retires this year after 27 years as vice-president for Public Relations of the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville; and W. Carl Hunker, a career Southern Baptist missionary who has served in Taiwan, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, China, and the Philippines, and has been president of both the Taiwan Baptist Seminary and Asia Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary.

Seminary president Roy L. Honeycutt surprised Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, and unsuccessful nominee for the SBC presi-

dency, by inducting him as the first "honorary alumnus" in the seminary's history.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, the presidency of the national alumni group went to John E. Hughes, pastor of First Baptist Church, Independence, Mo. The alumni named Dan Griffin, pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, to serve as president-elect.

SEBTS luncheon honors staff

ATLANTA — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President W. Randall Lolley, the faculty, and administration were cited in a resolution for their strong and courageous leadership at an alumni luncheon June 11.

National alumni president Earl Crumpler, pastor of Edwards Road Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C., told the 800 alumni and friends, "I owe more to Southeastern seminary than I can ever repay. I went to Southeastern as a Bible-believing Baptist, but I didn't know why. I left Southeastern a Bible-believing Baptist, but I knew why."

In a business session, the alumni dedicated their 1987-88 giving program in honor of the faculty, elected officers, and adopted a resolution of appreciation for Professor John E. Steely, who died in April after 30 years on the faculty.

Assuming the office of president of the national alumni was Eileen Stone, associate pastor of Vienna Baptist Church, Vienna, Va. Named president-elect was Ronald W. Higdon, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky. Other officers elected were Kenneth K. Altom, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville, secretary; and Dale L. Chambliss, associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, Ala., director.

Peace supporters hold Atlanta meet

ATLANTA — People of God who justify military might against those of different race and religion are not new, the pastor of one of America's foremost "peace" churches told the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

Joseph Roberts, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, said that Jesus rebuked His disciples for wanting to call down fire on a village that had refused them hospitality.

The same "naked prejudice" that "justified" the disciples' desire to destroy a village "justifies" America's spending \$1.6-trillion on arms, said Roberts, pastor of the church where Martin Luther King Jr. was pastor during his efforts to integrate America in the 1960s.

Roberts addressed the concept of terrorism because it is such a threat to peace. He said it is not sporadic and spontaneous, but is rooted in the political ambitions and nationalistic desires of small countries who realize that in this nuclear age, they can easily be erased.

Tom Walsh, a lawyer from Memphis and vice-president of the BPFNA steering committee, said the group has grown to include seven denominations in America, Latin America, and Canada.

"From Moscow to Managua," he said, "we have been introduced to the Prince of Peace and defeated the enemy by giving him a face."

Alumni of MWBTS hold luncheon

ATLANTA — Alumni of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary honored six denominational leaders, installed new officers, and heard administrative reports June 11 at the institution's national alumni association luncheon which attracted 340.

Ray Kesner, Midwestern's director of alumni affairs and denominational services, presented three alumnus of the year awards. Recipients were James W. Hatley, executive director, Austin Baptist Association, Austin, Texas; John I. Nance, director of student work and church training, Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention; and Harlan E. Spurgeon, vice-president for human resources, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

For the first time, three persons were named honorary alumni. They were

Robert L. Desbien, assistant vice-president, office of communications and public relations, Foreign Mission Board; Harland K. Ginn, pastor of Winwood Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.; and Dan Rainbolt, pastor of Susquehanna Baptist Church, Independence, Mo.

Doyle M. Sager, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sedalia, Mo., was installed as alumni association president. R. Rex (Peck) Lindsay, executive director of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists was named president-elect.

Morton F. Rose, who recently retired from the Baptist Sunday School Board as vice-president, will serve as visiting professor of church administration at Midwestern for the next two years, alumni learned.

GGBTS friends meet at SBC

ATLANTA — Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary hosted its alumni and friends at a luncheon June 11 which included in the audience three former presidents of the seminary — Harold K. Graves, who is currently serving as interim president, William Pinson of Dallas, Texas, and Franklin D. Pollard of Jackson, Miss. About 20 states and several foreign countries were represented.

Honored as alumnus of year for 1986 was James L. Watters of Portland, Ore. He was lauded for rendering "outstanding, dedicated service to the Southern Baptist Convention during the year."

Watters, a former missionary, is editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness, news journal of the Northwest Baptist Convention.

The alumni association presented its fifth meritorious service award to Anne L. Foster of Mill Valley, Calif., for having rendered "outstanding dedicated service to Golden Gate seminary over an appreciable span of years." She has been a member of the administrative staff of the seminary for the past 23 years as

assistant to the registrar and now as registrar.

Elected president of the Golden Gate Seminary Alumni Association for 1986-87 was Michael L. Rochelle of Sacramento, Calif. Chosen as vice-president was Terrence E. Evans of Richmond, Calif. Darlena M. Alexander of Grover City, Calif., was selected treasurer.

Pro-life gathering hears Zig Ziglar

ATLANTA — Pro-life Southern Baptists need to evangelize the Southern Baptist Convention with the truth about abortion, famous motivational speaker Zig Ziglar told about 100 people June 11 at the second annual meeting of Southern Baptists for Life.

Ziglar, former first vice-president of the SBC and a member of First Baptist Church, Dallas, said a lot of people were crying for joy about the just-completed heart transplant performed on "Baby Jesse," which made national headlines while Southern Baptists met in Atlanta.

But "few if any tears" were shed for the 4,000 or more unborn babies aborted the same day "Baby Jesse" got a new heart, Ziglar said.

Child abuse has risen drastically since abortion was legalized, Ziglar claimed, along with an increasing acceptance of infanticide. He said such things indicate a society of "active barbarians and passive Christians."

Southern Baptists for Life, formed less than three years ago, is not an official agency of the Southern Baptist Convention and receives no Cooperative Program funds.

Research fellowship holds pre-SBC meet

ATLANTA — The Southern Baptist Research Fellowship elected a new slate of officers for two-year terms during their pre-convention meeting here June 7.

Donald F. Mabry, director of missions division of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, La., was elected president while Lewis Wingo, research analyst for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, was named program vice-president and president-elect.

Re-elected as membership chairman was James A. Lowry, denominational statistics specialist with the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Two get honors at NOBTS meet

ATLANTA — A Mississippi pastor and seminary professor were honored as distinguished alumni of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary during the school's annual luncheon.

Frank W. Gunn, pastor of First Baptist Church of Biloxi, Miss., and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was honored for distinguished service as a pastor.

Claude L. Howe Jr., chairman of the Division of Theological and Historical Studies and professor of church history of New Orleans seminary, was honored for distinguished service as a Christian educator.

Alumni association officers for 1986-87 were elected. The new officers will be: Joe McKeever, president, pastor of First Baptist Church of Columbus, Miss.; Ron Meyer, president-elect, director of evangelism, Illinois Baptist State Convention, Springfield; Randall O'Brien, secretary, associate professor of religion, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.; and Robert E. Lee, treasurer, minister of education, First Baptist Church of Fort Pierce, Fla.

Nursing fellowship gathers in Atlanta

ATLANTA — About 60 members of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship met here June 9 to learn of the growth of the 2-year-old organization of medical professionals.

Fellowship historian Ellen Tabor, a registered nurse from Winston-Salem, N.C., who presided at the meeting, reported the group has grown to include 600 members in 32 states and 51 foreign countries. The organization will observe its third anniversary Nov. 6-9 when it meets with the 10-year-old Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship in Richmond, Va.

Several members of the Georgia chapter joined with the BMDF members to help staff the convention's first aid station, which was sponsored by the Georgia Baptist Hospital of Atlanta.

