

Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 153/No. 25/ June 24, 1987

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Convention endorses peace, backs Rogers

By Charlie Warren

ST. LOUIS—Messengers to the 130th Southern Baptist Convention re-elected Tennesseean Adrian Rogers as president, approved a \$140-million Cooperative Program budget-goal for 1987-88, and endorsed a report and recommendations from the Peace Committee.

Unofficial registration figures indicate that 25,607 messengers attended, far short of last year's 40,891 in Atlanta, and the record 45,519 in Dallas the year before.

The Peace Committee report, overwhelmingly adopted after only about 30 minutes of discussion, recommended that the trustees of the six SBC seminaries "determine the theological positions of the seminary administrators and faculty members in order to guide them in renewing their determination to stand by" the Baptist Faith and Message Statement, the Glorieta Statement, and their own institutional declarations of faith "as the guidelines by which they will teach their students."

Other recommendations include a call to reaffirm the Baptist Faith and Message Statement while saying it is a "statement of basic belief, not a creed," a call for fairness in appointments and nominations, the creation of a bylaw creating the office of parliamentarian, and a request that the committee continue to exist "for the purpose of observing the response of all agencies, officers, and other participants to the recommendations of the Peace Committee in an effort to encourage compliance and foster harmonious working relationships among all segments of our Baptist family." (See full report beginning on this page.) Messengers also voted to maintain ties with the Baptist Joint Committee on

Adrian Rogers defeats Jackson

By Connie Davis

ST. LOUIS — Adrian Rogers defeated Phoenix, Ariz., Pastor Richard Jackson at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 16-18 to become the first Southern Baptist Convention president in recent history to serve more than two one-year terms.

The new president, who is pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, defeated Jackson 13,980 to 9,331, or about 60 percent to 40 percent.

Rogers, the incumbent and favorite coming into the 1987 meeting at the Cervantes Convention Center, was elected at the 1979 convention in Houston, the first in a succession of conservative candidates.

He declined to allow his nomination to a traditional second term in 1980, but re-entered the fray last year to defeat Amarillo, Texas, Pastor W. Winfred Moore.

Houston Pastor Edwin Young nominated Rogers, saying Southern Baptists can "move toward those things that unite us and away from those things that divide us" with the election of Rogers.

Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, was nominated by Sulphur Springs, Texas, Pastor Charles Redmon, who called him a "conservative," but "cooperative."

The messengers re-elected Jack Stanton as first vice-president on the first ballot over three other candidates. Stanton, who was nominated by Stan Coffey,

(Continued on page 2)



EARLYBIRDS — Thousands of messengers gather Tuesday morning outside Cervantes Convention

Center in St. Louis before it opens for the first session of the 130th annual Southern Baptist Convention.

Public Affairs, a Washington-based lobbying organization representing eight Baptist bodies.

A five-part recommendation from a special fact-finding committee to study the SBC's relationship with the BJCPA was presented by Gary F. Young, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., and chairman of the fact-finding committee. The recommendation increases Southern Baptist representation on the BJCPA from 15 to 18 members and provides 12 at-large spots as opposed to five previously.

In addition, the recommendation empowers the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee to take action on SBC motions or resolutions the BJCPA does not agree with or cannot support. It also encourages the Christian Life Commission to establish a Washington-based office to deal with social and moral concerns.

Houston Judge Paul Pressler, a member of the SBC Executive Committee and the special fact-finding committee, urged messengers to adopt the rewriting of Bylaw 18, which adds the additional members on the BJCPA.

Pressler, who admitted to supporting every effort to defund the BJCPA in the past because he didn't feel the agency was properly representing Southern Baptists, noted the fact-finding committee "worked hard

(Continued on page 9)

Messengers OK peace report

ST. LOUIS — After scarcely 30 minutes of discussion, messengers at the 130th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention overwhelmingly adopted the final report of the Southern Baptist Peace Committee June 16.

The committee recommended that the trustees of the six SBC-affiliated seminaries "determine the theological positions of the seminary administrators and faculty members in order to guide them in renewing their determination to stand by the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963, to the Glorieta Statement, . . . and to their own institutional declarations of faith as the guidelines by which they will teach their students."

The committee released its lengthy written report on Tuesday morning of the convention, about 12 hours ahead of its scheduled 8:50 p.m. presentation. The report occupied five and a half pages of the Tuesday Convention Bulletin.

The committee had worked until 4:15 a.m. Monday to complete the report in time to meet the deadline.

Chairman Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., took only six minutes to present the report and describe the work of the 22-member committee, which met 15 times across two years.

After only eight messengers spoke to the report, messengers declined to allocate more time to discussion and promptly adopted the report by an estimated 95 percent majority.

(Continued on page 3)

Major SBC stories inside

- Rogers news conference . . . Page 2
- Billy Graham address Page 3
- WMU annual convention . . . Page 6
- Pastors' Conference Page 7
- SBC resolutions Page 8



FIELDING QUESTIONS — Charles Fuller (left), chairman of the Peace Committee, answers a reporter's question during a press conference coordinated by Al Shackelford, (right) vice-president for public relations for the SBC Executive Committee.

Fuller denies accusation committee will 'police'

ST. LOUIS — The chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee told members of the press that the panel's new three-year mandate to oversee denominational institutions does not give it "policing" powers over seminaries and other agencies.

Charles G. Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., told reporters during a news conference that the peace panel should be seen as "an interruption" of normal denominational procedure. He also left open the possibility the committee may disband before the three-year extension of its life expires in 1990.

Fuller faced sharp questioning from reporters representing secular and denominational media on the panel's secret proceedings. All 15 of the Peace Committee's meetings over the last two years were closed to the media, with only Baptist Press News Editor Dan Martin permitted to attend. Martin was restricted to "background" coverage, meaning he could not report direct quotes or attribute statements to the 22 committee members. Fuller, however, did make himself available for an interview with Martin following each of the meetings.

The Virginia pastor said the committee voted during its first meeting in the summer of 1985 to determine on a meeting-by-meeting basis whether to open its proceedings to the press but discovered early in the two-year process that closed meetings encouraged more "candor."

Fuller also defended the committee's recommendation that the denominational press abandon its use of labels such as "fundamentalist," "liberal," "fundamental-conservative," and "moderate-conservative," but declined to propose alternatives. He said only that certain committee members preferred no such distinguishing labels.

Most questions posed to Fuller during the hour-long session with reporters focused, however, on Recommendations 5 and 10 of the committee's report, approved June 16 after a half-hour debate. Recommendation 10 continues the committee's existence "for up to, but not to exceed, three years for the purpose of observing the response of all agencies, officers, and other participants to the recommendations" of the peace panel.

Recommendation 5 asks the boards of trustees of the six SBC seminaries to "determine the theological positions of

the seminary administrators and faculty members in order to guide them in renewing their determination" to observe the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963, last October's Glorieta Statement by seminary presidents, and their own institutions' other statements of faith, "as the guidelines by which they will teach their students."

The recommendation also urges Southern Baptist institutions in the future to build their professional staffs and faculties from those who clearly reflect dominant convictions and beliefs held by Southern Baptists at large.

But Fuller repeatedly disavowed any attempt by the Peace Committee to assume unwarranted power over denominational agencies and institutions.

"It is not our intent in any way to be a policing committee at all," he said. He acknowledged that at least one panel member, W. Winfred Moore, of Amarillo, Texas, disagreed and accordingly resigned. Fuller read portions of Moore's letter of resignation, in which the Texas pastor wrote, "I do not believe the committee should be continued as an 'oversight' or 'police' committee to monitor or judge the work of our institutions and agencies, their trustees, and our trustee system."

However, Fuller told reporters, "We do not feel as a majority of the committee ... that we are setting ourselves up as a policing committee. That is not our purpose. It certainly is not my purpose."

At the same time, he said, "Frankly, we feel that as a committee we have invested two years into this whole background. We are the logical committee to follow through with it. We certainly would not want to create another battlefield in another place by passing the responsibility to someone else to carry through."

Fuller also said he had been "disappointed if not just a bit irritated" by statements that some committee members "lacked courage" to stand up for their convictions inside the panel.

"I do not know of a sanctified wimp in the entire lot," he said.

Asked about rumors earlier this week that the final vote on the committee report had been 10-8, Fuller issued a strong denial. The final vote was unanimous, he said, noting the 10-8 split had come on one part of the report only. He declined to reveal what issue occasioned the split.

Rogers pledges to appoint inerrantists exclusively

ST. LOUIS — Newly re-elected Southern Baptist Convention president Adrian Rogers said that while his appointments represent the "broad spectrum" of Southern Baptists, he will continue to appoint only inerrantists to the key Committee on Committees.

During the news conference following his election to a third one-year term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention which held its annual meeting last week in St. Louis, Rogers also said that conservatives "are not interested in forcing our views" on anyone. But he reiterated his often-stated position that Southern Baptists have a right to expect that certain theological "parameters" be set for denominational employees.

"We believe in the absolute, total freedom of conscience," the Memphis pastor said. "We believe in the priesthood of the believer. We believe in soul liberty."

Rogers disputed the notion that conservatives believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible.

"The bible is full of metaphors, figures of speech, poetry, simile, parables, all of these things. We want the Bible to say what it says and mean what it means."

He also objected to references to conservatives as "fundamentalists," saying the word is "more or less a pejorative term" and that it is often used to describe extremist religious leaders such as the Ayatollah Khomeini and the late Jim Jones.

But most questions fielded by the 55-year-old pastor dealt with his appointments and the future of the moderate employees of the denomination.

"The people that I have appointed are people that I believe represent who Southern Baptists are," he said. "I believe that Southern Baptists have a right to set parameters for those who serve them on committees, those who serve them in places of responsibility for which salaries are paid. I'm talking about places of executive leadership and teaching."

He insisted Southern Baptists have "set a standard," the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement, including the view that the Bible is "truth, without any mixture of error." A phrase Rogers insisted means the Bible is without error in any sense, including historical accuracy or scientific data.

"I could not hold my head up as president of the Southern Baptist Convention ... if I were to nominate anybody to

anything outside that statement," he said.

Rogers also said that seminary trustees should examine potential faculty to determine if they adhere to biblical inerrancy before hiring them. He continued, "I think the responsible, conservative leadership that I know of does not have a firing mentality. They want to set a standard and say, 'Let's begin to move to that standard.' They are willing to let attrition take place. They are willing to let people themselves say, 'Well, maybe, then, I am out of step, and I will willingly step aside.' Obviously, there are those who may have a firing mentality. That's not my mentality."

Asked specifically if he agrees with several conservative trustees of the SBC Christian Life Commission who have threatened to seek the dismissal of newly elected executive director Larry Baker, Rogers said, "I certainly was chagrined to some degree (by the way) Larry Baker was hired. But I believe every man has a right to prove himself. And I certainly am not a part of a movement to fire Larry Baker."

On the report of the SBC Peace Committee, Rogers generally declined comment, although he defended the outcome of the two-year effort of the panel saying, "While nobody gets everything he wants, we think everybody gets something."

On other subjects, Rogers declined to give his reasons for deciding not to meet with Pope John Paul II during the Roman Catholic pontiff's visit to the United States later this year during an ecumenical gathering, saying they "are not best expressed in public media."

He said he will participate in the 1988 election campaign "as a private citizen."

Asked how he feels about the string of conservative victories in SBC presidential campaigns resulting in firm control by that side, Rogers replied, "I am grateful to God that Southern Baptists are coming back to who they are."

Rogers...

(Continued from page 1)

pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas, is director of the Institute of Evangelism at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. Stanton received 55 percent of the vote.

Victor Kaneubee, a Choctaw Native American and retired pastor of First Indian Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., came in second in the election for first vice-president, but then was elected as second vice-president after a run-off against incumbent Ray E. Roberts, former executive secretary of Ohio's convention from Asheville, N.C.

Also nominated for first vice-president were Wallace Jones, pastor of Fee Fee Baptist Church in St. Louis, and Dan Ireland, director of the Alabama Citizens Action Program.

Those nominated for the office of second vice-president in addition to Roberts includes Mike Johnson, a member of a church in Huntsville, Ala.; James Flammig, a pastor in Richmond, Va.; and Jolene Rogers, a pastor's wife from Oklahoma City, Okla.

In unusual actions, Johnson nominated himself for the second year in a row and Jolene Rogers was nominated by her husband, Don.

Lee Porter and Martin Bradley, both of Nashville, were unanimously re-elected as registration secretary and recording secretary, respectively.



PRESIDENTIAL VIEWS — Adrian P. Rogers of Memphis, who was elected to another one-year term as SBC president at the convention, presents his views during a press conference.

Billy Graham suggests ways to bring revival

By Charlie Warren

ST. LOUIS — Evangelist Billy Graham, addressing messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, sounded a cry of the need for sweeping revival and offered ways Baptists can usher in revival.

Graham noted that he continues to be proud to be a Southern Baptist.

"It has been a privilege to go around the world and be introduced in scores of countries, hundreds of cities, and thousands of meetings as a Baptist evangelist,"

Graham said. "While I consider myself an evangelist for the whole church, yet in particular I am a Southern Baptist and proud of it.

"I'm glad Southern Baptists want the name of 'evangelist' to be synonymous with integrity," Graham continued, noting Southern Baptist evangelists must seek integrity "in finances, in personal lives, and in every other way, and that goes for pastors as well."

He commended the spirit of the 1987 convention in St. Louis. "We've not seen a fight," he noted. "We've seen the working of the Holy Spirit bringing us together in a new way."

Graham said the greatest need in the Southern Baptist Convention is "spiritual revival within our churches and our schools. There's not a problem in the convention that a great Holy Spirit revival in our seminaries would not solve."

He warned that the doctrine of the second coming of Jesus Christ is missing from some of Southern Baptists' teaching and preaching today.

Preaching from Matthew 24, Graham noted that one of the signs regarding the second coming is that the gospel will be preached in the whole world.

"Southern Baptists have the unique privilege of leading all major denominations in the area of missions and evangelism," he said. "Let's keep it up until the whole world has had the opportunity to hear."

He noted that a revival of eschatological teaching would be a great motivation and stimulus to biblical preaching and world evangelization, because the "blessed hope" of Christ's return is the strongest possible incentive to evangelism.

He also noted that Scripture predicts a worldwide revival as the end of the age approaches.

Graham suggested four elements of revival: the sovereignty of God, confession, a rediscovery of the Word of God, and a recovery of evangelistic fervor.

Concerning confession, Graham said, "There may be idols in our own hearts that we need to handle personally. Perhaps there is pride in your life — pride over your position, pride over your abilities, pride over your supposed influence or goodness, pride because you are in the limelight," he continued. "Or there may be some secret habit or relationship you are harboring that you know is wrong. Perhaps there is neglect — neglect of your family, neglect of your responsibility, neglect of your preparation, neglect of your private time with God and His Word."

