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Chapman captures presidency in decisive vote SBC messengers cut BJC funds, enhance CLC role

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
NEW ORLEANS — "Conservative" forces tightened their control over Southern Baptist Convention affairs with growing aplomb and certainty June 12-14 as Morris Chapman took the presidency by a whopping 57 percent vote.

Coupled with the Texas pastor's defeat of Dan Vestal, the "moderate" candidate from Georgia, the "conservative" juggernaut continued an 11-year march to dominance as messengers voted to slash the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs' budget to token \$50,000 funding.

Voting in the SBC's third largest session (38,478), messengers also approved a budget increase of 40 percent to the Christian Life Commission and gave it the assignment of primary religious liberty concerns. That function had been held by the BJCPA for more than 50 years.

Two efforts by convention messengers to restore the cut (recommended by the SBC's Executive Committee) failed. Frank Ingraham, Franklin and Nashville attorney, led the budget restoration efforts.

Last year, Ingraham successfully defended efforts in Las Vegas to cut the BJCPA budget. That move was in defense of a SBC budget which kept the BJCPA's allocation in line with others. The effort at this convention sought to revise the SBC budget.

Budget approved

In the midst of the strenuously fought presidential contest and the ongoing battle over BJCPA funding, messengers approved a basic

operating budget of \$137,332,513, and on Thursday found themselves far short of a quorum necessary to approve any business. A quorum of 9600 was needed — and about 4000 messengers were present at any time Thursday.

Thus only two resolutions were approved, dealing with child pornography and environmental stewardship. Of a record 87 introduced, the resolutions committee proposed 14 for adoption. The 12 left hanging are simply moot.

Because of low attendance, reports were heard along with music, a message by Jay Strack, and other items that required no vote. The convention adjourned at 1:15, two hours early.

No quorum

Low attendance also was evidenced Tuesday night when about 4000 were on hand for the Home Mission Board report and other activities. A crowd of 9000 on Wednesday night heard the Foreign Mission Board report and witnessed an appointment service for 34 missionaries, including Guy and Tammy Causey of Humboldt to Burkina Faso.

Few votes were close as "conservatives" clearly were present in larger numbers. One was a motion for a printed ballot on one of the BJCPA challenges. The vote by show of hands was so even that President Jerry Vines ruled in favor of the ballot.

There were 31,856 messengers present when the order of business report came at 8:55 a.m. Tuesday. A motion to change the order allowing elections prior to the main messages was lost when it was ruled that the messages



INTENT LISTENERS — Mr. and Mrs. Joe Littlefield, White Station Church, Memphis, and Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Hays, Bartlett Church, Memphis, witness the FMB missionary appointment service during the Wednesday night SBC session. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

are fixed program items.

Debate limited

Order of business committee chairman Dwight Reighard gained approval from messengers to limit debate to three minutes per person. Vines' appointments to the Committee on Committees, and the credentials and tellers committees were announced after a welcome by Mark Short, Louisiana Baptist Convention executive director, and a response by Junior Hill, convention first vice president.

Representing Tennessee Baptists on the Committee on Committees (which names the Committee on Nominations and Boards), are Tommy Doyle and Tod Zeiger.

Chapman's defeat of Vestal marked the 12th consecutive election of a "conservative" president, beginning with Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, at Houston in 1979 — and including Bailey E. Smith, James Draper, Charles Stanley, Jerry Vines. Rogers served three one-year terms.

Vestal lost the presidency to Chapman on a vote of 21,471 to 15,753. Campaigning for the office began last fall with Vestal's announcement. He is pastor of Dunwoody Church, Atlanta. Chapman's candidacy was announced after a January meeting by "conservative" leaders, most of whom have served as SBC president.

Vice presidents chosen

Politics was raised a notch by announcements of candidates for first and second vice president. For first vice president, Douglas Knapp, retired missionary, defeated Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former WMU executive director, 16,348 to 10,688. Both had made strong statements toward the election. Fred Lowery, Bossier City, La., pastor, defeated laymen Raymond Boswell and Steve Tondera for the sec-

ond vice president spot.