Friends of SWBTS gather at SBC

ATLANTA — The chairman of a major U.S. corporation told alumni and friends of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary that laymen must support the seminary because of its commitment to the Bible and Southern Baptist principles.

John Baugh, chairman of directors of the Sysco Corp., Houston, addressed the more than 1,100 people attending the annual luncheon of the seminary's National Alumni Association on June 11.

He described Southwestern as a "bastion of Southern Baptist work" which will help "keep intact our cherished Southern Baptist tenets — priesthood of the believer, separation of church and state, autonomy of the local church and an open Bible."

Distinguished alumni awards were presented to six men: Woodson Arms, Stephenville, Texas; Perry Langston, Buies Creek, N.C.; D. L. Lowrie, Lubbock, Texas; J. W. McGorman, Fort Worth; Keener Pharr, Jacksonville, Fla.; and Ralph Smith, Austin, Texas.

Officers elected for the coming year are Dan Yeary, Coral Gables, Fla., president; John Sullivan, Shreveport, La., president-elect; and John Seelig, Fort Worth, secretary-treasurer.

Rogers urges peace, non-negotiable truths

ATLANTA — Adrian Rogers, preaching the convention sermon one day after his election as Southern Baptist Convention president, urged peace, unity, and harmony within the convention, while standing firm on "non-negotiable truths."

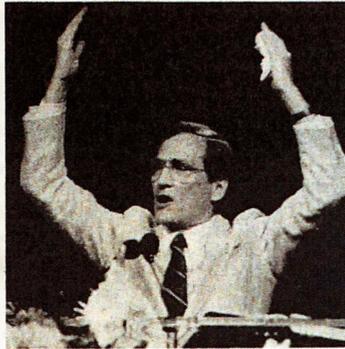
"We need each other," said Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis. "What a tremendous strength there is in our church and in our denomination when we are fused together as one stone upon another stone, standing with the other stones together to make a beautiful temple."

"I believe this is the great power of the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program, because we are not just a lot of individual bricks out there on the ground. We have become a spiritual house, a spiritual building," Rogers declared.

"There is strength in unity and may God give us increasing unity," he added. "Our denomination needs to put our fusing behind us and get on with Bold Mission Thrust."

Preaching from Matthew 16 on "The Church Triumphant," Rogers said the grandest organization that the world knows anything about is the church of Jesus Christ.

"If the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is going to be the church triumphant,"



CONVENTION SERMON — After his election as SBC president, Adrian Rogers delivered the SBC convention sermon, urging Baptists to lay down their weapons of civil warfare and take up the battle against their common enemy the devil.

Rogers said, "it will be made up of people who have a personal conviction about Christ, who have made a personal confession of Christ, and have had a personal conversion through the Lord Jesus Christ."

Confronting the ongoing controversy in the denomination head on, Rogers



stated, "We are in a battle, but our battle is not with flesh and blood but the organized, mobilized, demonized forces of hell."

"The chief prayer of Jesus is that we might be one," he stated. "The chief strategy of the devil is to send division."

He urged messengers to avoid "Christian cannibalism" when believers "devour one another."

Using himself as an example, he urged

messengers to contact him if they ever observe him making an intemperate statement, being unfair, or being harsh in judgment, "so I can confess it and ask God to forgive me and ask you to forgive me."

While calling for unity in diversity, Rogers warned that limits must be placed on diversity.

"If some of my conservative brethren think Adrian has suddenly gone soft, I have not," he said. "There are some things we can be diverse about, but there are some things we cannot be diverse about."

He said Christ, the church, and God's Word are not negotiable.

Rogers said he had read somewhere that someone described him as a pit bull-dog. "Well, there are some things we ought not be dogmatic about, but there are some things we ought to be bull-dogmatic about."

He warned that Southern Baptist seminaries should not be "elitist institutions, teaching intellectual sophistry." Instead, he said they should be incubators of blazing, passionate, emotional love for Jesus and His Word and lost souls.

Concluding with a call for unity, Rogers urged, "Let us as Southern Baptists unite around a love for Christ, a love for His Word, a love for His church, and a love for lost souls."

"And let us build together a sense of love and trust in one another that we might get the job done for Jesus Christ."

Convention approves . . .

(Continued from page 1)

committee during the past year, five subcommittees visited 11 SBC agencies to deal with concerns which have been brought to the committees' attention.

Without discussion or opposition, the messengers approved a recommendation from the Executive Committee for a \$136-million Cooperative Program goal for the October 1986-September 1987 convention year. This compares to the \$130-million goal for the current fiscal year.

Under the basic operating section of the adopted budget-goal (\$126,630,000), 50.17 percent will go to the Foreign Mission Board and 19.71 percent to the Home Mission Board.

A motion which related to the convention's providing funds for the Baptist Joint Committee was referred to the SBC Executive Committee by a 12,001 to 9,556 vote.

The hotly debated motion would have removed "the Southern Baptist Convention from participation in the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and establish an exclusive Southern Baptist presence in Washington, D. C., for the purpose of more truly reflecting our views."

The motion called for implementation to begin immediately and that withdrawal be completed as soon as possible, and "that our financial contribution be discontinued at the first fiscal opportunity."

After a vote by hand on the motion to refer was deemed "too close to call," SBC president Charles Stanley had called for a ballot.

In other actions, the messengers approved by common consent a motion by Franklin Paschall of Nashville that the convention "request the Annuity Board to research and assess these conditions (low retirement income for some SBC annuitants) and bring recommendations to the convention on how more nearly adequate provision may be shared by Southern Baptists with these faithful and

deserving servants of Christ."

President Ronald Reagan sent an open letter to messengers which was read by Stanley. Reagan's letter stated that in the last decade "the liberalism that seemed triumphant has been thrown on the defensive." Alluding to "bedrock principles" that need to be recovered, his message asked Southern Baptists to reverse the "tragedy" of abortion and seek a return to school prayer.

The messengers later approved a motion honoring Reagan's request that 1987 be observed as a "Year of Thanksgiving."

The messengers also approved a motion that a special offering be taken during the convention for world hunger. The amount received is to be divided with 60 percent to the Foreign Mission Board; 20 percent to the Home Mission Board; and 20 percent to the Atlanta Baptist Association.

Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., was named to preach the convention sermon at the 1987 SBC, with Roy Fish, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, as alternate. John McKay, music evangelist from Hurst, Texas, was named to coordinate music for next year's convention.

Tom D. Sparrow accepts Chattanooga pastorate

Thomas D. Sparrow accepted the call to serve as pastor of East Chattanooga Baptist Church and began March 16.

A native of Chaplin, Ky., Sparrow is a graduate of Boyce Bible School in Louisville, Ky.

Previous pastorates include Foster Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., Wakefield Baptist Church in Taylorsville, Ky., and Westside Baptist Church in Salem, Ind. Sparrow also served on the staff of Hillview Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., as youth director.

Stanley encourages Baptists to keep current philosophy

ATLANTA — Outgoing Southern Baptist Convention president Charles Stanley warned the more than 40,000 messengers at the opening session of the convention here June 10 to avoid a change in their philosophy of leadership "at a very crucial moment in the life of Southern Baptists."

Stanley further warned messengers to avoid compromising trust in the authority of Scriptures and to reject negative reporting concerning denominational activities.

His comments were viewed by some messengers as an endorsement of Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, who was elected later in the day as the new SBC president.

Messengers stood and applauded as Stanley challenged the denomination to "keep on moving in the direction we are going in to the glory of God."