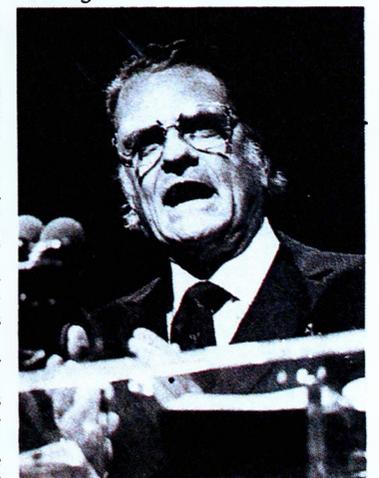
Graham told of an experience he had in 1949, when he doubted God's Word. He prayed and pledged himself to a faith commitment to the infallible Word, and "I have never doubted God's Word since."

"When I quote the Bible, I believe I am quoting the very Word of God and there's an extra power in it," Graham said. "When you say, 'the Word of God says,' people listen."

The renowned evangelist concluded by noting the certainty that revival will come.

"It may have to start with the professors in the seminaries. It may have to start in the hearts of the evangelists," Graham said.

"I'd like for it to start in my heart this morning."



FELLOW SOUTHERN BAPTIST — Evangelist Billy Graham noted that he was proud to be a Southern Baptist during his Thursday morning address to the convention.

Share
BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR
with a friend

Peace report...

(Continued from page 1)

The report includes an introduction, a section detailing the political and theological sources of the controversy in the SBC, findings, conclusions, and 10 recommendations.

The recommendations include a call to reaffirm the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963, while saying it is a "statement of basic belief, not a creed." Another recommendation says diversity should not create disharmony.

Other recommendations include proposed solutions to the political and theological controversy; affirm the Cooperative Program; call for fairness in appointments and nominations to places of responsibility; urge the creation of a bylaw creating the office of parliamentarian; call on the Baptist news media to refrain from using intemperate language, urge the Resolutions Committee to refrain from presenting divisive resolutions, and ask that the committee be continued for three years "for the purpose of observing the response of all agencies, officers, and other participants to the recommendations of the Peace Committee in an effort to encourage compliance and foster harmonious working relationships among all segments of our Baptist family."

The report stated, "In meeting after meeting of the Peace Committee, talk turned to the nature of inspiration of the Scriptures, often to the point of preempting the committee's established agenda. Gradually, it became clear that while there might be other theological differences, the authority of the Word of God is the focus of differences. The primary source of the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention is the Bible; more specifically, the ways in which the Bible is viewed."

Regarding Scripture, the report said, "We, as a Peace Committee, affirm biblical authority for all of life and for all fields of knowledge. The Bible is a book of redemption, not a book of science, psychology, sociology, or economics. But, where the Bible speaks, the Bible speaks truth in all realms of reality and to all fields of knowledge. The Bible, when properly interpreted, is authoritative to all of life."

"We, as a Peace Committee, reaffirm the Baptist commitment to the absolute authority of Scripture, and to the historic Baptist position that the Bible has 'truth without any mixture of error for its matter.' We affirm that the narratives of Scripture are historically and factually accurate. We affirm that the historic accounts of the miraculous and the supernatural are truthful as given by God and recorded by the biblical writers."

A recommendation on politics "requests all organized political factions to discontinue the organized political activity in which they are now engaged. At this time, we think the following specific political activity is out of place and we request all groups to discontinue the following specific political activities: organized political activity, political strategies developed by a group with a central control, holding information/ideological meetings, extensive travel on behalf of political objectives within the convention,

and extensive mailouts to promote political objectives in the convention."

The report further calls on the president and nominating committees to be fair in their appointments, drawing nominees "in balanced fashion from the broad spectrum of loyal, cooperative Southern Baptists, representative of the diversity of our denomination."

It also urges the Southern Baptist Convention to "remain a unified fellowship, rejecting the notion of any official division of our body."

In the abbreviated discussion time, only eight messengers went to microphones to discuss the report, two to attempt to postpone consideration, three to ask questions for clarification, and three to attempt to amend the report.

Paul Kennedy, pastor of First Baptist Church of Swansboro, N.C., moved to table the report until the 1988 convention, but was quickly ruled out of order by President Adrian Rogers on the advice of parliamentarian Barry McCarty.

When another messenger, Lee Stevens, pastor of Englewood Baptist Church of Kansas City, Mo., questioned the ruling, McCarty explained Robert's Rules of Order specifically say an item may be tabled only when an urgent item of business temporarily interrupts the order of business.

Leroy Fenton, pastor of First Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas, attempted to postpone consideration of the report until the Thursday afternoon business session, but the effort was defeated easily on a hand vote.

Branan Thompson, pastor of Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., asked if the report affirms the Preamble to the Baptist Faith and Message Statement which protects the individual consciences of Baptists. Fuller said it did.

Bill Sherman, pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, asked if the theological statement in the report and recommendation "will be used as a creed." Fuller replied that it would not.

The three amendments which failed were presented by:

— John Langlois, pastor of Park Forest Baptist Church, Dallas, who wanted to take a section out of the recommendation on theology, saying it created a "de facto creed."

— Stephen Shoemaker, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church of Louisville, Ky., offered an amendment which emphasized soul liberty and the right and freedom of Baptist individuals to interpret Scripture.

— Lamar Wadsworth, pastor of Unity Baptist Church of Dalton, Ga., wanted to take out a section which called for the discontinuation of "informational/ideological meetings."

In other recommendations, the committee report reaffirmed the Cooperative Program and recommended the leadership of the Pastors' Conference and the SBC Forum "take immediate steps to explore the possibility of 'getting back together' in ways that will enhance and promote our mutually strong beliefs as expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement."

Moore resigns Peace Committee

ST. LOUIS — Winfred Moore, former first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, announced his resignation from the Southern Baptist Peace Committee moments after the committee's report was approved by Southern Baptist messengers June 16.

In his letter of resignation to Chairman Charles Fuller of Roanoke, Va., Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, said he found it "impossible to continue service as the Peace Committee changes the nature of its work."

"As I have stated at the close of our meeting in St. Louis, I do not believe the committee should be continued as an 'oversight' or 'police' committee to monitor or judge the work of our institutions and agencies, their trustees, and our trustee system" Moore wrote.

One of the Peace Committee recommendations the messengers approved called for the 22 members to serve for up to three years "for the purpose of observing the response of all agencies, officers, and other participants to the recommendations of the Peace Committee in an effort to encourage compliance and foster harmonious working relationships among all segments of the Baptist family."

In an interview following messenger approval of the report, Moore explained he could not sit on a committee which was overseeing the trustee system.

"The report says we have a super committee to oversee what you are doing."

Moore has said he felt his truthfulness and integrity would be at stake if he continued on the committee in its new role. He also said he would have liked for the committee to have presented a minority report to state another viewpoint.

But he voted for the report, he said, because "it was the best we could get."

Moore said he asked that the committee not be continued in the oversight role but the majority of the committee did not support his position.

In the letter of resignation, Moore expressed the hope the Peace Committee would release all the tapes of committee and subcommittee meetings in the interest of openness and the promotion of peace.

Editorial

Convention continues conservative course

Messengers to the 130th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention did not veer from the conservative course charted during the last eight years. Tension remained between the SBC's two "political" factions, but a sweeter spirit seemed to prevail as more than 25,000 Baptists gathered in St. Louis last week for SBC '87.

Only a few of the messengers who made their way to microphones during business sessions revealed the hostility that had come to be commonplace during recent conventions. One sarcastic motion, to erect a 700-foot replica of a Bible, was quickly ruled out of order.

Discussions on motions, resolutions, and reports were conducted orderly, respectfully, and with a Christlike spirit. Only a couple of times was there strong crowd reaction, and those times seemed justified and quickly dissipated.

On a few occasions, SBC President Adrian Rogers asked messengers to refrain from applauding when someone made a strong point, but applause seemed inconsequential compared to the boos and hisses of some years. We commend the messengers for their more peaceful spirit.

Peace Committee report

Speaking of peace, the SBC Peace Committee presented its report and recommendations, which were overwhelmingly approved by the messengers. Unfortunately, messengers didn't even see a copy of the report, which was 18 typewritten pages long and took five and a half pages of the Convention Bulletin, until Tuesday morning, yet they had to vote on it Tuesday night. During a busy convention schedule, there's little time to even read such a document, much less study it in preparation for careful discussion.

Charles Fuller, chairman of the committee, explained why it was late. The committee simply ran out of time and required the "last hour" to perfect the wording of the report. Regardless of the reason, messengers deserved more time to examine such an important document.

Positive aspects of report

The report contained good statements on the two major sources of the lingering controversy in the SBC — theological and political. The statements laid a good foundation for the rest of the report, accurately presenting the problems we've faced.

There's also an excellent statement on the need to move beyond politics: "We find that the extent of

political activity within the Southern Baptist Convention at the present time promotes a party spirit; creates discord, division, and distrust; diminishes our ability to do missions and evangelism; is detrimental to our influence; and impedes our ability to serve our Lord.

"If allowed to continue unchecked," the report continues, "such political activity in the convention can have disastrous consequences affecting our ability to serve our Lord and do His work."

May all Southern Baptists, especially those who have been politically active, take that statement to heart.

The report also contains excellent statements on support for the Cooperative Program and on the need for committee appointments and nominations "drawn in balanced fashion from the broad spectrum of loyal, cooperative Southern Baptists representative of the diversity of our denomination."

We hope that means moderates, laypeople, and especially women can still be selected to serve on SBC committees and boards.

Trouble spots in report

While the report itself reiterates that the Baptist Faith and Message Statement is not a creed and that Baptists are non-creedal, the report comes dangerously close to a creedal position.

When Nashville Pastor Bill Sherman raised such questions, Fuller assured him it would not be interpreted as creedal.

The statements some might interpret as creedal suggest that seminaries should require administrators and faculty members to "stand by" the Baptist Faith and Message Statement, the Glorieta Statement, and institutional declarations of faith as guidelines by which they will teach students. Also, other SBC institutions are asked to "build their professional staffs and faculties from those who clearly reflect such dominant convictions and beliefs held by Southern Baptists at large."

Southern Baptists must be on guard to assure that these statements are not interpreted as creedal, unless we choose to turn our backs on our heritage.

Another red flag has been raised by the resignation of Winfred Moore from the Peace Committee after its life was extended to "observe the response of the agencies, officers, and other participants to the recommendations of the Peace Committee." Moore sees this as making the committee a "policing group," which he believes would usurp the authority of the SBC's trustee system. Others, including Fuller, don't see it that way. Nevertheless, it's a potential danger to watch.

Three additional items in the report seem unrealistic.

One asks all organized political factions to discontinue the organized political activity in which they are now engaged. That's a wonderful ideal, but Baptists have always organized peripheral groups. We don't think they'll stop now.

Personal comment

Lesson from a taxi driver

By Connie Davis

As I rushed out of the press room looking for a taxi, I was concerned about making it to my plane on time and not being "ripped off" by some taxi driver.

But I also felt relief as I left the convention. It is always a busy week for a reporter. I hadn't identified my deeper feelings about the actions of the annual convention meeting this year in St. Louis.

But meeting Henry helped me sort out my feelings. After estimating a price range for the ride in his cab to the airport, he added that I could just pay him the lowest estimate. As I sat back for the ride, he didn't wait to see if I were interested in him, a test I might have failed, but was soon asking me about the convention.

I told him a few facts about the convention. But Henry started sharing the blessings he received from living the Christian life — the joy and comfort that "you have to say out loud," he said, as his voice swelled with pride. His excitement was contagious.

As we arrived at the airport, Henry commented on

Another asks Baptist publications, including state Baptist papers, to "refrain from characterizing fellow Southern Baptists in terms such as 'fundamentalist,' 'liberal,' 'fundamental-conservative,' 'moderate-conservative,'" yet they offer no substitute terminology.

Let's face it. There are two factions and individuals are clearly identified with each. Sometimes it's necessary to use some form of identification. Recently, we've used "moderate" and "conservative." We'll probably continue to do so when necessary.

Another unrealistic suggestion is to merge the Pastors' Conference and the SBC Forum. Again, that's a wonderful ideal, but the rift between the two seems extremely deep. Nevertheless, we will applaud any bridgebuilders who can pull it off.

Other action

We commend the decision to continue ties with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a Washington-based agency that lobbies for separation of church and state on behalf of the eight Baptist bodies.

We commend Houston Judge Paul Pressler, previously an outspoken critic of the BJCPA who led efforts to defund it, for supporting the fact-finding committee's recommendations. Southern Baptists, under the new plan, will have stronger representation and also will have the option of speaking independently when we differ with the other Baptist bodies.

This year's resolutions, while reflecting the conservative tone of the SBC, were not divisive. Many messengers were justifiably angry with the way eight of the 15 resolutions were pushed through as a whole without opportunity for discussion or amendments. We agree with Tom Melzoni, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, and chairman of the Resolutions Committee. Melzoni said he hopes the 1988 Committee on Order of Business will allow more time for business, especially for resolutions.

The election of officers was not a surprise to anyone. Most people expected Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, to be re-elected.

We are pleased that Victor Kaneubbe, a Native American, was elected as second vice-president. Our convention's ethnic personality is becoming more apparent, and it's healthy to see it reflected in the officers.

Our own native son, Adrian Rogers, did a commendable job presiding this year. We believe he tried to be fair. The few times he appeared to be rushing things along seemed to be more because of the clock than because of any effort to orchestrate some hidden agenda.

Future historians can reflect on the significance of the 1987 SBC meeting in St. Louis. We will simply say it was a good convention. More people seemed to enjoy themselves this year. There were more smiles and laughter. That in itself is an improvement over previous years. (CEW)

how fast the time had passed. He had told me about visiting with some of the secular reporters covering the convention, and I learned how sensitive he was to others.

He had shared how God led him to stop a young lady who was walking and eventually to talk with her about problems at work.

He told how he had witnessed to a friend who had become successful in the taxi business.

We also discovered that we were both Baptists. When I told him I was from Nashville, he noted that the materials for his church, a member of the National Baptist Convention, were published in Nashville.

Henry reminded me of something that evening. It wasn't as if I hadn't heard good messages on evangelism at the convention. It wasn't as if I wasn't proud of the successes of my beloved denomination and its leaders.

But Henry's successes from living the Christian life had led him to an abundant life that I wanted too. Thanks, Henry.

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 70,735

Charlie Warren
Associate Editor

Connie Davis
Assistant Editor

Baptist and Reflector

Mona Collett Doris Elliott Rita Gambill
Church News Assistant Advertising Production Assistant

Established in 1835
Post Office Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027
Telephone: (615) 373-2255

Baptist and Reflector (USPS 041-780) is published weekly except New Year's week by the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Brentwood, Tennessee 37027. Subscription prices: \$6.55 individual; clubs of ten or more, \$6.25; church budget, 10¢ per family per week when sent to 50 percent or more of church homes. Second class postage paid at Brentwood, Tennessee, and at additional mailing office.

Space forbids printing of resolutions and obituaries. Advertising rates on request.

Member of Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Tom Madden, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Fred Isaacs, chairman; Paul Bryant, vice-chairman; Paul Barkley, David Druemel, Ray Fowler, Marshall Gupton, Calvin Harvell, Mrs. Richard Hawkins, James Hutson, Murray Mathis, Calvin Metcalf, Perry Michel, Jerry Oakley, Jere Plunk, Dennis Pulley, James Robertson, Lon Shoopman Jr., and Fred Steelman.