In a departure from tradition, there was major opposition for the two convention secretarial posts. Martin Bradley of Nashville, who had served 12 years as recording secretary was defeated by David Atchison, Nashville layman, 47 to 53 percent. Lee Porter, registration secretary who has also served 12 years, kept his post by winning over Bob Mowrey, by more than 70 percent of the vote. Both are from Nashville. (See separate story.)

In the unprecedented lack of quorum on Thursday, a messenger asked why all business had not been scheduled in earlier sessions. John Sullivan, a convention parliamentary and executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, told messengers, "It is my conviction if our churches and institutions send us to the convention to do business, we should be as interested in

(See page 5)



TOGETHERNESS — Emerson Wiles, right, pastor of First Church, Fayetteville, brought the entire family to the SBC in New Orleans. From left, Tripp, Mary, Auburn, Nola, and Caleb. They enjoyed a break in the exhibit area. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

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Special SBC issue; more next week

This week's Baptist and Reflector is largely devoted to news of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans June 12-14.

More than 2600 Tennessee Baptists attended.

In this issue are reports of major convention actions, and news of the WMU and pastors' meetings.

Next week's issue reports on 12 Tennessee Baptists just returned from Leningrad.

News coverage of the SBC and messengers' opinions also continue in next week's Baptist and Reflector. — Editor

Editorials

In Christ, all enemies will become friends

There is no doubt that the "conservative" wing of the Southern Baptist Convention is in firm control. What began in 1979 as an effort to gain that status is reality.

The New Orleans meeting was touted by "conservatives" and "moderates" as a milestone, a time for no turning back, a final step.

In the months prior to the convention, the usual intemperate words were exchanged. Threats of withholding financial support, or withdrawing from the SBC, of dire results, were commonplace.

Though most of the charges could not be proven, this much is true — the Southern Baptist Convention has turned a corner, and it will be years (if ever) before the course is altered.

Claims and counterclaims of grassroots support remain unchanged — and unknown. Both groups say there is grassroots support for them. Whether this is evidence of that kind of mass approval for either, for twelve years "conservatives" have had enough sympathy to win the presidency and most other important votes.

Now there begins an attitude of measured response among "moderates" and an unrelenting attitude among "conservative" leaders. Perhaps it did not begin in New Orleans, but earlier, and gained impetus with Morris Chapman's overwhelming win for the presidency and completion of a long struggle to take the SBC religious liberty assignment from the Baptist Joint Committee.

Such victories denote the control referred Trustees meet in New Orleans

to earlier.

"Moderate" leaders for a decade have been wrestling with a big problem. For them, and many Southern Baptists, the "conservative" charge that "moderates" do not believe in the inerrancy of the Bible is a serious accusation.

"Moderates" have been on the defensive. How do you refute charges that you do not believe in the Bible? Many feel they are perceived as guilty and not given opportunity to prove innocence. Compelling evidence is often lacking.

While "conservatives" say the convention must never return to the pre-1979 days, some "moderates" may agree. But they say leadership, decision-making, and representation must be shared — it is asking too much to accept only financial support.

We believe most Southern Baptists deeply desire peace and calm, and a return to our zeal and fierce belief in missions and evangelism. They want that and more — but certainly not at any cost.

We believe most Southern Baptists seek a genuine God-sent revival, based on God's promises and His Holy Word. We believe they want, and are willing to give themselves for, an inspired worldwide effort to win the world for Christ — yes, a Bold Mission Thrust!

We believe, not naively, that "conservatives" and "moderates" trust in the Lord, are saved by Christ's precious shed blood, and hold the Bible to be God's inspired, faultless Word.

We do not know all the right theological words to explain this — but in layman's words, we believe it.

What happens next? "Conservatives" and "moderates" must reach out to each other. Both need each other. Though there have been bold claims to the contrary, neither can do alone the ministry assigned us by Jesus Christ. We are crippled when less than all take part.

The ongoing conflict bears witness to numbers that change very little. "Moderates" are at about 45 percent, "conservatives," 55, at each convention. Asking either of the two to "find fellowship elsewhere" is a fatally flawed view.

This means that President Morris Chapman has a great opportunity, as have other presidents, to begin a reconciliation process. He does not have to renege on any of his beliefs. To shun "moderates" is a pyrrhic victory.