Preaching on Numbers 13-14, Stanley related the story of the 12 spies who entered the Promised Land. A majority of 10 told of giants in the land, while Joshua and Caleb urged immediate possession of the land.

To avoid Israel's mistake in its reluctance to possess the land except on their own terms, Stanley said Southern Baptists must refuse to compromise "our unalterable convictions concerning the living Word of God."

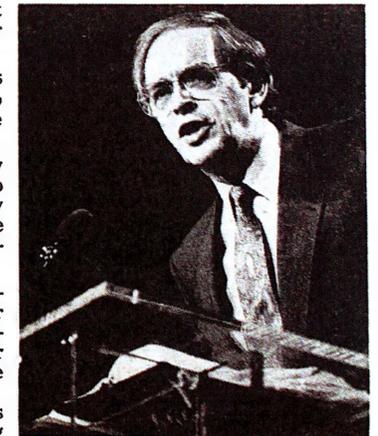
He further challenged the messengers to learn to bridge the disunity among Southern Baptists so the denomination can "refocus our attention on our reason for existence — evangelism and missions."

Citing an example of "bad reporting," Stanley noted that reports last year predicted that his re-election as SBC

president would cause the collapse of the convention's foreign mission effort, result in the loss of the seminaries, place the Cooperative Program in jeopardy, and lead to a decline in evangelism.

He then cited statistics indicating a "phenomenal year" in foreign missions, an increase in the Cooperative Program at a rate of more than three times the inflation rate, and exciting results from Good News America simultaneous revivals held earlier this year.

"I challenge you, for the love of this denomination, to go forward and never turn back," Stanley said.



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS — Charles Stanley won a standing ovation as he urged the denomination to "keep on moving in the direction we are going in to the glory of God." Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, concluded his second one-year term.

SBC Forum calls for freedom

ATLANTA — The third annual SBC Forum, touted as an alternative to the larger Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, began and ended June 9 with appeals for a return to the "Baptist hallmark" of freedom of Biblical interpretation.

Norman Cavender, a Georgia farmer and businessman, opened the meeting at the Omni with a promise that Southern Baptists will never abandon their hard-won liberty to read and interpret the Bible for themselves, despite the efforts of fundamental-conservative leaders.

"I cannot tell you which way Baptist people will take this week ... the road of

freedom or the road away from freedom," Cavender added. But he predicted "the militant fundamentalist spirit sweeping our Southern Baptist Convention will fail in the end."

Cavender told an estimated 5,000 persons that Baptists will continue to read the Bible for themselves, "interpret it for themselves, and think for themselves no matter how many would-be Baptist priests or Baptist popes try to stop us."

The closing speaker, James Flamm of Richmond, Va., urged Baptists not to make claims about the Bible that the Bible does not claim for itself.

Alluding to the Apostle Paul's statement that "we see through a glass darkly," Flamm, pastor of First Baptist Church, said Christians should begin with Scripture, but then allow for individual interpretation.

"Anyone who insists they see through a glass clearly about all truth had better realize that they are in obvious violation of Scripture," he said. "The person who makes such a claim is claiming to be a more intelligent, better interpreter than the Apostle Paul himself."

In recent years, Flamm said, Baptists have become "divided over words never found in the Bible. Our attitudes do not mirror the attitudes of our Lord. We give little indication that we will return to the basic Biblical principles of repentance, forgiveness, trust, and love."

Despite their historic claim to be "people of the Book," Southern Baptists are now in danger of "losing and leaving their first love," Flamm warned.

Tennessean Bill Sherman, pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, cited evidence of "the greatness of God" through God's creation of the universe, His creation of mankind, His "lordship of time," His "mighty acts in history," the incarnation of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Ever feel like chucking it all? Is 'good' going to win? Will God prevail? In the language of events the greatness of our God dispels the pessimism of our chrome-plated chaos," proclaimed Sherman.

Other speakers at the Forum were R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.

After the meeting, Forum organizers said they were pleased with the attendance of 5,000 at one of eight satellite meetings which preceded the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta's World Congress Center.

In its first year in 1984, the event drew about 2,000 persons. Last year in Dallas, attendance was about 4,500.

Sevierville pastor dies

Eugene Earl Smelcer, 58, of Sevierville, died May 30 in East Tennessee Baptist Hospital, Knoxville, after a lengthy illness.

He was a member of Bethel Baptist Church and as a bi-vocational pastor led the congregation of Blowing Cave Baptist Church. Both churches are in Sevierville.

Survivors include his wife, Bobbie Jean Spence Smelcer; daughters, Mrs. Linda Drinnon of Sevierville and Mrs. Patsy Humphrey of Knoxville; brother, James Smelcer of Sevierville; and five grandchildren.

Services were held at the Bethel church with Kenneth Blalock and Sammy Justus officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.



EDUCATORS — Southern Baptist Religious Education Association officers are (from left) Lloyd Householder, director of communications for the Sunday School Board, Nashville, president; Elaine Dickson of Nashville, executive director; Irene Bennett of Evans, Ga., president elect; Jerry Chiles of Dalton, Ga., vice-president; Willard Zeiser of Jefferson City, Mo., western vice-president; Diane Smith of Richmond, Va., eastern vice-president; Joseph Haynes of the BSSB Sunday School Department, Nashville, secretary-treasurer; Bob Thompson of St. Louis, Mo., assistant secretary-treasurer.

Educators tackle SBC issues

ATLANTA — About 600 religious educators tackled the issues of how to handle diversity, examined the model of servant leadership, and rallied around the theme, "It Takes Us All," at the 31st annual meeting of the 1,700-member Southern Baptist Religious Education Association.

Diversity in the Southern Baptist Convention is nothing new, and only those who do not know Baptist history say the opposite. Walter Shurden, professor at Mercer University, Macon, Ga., told the religious educators.

"The Peace Committee told us what we already knew and have known for years — that there is theological diversity in the Southern Baptist Convention," said Shurden. He said diversity in theological emphases and in worship styles is part of Southern Baptists' heritage.

Examining distinctive Baptist beliefs, Shurden said the "stackpole" on which the beliefs rest is soul competency in religion.

Shurden encouraged the educators to stimulate new interest in church training and to rediscover their role as theological educators, saying that both pastors and laypersons need to be "saturated with historic Baptist distinctives."

Looking at "the risks of servant leadership," Robert Fulbright, minister of Christian education at Kirkwood (Mo.) Baptist Church, noted risks of shared responsibility, vulnerability, and maintaining a balance between a healthy self-concept and a humble servant position.

Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, reminded religious educators that, while they live in an age of religious superstars and a time that places emphasis on highly visible gifts, the New Testament says that the long march of persevering service is the larger gift.

"To each of us has been given gifts for the common good, for building of the church, and for edification of God's people," Gregory said.

"Things do not stay the same — both in agencies, institutions, and churches — but we need to know the difference between changeless Biblical principles and methods which change to meet the needs," said Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. "We must keep in front of us that our purpose is reaching people with the gospel and not let structure and methodology become the end result."

The organization's 1986 Distinguished Service Award was presented to Philip

B. Harris who retired in 1977 from the Baptist Sunday School Board after 17 years as head of the church training department.

During the business session, the religious educators elected as president Lloyd Householder, director of the office of communications, Sunday School Board.

Re-elected were secretary-treasurer, Joe Haynes, BSSB consultant, and executive director, Elaine Dickson, president of Life Transitions Inc., Brentwood.

George Cowsert dies in Brazil

VITORIA, Brazil (BP) — George Bagby Cowsert, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil for 34 years, died unexpectedly June 6, in Vitoria, while exercising in his home. He was 61 years old.