Letters to the editor

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

You should apologize

Dear editor:

You sir, owe an apology to Tennessee Baptists, the SBC, and Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Arizona, for the following statements in your editorial of June 10: "The fact that an incumbent president can no longer be elected without a challenge reflects the tragedy of our current controversy" and "It's a shame SBC politics have so polarized us that we feel we must try to topple the incumbent."

First, let me say that I am a Christian, a follower of Christ, not man, and therefore, I wear neither the label of conservative nor moderate, but disciple; but that is not the issue here. The issue is free elections. For you to believe that there shouldn't be nominations to challenge the incumbent is beyond my comprehension as a Christian. You say "vote your conscience," so can't you understand that those who want to nominate another person are doing just that?

Sir, if you are so adamant about an incumbent not being challenged, then why don't you start a campaign to have the SBC rules changed so that a president is elected for a two-year term?

For you to try to make fellow Christians feel that nominating another person other than the incumbent for the office of president is a tragedy and a shame, then you, sir, are the tragedy. May God help you.

Dorothy L. Payne
16 Woodmere Apts.
Crossville, TN 38555

You are reading much more than I intended into my comments. I am not "adamant" about a challenge to an incumbent, and it was not intended to be a slap at Jackson, the one who nominated him, or those who supported him. Prior to 1981, when Abner McCall challenged incumbent Bailey Smith, SBC presidents were traditionally elected to a second term without a challenge. My point was simply that current SBC politics have moved us away from the "good old days." Actually, I agree with you. Messengers have every right to nominate whoever they want, whenever they want. (editor)

Presidential politics

Dear editor:

The election of a president is obviously becoming the key event in determining the organizational direction of the SBC.

Some say the majority votes of the past few years would have been even wider if the opinions of all the people had been expressed. Others say the votes represent not the people's opinion but the organizational effectiveness of the group currently in power.

Why not let all the churches speak without regard to their ability to finance or organize a delegation to the convention? Since our SBC has increasingly taken on the character of a political convention, why not go one step further in that direction? Let the SBC yearly session merely NOMINATE the candidates rather than elect the president.

This is the way it could work. We already know the identity of the churches and the number of messengers allowed. After the nominees are chosen at the annual convention, an election committee would mail the correct number of ballots to each church. In business session, the churches would elect the ten (or fewer) voters best qualified to represent the church, not necessarily the ones who had been able and willing to attend the convention.

Those elected would be given a ballot to mark in private and mail directly to the election committee. If the nominees were limited to two, the votes could be counted easily and the results announced quickly.

William D. Crisp
Haymarket Baptist Church
Haymarket, VA 22069

Defending fundamentalism

Dear editor:

This letter is in response to the individual writing from Nashville in the June 17 issue on "Fundamentalism: truth or hoax."

From what I have seen and heard, this is not the first time the Scriptures have been doubted. So, forget the first paragraph of that letter. We never take truth away from the Scripture, we simply refuse to believe it.

This is what is happening today and is no surprise (2 Timothy 3:7-8; 2 Timothy 4:3-4). The Bible is truth (John 17:17).

Regarding Mark 16:17-20, yes, it is in my Bible. I believe it. Paul was bitten by a viper and felt no harm (Acts 28:1-6). However, he nor any other of the apostles according to the New Testament made a practice of snake handling.

Regarding James 5:14-15, I also believe it. We as Baptists would be better off to practice it. There are others who do.

Regarding Hebrews 8:10-12, verse 11 is yet to happen in the future. Not all people today know the Lord. There is today a greater need for preaching the gospel than ever before. Jesus is soon coming (Revelation 22).

Regarding Matthew 10:9-13, I agree with the writer, most preachers today like luxury as much as anyone else. We are all too materialistic, aren't we. God help us all to be more like Jesus!

However, the writer also missed the last part of verse 10. Read it. Paul explains this in 1 Corinthians 9:14. However, preachers and all Christians need to put Christ before money.

I urge the writer and all who read this to be sure God's Word is truth and will stand until Jesus comes.

One truth I know and believe. Jesus is the Son of God, died for our sins, rose again, and is soon coming in the clouds of heaven (Luke 21:27).

Billy W. Beard
Rt. 1, Box 359
Columbia, TN 38401

Liberal poison

Dear editor:

In response to the letter by C. H. Nicks, dated June 17, I am a fundamentalist and do not believe I fit any of the categories of your letter: madman, actor, etc.

There is a false accusation made by the liberals and that is that we (fundamentalists), do not allow for differing belief of Scripture. An example of what I mean: There are three basic views of the millennium. I am a very strong pre-millennialist but do not lose fellowship with those who may hold to either of the other two views. There are other beliefs that could be cited. It is only with those who deny the Scrip-

ture that I cannot fellowship.

There are essentials of the Baptist faith which cannot be denied and still be called Baptists: the virgin birth, blood atonement, and bodily resurrection.

The Bible says we see through a glass darkly. I don't believe anyone is fool enough to claim 100 percent or perfect understanding of all Scripture, however, I cannot deny that portion of Scripture with which I have difficulty in understanding. God help me to grow in knowledge and understanding of His Holy Word.

The Bible speaks of false prophets and teachers creeping in unawares. The fundamental view of Scripture is much older than the liberal view. So I ask you, who did the creeping in? 2 Timothy 3 and 4 gives a very good description of the liberal. From such turn away. Praise God when the liberal poison is purged from our convention (SBC).

Howard B. Wingo
Route 2, Box 52
Dickson, TN 37055

On church and state

Dear editor:

The article, "Nashville Group Forms PAC," in the June 10 issue underscores the desperate need for the church community to achieve a better understanding of the constitutional doctrine of separation of church and state.

The church over the years has jealously defended itself from intrusion of the state into its internal functions, but at the same time it has just as vigorously asserted a supposed right to use its broad power, influence, and resources in attempts to dictate government policy.

There can be little doubt that an individual church member has the right to engage in political activity and give of his time and money, but does the church as a body have the authority to allow its facilities to be used as a meeting place for

the initiating and conducting of political campaigns, make donations to such campaigns from funds donated for the support of the church, pay the salary and expenses of staff members while they participate in political activity, and engage in other similar practices?

The issue simply stated is this: Is the constitutional mandate of separation of church and state a unilateral provision to protect the church only, or is it a reciprocal arrangement intended to guarantee the immunity of the church to control by the state, while at the same time freeing the governmental process from domination by the church?

As the frenzy of political activism heats up, the church should expect to find itself embroiled in other lawsuits revolving around this question.

L. W. Duggins
R.F.D. #3, Box 810
Chuckey, TN 37641

On abortion

Dear editor:

I agree with Paul D. Simmons, professor of ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., on pro-freedom of choice as regards abortion. It is supported by Scripture.

We read in Genesis 2:7 "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Up to the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, the developing embryo is still in the process of formation and undergoing the "humanizing" process. When the breath of life comes at birth at the end of 36 weeks from the moment of conception, then we become living souls (capable of normal existence outside of the womb).

Therefore, aborting a developing embryo within the first 12 weeks from the moment of conception (incapable of normal existence outside of the womb), as wisely ordained by the U.S. Supreme Court, cannot be classified as murder, since the embryo involved is not yet from the biblical sense a living soul.

Archimedes A. Concon, M.D.
4939 Princeton Road
Memphis, TN 38117

SBC Executive Committee elects Charles Sullivan

ST. LOUIS — Charles W. Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, was elected chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention by one vote Wednesday during the group's organizational meeting.

Sullivan defeated Darrell W. Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., by a 30-29 secret ballot vote.

Frank Lady, a layman from Jonesboro, Ark., made the motion to cast secret ballots, which is acceptable under Robert's Rules of Orders, according to outgoing chairman David C. Maddox, a layman from Temple Baptist Church in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Maddox noted, however, he "did not recall the vote being done that way (secret ballot) in recent years."

Thomas A. Hinson, pastor of First Baptist Church of West Memphis, Ark., nominated Sullivan to chair the Executive Committee. He said Sullivan was a "man who knows and loves the Lord and is committed to what Baptists believe."

Robinson was nominated by James E. Jones, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church in Campbellsville, Ky. Jones described Robinson as a Christian statesman who "believes in the Bible as the inerrant Word of God and one who preaches it and lives it."

A third candidate, Harmon M. Born, a layman from Rex, Ga., was nominated by

Kenneth L. Mahanes, pastor of Far Hills Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio.

Born noted he was grateful for the nomination and was honored to be considered for the post, but asked that his name be withdrawn because "I do not feel it is the role for me."

Sullivan expressed appreciation for his election and thanked "God for giving me this hour of opportunity." He noted one of his goals is for the committee to "aim high" no matter what the committee does. He also called for the committee to "draw nigh" to God and to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jones then nominated Robinson to serve as vice-chairman. Paul Pressler, a layman from Houston, Texas, seconded the nomination and asked that Robinson be elected by acclamation. The motion met no opposition.

Two men were nominated for the post of recording secretary. James F. Yates, pastor of First Baptist Church of Yazoo City, Miss., was nominated by Tommy King, a layman from Columbia, Miss. Ed Drake, a layman from Dallas, Texas, nominated Sam W. Pace, executive director/treasurer of the Comanche-Cotton Baptist Association in Lawton, Okla., to oppose Yates.

In another secret ballot vote, Pace defeated Yates 31-27. Sullivan declined to vote.

WMU meeting explores giving, representation

By Charlie Warren

ST. LOUIS — About 2,500 women, gathered for the 99th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, celebrated their history and the effective work of missionaries, while decrying ineffectiveness in giving patterns and an inadequate representation of women on SBC committees and boards.

WMU, which will be 100 years old on May 14, 1988, opened its year-long centennial observance at the Clarion Hotel here with a gavel made from wood taken from the Broad Street Methodist Church in Richmond, Va., where WMU was born.

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the national WMU organization, noted the declining number of women being named to the boards of SBC agencies and asked for greater representation on future committee appointments.

She expressed particular concern over the Foreign Mission Board, which has replaced five of its women board members with male appointees after their terms expired.

Her comments were greeted by a round of applause from the crowd.

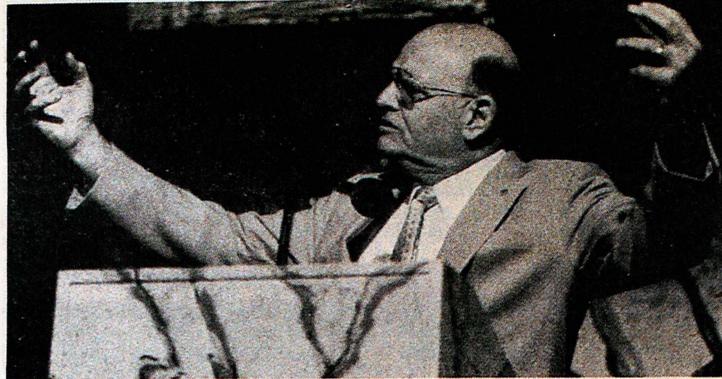
"The Executive Committee has seven women on its board; the Foreign Mission Board, with 85 members, has 13 women; and the Home Mission Board, with 85 members, has 17 women," Weatherford said. "The Sunday School Board has only eight, while the Annuity Board, while administering the retirement income of women as well as men, has no women on its board."

She noted that the seminaries, while increasing in female enrollment, are decreasing in women trustee members. *New Orleans and Southwestern seminaries* have no female representation, she said.

"Our real concern is that we have very little representation on the agencies that are the center of our work — the mission boards," Weatherford said during an interview following the session. "The WMU exists solely to support the work of our two mission boards, but we have very little representation on their boards. We raise at least half the budget for the two boards, yet we have only 30 out of 170 total members."

Throughout the two-day conference, the sessions were filled with presentations and interviews of both foreign and home missionaries as well as the people with whom they work.

In addition, Keith Parks, president of



DESCRIBING THE WORLD — Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, told WMU women about God's view of a desperate, dangerous, dynamic world.

the Foreign Mission Board, delivered a missions message based on Exodus 3:7, "The Lord said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of My people.'"

"If there is one great truth from Scripture, it is that the great heart of God anguishes over the suffering of the people of this earth," Parks said.

He noted that Christians today must see the world as God sees it — a desperate world, a dangerous world, and a dynamic world.

"Anyone who is not willing to risk is not going to be a part of reaching this world for Christ," Parks said. "It is a dangerous world, but we must preach the gospel in the world God has given us."

"In this desperate, dangerous, dynamic, changing world, the one answer we have is prayer," Parks concluded.

Dorothy Sample of Flint, Mich., former WMU national president, challenged the women in a Bible study at each session.

Exploring Matthew 9:36 on Jesus, the harvest, and laborers, Sample said, "We must not look only on the fields of the world, but look through Jesus' eyes at the fields we walk through everyday."

In another session, Sample noted the discrepancy between the total amount of money Southern Baptist churches received in 1986 and the amount they channeled to mission causes.

"Of a record \$4-billion in receipts reported by all Southern Baptist churches, only six percent found its way to foreign missions through the Cooperative Program," Sample said. "The Foreign Mission Board's budget of \$165-million,

when divided among all Baptists, averages only about \$12 given by each Baptist to foreign missions last year."

Commending one church and its pastor for mission giving, Weatherford recognized Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, whose church gave \$1-million through the Cooperative Program in 1986. Weatherford thanked Jackson for his leadership in challenging his congregation to a sacrificial level of mission giving.

Jackson, who was defeated the next day in his bid for SBC president, explained how, believing that "God's people in Southern Baptist churches are neither broke nor selfish," he was able to lead his congregation from initial missions giving of \$100,000 to \$1-million on a planned timetable.

"We believe the way to do missions is through the Cooperative Program and we want to be a part of that worldwide effort of evangelism," Jackson said.

John Mills, FMB area secretary for

West Africa, detailed projects which were being postponed because the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was \$5-million short of its goal last year.

"We are halfway through our Bold Mission Thrust timetable, and we have made great inroads in spreading the gospel, but we will stumble if we don't increase our giving," Mills warned.

Another key speaker, June Scobee, described her grief experience when her husband, Astronaut Dick Scobee, perished in the Challenger explosion last year. Her grief, she said, brought her to the point of praying for her own death.

Instead, she said she was surrounded by a "magnificent, soft light" and overwhelmed by a "feeling of pure love."

God's voice seemed to say, she told the WMU crowd, "It's not your turn ... you have work left to do."

"That's when I found out what 'have Thine own way, Lord,' really means," said Scobee, who is working to establish the Challenger Center to teach children around the world about space flight. Scobee is a member of University Baptist Church, Houston.

Before Scobee spoke, William Rittenhouse, pastor of Houston's Nassau Bay Baptist Church, presented WMU President Marjorie McCullough a WMU lapel pin which Astronaut Charles Duke took to the moon in 1972.

Noting WMU's widespread influence around the world, Rittenhouse quipped that if colonies are ever set up on the moon, "WMU will certainly have a missions program there."

McCullough, former Tennessee WMU president and also former interim WMU executive director in Tennessee, presided at the meeting. McCullough, also a former foreign missionary now living in Alexandria, La., was re-elected as national president.