When the War Between the States was over, one of Abraham Lincoln's cabinet members wanted to crush the South, to punish the people. He believed they deserved that kind of treatment. Lincoln's desire was for unity, reconciliation. The cabinet member asked, "Is that any way to treat your enemy, to love them?"

President Lincoln replied, "If I respond like Christ, my enemy becomes my friend."

In the dark hour faced by "moderates" and in the euphoria surrounding "conservatives," great people of God will arise to join hands — we must not continue as enemies. God will bless that. — WFA

FMB approves ties with Czechoslovakia

By Bob Stanley

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Responding to new opportunities in Eastern Europe, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted June 9 to establish fraternal relationships with Soviet Baptists and authorized opening of work in Czechoslovakia.

The board, meeting on the Tulane University campus just before the annual Southern Baptist Convention, approved the transfer of George and Veda Rae Lozuk from South America to become fraternal representatives to the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in Moscow. The Lozuks, along with six couples being sought to work in Czechoslovakia, are among 88 new, full-time workers the board is seeking to reinforce its present force of ten now assigned to Eastern Europe ministries.

Harriet Gilbert of St. Simons Island, Ga., vice chairman of the board's Europe, Middle East, and North Africa committee, said the vote was especially meaningful to her because her own son-in-law, Petr Macek, a Czech, was pastor of a Czech Baptist church for 17 years.

In other actions the trustees voted to take about \$800,000 from current cash on hand to make up the shortfall in the

1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, which closed May 31 at \$80,197,870.78. The full \$81 million goal had been budgeted, said Carl Johnson, vice president for finance, and transfer of the funds will enable the board to fund all overseas capital projects set up under the budget.

The board also transferred \$3 million into a global fund from which missionary housing and strategic capital projects will be funded worldwide. Johnson said the money was part of that originally budgeted for new missionaries. It became available because fewer missionaries have been appointed than anticipated when the budget was adopted.

The board's strategy committee adopted a statement affirming the importance of the role of missionary wives "in their biblical role of Christian homemakers and in their God-called responsibilities as missionaries."

The statement, approved in committee but reported to the full board, said the balance can be seen clearly in the New Testament, citing 1 Timothy 5:14, Titus 2:5, Acts 2:17-18 and Galatians 3:26-29.

"In the determination of missionary deployment," the statement said, "the Foreign Mission Board has stated, 'Adequate care and attention for children is of primary spiritual importance.' This statement will be given full weight in assisting all missionary parents, and especially mothers, in defining the use of their time."

As the board has sought to concentrate more of its missionary energies directly toward evangelism and star-

ting of churches, some missionary wives have felt torn between the needs of their family and their desire to be more involved with their husbands in starting of new churches.

Another aspect of the role of women on the mission field was addressed in a report by Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission personnel. Citing the significant evangelism contributions made through the board's history by such women as Josephine Ward and Bertha Smith, Spurgeon said "the issue of women's ordination has built walls in human hearts that are harmful to Christ's mission."

"The Foreign Mission Board has repeatedly stated that ordination is not an issue in the appointment of missionaries," he said. "Yet many con-

secrated women do not believe that they have a place in the world mission enterprise because of the garbled messages they have heard."

He concluded: "I urge you to join with me in blowing a trumpet, with no uncertain sound, that Southern Baptists are continuing to send both women and men, married or single, to share the Gospel with a lost and dying world."

The board's final session of the June meeting took place June 13 in the Superdome, where trustees approved the appointment of 34 new missionaries. The group included trustee Ray England, pastor of First Church, Winchester, Ky. He and his wife, Leslie, were appointed missionaries to the Philippines.

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Belmont youth event

Belmont College will host a Christian youth celebration preceding Baptist Day at Opryland, Nashville, on June 22. Youth from all over the country will congregate for praise and fellowship. As many as 500 Baptist youth have attended the annual event in years past.

Executive Committee re-elects officers, acts on BJCPA

In two meetings at New Orleans, the SBC Executive Committee elected officers and made recommendations and declined to hear Baptist Joint Committee arguments.