Missionaries report that Cowsert returned home from jogging and was riding an exercise bicycle when he died. A household helper found him. An autopsy showed the cause of death was a hemorrhage in his pancreas.

Cowsert's wife, Hilda, was in the northwest part of Espirito Santo state, speaking at an associational meeting, at the time.

A memorial service was conducted June 8 in Vitoria, with 45 pastors and 600 people attending. The body was to be flown to the United States for another memorial service and burial in Wingate, N.C.

Cowsert has been director of religious education and stewardship for the Espirito Santo State Baptist Convention since 1977. Previously he was a general evangelist and executive secretary of the Rio Grande do Sul State Convention, 1953-65. He was a general evangelist in the state of Goias, 1965-77.

He started churches and was pastor of several during his missionary career. He was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to J. J. and Grace Bagby Cowsert, missionaries to Brazil for 40 years. His grandfather, B. Y. Bagby, was a pastor and cousin of William "Buck" Bagby, first Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil.

Besides his wife, survivors include four children, Naomi Grace Key, Fort Worth, Texas; Norma Anderson, Jacksonville, Fla.; Elena Catherine Kay, a Southern Baptist missionary serving in Santos, Brazil; and Jack Cowsert, Raleigh, N.C.

Musicians attend pre-SBC meet

ATLANTA — Members of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference celebrated their 30th anniversary, took special note of the 100 anniversary of B. B. McKinney's birth, and heard a series of challenges regarding the personal development and enrichment of the church musician. Almost 700 registered for the three-day conference.

W. Hines Sims, retired secretary of the Sunday School Board's church music department, called McKinney, who died in 1952 as a result of an automobile accident, "the greatest Christian I have ever known."

Sims said McKinney "had a burning desire to give the churches he loved a song of love, hope, and peace, which 'constituted a legacy that will live in the lives of thousands who knew him, who sang under his direction, who sing his songs today, and who, because he lived, have the eternal song of redemption in their hearts.'"

McKinney also was remembered by Robert Hastings, editor emeritus of the Illinois Baptist, Springfield, Ill., and William J. Reynolds, associate professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Those attending heard a three-part series on the "Personal Development and Enrichment of the Church Musician" by John Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C.

"I want to know why people will sing with gusto 'He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels' when the Scripture says 12,000 — and never miss a beat — and how they can sing 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' when the Scripture never mentions the angels singing a note — and never notice the discrepancy," he wondered.

Hewett's address on "The Mind" called for the church musicians "to get their minds right for the ministry" through serious study, peer review, and renewed commitment to writing. In discussing "The Spirit," he challenged the musicians to have a sense of humor. "The reason we have become a grim, surly people is because we have rejected the option of laughter," he said.

Ray Conner, director of the Sunday School Board's church recreation department, spoke on "The Body." He reminded the musicians "the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and is a gift of God. Honor God with your bodies."

Donald Winters, dean emeritus of the school of music at William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., was honored with the W. Hines Sims Award, the organization's highest award honoring one "who exemplifies the church musician in every area."

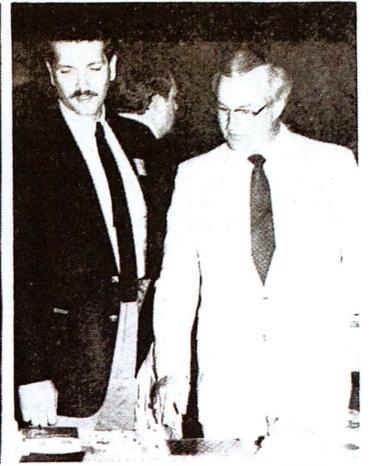
Tennesseans at the SBC in Atlanta



WHAT'S COOKING? — Dillard Mynatt of Oak Ridge (left) and Debra and Leonard Markham of Sweetwater consider the possibilities for lunch during last week's SBC in Atlanta.



IN THE HALL — Among the 40,891 SBC messengers in Atlanta last week were (from left) James Porch, Tullahoma; David George, Nashville; Carol and Charles Gibbs, Athens; and J. G. Wise, Trezevant.



SHOPPING — Bill Mason of Chattanooga (left) and James Walker of Spring City look over new materials on sale at the Baptist Book Store exhibit at the SBC in Atlanta.



CHORALE — The Tennessee Baptist Chorale sang for the June 8 morning service at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta. The chorale, which is composed of ministers of music in TBC churches,

also gave concerts at East Ridge Baptist Church, Chattanooga, and during the Church Music Conference, prior to the convention.



TIME TO EAT — Three west Tennesseans, (from left) Roy and Norma Stinson of Gates and Jerry Foust of Newbern, prepare to purchase pastries at one of the food concessions at Atlanta's World Congress Center.



GETTING READY — Gerald Stow of Brentwood (right) discusses the Book of Reports with Eugene and Ann Mims of Cleveland during last week's Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta. Stow is executive director of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.



RESTING — After walking through the exhibit area, John and Lib Laida of Clarksville (seated) and Rick White of Franklin pause to rest at the Sunday School Board's exhibit.



Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

—Pray for these missionaries celebrating birthdays this week:
Cecilia Grossman (June 21), who soon will begin language school in Costa Rica;
Iris Watson (June 24) in Caracas where she is Intercessory Prayer Coordinator for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries.

—Pray for the production of the radio programs on church development in Venezuela which are broadcast on Trans-World Radio throughout South America.

—Pray for **Alexander Montero** who is executive secretary of the missions and evangelism board of the Venezuelan Baptist convention.

—Also pray for the director of the convention's communication department, **Armando Araujo**.



CAMPUS LEADERS — New Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers officers are (from left) Adam Hall, University of Tennessee at Martin, vice-president for membership; Arliss Dickerson, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, president-elect; Steve Holloway, Columbia University, New York, publicity vice-president; Sylvan Knoblock, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, administration vice-president; Bob Ford, Jacksonville (Ala.) State University, president.

Campus workers find hope

ATLANTA — Campus ministers must find the hope of their calling and transmit that hope to students, speakers told about 100 people attending the annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers.

From the keynote address by Bill Clemmons to the final banquet message by Peter Rhea Jones, campus ministers were encouraged to celebrate the good things happening in Baptist student work.

Clemmons, professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, told the group to look beyond their busy schedules to find the "deep center" of ministry. He said this conflict, exemplified in the personalities of Mary and Martha (Luke 10), is resolved by answering the call to "work with praying hands and pray with working hands," he said.

Jones, pastor of First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., told the campus ministers, "I believe in what you're doing. I have seen firsthand the ministry of availability you perform."

He credited student ministers with being on the "cutting edge" of Southern Baptist work, especially in world hunger.

Southern Baptist still outdistance parachurch groups in student ministry, said Charles Johnson, director of National Student Ministries for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. A total of 1,039 Baptist Student Unions minister to 155,000 students, he said, compared to 575 Campus Crusade for Christ groups and 833 InterVarsity groups.

Throughout the meeting, campus ministers had discussed among themselves problems with such parachurch groups' ministries, but Johnson explained, "These people are not our enemies. They are our friends — we can learn something from them."

Awards were presented to Chester Swor and Sam Sanford. Swor, a Mississippian, is a 56-year veteran of student work and frequent speaker on campuses. Sanford of Decatur, Ga., is a student consultant with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and a former seminary teacher and campus minister. Both were recognized for influencing the growth of student ministry.

Officers elected include Adam Hall, campus director at the University of Tennessee, Martin, as membership vice-president.