Pattie Dent of Holly Springs, Miss., was re-elected as recording secretary.

WMU Executive Board sets budget, adds six members

ST. LOUIS — The executive board of the national Woman's Missionary Union approved a \$10.7-million operating budget for 1987-88, heard a report that giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is down this year, and added six voting members to the board during its biannual meeting prior to the annual WMU meeting at the airport Hilton.

The budget represents a 3.5 percent increase over the 1986-87 budget. Major budget items include \$3.3-million for staff salaries, \$2.3-million for magazine production, and \$800,000 for personnel benefits.

Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford reported that contributions to the Easter offering this year are lagging behind receipts for the same period in 1986. To date, less than one-third of the \$37.5-million goal has been collected — a cause for concern, Weatherford said, since the highest levels of giving traditionally occur during March, April, and May each year.

Speculation is that the offering giving is down due, in part, to some local churches withholding donations to protest the trustee action by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board which discontinued financial support for women pastors, Weatherford said.

Weatherford reported that she had sent a letter to all SBC pastors in March urg-

ing them to not withhold funds, but to continue to support the Easter offering. She also urged the WMU state leaders to do all they can to promote the offering in their state conventions.

While the national WMU has stayed out of SBC convention politics as much as possible in recent years, "We are going to fight when missions support is at stake," Weatherford said later. "We don't have a fight in the controversy except as it affects missions support."

During the meeting, she called the WMU leaders into a prayer session for "Southern Baptists to forget the controversy and go to winning the world."

The six new members added to the board are Barbara Young of Anchorage, Alaska; Linda Johnston of Reno, Nev.; Mary Knapton of Endicott, N.Y.; Susan Brindle of Portsmouth, N.H.; Grady Cox of Bensalam, Pa.; and Roberta Cox Edwards of Brigham City, Utah.

The six became eligible for representation on the WMU board following action taken in January which patterns the method of representation after the method used by the SBC Executive Committee. When the SBC Executive Committee adopted a bylaw change in September 1986 allowing for greater representation by some state conventions on SBC boards and agencies, the WMU executive board made the same change in its bylaws.



SINGING WITH INTENSITY — Malvie Giles, soloist from Magnolia, Ark., sang and led congregational music at each of the five sessions of the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.

Pastors interpret 'Emmanuel Factor'

By Connie Davis

ST. LOUIS—About 13,000 participants at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference responded enthusiastically to messages and special music on "The Emmanuel Factor," and to calls for continued support of the conservative position in the current denominational controversy.

The pastors met June 14-15 in the Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis.

Two former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention urged pastors to stand firm in the view of Scripture supported by the conservative faction of the denomination during an eight-year controversy.

Sunday evening speakers

To a thunderous roar of applause, Evangelist Bailey Smith of Del City, Okla., and a former SBC president, said he could end the whole debate over whether the Bible is the inerrant, infallible Word of God with just two words: "It is."

"If somehow the whole world would vote that the Bible is not the infallible, inerrant Word of God, it still would be the infallible Word of God," he said. "You don't get a vote."

Instead of reading commentaries by "back-sliden German theologians" or trying to write "smart or more clever sermons," the pastors should simply follow the Great Commission.

"I appreciate other religions, but they're wrong," Smith concluded.

Tom Elliff, Smith's successor as pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., spoke on forgiveness, sharing several personal examples, including the divorce of his parents after 43 years of marriage.

He encouraged the pastors to make a "deliberate, volitional, singular choice of the will to forgive" irregardless of feelings. Instead of trying the person "in the courtroom of emotion," Elliff called the audience to let God try the person.

"Unforgiveness allows someone else to control me," he continued. "When you choose to forgive someone, it removes you as a factor in their behavior, because you are trusting God to deal with that person."

"Forgiveness is an act of faith, because it casts you totally on the resources of God and restores you to usefulness."

Richard Vera, an employee of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, also addressed the pastors on the problems of complacency, conformity, and the lack of commitment among persons.

Monday morning speakers

New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary President Landrum P. Leavell II declared that although Southern Baptists are the "most blessed denomination," we are "spending our time, energies, and money jockeying over who will run the machinery" of the denomination.

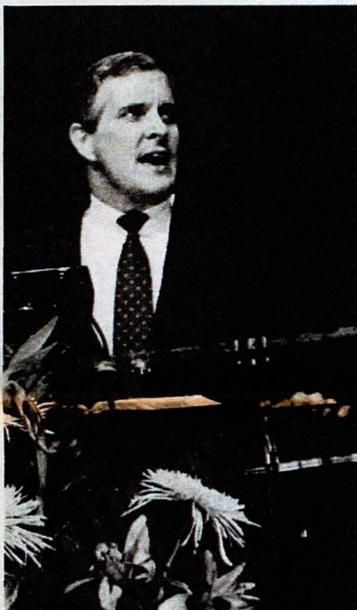
"The worst and most dangerous brand of humanism is not that espoused by the agnostic or atheistic humanist, but by professing Christians who... rely on human actions to achieve spiritual goals."

We should grant to others what we receive from God, including forgiveness and the priesthood of the believer, Leavell explained.

He addressed the resurrection, stating that it separates the Christian religion from all other world religions.



FORMER SBC PRESIDENT — Evangelist Bailey Smith addressed the denominational controversy.



TENNESSEAN — "Contend for the faith," urged Jerry Sutton of Nashville during the Monday afternoon session of the Pastors' Conference.

"The more technical progress man makes, the less he depends on God," he said, adding that persons will continue to respond to the gospel as they responded to Paul in the first century: to argue, reject, or believe.

Carl F. H. Henry, the founder of Christianity Today of Arlington, Va., drew loud applause when he referred to a metaphor in Ecclesiastes 12.

"The conservative viewpoint is that this is a metaphor. The trouble that we get into is when things which are historical are taken as metaphors."

"It was German existentialists," he said, "who reduced the gospels to myth."

Speaking on "Life Without the Emmanuel Factor," Henry suggested that the writer of Ecclesiastes struggled with the same meaninglessness in life without God that is rampant today.

A life without God will endure "inevitable, pleasureless, and evil days," Henry forecast.

Pastor E. W. McCall of St. Stephen Baptist Church in La Puente, Calif., addressed the "infinite sacrifice for salvation" stated in John 3:16.

He called homosexuals and others to repent and directed the crowd to believe only in God, not in other ideologies or even theologians.



1987-88 OFFICERS — Elected as officers of the SBC Pastors' Conference were (from left) Don Deel of Eastlake Baptist Church, Merrillville, Ind., secretary-treasurer; Gerald Davidson of First Baptist Church, Arnold, Mo., vice-president; and Stan Coffey of San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, president.

Jack Millwood, pastor of First Baptist Church in Chickasaw, Ala., implored his fellow pastors to stop evaluating situations and circumstances without God.

He said he could relate to their questions about the self-denial required of them in their roles as pastors and Christians and warned them against building personal empires.

Because our King became a "papa" and because Jesus became a speck in Mary's womb, it is worth it, Millwood said.

Monday afternoon speakers

Calling on the pastors to "contend for the faith," Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, compared the denominational controversy to one faced by Charles Spurgeon in the England-based Baptist Union.

He said that the SBC is a political system because choices are made between alternatives.

"We ask questions like: 'Who are we? Where are we going? How can we best accomplish our purpose? And who is going to lead?'" he said. "These are political questions and there is nothing wrong with this. To call politics unchristian and accuse our brothers and sisters of 'playing politics' is naive at best and dishonest at worst."

Sutton reported that although Spurgeon's 30-year ministry added 14,000 persons to his church in London, he resigned from the Baptist Union because of a doctrinal controversy.



THEOLOGIAN — Carl F. H. Henry told Pastors' Conference participants that historical sections of the Bible should not be interpreted as metaphors.

Richard Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Church in Tucker, Ga., spoke on how God answers prayers, deploring a "name it/claim it prosperity theology."

Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, and David Miller, a director of missions from Heber Springs, Ark., also spoke.

Monday evening speakers

James T. Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, and a former SBC president, said, "The Bible must be inerrant or it is not the Word of God."

Speaking on truth and integrity, Draper said truth is important to God because "He is truth."

"If God is truth," Draper added, "the Bible is inerrant."

Draper said if there is any one place where people should hear the truth and nothing but the truth, it ought to be the church.

He also said, "We (Southern Baptists) can't deal with the problems of the Christian world and the SBC in particular, until we get honest where we are."

"We all ought to be for peace, but not at any price. We must stand for integrity before God."

Evangelist Jerry Johnston of Overland Park, Kan., also spoke during the conference.



CONCERT HARPIS — Greg Buchanan of Fort Worth, Texas, surprised Pastors' Conference participants with his enthusiastic performances.

Send the B & R
to a friend

Messengers resolve on AIDS, other issues

By Charlie Warren

ST. LOUIS — Messengers to the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention meeting last week adopted 15 resolutions ranging from concern for AIDS to help for street children.

The Resolutions Committee took the 56 resolutions submitted by messengers, combined some, rejected some, and rewrote others, bringing the 15 resolutions for action during the Thursday morning business session.

The resolutions support full-time homemakers, integrity in stewardship, aid to hungry people, help for street children, and the Danforth Amendment.

Other resolutions oppose pornography, gambling, abortion, textbook censorship, and use of alcohol.

Others express concern over AIDS, sex education, and the homeless, support the 75th anniversary of the Romanian Baptist Convention, and offer appreciation to those who assisted the convention.

After discussion and consideration of only seven of the resolutions, the other eight were adopted as a slate without discussion.

Four were amended by messengers.

The resolution on integrity in stewardship was amended to encourage support for associational missions and to disassociate Southern Baptists from independent Baptist Jerry Falwell, the PTL ministry, and three Southern Baptists, Bailey Smith, Sam Moore, and Richard Lee, who serve on the PTL board.

A resolution on hunger and poverty was amended to encourage the observation of World Hunger Day in 1987.

The resolution on full-time homemakers was amended to cite recognition for career women rather than the committee's wording, "we do not denigrate the accomplishments" of career women.

Marvin Nail, pastor of Whitsitt Chapel Baptist Church, Nashville, offered an amendment to strike two paragraphs of the committee's resolution that dealt with women who pursue employment outside the home, but his amendment was defeated.

Another attempted amendment would have encouraged the appointment of more women to serve on SBC entities, but the chair ruled it was not germane to the resolution.

The resolution on pornography was amended by deleting the names of specific anti-pornography groups, rather urging support for "local and national" anti-porn organizations.

After the first four resolutions had passed, Skeet Workman, a messenger from Calvary Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, made a motion to pass the remaining 11 resolutions as a whole.

The motion was defeated after Mike Janz, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Rosamond, Calif., noted that to adopt the slate would be "taking away the right of every messenger to discuss each resolution." Weston Ware, pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, also urged discussion of each resolution.

After considering three more resolutions, however, committee chairman Tom Melzoni, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, moved the adoption of the remainder of the resolutions due to the lack of time.

President Adrian Rogers ruled that Melzoni's motion could not be discussed since it came from the committee, and called for a vote by the messengers. The motion passed.

When messengers questioned the decision which overturned the previous ac-

tion, Rogers noted that action taken at one time does not prevent messengers from taking a different action at another time.

After the adoption of the resolutions, Melzoni said he hopes the 1988 Committee on Order of Business will allow more time for business, especially for resolutions.

Melzoni added, "I think we have brought resolutions which were right and non-divisive to the majority of Southern Baptists. I believe we walked the tightropes of integrity, honesty, sweetness, and boldness."

Four Tennesseans submitted resolutions to the committee. Jerry Sutton of Nashville offered one on pornography. Mike Womack of Erwin submitted one on sex education. Don Dixon of Tullahoma offered two, one on accountability for funding by TV and another on banning political ads. No action was taken on his second submission.

Neither was action taken on a proposed resolution suggesting that belief in the Bible is not essential to salvation, presented by Bruce Maples of Chattanooga.

Following are the highlights of the 15 resolutions, in the order they were presented by the Resolutions Committee.

On integrity in stewardship

The resolution on integrity in stewardship urged messengers to financially support their local churches and encouraged churches to support the Cooperative Program and associational missions through responsible and sacrificial giving.

On the 75th anniversary of the Romanian Baptist Convention

This resolution urged Southern Baptists to "join these fellow Southern Baptists in celebration and prayer on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Romanian Baptist Convention" in Chicago, Sept. 5-7, 1987.

On crisis help for children on the street

Noting that each year more than 1-million children in this country find themselves homeless or run away from home, this resolution recognized that "the crisis needs of runaway, homeless, and missing children should be given high priority by churches, private citizens, legislators, and government officials."

On hunger and poverty

The hunger resolution urges Baptists to "direct our resources through the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, state conventions, local Baptist associations, and individual churches to meet the escalating need for food, clothing, shelter, and health care of the poor and hungry."

It further urges churches to use Christian Life Commission materials on World Hunger Day and to observe the day this year.

On honor for full-time homemakers

While recognizing the accomplishments of career women, this resolution honors "the rich and valuable contributions of full-time wives and mothers who through their service and self-sacrifice have strengthened their families, enriched our nation, and pleased God by honoring His purposes."

On pornography

The resolution on pornography noted that "pornographic and sexually explicit films are offered for viewing in hotels and motels, of which the Holiday Inn chain is the largest offender" and called on Southern Baptists "to lead out in opposition to the spread of obscenity."

It further encouraged Baptists to work actively for the passage of federal legislation which would prohibit the use of telephone services as a means of obscene communication, and urged the Christian

Life Commission to communicate support for such legislation to appropriate members and committees of Congress.

It also urged local congregations to join the efforts of anti-pornography organizations.

On gambling

On the gambling issue, messengers expressed "alarm and concern about the growth of legalized gambling and lottery in the nation" and urged Congress to "enact legislation currently pending which would guarantee the right of state governments to regulate gambling activity."

On AIDS

The convention went on record as "believing that obedience to God's laws of chastity before marriage and faithfulness in marriage would be a major step toward curtailing the threat of AIDS."

It also urged "Christlike compassion in dealing with the hurting victims of AIDS and their families," while opposing advertising and educational endeavors "which appear to accept infidelity, adultery, and perversion in the guise of 'safe sex.'"

The resolution further deplored and condemned mass, indiscriminate distribution of condoms or other sexual devices which seem to encourage an acceptance of immorality or deviant behavior.

On abortion

The abortion resolution encouraged the Christian Life Commission to "continue the expansion of program services related to the sanctity of life and to actively lobby for legislation to protect the lives of the unborn" and to make the abortion issue a priority on its agenda.

It urged the Home Mission Board to train churches for ministry in crisis pregnancy centers and residential care homes for pregnant women and children.

Churches, associations, and state conventions were encouraged to expand their children's homes ministry to include outpatient and residential care for unwed mothers.

The resolution also urged churches to observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

On support of the Danforth Amendment
Messengers resolved to call upon the U.S. Senate to pass the Danforth Abortion-

Neutral Amendment to the Civil Rights Restoration Act and urged the Christian Life Commission to back the amendment.

The amendment would prevent pro-life hospitals from being forced to perform abortions under provisions of the Civil Rights Restoration Act.

On sex education

Messengers resolved to encourage active involvement by parents in the sex education process and to encourage churches to preach the biblical basis for human sexuality.

The resolution urged schools and educators to adopt curricula that stress traditional family roles and teach sexual abstinence before marriage and fidelity in marriage, to allow parental review before program implementation, to refrain from distributing contraceptives, and to oppose the establishment of school-based sexual counseling clinics.

On textbook censorship

This resolution urged Southern Baptists to oppose censorship of the Judeo-Christian heritage as a historical fact from public school textbooks and to encourage textbook selection committees not to accept such textbooks.

On appreciation for convention service
Messengers expressed appreciation to St. Louis, the arrangements committee, the SBC officers and committees, and the news media for contributing to the "positive spirit and overall effectiveness" of the annual meeting.

On alcohol

Once again, the convention expressed "total opposition" to the manufacturing, distribution, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages and urged Baptists to work for legislation that would limit the advertising of alcoholic beverages, increase proper labeling, and increase taxes on alcoholic beverages.

On providing ministry to homeless Americans

Messengers resolved to work with the homeless through local churches, associations, state conventions, the Home Mission Board, and the Christian Life Commission.

The resolution encouraged Baptists to work with other denominations and government agencies to resolve the issues which cause homelessness.

State presidents meet

ST. LOUIS — Prayer requests for increased commitment to the Cooperative Program, for Partnership Missions, for churches in economic difficulty, and for peace in the Southern Baptist Convention highlighted a Monday evening dinner meeting of the Baptist State Convention Presidents' Fellowship.

The fellowship began in 1985 when Charles Pickering, then president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, contacted other state convention presidents to discuss ways to achieve reconciliation in the divided SBC.

The idea for the SBC Peace Committee, charged with the task of seeking solutions to denominational controversy, grew primarily out of an April 1985 prayer retreat of that group.

"Our desire is that this group not become a political organization," said Frank Gunn of Biloxi, president of the fellowship and convention president in Mississippi. "Our purpose is to promote fellowship, cooperation, and reconciliation within the convention."

Jerry Oakley, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, told his fellow

presidents that Tennessee has the "dubious honor" of being home to many leaders on both sides of the SBC division.

"But we get along fine in our state," Oakley said. "Let us pray those feelings within the state are transplanted to the national level."

Several convention presidents from states that have traditionally relied on farming, agribusiness, and oil and gas production requested prayer for hurting people and for opportunities to minister to them.

A number of these same convention presidents pledged that, in spite of economic setbacks, their states remain committed to the principle of dividing Cooperative Program receipts on a 50/50 percentage basis between state needs and world missions through the SBC.

Convention presidents from "pioneer missions" areas expressed appreciation to established state conventions that have "partnered" with them, and several convention presidents from older, stronger state conventions testified about the blessing received by their churches through involvement in partnership missions on the home and foreign mission fields.



DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS' OFFICERS — A Tennessean was elected an officer of the Southern Baptist Association of Directors of Missions during their pre-convention meeting. Officers for 1987-88 are (from left, front row) Carl Duck, executive director of Nashville Baptist Association, president; Mack Smoke, first vice-president; Dewey Mayfield, second vice-president; (second row) Paul Camp, editor; Bob Schmeltekopf, host; Bob Wainwright, treasurer; and Maurice Flowers, secretary.

Carl Duck tells DOMs of 'encouraging signs'

ST. LOUIS — Carl Duck, president of the Directors of Missions Conference, told his fellow DOMs of "encouraging signs for the future of the association."

Duck, executive director of the Nashville Baptist Association, spoke during the 26th annual meeting of the associational directors of missions at St. Louis' Airport Hilton. The meeting attracted about 250 people.

Among the "encouraging signs" Duck mentioned were the growing number of dedicated people entering associational work, the healthier self-image of the association, and the inclusion of the association as a vital member of the denominational missions team.

At a business session during the meeting, Duck was re-elected as president of the group.

Another key speaker, William Pinson of Dallas, noted that the right attitude and

a persistent spirit will help directors of missions set and keep the courses for their associations.

"Setting the course for a Baptist association starts with the right attitude ... not seeing one's place as a position, but as a mission," said Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. "You don't do it for a paycheck, but you do it for the One Who died on Calvary."

There must also be one assumption in course-setting, Pinson said. "Our intent is not to determine a reasonable, rational goal, but to determine God's intent. The primary objective is to know and follow God's will."

Larry Lewis, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, challenged the DOMs to "tell people about Jesus eyeball to eyeball. It's really quite simple."

Lewis also urged them to help fulfill the HMB goal of 50,000 churches by the year 2000.

"We're going to have to start 1,500 churches a year," Lewis noted. "To do this, we're going to have to start paying our church planter missionaries more than \$600 a month. We're also going to have to give them support and training resources, instead of just sending them off to a place saying, 'Start a church.'"

In a closing speech, Mildred McWhorter told of her missionary work as director of three inner-city Baptist centers in Houston, Texas.

Admitting that she has been guilty of getting so involved meeting people's needs that she forgot to tell them about Jesus, McWhorter said, "You don't have to win the whole world to Christ, but you do have to tell the whole world about Him."

Officers for 1987-88 were elected and include Duck; Mack Smoke, director of missions for Gibson County Baptist Association, Baytown, Texas, first vice-president; Dewey Mayfield, director of missions for Columbia Baptist Association, Dothan, Ala., second vice-president; Paul Camp, director of missions for Macon (Ga.) Baptist Association, editor; Bob Schmeltekopf, director of missions for San Antonio (Texas) Baptist Association, host; Bob Wainwright, director of missions for Flat River Baptist Association, Oxford, N.C., treasurer; and Maurice Flowers, director of missions for Jones Baptist Association, Laurel, Miss., secretary.

Convention endorses...

(Continued from page 1)
and this is a good amendment."

The amendment passed with little opposition.

Messengers approved other recommendations from the SBC Executive Committee, including one accepting six states/territories for representation, as appropriate, on the Executive Committee and other boards, institutions, commissions, standing committees, and other SBC committees.

Approved were Alaska, Nevada, New England, New York, Pennsylvania-South Jersey, and Utah-Idaho.

A recommendation to amend Bylaw 16 to change the name of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees to Committee on Nominations met no opposition.

Messengers from Wisconsin and Tennessee attempted to amend the order of business to move the Foreign Mission Board and Peace Committee reports, but both motions failed.

Ray Neal, pastor of Midvale Baptist Church, Madison, Wis., made the motion to move the election of officers until after the Foreign Mission Board report to "emphasize to the convention, press, nation, and world that our business is first and foremost the fulfillment of the Great Commission through Bold Mission Thrust," and not the election of officers.

David Crocker, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Johnson City, made the motion to delay the Peace Committee report from Tuesday to Wednesday so messengers might have ample time to study the document and "act with wisdom and give responses instead of reactions."

Members of the Committee on Order of Business spoke against both amendments saying that having the Foreign Mission Board and Peace Committee reports at night would give more laypersons the opportunity to attend the sessions and hear the reports.

A motion by Presnall H. Wood of Richardson Heights Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas, and editor of the Baptist Standard, requested messengers to reconsider the FMB policy on missionary candidates attending a Southern Baptist seminary. His motion also requested the Committee on Order of Business to arrange for his motion to be considered by the messengers in a later business session rather than being referred to an SBC agency. Such action requires a two-thirds affirmative vote.

When the two-thirds vote failed, the motion was referred to the FMB trustees.

The majority of motions presented by messengers also were referred to the convention agency or board which most closely relates to the motion.

Messengers declined to consider a motion to move the 1989 SBC site from Las Vegas, Nev., to another location.

The vote was 6,702 to reconsider the action and 6,882 to decline consideration — the effort losing by 180 votes.

The convention voted in 1983 to hold the '89 convention in Las Vegas.

The matter of whether or not to consider the motion was put before the messengers by President Adrian Rogers, who called the motion "questionable" since similar motions had been ruled out of order during two previous conventions.

Harold Bennett, president of the Executive Committee, and Jim Guenther, legal counsel for the SBC, noted contracts have been signed and breaking them could bring "significant legal ramifications."

Messengers approved a motion to display the American and Christian flags at all future SBC meetings. They also approved a motion that will require circula-

tion of information about accessibility for the handicapped prior to future SBC meetings.

Another motion was approved requesting an annual award to recognize pastors from small churches and calling for at least one of the award winners to speak on the program of the annual meeting.

A motion by a messenger to erect a solid gold, 700-foot high replica of the Bible was ruled out of order before he could identify the location or other details.

In other action, the convention heard an unprecedented minority report from Christian Life Commission trustees questioning the handling of the election of the commission's new executive director, Larry Baker.

Messengers voted to allow CLC trustee Hal Lane of Eutawville, S.C., make the rare minority report following the CLC's annual report to the convention.

Lane's report, signed by 12 of the agency's 31 trustees, charged that trustees opposing the CLC approach to the abortion issue were excluded from the search committee. It also claimed the election was pushed through without adequate time to examine Baker's background or voice their concerns.

The minority report said the 12 trustees were particularly displeased with Baker's views on abortion, capital punishment, and women in ministry.

In an impromptu session after the minority report, Lynn Clayton, CLC chairman, huddled with several of the minority trustees and encouraged them to give Baker time to prove himself.

In the election of SBC officers, Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, defeated Thomas, Ariz., Pastor Richard Jackson 13,980 to 9,331. (See story on page 1.)

Other officers elected were Jack Stanton, director of the Institute of Evangelism at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., first vice-president; and Victor Kaneubee, a Choctaw Indian and retired pastor of First Indian Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., second vice-president.

Messengers approved 15 resolutions on a variety of subjects. Seven were considered individually and the last eight were approved as a slate due to a lack of time. (See resolutions story on page 8.)

The \$140-million budget approved by messengers represents a \$5.37-million increase (4.24 percent) over last year's budget. The record budget includes a basic operating budget of \$132-million, a capital needs budget of \$6.45-million, and a phase II operating budget of \$1.55-million.

There were only two challenges to the 262 persons nominated to SBC boards, commissions, and standing committees. Both challenges were defeated.

Gregory to preach convention sermon

ST. LOUIS — Southern Baptist messengers elected next year's convention sermon preacher, an alternate, and music director.

Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas, was named convention preacher, while Executive Committee member Thomas Hinson, pastor of First Baptist Church, West Memphis, Ark., was chosen as alternate.

Messengers elected music evangelist John McKay, also of Ft. Worth, as music director for the convention which meets in San Antonio, Texas.

Forum speakers suggest peace within diversity

ST. LOUIS — Following a theme of disenfranchisement and hope, speakers at the Southern Baptist Forum alternately encouraged participants to hold to their beliefs and admonished them to work for peace and reconciliation.

Attendance at the fourth annual meeting of Southern Baptist moderates fluctuated between crowds of 1,500 and 2,000 Sunday night and Monday afternoon and a low of about 600 Monday morning.

One crowd-drawer was Rosalynn Carter, wife of former President Jimmy Carter.

Describing herself as doing pretty well "for a little girl from Plains, Ga.," Carter said the basic values and principles she learned as a child in church helped prepare her for her later life.

Carter told of her work with the mentally ill, as well as for other "people who suffer and need a voice." She discussed the work she and her husband do with Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization that builds houses for people in need.

In describing a recently published book she co-authored with her husband, Carter recalled being "devastated" when her husband failed to win re-election to the presidency.

"I thought my world would end," she said, adding she asked why God would let such a thing happen. "It was hard to accept that our priorities are not the priorities of God."

Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and James Slotton, pastor of River Road Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., sounded themes of exile and faint hope.

Honeycutt said moderates were "totally bankrupt. We have no voice, no participation, little representation, and no power." He urged Southern Baptist "exiles" to search for the hope which can dawn through one's commitment to God. "Unless we recover the power of

biblical hope, we will destroy ourselves through cynicism and despair."

Slotton, a leader in the moderate camp, told Forum participants they have been disenfranchised.

Fundamentalists are willing to count moderates' noses and money, but do not have room for their theology, he contended.

Slotton encouraged moderates to continue to be themselves and to remain faithful to their beliefs even though they do not have the safety of a crowd. He also challenged them to work with him to "save this great Christian community from passing into the long night of sterile conformity."

Nancy Sehested, associate pastor of Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., and Dan Yeary, pastor of University Baptist Church, Coral Gables, Fla., suggested an emphasis on the biblical priorities of ministry as a way to handle their current exile from convention power.

Sehested stressed that the authority of a "real minister" comes not from seminary degrees, TV ministries, or large budgets but from remaining faithful to the gospel.

"Real ministers," she said, are "people who in the power of the Lord are strong enough to give their lives for the sake of their faith, appearing weak in worldly wisdom and standards, but challenging the world as it has never been challenged before."

Yeary proposed steps for reconciliation, beginning with a continuing effort to be an ambassador for Christ.

Sounding perhaps the strongest note for peace was John H. Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C., who proposed compromise with room for diversity.

Commenting on those who have called for a "divorce" within the denomination or advocated a fight to the finish, he said, "If anyone 'wins' this family fight, we all lose."

A. Rogers calls for unity in SBC based on doctrine

ST. LOUIS — Adrian Rogers presented his formula for peace in the Southern Baptist Convention during his president's address Tuesday morning at the SBC annual meeting in St. Louis last week.

Calling for unity, the pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, reiterated his contention that the denomination's unity must have a "spiritual and doctrinal basis."

"We are a missionary convention. That is the reason that we come together to do business. . . . But having said that, I want to say that the basis of our unity is not missions and evangelism. The basis of our unity is spiritual and doctrinal," said Rogers.

Reviewing the Baptist Faith and Message Statement which affirms that the Bible is "truth without any mixture of error," Rogers noted that the convention had reconformed it in 1979.

Rogers declared that the Apostle Paul allowed for "functional," but not "doctrinal diversity" in Ephesians 4. He noted that Southern Baptist churches use different music and approaches to worship.

Though he contended that Southern Baptists are unified because of their beliefs in the priesthood of the believer, the Holy Spirit, the second coming, and autonomous congregations, Rogers stat-

ed, "Our problem in the Southern Baptist Convention is not primarily one of relationships, but of lordship. The Lord Jesus is not the moderate Jesus or conservative Jesus. . . . He is Lord Jesus."

He called messengers to speak the truth in love so they may become mature Christians.

"We are not divided," the president concluded.



FIRST LADY — Joyce Rogers, wife of SBC President Adrian Rogers, sings just before her husband speaks.



CHURCH MUSICIANS' OFFICERS — A Tennessean was among the 1987-88 officers elected during the pre-convention meeting of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference. The officers are (from left, bottom row) Nancy Jane Blair, vice-president, local church division; Donald K. McCall, vice-president, denomination division; (back row) A. Joseph King, vice-president, music educators' division; Mary June Tabor, secretary-treasurer; Mark Edwards, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Nashville, president-elect; and Hugh T. McElrath, president.

Church musicians reflect on music's worship value

ST. LOUIS — Southern Baptist musicians sounded notes of optimism about the continued importance of music in worship during a three-day conference preceding the 130th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

But they also lamented that fewer than a fourth of the denomination's 5,000 full-time church musicians are members of their group, the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference. About 370 attended the sessions at First Baptist Church, Ellisville, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis.