DOM LEADERS — Carl Duck (at podium), executive director of the Nashville Baptist Association, was named president of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions. Other leaders are (from left) past president Bob Franklin of Georgia and his wife; Harold Gregory of Nashville, author of the group's history; Preston Denton of Missouri, 1987 host; Everett Anthony of Illinois, editor; Maurice Flowers of Mississippi, secretary; Mack Smoke of Texas, first vice-president; and Paul Camp of Georgia, second vice-president.

Directors of Missions explore vision to accomplish ministry

ATLANTA — Ministry without vision never accomplishes all God has intended, the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions heard throughout their June 8-9 meeting.

A vision of God embracing all the people of the world will make a church what it was intended to be, said Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va. "You have a responsibility heavier than any other single group I know in the Southern Baptist Convention to keep before the churches this vision of reaching out, whether it is next door or around the world."

Parks contended that while the church talks about God being no respecter of persons, "we really don't believe that."

"You and I believe that God loves us more than a little Ethiopian child with a bloated belly dying from starvation. We do not really believe that God anguishes over that death as He would over ours."

A vision also will provide a sense of direction, said Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.

"There has never been a denomination that has gone down because of false doctrine, but rather because of lost purpose," he said.

Without that sense of purpose, Pollard added, ministers can become guilty of "the sin of our age — a mild, lifeless kind of religion."

A vision also is needed to provide a steering force in the minister's or church's life, said Robert Dale, professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. For Jesus, that steering current was the kingdom of God.

Dale said dreams — or a vision — provide one with stability and continuity and form the core of the message one has to share with others. Such dreams or visions, however, are not without cost, he added, pointing to the reality of living in transition and the possibility of threat and strain on personal relationships.

Carl Duck of Nashville Baptist Association was elected president of the Directors of Missions Conference.

McCullough views women as mediators



McCullough expresses views

By Connie Davis
 ATLANTA — Marjorie Jones McCullough challenged women to be the mediators of the Southern Baptist Convention's controversy during a press conference following her June 9 election as president of Woman's Missionary Union at the national annual meeting.

She cited the controversy's negative impact on missions, the original purpose of the convention, adding, "If I'm going to be a Southern Baptist, we're going to have missions."

The former Tennessee WMU president (1980-82) and acting executive director-treasurer in 1984 refused to be labeled as a fundamental-conservative or a moderate-conservative. She identified herself as a "conservative Southern Baptist."

She cited WMU's continuing example of missions and Cooperative Program support, and asked all Southern Baptists to follow.

Though she said the local church

should decide the issue of the ordination of women, she admitted she would vote for the practice in her church, Emmanuel Baptist Church in Alexandria, La.

The Women In Ministry convention-wide group, which meets prior to the national WMU meeting and includes many ordained women, would be supported by WMU, said McCullough, but she added that all WMU members are women in ministry.

During the WMU meeting, McCullough, the wife of the late Glendon McCullough who was executive-director of the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, presented three of his four children whom she adopted.

In her benedictory message at the national meeting, McCullough said she will lead the organization to emphasize each individual woman's ministry, support of the Foreign and Home Mission boards, and the value and necessity of supporting the Cooperative Program.



REGISTERING — Predictions of long lines of Southern Baptists waiting to register as messengers to the SBC failed to materialize as expected last week. The 40,891 messengers who registered were handled efficiently by those working the registration booths. Photo by Van Payne.

Education Commission sets budget

GATLINBURG — Members of the Southern Baptist Education Commission approved a record budget of \$535,200 for 1986-87 during the agency's annual meeting in Gatlinburg.

The amount is an increase of \$17,535 over the previous year's total.

Arthur L. Walker, executive director of the Education Commission, told commissioners of plans for staff reorganizations due to the upcoming retirements of two longtime employees.

Marjorie Howard, director of administrative services, will retire Oct. 31 after more than 33 years of service with the commission. Howard Kirksey joined the staff as placement consultant in 1975 after his "retirement" from Middle Tennessee State University, where he was vice-president for academic affairs. He will retire Sept. 30.

Walker said responsibilities of Howard and Kirksey will be distributed among current staff.

Commission members voted to authorize the revision of a trustee manual for Baptist educational institutions. In

addition, approval was given to develop a trustee manual which would be applicable for all Southern Baptist entities.

John E. Johns, president of Furman University in Greenville, S.C., was elected chairman of the commission for 1986-87. Also elected were Bob R. Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., vice-chairman; and D. Jack Nicholas, president of Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., secretary.

Brotherhood hosts 300 at breakfast

ATLANTA — "Our personal influence is our greatest gift from God," Truett Cathy told a crowd of 300 who attended the annual Brotherhood breakfast June 11.

Cathy, a Georgia native and founder of Chick-fil-A restaurants, said, "You'll be the same person five years from now that you are right now except for books you read and the people you associate with."

"In a recent meeting of the leadership of our company, we concluded that our most important task is to glorify God by being good stewards of all we have and to have a positive influence on all people that come our way."

"It's important to say the right things at the right time in the right way in the right tone of voice, and to remember that we were created in the image of God which demands of us our best."

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., told the group that Royal Ambassadors was where he first learned that "we're all on business for our King. I learned early that freedom is the opportunity to make choices, and I thank God that Royal Ambassadors helped me make the right ones."

Bill Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, shared how Baptist Men and Royal Ambassadors provide a constant barrage of missions education and missions support in Texas.

"I can't imagine Texas without Texas Baptist Men and Royal Ambassadors, and I won't want to live without them."

Evangelists hold June 11 meeting

ATLANTA — Southern Baptist Convention president Charles Stanley thanked Southern Baptist evangelists for "hanging in there and punching their ballots" during elections at the Southern Baptist Convention.

Stanley reminded evangelists attending the June 11 Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists at First Baptist Church they "helped turn the tide last year (at the SBC in Dallas). It got us a big lawsuit, but so what?"

Stanley, who was given two standing ovations before and after his brief speech, encouraged evangelists to keep at the center of their preaching "the atoning death of Jesus Christ."

Larry Taylor, an evangelist from San Antonio, Texas, and president of the CSBE, while encouraging them to "be Christlike" in the coming days and weeks, said "God has given us some sweet victories at this convention. Conservative leadership has assured me it won't be long, through the convention process, before any embarrassing errors in the SBC are gone."

When interviewed later about the "embarrassing errors," Taylor said he referred to any professor that does not teach within the framework of the Baptist Faith and Message.

Taylor said he "personally believes that as our convention, schools, and agencies become more conservative, that evangelism, Bold Mission Thrust, and Cooperative Program giving will flourish like never before in our history."

Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, gave the evangelists four principles for "doing the Lord's work the Lord's way." He said

persons doing the Lord's work must have vision, be flexible, "bloom where planted" and use diversity as an open door.

Young told the evangelists "we have been doing a poor job of evangelism for 30 years." He cited secularism and the teaching of neo-orthodoxy in Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries as primary reasons.

While acknowledging many of the professors are "pious and godly" men, they "water down our position of authority" which is based on God's Word, because of what they have learned while on sabbaticals at secular institutions," he declared.

Daniel Gage, an evangelist from Friendswood, Texas, challenged evangelists to base their preaching on the cross, "the only method of reaching a lost world."

Evangelists were advised by Delton Dees, an evangelist from St. Louis, Mo., to "quit worrying about criticism." Preach the gospel, never apologize, and let things fall where they may, he charged.

George Havens of Santa Anna, Texas, and Felix Snipes of Atlanta were honored for more than 25 years of service.