The musicians chose Mark Edwards, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Nashville, as their president-elect.

Hugh T. McElrath, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., became conference president after two years as president-elect.

Harry L. Cowan, minister of music at First Baptist Church, New Orleans, La., and this year's president, challenged members never to underestimate the power of music to move people and motivate them to Christian service.

"The child who has heard Christian hymns carries all his life a built-in repository of faith," he said. It's one of the toughest and most indestructible parts of his Christian armor, he added.

In Martin Luther's day, Rome scoffed at his theology but trembled at his hymns, Cowan noted.

The musicians heard panelists share how styles of music in worship have changed in the past 10 or 15 years, got advice on ways to reduce the level of stress in their work, and heard two sermons by Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Ministers of music from five churches participated in the panel. Edwards, the new president-elect and a member of the panel, said music for worship should include variety and depends upon the local church. "Church music is more than a warm-up for the sermon," he added.

Music ministers, like others in Christian vocations, cannot completely escape stress but they can take steps to keep it within reasonable bounds and to protect the integrity of their own family life. G.

Wade Rowatt of Louisville, Ky., advised the group.

Rowatt, an author and counselor who serves as associate dean of the School of Theology at Southern seminary, urged them to set aside specific times for themselves, their spouses, and their children and, above all, to make Jesus Christ the stackpole around which they build their lives.

Interspersed throughout the seven sessions of the meeting were four miniconcerts by individual artists and a dozen concerts by some of the convention's best-known musical groups.

Clark Measels of the music faculty of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, will represent the conference's educational division on the executive council.

Officers elected for 1987-88 in addition to Edwards, president-elect, and McElrath, president, included Nancy

Jane Blair of Decatur, Ga., vice-president, local church division; Donald K. McCall of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Dallas, Texas, vice-president, denomination division; A. Joseph King, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, vice-president, music educators' division; and Mary June Tabor of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, secretary-treasurer.

Committee report names Tennesseans

ST. LOUIS — Two Tennesseans were elected to the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Mo., without opposition during the Tuesday afternoon session.

W. Roy Fisher, pastor of First Baptist Church in Donelson, and Sara Maddox, a member of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, were included in the 1987 Committee on Committees report that was adopted by the convention.

Both committees are composed of two people from each qualified state convention.

TenneScene

CHURCHES...

Antioch Baptist Church, Humboldt, is recognizing the 60th year of the Woman's Missionary Union in that church. Hazel Turner, the only living charter member

in the church was recently recognized. Dennis Lunsford is pastor.

Baptists hear Pat Robertson

ST. LOUIS — Pat Robertson said June 17 that once Southern Baptists "learn as the leadership has" about him, they will have no problem with his probable run for the presidency.

Robertson, who last September announced he would seek the Republican presidential nomination if 3-million Americans would sign petitions in his support, said he already has the endorsement of two past Southern Baptist Convention presidents — James Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, and Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta — and "a man who may well be a future president" — Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Houston.

When questioned about the endorsement of Young — who previously has said he does not plan to endorse any presidential candidate publicly — Robertson said perhaps he misunderstood Young's participation as emcee at a large fund-raiser in Texas last summer.

Robertson's appearance at the news conference preceded his address at a reception hosted at the convention headquarters hotel by Draper and Southern Baptist laymen Ed McAteer of Memphis and Sam Moore of Nashville.

In introducing Robertson to about 100 Southern Baptists at the reception, Draper called the potential candidate "a man of tremendous integrity" who "loves the Lord and loves Southern Baptists."

Non-profit mailers face rate increase

WASHINGTON (BP) — A House subcommittee has voted to eliminate federal funding to subsidize reduced postal rates for non-profit publications, including Baptist state newspapers and some church newsletters, for fiscal year 1988.

But the Treasury, Postal, and General Government Subcommittee agreed to direct the Postal Service to maintain current rate levels for non-profit mailers for that period — October 1987 through September 1988. Under the plan, the Postal Service would absorb the loss in revenue.

The budget measure is expected to be brought up for a vote by the full House by the end of June. It then will go to the Senate for consideration.

In previous years, Congress has approved an annual revenue foregone appropriation to subsidize the difference between what the Postal Service would receive at full unreduced rates and what it actually receives at the reduced rates. But the Reagan administration repeatedly has proposed elimination of the subsidy and last summer the U.S. Postal Rate Commission recommended eliminating congressional funding.

REVIVAL PRAYER REQUEST...

Revival services will be part of the week-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of Cumberland Homestead Baptist Church in Crossville, June 28 through July 5. Former pastors will bring the messages. The week will conclude with a team from the Tennessee Baptist Convention leading services for the weekend of July 3-5. Gerald Stow, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc., and Julian Suggs, director of the TBC church music department, will lead. Archie King, director of the brotherhood department, and former pastor of the church, is scheduled to lead the services on June 29. Houston Inman is the pastor.

HMB adds first employee under new administration

ATLANTA (BP) — In his first executive committee meeting as president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Larry Lewis broke with hiring tradition by asking the prospective employee to affirm his belief in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement in front of the board members.

After answering a series of questions asked by the new president, Richard Reasoner of Kansas City, Mo., became the first elected staff member to be hired under the new administration. He will join the board as director of the counseling services department on July 1.

With Lewis' approval, Bob Banks, acting president, had recommended Reasoner for employment during the May board meeting but withdrew the recommendation following board member concerns that Lewis had not personally interviewed the candidate. Lewis, who attended the

meeting as an observer, later interviewed Reasoner.

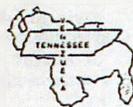
Just prior to the vote at the June board meeting, Lewis reported favorably on his conversation with Reasoner. He asked Reasoner to share his testimony with executive committee members.

Lewis, while acknowledging the action was an exception to regular hiring practice, then asked Reasoner to affirm his belief in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement and specifically asked if he agreed with Article 1, which defines the Bible as being "truth without any mixture of error."

The Missourian responded positively to the requests and answered other questions about lifestyle.

After the candidate had left the room, board member Ronald Long, pastor of Glenwood Hills Baptist Church in Conyers, Ga., asked Lewis about Reasoner's stance on abortion. Lewis replied that Reasoner believed in the sanctity of life and that he would never counsel an individual to consider an abortion, though the choice would ultimately remain the responsibility of the mother. Lewis added that he was comfortable with the candidate's pro-life stance.

Reasoner, a counselor at Midwest Christian Counseling Center in Kansas City for the past five years, replaced Gary Jones who was promoted to director of the personnel division. A native of Des Moines, Iowa, he will be responsible for providing psychological testing and evaluation for new missionaries.



Tennessee/Venezuela prayer net partnership

—On June 24 Iris Watson, a missionary who is a church/home worker in Caracas, celebrates her birthday.

—Volunteers participating in the partnership include H. Eugene and Jean Cotey of Murfreesboro who are returning on June 26, a six-member team from Clarksville, and an eight-member Baptist Student Union team who are both leading Vacation Bible School for the missionaries' children during the annual meeting of missionaries in Rubio.

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of offers to buy any of these securities. The offering is made only by Prospectus.

\$10,000,000
HOME MISSION BOARD OF THE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
CHURCH LOAN COLLATERALIZED BONDS
SERIES C
MINIMUM PURCHASE - \$500.00

Proceeds from the sale of the Bonds, along with other available funds of Home Mission Board, will be used to make direct loans to Baptist churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the financing of sites and the construction of buildings in keeping with the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis of the Southern Baptist Convention.

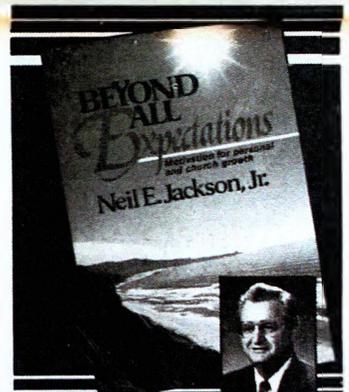
Interest on the Bonds will be payable semi-annually. The Bonds will be offered with maturity dates varying from six months to fifteen years and the interest rate will vary from 8.5% to 10.5% depending upon the maturity date as set forth in the Prospectus.

Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained by writing the broker-dealer servicing bond issue:

CITIZENS AND SOUTHERN SECURITIES CORPORATION
ATTENTION: COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT
 33 North Avenue, NE
 18th Floor
 Atlanta, Georgia 30308-0216

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like information about placing my investment in an IRA account.



You're in for a pleasant surprise! The author of *Motivational Ideas for Changing Lives* and *Doing the Impossible* has written yet another book packed with practical, useful ideas.

Beyond All Expectations helps individuals, churches, and even companies motivate themselves and their fellow workers. Learn how to package yourself for achievement, discover motivational methods for finding and enrolling prospects, contacting prospects, reaching people in worship, and more!

If you're not content with "just getting by"; if you want to go the second mile for God; this book is what you're looking for!

paperback, \$6.95

Neil E. Jackson, Jr. is a growth consultant at The Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee.

At your Baptist Book Store

BROADMAN

CHURCH FURNITURE
 Pews, Pulpits, Altars, Communion Tables
Free Brochures - Free Estimates
 Write R.G. Ketron Church Furniture
 or 3401 Montlake Dr.
 Call Knoxville, TN 37920
 Phone (615) 577-8716

Texas law protects churches

DALLAS (BP) — A tax dispute involving First Baptist Church of Richardson, Texas, and the Dallas County Appraisal District has resulted in a new Texas law exempting churches under construction from property taxes.

"The law will keep churches from being caught in a tax trap that diverts mission money into the tax coffers," said Attorney Gary Nash, a member of the Richardson church's finance committee and general counsel for the Southern Baptist Annual Council.

William M. Pinson Jr., executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said the new law is especially meaningful at a time when Texas Baptists are involved in Mission Texas, a campaign to begin 2,000 new churches by 1990.

The issue of whether a church under construction constitutes a place of worship went before a Texas district court in 1986 after the appraisal district contended the Richardson church was not using its property under construction as a regular place of worship when the tax year began Jan. 1, 1985. Therefore, claimed the district, the church property should not be tax-exempt, and the church was liable for about \$100,000 in 1985 property taxes.

Church leaders said the facilities had been used for worship and the church should be exempt from paying the 1985 taxes. The church relied on a Texas Supreme Court case and the facts it presented.

Although the facilities were not completed until late 1986, the appraisal district exempted the church from 1986 taxes, contending meanwhile that until church construction is completed and used for regular worship services, the property is not exempt from taxation.

The case, which was viewed by concerned Baptists as a possible landmark decision on church-state separation, never came to trial because the case was settled outside the court.

But prior to that settlement, the district raised for the first time in court a new issue — whether the 100-year-old church's organizing documents contained on Jan. 1, 1985, all the provisions required by the new property tax code for the church to qualify for exempt status.

Members of the Richardson church were concerned that other churches would be taxed by the same rigid property tax law provisions.

They were instrumental in working with Representatives Stan Schleuter of Killeen and Bill Ceverha of Richardson to remedy the tax on worship places. The Schleuter-Ceverha bill passed both houses of the legislature and has been sent to Gov. Bill Clements for his signature.

The bill exempts property under construction for up to two years and also exempts improvements owned by a religious organization designed and intended to be used as worship places when complete. It also enables churches to correct organizing documents with retroactive effect to satisfy property tax exemption requirements.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER FOR 66 YEARS — Mary Chandler, pictured in the center, was recently honored by Clear Branch Baptist Church in Erwin for 66 years of faithful service as a Sunday School teacher. With her are members of her current class along with Olin Baxter, pastor of the church, and his wife.

Baptist Men hear challenge to utilize their creativity

MEMPHIS (BP) — Council members for the National Fellowship of Baptist Men have been challenged to explore the creativity they use in their professions for the missions cause of Christ.

The second meeting of the council this spring convened at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission offices in Memphis, May 29-30.

The National Fellowship of Baptist Men is a Brotherhood organization seeking to help laypeople utilize their vocations and interests in volunteer missions service. It seeks avenues of service through the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission boards.

Challenging participants to explore

James Porch plans trip to Venezuela

James Porch, pastor of First Baptist Church in Tullahoma and a member of the Tennessee Baptist-Convention Executive Board, and his family is representing Tennessee at the biannual meeting of the Venezuela Baptist Convention as a part of the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership. They are serving July 22-28.

The partnership, which is coordinated through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, began in November 1985.

The Porch family is participating in the meeting known as the Acercamiento, which means to draw together. Held in Barquisimeto, the meeting is focusing on the convention's goal of reaching 1-million people by A.D. 2000.

Porch is being accompanied by his wife, Martha; daughter, Terri; and son, Scott.

Vann Kissell serves Highland Park church

On April 12, Vann Kissell began serving as pastor of Highland Park Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg. He came to Highland Park from Gateway Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, where he served as minister of youth.

Kissell received his master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and his bachelor of science degree from the University of Tennessee in Martin.



Kissell

TBCH Mother's Day Offering gets boost from inmates

The Mother's Day Offering of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes recently received an unexpected boost from inmates of the Federal Correctional Institution in Memphis.

A benefit concert was held at the institution, in which two church choirs and an inmate gospel choir performed. Donations totaling \$263 were collected.

"This started as a ministry among the Christian inmates to help children who were less fortunate," said Chaplain Jim Rivett. "But donations were also made by the Jewish and Muslim inmates."

The concert was the third in a series of benefits sponsored by the inmates in support of the TBCH. Two previous concerts raised more than \$500 to provide summer camp scholarships and crafts materials.

MWBTS graduates three from state

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Three persons with Tennessee connections were among 120 individuals receiving degrees during recent commencement exercises at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Euntae Jo, a resident of Memphis, and Brian Smith, a native of Chattanooga, received master of divinity degrees. Edward I. Mattox Jr., a native of Memphis, earned a doctor of ministry degree.

Jo, a native of Seoul, Korea, currently serves as pastor of the Korean Baptist Church in Jackson, Smith, who is from Chattanooga, also earned a degree from the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. Mattox is a graduate of Union University, Jackson.

Send the B & R
to a friend

"We feel very good about the effort that was made here," said Rivett. "This has been a very positive ministry for the men."

The Mother's Day Offering provides almost one-third of the operating budget for TBCH. This year's goal is \$720,000. Thus far, about \$620,000 has been collected toward this year's goal. Gerald Stow, TBCH executive director-treasurer is encouraged that the drive will be successful.

First church, McEwen changes leadership

Charles Thomas Drake retired as pastor of First Baptist Church, McEwen, April 26. The church extended a call to Johnny M. Johnson, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Clarksville. He began June 14.

Drake has been in the ministry for 44 years, serving in 15 Southern Baptist churches during that time. He is a graduate of Union University in Jackson and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

A member of the board of trustees for Belmont College in Nashville, McEwen is serving as pastor of Freedom Mission, a mission of First Baptist Church.

Before Johnson became pastor of the Clarksville church in 1984, he had served as associate pastor and minister of youth at Sligo Baptist Church in Pendleton, Ky. Earlier he was associate pastor and minister of youth at Gilliam Springs Baptist Church in Arab, Ala.