Officers for the 1987 Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists include Rudy Hernandez of San Antonio, president; Henry Linginfelter of Alcoa, vice-president; Jackson Cox of Milledgeville, Ga., secretary-treasurer; Dick Barrett, Bremen, Ga., music director; Jerry Swimmer, Iuka, Miss., assistant music director; Bob Kendig, Memphis, parliamentarian; and Ted Moody, Griffin, Ga., pastor advisor.



EVANGELISM LEADERS — The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists elected (from left) Bob Kendig of Memphis, parliamentarian; Jerry Swimmer, Iuka, Miss., assistant music director; Dick Barrett, Bremen, Ga., music director; Jackson Cox, Milledgeville, Ga., secretary-treasurer; Henry Linginfelter of Alcoa, vice-president; and Rudy Hernandez, San Antonio, Texas, president.

Arkansas convention fills two positions

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention has employed two persons to fill key administrative posts.

Jimmie Sheffield, administrator of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, began serving May 19 as associate executive director, a position vacant due to the death of L. L. Collins earlier this year.

Dan Jordan, director of business and support services at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, began June 2 as director of business services. Jordan fills a vacancy created by ABSC staffer Phil Copeland's return to Southwestern seminary.

Sheffield is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College (now University), Marshall, Texas, and Southwestern seminary.

Jordan is a graduate of Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, and is completing a master's degree at Southwestern seminary.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES
Lesson for June 22

Esther saves her people

By Mike McGinnis, pastor
Central Baptist Church, Chattanooga

Basic Passage: Esther 3:1 to 7:10

Focal Passages: Esther 3:2, 5-6; 4:13-16; 7:3-6a

Chapters three through seven of Esther is a beautiful story of how God takes care of His own. This is a wonderful reality whether it is applied to Israel or the church. God has always had a people and He always assumes responsibility for them.

These chapters illustrate the constant faithfulness of God. In order to adequately understand the thrust of Esther, it is essential to relate this book to the Abrahamic covenant. When God called Abraham, He said to him: "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:2-3).

Throughout the centuries God has made this promise good. Every nation that has sought to exterminate the Jew has been exterminated.

Haman's plot

Chapter three introduces the fourth major character of the Book of Esther. Haman is the villain of the book. He was both a wicked and a powerful monarch (3:1-15).

The Jews had everything working against them. There was the determination of Haman, driven by his deep hatred. There was the absolute edict of Ahasuerus. There was the obvious anti-Semitism throughout the kingdom. The Persian people would be more than willing to carry out the king's decree. It is understandable why the City of Susa was in confusion (3:15).

In contrast, Ahasuerus and Haman sat down to drink with tremendous satisfaction and confidence. It was a hopeless situation. However, it is true that "if God is for us, who is against us?" (Romans 8:31). The child of God would do well to remember that no harm can come to us unless it is by the design of God. If God were to allow such harm to come to us, it would be a part of His perfect plan for our lives. We may be cast down; however, we will not be destroyed (2 Corinthians 4:9).

God's provision

Mordecai knew and believed the seriousness of Ahasuerus' decree; however, Esther, living in safety and seclusion in the queen's quarters, knew nothing of the decree. She did not realize what was taking place until her maids came to tell her that her cousin Mordecai was in sackcloth and ashes. Her immediate response was to send him more appropriate clothing. Mordecai was eventually able to relay to Esther the reason for his extreme distress. Esther's reaction was to make excuses for her inability to rectify the situation. Mordecai's response to Esther was extremely bold.

It is clear that Mordecai was out of the will of God; yet, he still recognized God. Though Mordecai made no appeal to Him anywhere in the Book of Esther, it is evident he recognized God. This is displayed in Mordecai's refusal to bow to anything but God Himself. When Haman came by after his promotion, everybody who had a political job went down on their faces before him, except one man:



McGinnis

Mordecai. When questioned about his refusal to bow before Haman, Mordecai revealed, for the first time, that he was a Jew. You will remember that he had instructed Esther, when she entered the beauty contest, not to let anyone know her race. She did not even tell the king after they were married. As stated previously, this was tantamount to denying their religion.

Now, Mordecai begins to stand out as a man of God. He first warns Esther of the danger of remaining silent. He then expresses his faith in the ultimate, providential care of God. He had not forgotten that the Jews were the people of God and that God had committed Himself to take care of them (4:14). Finally, Mordecai points out to Esther her potential place in God's plan.

Certainly God had made provision for the Jews in the person of Esther. She saw herself as insignificant and incapable. Yet, God had placed her in a strategic position to fulfill His perfect plan.

Esther's plan

Esther does not request direction from God, neither does she acknowledge His intervention. It is obvious that it is God who is orchestrating the events. God's plan, implemented through Esther, included three very crucial results.

First, Mordecai is honored. Who disturbed the king's sleep? Who prompted this monarch to read from the book of records? In this rather lengthy material, who brought him to the account of Mordecai saving his life? Once again, the dominant theme of Esther is apparent.

Second, Esther is heeded. Esther was taking her very life in her own hands. Because of the king of Persia's absolute authority, it was a precarious thing to exist in his court. Esther was well aware of this and the fact that she could lose her position. She had not forgotten what happened to the former queen. Yet, she was driven by Mordecai's stern rebuke in verse 14.

Esther approached her task carefully. It is inevitable that she would be successful. I do not attribute this to her cunning, but to the fact that God had determined to deliver His people. It was no accident that Esther was in the palace to begin with. Now God would fulfill His purpose to her being there. God had prepared the heart of the king to receive her message. He had prepared Esther to bear that message.

Third, Haman is hanged. This is amazing in light of the king's previous sentiment toward Haman. He had been very generous to Haman. He had made him prime minister; he had given him his ring; he had let him send out the edict to slay the Jews; but when the comparison was made with Queen Esther, Haman had to obey her. Again, we see God's purpose in placing Esther in the king's palace.

It is interesting how God uses the little things to carry out His program. It is poetic justice that Haman died on the very gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. There is an inexorable law of God. Whatsoever a person sows, he will reap. This is displayed in the life of wicked Haman.

One final observation is necessary. In spite of Haman's passion and his persistent efforts he was unable to destroy God's people. As God's people, we need to constantly be aware of this truth.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
Lesson for June 22

God's Word versus the king

By Don Garner, assistant professor of religion
Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City

Basic Passage: Jeremiah 36

Focal Passages: Jeremiah 36:4-8, 27-31

This week's lesson deals with the written Word of God and how we choose to receive or to reject its message for our lives.

Revelation of the Word (36:1-2)

The Old Testament prophets normally were speakers who delivered to an audience of God's people the oral message God had impressed upon the prophet's heart. This passage is unique in its description of a prophet who dictated his earlier oral messages to a scribe, so that a written record of those words might be kept.



Garner

It is clear from Scripture that the followers of the prophets were instrumental in perserving the spoken words of the prophets in written form for later generations. The gospel writers followed this same pattern in recording the ministry of Jesus. The Bible was written by divinely inspired human authors who were led by God to preserve in writing God's own special acts in history.

Twenty years after Jeremiah's call experience, Jeremiah and Baruch wrote down on a scroll the previously preached messages of the prophet.

Intention of the Word (36:3-4)

God sends prophets to challenge His people to respond to His timeless truth by heeding prophetic messages about timely issues. The issue of 605 B.C. was that Babylonian armies under Nebuchadnezzar, heady with their victory over Egypt at Carchemish, were marching south toward Judah. The threat to the nation was so real that King Jehoiakim declared a time of fasting to seek God's protection.