A native of Alabama, Johnson is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Vines upholds Word of God

ST. LOUIS — Baptists historically have believed that every word of the Bible was inspired supernaturally by God, Jerry Vines told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Wednesday morning in the annual convention sermon.

"When some of the brethren get back where they ought to be, they'll be where I am," said Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Vines said the intent of the Bible is to lead men to Jesus Christ and then to produce a consistent Christian lifestyle.

"Now it is because we understand the intention of the Bible that we Baptists get upset when there is even the hint of suspicion about the integrity of the Bible," he said. "We get concerned when there is any undermining of its authority, any questioning of its reliability, or any denying of its accuracy."

Addressing the issue of biblical inspiration, Vines said he believes in a "simple biblicism" — that the Bible was "God-breathed" through divine, supernatural inspiration.

"Though the Bible is not a science book, when it speaks on a scientific subject, it does so accurately," he said. "The Bible is not a history book, but when it touches on matters of history it does so reliably."

"If I can't believe what the Bible says about history, how can I believe what it says about eternity? If I'm not sure what my Bible says about creation, how can I be sure of what it says about salvation?"



Dr. Gerald L. Stow
Executive Director/Treasurer
Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

Summer provides time for spiritual enrichment

The good old summertime has arrived at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. This includes a wonderful week at camp and many other great experiences for our boys and girls.

Some of our children will be privileged to visit with relatives and friends for the summer. For some, this will be a step toward returning to normal family life. For others, it will be a time of disappointment and discouragement.

On the campuses this summer the children will be involved in many creative activities through the

leadership of our activities program directors. The excellent facilities on each campus will enhance this work. The swimming pool will certainly be a favorite spot each day.

Work will also be a vital part of the life of our children this summer. Each child is expected to perform his or her share of the daily chores. In addition, children may participate in our Work-Allowance Program. Some of our children will work at off-campus jobs. These are good experiences that help our children earn and learn at the same time.

There will be field trips to many

of the exciting sites in Tennessee. For some of our older children, there will be some overnight camping experiences that will prove exciting and helpful.

Our children will also participate in Vacation Bible School through the churches they attend. The week at camp plus the week of Bible school will mean that our children will receive 20 to 25 hours of intensive Bible training this summer. It will truly be a good old summertime at TBCH.

Teen-agers find hope, compassion in unique Jennings Ministry

June marks the second anniversary of the successful Jennings Ministry, a program on the Memphis campus of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes which serves teen-age girls with emotional and relational problems.

Through Christian love and counseling, the ministry's purpose is to bring spiritual, emotional, physical and social healing to adolescent girls and their families.

"Many of these girls have very low self-esteem," said Anita Sutton, special program director. "They tend to react on an intense emotional level in all relationships."

As a result, a seemingly insignificant incident can quickly escalate into a crisis situation.

"The house parents and foster parents associated with this program have to be sacrificial and well trained to deal with potential emotional trauma," said Dr. Gene Gafford, TBCH regional director.

Through a patient and encouraging healing process, the program works to help the girls achieve success in their primary relationships.

Since structure is an important component to the ministry, the Level System has been used successfully to set limits for the girls. The levels are based on trust, responsibility and freedom. The more a teen-ager shows herself to be

trustworthy, the more responsibilities and freedoms she is given. Girls who achieve the higher levels are rewarded with privileges such as double- or single- dating, a private bedroom, and increased spending allowance.

As house parents of the Jennings Ministry, Joe and Glenda Stark know well the trials and tribulations of caring for eight teen-age girls.

"It's stressful at times," admitted Glenda. "But even so-called normal families often deal with stress."

The Starks, along with Anita Sutton, have been instrumental in refining and modifying the program so it could best meet the needs of the girls.

"We have learned by doing," said

Joe. "At first, our goal with the girls was to change their lives in a week. When we found out that wasn't possible, we decided that we should just point them in the right direction."

"We give them the tools and the skills in a Christian environment. But whether a girl is truly changed is ultimately up to her."

Although there have been disappointments along the way, the success stories of the Jennings Ministry have provided essential motivation for the staff.

"A pastor and his wife came to us with their daughter. She had become involved with a man, and they couldn't break the relationship. She came and went from home as she pleased. They asked us for help, and we received her," said Gafford. After a year in the program, the teen-ager returned to her family with a new, positive outlook on life.

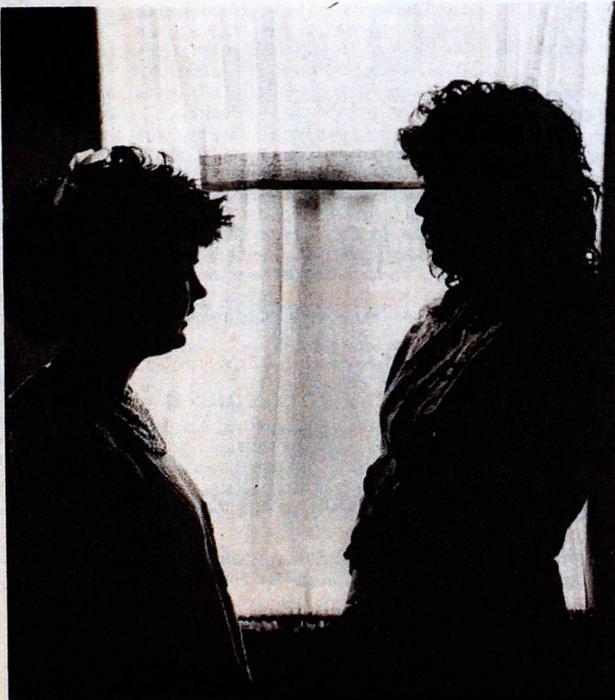
"I've since learned that she told another girl about the Children's Home," said Gafford. "So now she's a missionary for us."

The Jennings Ministry has experienced such success that the TBCH Board of Directors has voted to expand the program to provide a similar home on the Memphis campus for younger adolescent girls. In addition, a program for teen-age girls is planned for the Franklin campus.

Needs are varied at Children's Homes

The Tennessee Baptist Children's Home at Memphis will be in need of a full-time house parent couple (husband and wife) on August 1. The house parents are needed to continue the work of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Russell, house parents for 14 years, who are retiring. TBCH is searching for a devoted Baptist couple whose calling and commitment would find fulfillment in training for this ministry and providing direct care to homeless children. For more information, please call collect: Dr. Gene Gafford, regional director, 901-386-3961.

Because of state requirements, children under the age of 6 are not able to receive care in a group home setting on a TBCH campus. The foster home program provides care in a Christian atmosphere for these children. Because the need for such care is greater than the availability of foster homes, TBCH is not currently able to meet the needs of all the children who are brought to the agency. Tennessee Baptist families who are led to this special ministry should call the TBCH Central Office, toll-free, at 1-800-624-8591.



Glenda Stark, right, house mother of the Jennings Ministry, counsels a teen-ager who resides in the group home.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

Chattanooga • Franklin
Memphis • Johnson City
Greeneville • Burrville
Madison

Central Office
205 Franklin Road
Brentwood, TN 37027
1-800-624-8591

A ministry of the
Tennessee Baptist Convention

TBCH

BIBLE BOOK SERIES
Lesson for June 28

Praise the Lord

By Marvin P. Nail, pastor
Whitsitt Chapel Baptist Church, Nashville

Basic Passages: Psalms 145; 150
Focal Passages: Psalms 145:3-4, 7-13, 15-20; 150:1-6

The two psalms with which we are closing this unit are the best for the purpose. We have looked at some psalms which were cries of desperation and anguish. We have looked at psalms which involved confession of sin. We have looked at other psalms which merely stood in awe of the God we worship. These two seem to sum up for us the overflowing heart of a faithful servant.



Nail

Tell of His greatness

The opening verses of this psalm (1-7) are a tremendous motivation to share the good news about God. This is one of the "psalms of David." David was a man who had reason to know the mighty acts of God on behalf of His people. Though David could seldom be seen as a bright and shining example of a man of God, he certainly was a man who gave credit to God for his successes.

In these verses the psalmist points out his own reason for praise and vows that he will never cease to tell those around him of what marvelous things God has done in his life. Isn't that the basis of any valid witness for Christ? Some Christians are afraid to witness because they don't know what to say. Here is the text. Tell what he has done for you!

The psalmist understands that the secret of keeping the faith alive is that each generation must tell their own story to the ones who will follow them. Your own story is your best witness. But when you can back that up with story of others, you have a witness that cannot be denied.

Sing of His mercy

Among the wonderful acts of God has to be His mercy toward His creation. The primary way we know His power in the world is through what He has done so powerfully in our own lives. We meet God first and best as He reaches down to us in mercy.

There are many aspects to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has all these aspects in perfection. We know

that God is the maker of heaven and earth, but that is not the source of our highest praise. We know that God came in Jesus Christ because of His great mercy and for that we cannot cease to praise Him.

The hymnist tells us much the same thing when he says that even when his "poor lisping, stammering tongue" is gone from this life, he is sure that "in a nobler, sweeter song" he will continue to have the privilege of praising this God of mercy.

It is this mercy that brings us salvation. It is this merciful salvation that looses our tongue to tell of His acts on our behalf.

Praise for His goodness

For the believer, God's blessings do not cease just because He has already given us new life. In His goodness, the psalmist says, He also sustains us day by day.

Indeed God reaches out in goodness to all who need Him. He lifts up those who are cast down and opens His hand of blessing to all who are in need. God is not just the God of those who believe in Him. He is also the God of the heathen and the infidel. Though they do not own Him or acknowledge Him, still He reaches out to them offering His love and mercy.

Those who respond to His love receive the goodness He wants for all His creation. Those who refuse His blessings, to them they become a curse.

Let's just praise the Lord

Tradition tells us that when the queen of England heard the first performance of Handel's "Messiah" she was so moved by the "Hallelujah Chorus" that she rose to her feet as in respect for the Lord God. From that time to this it has been customary for all to rise when that explosion of praise is sung.

"Hallelujah" means "Praise the Lord." This final psalm is a doxology. Each of the other four sections of the Book of Psalms end with a doxology. However, none of them begins to achieve the heights of praise that we find in this one.

The psalmist calls for praise of God in the worship place as well as in the highest heavens. He calls for praise using all sorts of instruments. He calls for praise from "everything that hath breath" (v. 6).

Each year, in Nashville, everyone who so desires is allowed to participate in a "sing-in" of Handel's "Messiah." I cannot imagine how wonderful it would sound to have thousands of devoted singers singing the "Hallelujah Chorus."

But now, picture with me the thrill of being in the midst of a multitude without number in the presence of God singing His praises throughout all eternity. That will one day be the highest joy of every believer. It is part of our joy even now.

WMU Leadership Training

August 7-8, 1987

First Baptist Church
Franklin

Fee: \$10

(Includes Registration Fee
and Lunch Saturday)

Conference provided for
Church WMU leadership

Registration Deadline: July 27
Motel Reservation: July 7

Registration information has been
mailed to church WMU directors
and associational WMU council
members.

*Pews, pulpits, baptistries
steeple, chairs, tables,
lighting, stained glass,
folding doors,
carpet*

**VAN WINKLE
CHURCH
FURNISHINGS &
PEW UPHOLSTERY**

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
Lesson for June 28

God's grace

By William L. Palmer, president
Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour

Basic Passage: Romans 3:21 to 4:25
Focal Passages: Romans 3:21-30; 4:1-8

In verse 20 of the third chapter of Romans we read, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." That lays the foundation for the truth that men cannot save themselves. Men are sinners. They are justly condemned, and they are lost. That is the way it is!

Romans 3:23 is a very short and simple statement: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." All means all. "All have sinned."

The Bible tells us that God created men in His own image, after His own likeness. Men were created as free-mortal agents. Men were given the ability to make their own choices. The "fall of man" was a conscious and voluntary choice. Man listened to slanders against God. Man doubted God's word and His love. Man concentrated his gaze on what God had forbidden. Man chose to disobey God's commandments. Man made a conscious choice.

Sin is a fact. All are under sin. There are no exceptions. Men are fallen creatures, and cannot save themselves. As the Scriptures reveal the sinfulness of man, the Scriptures declare the grace of God.

In Romans 3:21 the Apostle Paul proclaims "the righteousness of God." The righteousness of God is non-legalistic - it is "apart from the law." The righteousness of God is absolute. The righteousness of God is attested "by the law and the prophets." This "righteousness of God" is through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe (v. 22).

Saving faith is in Jesus Christ and Him alone. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We believe that He has defeated and overcome sin by His blood shed on the cross. We believe that He has risen from the dead. He is victorious. He is conqueror. We are in Him and He is in us. No man is able to save himself. Only Jesus saves from sin and eternal death.

Romans 3:24 has been called by some biblical scholars "the greatest single verse in the entire Bible on the manner of justification by faith." The word "justify" is a legal term. Justification is an act of God whereby He declares the believing sinner to be righteous. Men are sinners and lost. By faith God declares them to be holy as He is holy and righteous as He is righteous. This act of God is unmerited.

The author of righteousness is God. The source of His righteousness is His grace. The grounds of His righteousness is in Christ Jesus: "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood" (v. 25a). Man has sinned against God. God justifies. Through the amazing grace of God man is reckoned by believing to be accounted as having not sinned. Glory!

"God is just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (v. 26). Man has



Palmer

no righteousness of his own. He has nothing of which he can boast (v. 27). "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (v. 28). Justification by faith excludes pride. Justification is God's work. We do not deserve to be justified. God gives the gift, and the gift of grace in Jesus Christ is for all men (vv. 29 and 30).

As justification by faith has been declared, now the Apostle Paul sets out to illustrate justification by faith. Where better could he turn than to "Abraham our father" (4:1). The Jews glorified in Abraham. Abraham was the great founder of the race. He was the ideal. How was he justified? Was Abraham justified by works? Could he glory in his own achievements (v. 2)?

No man can rejoice in his own goodness in the sight of God. Works can never give true peace of mind. William Barclay wrote that "Man must always find his glory, not in what he can do for God, but in what God has done for him."

Verse 3 says that "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." Abraham had to reject works. He could not depend upon his works. He had to accept the favor of God. Charles Hodge wrote, "The more intimately we are acquainted with our own hearts and with the character of God, the more ready shall we be to renounce our own righteousness, and to trust in His mercy." The only thing that you and I have to contribute to our redemption is the sin from which we need to be redeemed (v. 4).

In verse 5 Paul affirms that justification does not come to the one who works for his salvation, but justification comes by believing. A man's "faith is counted for righteousness."

In verse 6 Paul further illustrates justification by faith as he calls David to account. David knew what sin was. He knew what it was to cry out to God in faith (Psalm 32:1-2). Paul recounts the imputation of God's righteousness through David, "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered (v. 7). Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin" (v. 8).

God reckons man to be righteous not because of what man has done, but by what Jesus Christ has done. This says that man's only hope of justification before God lies in his recognizing that he is incapable of anything that would merit salvation. Salvation is in Jesus alone.

SBAEA elects Self as '87-'88 officer

At the May 21-22 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Adult Education Association, Tennesseean Jerry Self, assistant director of the Education Commission in Nashville, was elected as treasurer. The meeting was held at Anderson College in Anderson, S.C.