For 20 years Jeremiah had challenged Judah to return to obedient and sincere covenant-keeping and thereby avoid God's coming judgment. In the scroll which he and Baruch produced, Jeremiah restated his long-standing challenge for that critical moment.

God's whole purpose in having the scroll written and then read to the people was an effort to bring them back to Himself in right relationship (v.3). Notice that even in the sending of the Old Testament prophets of judgment, God was intent upon offering His grace and forgiveness to His people; but it was the decision of the people whether to receive or to reject it (see also John 3:17-18).

Presentation of the Word (36:5-21)

As you read this part of the story about the fate of the scroll, notice how the Word of God is shared with and distributed to many people. The scroll was "read" several times - to the people (v.10), then to the princes (v.15), and finally to the king (v.21).

Do not overlook the fact that the audience for the reading of the scroll and control of its contents kept getting smaller and smaller. Finally, in the powerful hands of one man - the "ruler" over God's people - the true message of God's Word to His people through His prophet was suppressed and threatened with destruction.

We Baptists must never let the handling of the Word of God fall into the hands of only a few. We all are priests under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Too many preachers with too much pride set out to rule their congregations like Old Testament kings, rather than to serve them like the New Testament Saviour. The "rulers" of the Old Testament were most often corrupt and drunk with power, while the Loving Servant of the New Testament emptied Himself of power, washed feet like a slave, and died to save those He loved so much.

Bible truth seriously is threatened as long as it is controlled by a few powerful hungry authoritarians. All of God's people, as did the "most noble" of Paul's early listeners, must "search the Scriptures daily to see whether these things be so" since we are always being told by others what the Bible says (Acts 17:11).

We must never abandon individual conscience to even the most powerful or popular leader. We must never give up the priesthood of every believer under God to any mere human authority - be it pope or preacher, council or convention, creed or confession. "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). It is not only Baptist, it is Biblical!

Opposition to the Word (36:22-31)

King Jehoiakim revealed that he was more interested in maintaining his power and the status quo than he was in responding to the Word of God (v.29). Even though he had declared a religious activity for the people, he himself actually opposed the work of God in their midst (see Matthew 23:4). His father, Josiah, had preserved and responded to the scroll of Scripture read to him (2 Kings 22:23); but now the son destroyed and rejected the Scripture he heard.

Opposition to the message of God's Word can come either as aggression or as apathy. Aggressively the king took the knife, sliced the scroll into strips, and burned it in the hopes of destroying its message - a message he disliked (v.29).

But a more subtle form of opposition to the Word of God is apathy. In contrast to earlier hearers (v.16), the king and his servants were unmoved by the contents of the scroll when it was read to them (v.24). How dangerous it is to our spiritual lives for us to sit and hear the Scriptures and not be moved by them. "Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22).

Preservation of the Word (36:30-32)

Be assured that God will defend and preserve His word of truth. Those who oppose God's truth themselves will be crushed by failure and unfulfilled schemes. It is a serious matter to oppose the valid truth of God even under the guise or self-deception of being God's agent (Acts 6:38-39).

Nothing can succeed that is alien to the truth of God's own witness (Nahum 1:7-8 and Habakkuk 2:4). And He will not leave Himself without a witness.

Correction

Two names were omitted from the June 4 Baptist and Reflector article which listed Tennesseans who earned degrees in May from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

In addition to the four listed, Terry Frederick of Memphis and Anthony Bishop of Murfreesboro earned the master of divinity degrees from New Orleans seminary in May.

LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for June 22

Living while we wait

By Danny Bush, associate minister
First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge

Basic Passage: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Focal Passage: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-25

A friend related to me his good experience as a staff minister at First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va. He and his family arrived at their new home ready to direct the movers in the placement of furniture and other belongings. To their pleasant surprise the whole staff, with their spouses, pulled up to give assistance. The pastor, Charles Fuller, led the way in this event.



Bush

Within a few hours every dish was in place on kitchen shelves, all the clothes were hung, and the lampshades were attached. According to my friend, their new home looked as though they had been residing there for some time. With everything in place out came a covered-dish meal and the staff sat down to offer thanksgiving, enjoying home-cooked food and fellowship.

As my friend told me about this I was deeply moved. What he had described was Christianity in action, unselfish love at work. It is no wonder God continues to bless that church. We can be thankful that this same pastor is chairman of the current Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee. A man of his caliber and Christian character is worthy of our prayer and support.

From 25 years of Baptist staff minister experience and from personal experiences shared with me, I can attest to the value and importance of a pastor and staff whose attitudes toward each other and the church, the attitude of the church toward the staff, and the attitude of church members among themselves, can make or break, bless or curse the effectiveness of their respective and mutual ministries.

Essential to truly enjoyable and fruitful church work is a concept of shared ministry as opposed to domination, mutual support as opposed to bickering, and respect for individual gifts as opposed to preferential treatment of persons because of title, church tenure, financial ability, or social standing.

The Apostle Paul gave the church at Thessalonica some good advice and worthy guidelines for successful church operation which contemporary churches could find beneficial. First, he urged them to love, cooperate, and support their leaders, not acquiesce or idolize them (vv.12-13).

Second, he instructed them to deal lovingly, yet firmly, with unruly and uncooperative members and to be patient and kind to all members while giving a worthy hearing to everyone (vv.14-15).

Third, Paul lists (vv.16-22) ingredients for a Christian life which can be satisfying and productive. Of all people who have reason to be joyful, it is the followers of Christ. Through pray, Christians remain in personal contact with the Leader. In every good or bad circumstance in life, God can work in and through us in ways which are fruitful in the long run. This is hard to see sometimes during hurt, but God is always present.

The more a Christian life is directed by wholesome spiritual motives the stronger control the Spirit of God has on that life. A desire to hear and be receptive to wise spiritual counsel and instruction paves the way to growth. Every procla-

mation from a pulpit, classroom, or book should be prayerfully evaluated for consistency with other Biblical teachings and actual value in applied Christian living.

Disciples of Christ should stand out in the world as real persons with a different set of standards. Their lives should not be governed by what society views as acceptable behavior but by principles of

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



I recall that in my childhood the "raggedy man" would come at irregular intervals to our neighborhood. He would come through shouting, "Any old rags, any old bones, and old shoes today?"

Being one of eight children, there were not many old rags or shoes in our house, but I recall we would all go scurrying to the closets to find every old rag or shoes or piece of clothing to give to the raggedy man. In return he would give us a few pennies, and we would rejoice in our triumph. The only thing we gave to raggedy man were things that were worn out or that we could not use. I do not know what he did with them.

In a serious vain I began to look at my life to see whether I am not giving to God the rags of my life.

I looked at this from two or three viewpoints. One is the viewpoint of time itself. It appears to me that there is an increasing tendency to give to God the remnant of our time.

I recall that during my ministry a well meaning person would say, "Someday when I get a little time, I am going to surprise you by coming to church." I always thought that perhaps he did not realize that God had given him all the time he had, for time comes from God, and God had given him just as many hours in the day and years as had been given to the saints. He was really saying that he was planning to give God the spare moments that would not interfere with his private schedule of life.

Another question that troubles me concerns whether or not we give God only the remnants of dedication of our talents. I do not believe that God wants us to give our energy and ability to our own kingdoms and then offer any kind of haphazard contribution of talent and feel it would be acceptable to our Lord.

I do not believe that God is pleased when we use the first fruits of our income for ourselves, and then whatever we have left over, we give to God. Our Master said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and these other things shall be added." Far too many of us consider making payment for material values in life as necessary but giving to the kingdom of God optional.