Other officers for 1987-88 include: Frank Major, associate director of education extension for the Baptist Convention for the State of Georgia, president; George H. Jackson, director of adult education at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., vice-president; and William W. Willingham, director of student activities at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in Hendersonville, N.C., secretary.

SEE THE GREAT PASSION PLAY &
STAY AT KELLER'S COUNTY DORM RESORT
(for Groups of 12 or more!)
NEW AIR CONDITIONING, IN-GROUND POOL,
\$7.50 TICKETS, lodging, and meals ALL
FOR \$21 EACH! Call 501/253-8418 today!
Rt. 4, Box 554, Eureka Springs, Ark. 72632

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

Lesson for June 28

Committed to missions

By Johnny M. Johnson, pastor
First Baptist Church, McEwen

Basic Passage: Acts 15:36 to 17:15
Focal Passages: Acts 16:9-10, 13-15, 30-34

A shoe salesman was sent to a remote area to market his products. He was dismayed upon arrival because everyone went barefooted. He wired his home office, "Little prospect for business. People do not wear shoes here." Another salesman went into the same area, and he also sent an urgent message to his superiors. His message said, "Great potential! People here do not wear shoes!"



Johnson

Our Lord said, "Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest" (John 4:35). When we look at our world, what do we see? Do we see a wide open opportunity to be about our Father's business, or do we perceive little prospect for ministry? If we look with the eyes of Christ we will see a lost and needy world. We must see the needs, and we must respond by sharing the life-changing good news and ministering in Jesus' name. This is our commitment to world missions.

The Macedonian call (16:9)

Paul and Barnabas were revisiting the cities where they ministered on their first missionary tour when a disagreement led to their separation. Silas then accompanied Paul, and they went about strengthening the churches. As he sought direction, Paul saw a man of Macedonia crying out to him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us" (v. 9).

God not only revealed the direction Paul should travel, but the apostle was enlightened to the needs of the people. As we seek God's direction, how can we escape our world's cry for help?

The missionary commitment (16:10)

The Macedonian call was not long waiting for an answer. Paul immediately sought to go to Macedonia, "concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them" (v. 10). This word, "preach," means literally "to evangelize." Our "Macedonian call" is the heart-cry of a world desperately in need of the Savior. Our Lord has commissioned us to, "go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). Let us seek immediately to evangelize those around us, in obedience to our Lord.

Have you considered serving as a full-time missionary? Yes, God calls us to be committed to world missions. Some are called to go into the foreign field, while others are set apart at home to support the missions efforts. What is your role in our world missions endeavor?

Meaningful communication (16:13-15)

Paul and his company made their way to Philippi, one of the most significant cities of the region of Macedonia. The apostle sought to carry the gospel to the great urban centers, where he set up shop for extended periods. Through preaching

and teaching, the gospel took root in great cities and spread into surrounding territories. This God-given methodology proved very successful as the gospel spread into new areas.

Apparently, there were too few Jews in Philippi to constitute a synagogue (10 male heads of households were the minimum), but Paul located a prayer group. He and the others joined in the riverside prayer meeting, and Paul spoke extensively with the women who were present. One of those who heard the testimony was a woman named Lydia. Lydia "opened her heart to give heed" (v. 14) and was baptized by Paul (v. 15).

The group moved from the riverside to the riverbank as Paul baptized this new convert along "with her household" (v. 15). An entire family accepted the saving grace of the Lord Jesus. The group was further relocated as Lydia opened her home to the missionary party.

Manifest conversion (16:30-34)

Paul and Silas found themselves deprived of the fellowship of the new church as some local businessmen insisted that they enjoy the hospitality of the Philippian jail. The pair were beaten, thrown into the inner prison, and placed in stocks. Undaunted, they proceeded to pray and

praise as the other prisoners were listening to them. Their attitude and response to the circumstances testified to the abundant life Christ imparts.

"Suddenly there was a great earthquake," and the tremor opened all the doors and bonds in the prison (vv. 25-26). The jailer surveyed the situation and determined that death was better than losing all his prisoners. Paul prevented the suicide and shared a message that brought new life to the man. In fact, the jailer's household was evangelized, converted, and baptized (v. 32) all in one night!

The jailer was truly converted, for the change was evident in his conduct. Salvation is a life-changing operation of God's grace. Every aspect of our lives is touched as Jesus becomes Lord of all — head, heart, hands, and hopes. The grace at work inside us has a noticeable outward manifestation.

Our world cries out, "What must I do to be saved?" (v. 30). The answer is, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved" (v. 31). May we grow in our commitment to the bold mission of evangelizing our world — telling the good news to everyone.



SPECIAL!!! INSURANCE FOR NON-DRINKERS

AUTO • HOME • CHURCH • LIFE FOR NON-DRINKERS ONLY

For people who abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages, we would like the opportunity to show you one of our plans or policies covering LIFE, HOME, CHURCH AND AUTO INSURANCE.

Call or see one of our Representatives listed below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Chattanooga (615)
Terry Case, Agy. Mgr. 899-6033
Hiram Altman 894-3275
A & P Ins. Agency 877-3561 | Memphis (901)
Cairnes Ins. Agency 795-6559
Wilbur Milam 388-2904 |
| Elizabethton (615)
Elizabethton Ins. Agency 542-4983
Hart Ins. Agency 542-5648 | Monterey (615)
Cumberland Mtns. Ins. 839-2131 |
| Greenbrier (615)
Porter Rawls Ins. Agency 643-0102 | Mt. Carmel — Rogersville (615)
Johnson & Johnson 357-7197 |
| Hendersonville (615)
Sherman Brown 822-4366 | Murfreesboro (615)
Atlas Ins. Agency 890-3445
Golden Rule Ins. 893-7853 |
| Kingsport (615)
Clarence Huffman 288-6711
Roy Strunk Agency 239-8683
Rogers Ins. Agency 247-1171 | Nashville (615)
Hollice Dickey 367-9157
Richard Coleman 865-7232
Tee Insurance Agency 385-3700
Dick Wonders Ins. 885-1332 |
| Knoxville (615)
Donny Hodges AM 673-4863
Lloyd Burton 524-1201 | Paris (901)
H. D. Lax Ins. Agency 642-5281 |
| Lexington (901)
Pat Carnal Agency 968-6649 | Selmer (901)
Stan Wheeler Ins. Agency 645-9839 |
| | Tracey City (615)
Hendrix Ins. Service 592-6721 |

Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS. PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT

TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
TN CALL COLLECT 615-875-0679
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HIXSON PIKE - CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

NOW ON HOME VIDEO THE BIBLE LANDS: STORY OF JESUS



Filmed & Narrated by
Dr. Charles Forbes Taylor

Featured in person by National Geographic and to capacity audiences in more than 500 cities.

In the comfort of your own home, accompany Dr. Taylor on a personally conducted tour of the most famous and sacred landmarks of the Bible. This internationally known preacher, Bible scholar, and travel adventurer will guide you through lands where Jesus walked and lived. The Bible will "come alive" in vivid color on your own TV. You'll travel to Bethlehem, Nazareth, Samaria, Capernaum, Bethany, Galilee, Jerusalem, Calvary, Garden Tomb, Place of the Ascension, and many more awe-inspiring places enshrined in the hearts of Christians the world over. Ideal for Bible study, sharing with family and friends, and personal enjoyment. You'll return to it often.

Enclose payment of \$29.50 per tape, plus \$2.50 handling and postage, to:

BIBLE LANDS VIDEO
BOX 716
WARRENTON, VA 22186

Send _____ video tapes of THE STORY OF JESUS
Circle format desired VHS Beta

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Moneyback guarantee _____ TN/BR/624

SNAPPER



Attention
• Church Staff
• Ministers
• Churches

We proudly sell and service all Snapper mowers, trimmers and blowers.

— Since 1968 —
Call Us Today!
Guy Bates, Owner

JOELTON FOODTOWN
7110 White's Creek Pk. (615) 876-2336

ADD-A-PAD PEW UPHOLSTERING REVERSIBLE CUSHIONS PEW REFINISHING

Our installers have upholstered over 1,000 churches 15 year wear warranty. We can upholster your pews on site for less than loose cushions! Call us for a FREE estimate.

Church Interiors Inc.
CHURCH FURNITURE & STAINED GLASS

800 Eastchester Dr. • P.O. Box 5346
High Point, NC 27262-5346
USA (800) 334-8130 TOLL FREE

Preferred Risk Mutual

INSURANCE COMPANY

East Tennessee
Earl Elkins, Sales Manager
591 Phyllis Cr.
Talbot, TN 37877
(615) 587-6226

Central and West Tennessee
Hollice Dickey, Sales Manager
1007 Murfreesboro Rd., Suite 101
Nashville, TN 37217
(615) 367-9157

Terrorism threatens Christians in India

MALLIKAPORI, India (BP)— For more than a year, religious radicals in the Khond Hills district of eastern India have burned churches, terrorized Christian families, and imprisoned pastors.

More than 3,000 church members, representing 120 Baptist churches of the isolated region, gathered recently for their annual convention. They shared testimonies of how the persecution had strengthened their faith and vowed to continue boldly proclaiming the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

One pastor told of how his members watched their church burning.

"It's too bad your church has been destroyed," a voice in an angry mob said with sarcasm.

A new member replied, "You can burn our place of worship, but you cannot destroy our church, because it's in our hearts."

Meeting under a large brush arbor in Mallikapori, the church members

pledged to work together in providing materials and labor needed to rebuild four torched churches.

Southern Baptist representatives of National Indian Ministries, which coordinates the work of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in India, attended the convention. Local Khond Hills-area Baptists voted to ask the board to donate \$2,000 for roofing materials. The money was released in May.

Three Baptist leaders traveling to assess damage to one burned church were attacked by a mob of 40 people. The Baptists, including Sushant Naik, associational missionary, and Paul Pradhan, general secretary for the association, escaped serious injury. Their motorcycle, however, was badly damaged.

Many new believers at the convention attributed their conversions to the way Christians handled the persecutions. They said that as they watched Christians refuse to resist persecution or react with vengeance, they were embarrassed by the actions of their fellow Hindus. They saw Christians had discovered a better way of life.

Some Christian families have had their houses torn down and their crops ruined. Some have been chased from the villages where they lived.

In one instance after a Christian family later the police inspector handling the case also died. The family was released and persecution in the community ceased. Several new believers were baptized.

Recent news reports from inside the country indicate that about 90 activists belonging to organizations responsible for the persecution have been arrested by government authorities.

Baptists estimate 10 to 20 percent of the isolated tribal people in these eastern interior mountains have become Christians. Most of them are identified with the 200,000-strong Kui tribe and come from an animistic background that until the 1930s included child sacrifice. The churches of the Khond Hills Baptist Union resulted from work by British missionaries.



WMU WRITERS — Three Tennessee women recently attended the 1987 Writers' Conference at Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, in Birmingham, Ala. More than 60 writers from all over the United States participated in workshops which gave instruction and preparation for writing materials for 1988-89. From left are June Swann, Nashville; Renee Kent, Kingsport; and Lola Byrd, Powell.

Hospital alliance elects Chandler

KNOXVILLE — Robert C. Chandler, president and chief executive officer of the Baptist Health System of East Tennessee, has been elected president of the Hospital Alliance of Tennessee (HAT).

HAT represents 53 non-profit member hospitals in the state. These hospitals represent 60 percent of all acute care beds in Tennessee. The organization monitors the state legislature and provides research and statistics to member hospitals as well as represents them on federal committees. Most recently, the organization was instrumental in helping to draft new certificate-of-need legislation which passed the Tennessee legislature in 1986.

Chandler comes to this post with over 15 years of experience in hospital administration. He was administrator of the 524-bed Baptist Medical Center Princeton in Birmingham, Ala., and was CEO of the Baptist Hospital Foundation Service Corp. there. He was also vice-president of administration of a regional medical center.



TUG OF NEW FRIENDSHIPS — The Royal Ambassadors participating in the tug-of-war probably made new friends as 156 gathered from 17 churches in Big Emory Baptist Association for an RA field day recently at the association's Camp Howard. Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Kingston, was named the church winner at the awards banquet led by Paul Scarborough, associational RA director.

Interpretations

The divine Christ

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"I and My Father are one" (John 10:30).

Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication which came at about the time of our Christmas. Since it was winter, the rainy season, Jesus was in Solomon's Porch, a colonnaded area running the length of the east side of the temple area.

Ministers' wives ponder blooming

ST. LOUIS — Bloom where you are planted, even when you resent the transplant. That was the advice Susan Baker, wife of James Baker, director of United States Department of Treasury, gave 500 wives of Southern Baptist ministers last week at their annual luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel, St. Louis.

Baker admitted to repressing the pain of a missing husband and resentment at raising their eight children alone.

"But I thought good Christian wives shouldn't feel the feelings I had. I was wrong. God created emotions. They're good, creative, and healthy. We can't bloom unless we let God work through our emotions."

Finally deciding to "turn it all over to God, I began to change. Gradually I realized I was putting too much pressure on my man. I required too much from him," she said.

"I would never have chosen to be planted in this centrifuge of power, but I'm learning God wants me to be here."

In an award ceremony, psychologist and educator Dorothy Sample of Flint, Mich., received the Mrs. J. M. Dawson Award as the outstanding minister's wife. Sample is a former president of Woman's Missionary Union.

In a business session, the ministers' wives elected officers to serve in 1989. They included Joy (Mrs. James) Yates, Yazoo City, Miss., president; Beverly (Mrs. L. J.) McLeroy, Las Vegas, Nev., vice-president; June (Mrs. Ernie) Myers, Reno, Nev., recording secretary-treasurer; and Mary Ann (Mrs. David) Drumel, Memphis, corresponding secretary.

The Jewish opponents of Jesus challenged Him to tell them plainly if He was the Christ (John 10:24). After an exchange of words Jesus said, "I and My Father are one." "I" is emphatic. No one but Jesus could make that claim.

Hearing this, the Jews took up stones "again" (see John 5:18) to stone Him to death. There were no stones on Solomon's Porch. So infuriated were the Jews at Jesus' claim that they went and brought stones there.

Jesus asked for which of His good works were they planning to stone Him. They replied that it was "for blasphemy; and because that Thou, being a man, makest Thyself God" (v. 33). Such a statement would, indeed, be blasphemy, if it were not true. In Jesus' case it was true.

Some modern theologians deny that Jesus ever called Himself God. They may not get the message of these plain words of Jesus. But those first-century on-the-spot theologians did.

Researchers meet

ST. LOUIS — Southern Baptist agency and state convention research users were asked Saturday to do more research, devote increasing resources to accomplish it, and secure publicity for their work.

Don Mabry, president of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship, told more than 50 participants at the group's annual meeting that "a lot more time, energy, and money need to go into research," with increased attention to securing data on the local congregation.

"Most decisions in Southern Baptist life are being made on suppositions, not facts," said Mabry in his president's address.

"We need ways to share facts," he said, and urged submission of stories on research to Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist national news agency. Mabry is director of the Missions Division of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The research fellowship is an informal organization for Southern Baptists with professional interest in and/or assignments for religious research. The group meets the weekend before the annual Southern Baptist Convention.