The measure of our gifts should be the measure of our love. Never should we treat God as a "raggedy man," giving Him the leftovers, the remnants of our material resources, but we should give generously and joyously out of the fruits of our labors.

unselfish love, purity, and all godliness. Based on these Biblical admonitions each Christian church member might ask himself/herself questions like:
Do I really enjoy being Christian and sharing in the work of my church?
How often do I pray for my church ministers, elected church leaders, and fellow members, or give them words of

encouragement?
Am I selective as to which members I love and greet or am I open to all?
Are ill-spirited members my idols, or those who serve humbly and faithfully after the example of Christ?
Is Christianity a way of life for me at church as well as in the public place?

Septuagenarian earns New Orleans degree

NEW ORLEANS (BP) - Seventy-one-year-old Rene B. Jacques has proven it is never too late to graduate from seminary. He received an associate of divinity degree in pastoral ministry this spring from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jacques was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 1915, and turned 71 just days after he earned his degree. He has three children and five grandchildren.

Although French is his native language, he attended classes in Spanish through the New Orleans seminary extension center in Miami, Fla.

After 11 years of serving as president of the men's association in a church in New York, Jacques felt God calling him to move to Miami for seminary.

Presently Sunday School director and deacon at Eglise Evangelique Baptiste Haitienne in Pampano Beach, Fla., Jacques hopes to be pastor of a French-speaking church one day.

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Jerry L. Glisson is pastor of Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee, and author of *The Church in a Storm*.

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BROADMAN

Volunteers fill gaps in Ethiopia mission

By Art Toalston

GUNDO MESKEL, Ethiopia (BP) — Ann Smith cannot take a break.

"You must keep that baby's eyes clean or he'll go blind," she tells the mother of a young child through a translator at the Southern Baptist feeding station in Gundu Meskel, Ethiopia.

Mothers and babies, some crying, some suffering from worms or other ailments, are waiting in line, along with two elderly men and several young Ethiopians. Smith, 24, never knows what she will encounter. A woman's face is badly swollen from an abscessed tooth. A 15-year-old epileptic needs bandages changed on her burned, and now deformed, leg. She suffered third-degree burns when she fell into a cooking fire during a seizure.

Three times a day Smith makes rounds at the shelter among 80 mothers and their malnourished children. The mothers, she insists, must exercise the children's frail legs. "If you don't make them get up and walk, they'll get bed sores, pneumonia, and they'll die."

Smith, of Bessemer, Ala., resigned from a hospital's intensive coronary care unit to come to Ethiopia. She is one of 23 volunteers from churches in the United States assisting Southern Baptists' three missionary couples.

A dozen volunteers work at clinics in

the five remote feeding stations. Several do administrative work. Three are involved in veterinary work; two in water projects. About 50 Ethiopian Christians work in food distribution under missionary supervision.

Volunteers are meeting needs that, otherwise, would go unmet, says R. Keith Parks, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president, after visiting Ethiopia in April. He notes their willingness "to interrupt a career or terminate a career early, with no regard for financial benefits" and their certainty "that the Lord has sent them here for a spiritual ministry."

"Three missionary families can't feed and treat 100,000-plus people," says Missionary Jerry Bedsole, a veterinarian. "We had to have volunteers." In planning for the first feeding station last year, there was not time for career candidates to be screened and trained and to learn a new language.

More volunteers, not just career missionaries, still are needed in Ethiopia, especially in nursing, but also in agriculture, veterinary medicine, and water development.

Volunteers "extend our mission ministry, meeting an emergency situation," Bedsole explains. "They've moved right into the work," and their labors have become "the foundation, the launching pad" for an ongoing witness.

"They have adapted to very strenuous, emotional work and living situations," says Lynn Groce, mission chairman and agriculturalist, "and they've done a superb job." Several had serious bouts with typhoid or typhus. Yet after a few weeks of rest, they were back at their stations, where the living quarters are without running water and electricity.

"You miss civilization, your friends, your family, your social life," admits Diana McKinnis, 26, a nurse from Fort Worth, Texas. Yet there's "a feeling that you're really doing something unselfish."

Volunteers have bittersweet jobs, according to Groce's wife, Suzanne. They have seen appreciation on once-starving Ethiopian faces. But because the famine is not yet over, "They bear the emotional trauma of having to deal with hungry, sometimes dying, people."

Smith knew she would see children die in Ethiopia, "but it didn't make it any easier."



LOOKING FOR GRINS — "When they're smiling, that's half the recovery," says Ann Smith, a nurse working as a volunteer in Ethiopia, as she plays with this Ethiopian toddler who has benefited from Baptist care.

"I thought I'd see a lot more die than I have," another volunteer nurse, Kelly Leeper, 23, says. "Still, even one is too many." Her parents are James and Jean Leeper, missionaries in West Germany.

As valuable as the volunteers have been, Bedsole notes, "You can't run mission work off short-termers. You only see long-term results from people who plant their lives in a country, learn the culture, and language, and identify as much as possible with the people."

Volunteer nurse Debbie Welch, 29, from Green River, Wyo., understands. When an infant dies, she yearns to tell a grieving mother, "The child is in God's hands." But not knowing the dialect, she cannot express it. A hug barely suffices.

Missionaries and volunteers alike here have been disappointed that no doctor has joined their ranks during the 14-month feeding effort. "I can't believe that out of 14-million Southern Baptists we don't have one doctor who's willing to spend a year with us," says Ed Mason of Tallahassee, a former president of the Florida Baptist Convention. He and his wife, Vi, do administrative work in Addis Ababa.

Often Smith has told patients, "There's nothing we can do," lacking a physician or surgeon. "I have never felt so absolutely helpless."

"We're doing doctor's work here," Rosie Fenton of Cocoa Beach, Fla., says. Diagnosing illnesses and prescribing medications are not done by nurses in the United States. "You certainly pray for wisdom," adds Fenton, who gave up a job as head nurse at a hospital's pediatric unit. She was a missionary to New Guinea with the Christian and Missionary Alliance from 1953 to 1963.

Volunteers have come to Ethiopia via different spiritual pathways.

Dono and Betty Moore are retired missionaries who worked in the Philippines and Ghana. Some friends joke "we should stay home and be grandparents," Moore, 66, the mission's treasurer, says. But "they know good and well we're committed."

Betty Barham, 55, of Sontag, Miss., is a widow and mother of five who will miss the wedding of her youngest daughter and the birth of her fifth grandchild. In opting to work in Ethiopia, she reasoned, "I belong to another family — a church family and a world family — beyond my immediate family, and all of that has to be considered when making choices in life."

Russell Helms, 22, of Birmingham, Ala., a nurse who worked the same shift and same unit as Smith, has "always wanted to be a missionary in some form or fashion." His interest was nurtured by his mother, Reba, who read Open Windows devotions to him into his teen-age years and prayed with him for mission aries on their birthdays.

Charles Field, a veterinarian from Tallahassee, and his wife, Millie, friend of the Masons, had long been interested in volunteer missions in gratitude for God's blessings. Several words from Mason stuck in their minds: "You need to come too."

Mike Camden, who left a state public health engineer's job, and his wife, Martha, made missions commitments in their Abingdon, Va., church in 1984, then a year slipped by. "You can say over and over, 'Yes, Lord, I want to do You will,'" she says, "but until you actually start filling out the applications, you're not really showing Him you're serious."

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LATE-NIGHT LETTERS — Ann Smith, a nurse working as a volunteer in Ethiopia, writes to friends in the States by lantern light. She makes house calls on a horse she purchased for \$70, treating people who are too ill or weak to walk to the clinic.