During the report of the business and finance subcommittee, the 1991 SBC budget was discussed. In other business, Wallace Jones addressed the proposed cuts in the Baptist Joint Committee budget — which would leave SBC giving at \$50,000.

He asked that Oliver Thomas, BJC staff member, be allowed to distribute information which refuted charges against BJC which led to the proposed drastic budget cuts.

Jim Wideman of New England noted

that "the more information we have, the better off we will be."

Thomas distributed the BJC list which gave BJC's explanation of the "false" charges. Chairman Sam Pace suggested that the group study the paper for a few minutes. It was pointed out that SBC churches and state conventions could increase their direct gifts to the BJC.

Ed Drake of Texas made a motion to table the discussion of the BJC paper. "Hours and days went into this report," he said, referring to the rationale paper distributed by Executive Committee officers when the BJC and budget cut was approved by the committee in February.

"And just because this report prepared by the BJC alludes to errors (in the Executive Committee report), that doesn't mean there are any errors. To have to discuss this paper now is not fair to the committee." He then successfully moved to table discussion of the BJC paper.

SBC President Jerry Vines then thanked the committee for "bringing to the SBC a clear and straight up-down vote on the BJC matter."

The Executive Committee also affirmed its rationale statement of February that was used to back its decision to severely cut the BJC budget. A minority report had been prepared in February, but portions

were censored by Vines because of Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Order.

The committee's affirmation included a statement of regret "that part of the minority report could not be reported and printed because of Robert's Rules."

When the meeting concluded, Thomas distributed a statement that noted BJC concerns had been expressed to Executive Committee chairman Sam Pace who acknowledged their seriousness, and "pledged to put the request before the committee."

The statement said the committee's action would result in "the vote on these critical issues will be based largely upon false and misleading information."

Jones also had asked that the explanatory statement be printed in the SBC Daily Bulletin.

In its Wednesday organizational meeting, the Executive Committee re-elected Sam Pace as chairman, Paul Pressler as vice chairman, and Fred Wolfe as secretary. They were unopposed. New members were introduced.

Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Church, Lenoir City, called for a Solemn Assembly of Prayer and Fasting for the executive committee to be held in September. Pressler asked that the Christian Life Commission be allowed time on the September agenda to report on a "new head for the Baptist Press in Washington." T. C. Pinckney of Virginia asked for prayer for moderates. — *Wm. Fletcher Allen*

SBC names Chapman, other officers

NEW ORLEANS — Southern Baptists elected three new officers during the first day of their annual meeting in the Louisiana Superdome — Morris Chapman, president; Douglas Knapp, first vice president; Fred Lowery, second vice president; Lee Porter, registration secretary; and David Atchison, recording secretary.

Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, defeated Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church, Atlanta. Chapman was nominated by John Bisagno, pastor, First Church, Houston. Phil Lineberger, pastor, Richardson Heights Church, Richardson, Texas, nominated Vestal.

The new president received 58 percent of the vote (21,471 votes) compared to Vestal's 42 percent (15,753 votes).

More than 38,000 messengers had registered by the first officer election period on the program. In the presidential election, 97 percent of those messengers cast ballots.

Knapp, a retired missionary to Tanzania who now lives in Gainesville, Fla., defeated Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former executive director of Woman's Missionary Union who retired last year to marry and become a pastor's wife in Cincinnati. James Flamming, First Church, Richmond, Va., nominated Crumpler and Tom Elliff, pastor, First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., presented Knapp.

Knapp received 60 percent of the vote (16,348 votes) compared to Crumpler's 40 percent (10,688 votes). In the race for first vice president, 70 percent of registered messengers voted.

Lowery, pastor of First Church, Bossier City, La., defeated two candidates for the second vice president's post: Raymond Boswell, a layman from Highland Church, Shreveport, La., and Steve Tondera, a layman from First Church in Huntsville, Ala. Lowery was nominated by Fred Wolfe,

pastor, Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., while Boswell was nominated by Warren Hultgren, pastor, First Church, Tulsa, Okla., and Tondera was presented by John Hughes, pastor, First Church, Independence, Mo.

Lowery received 64 percent of the vote (6347 votes) compared to Boswell's 14 percent (1407 votes) and Tondera's 22 percent (2178 votes).

In the race for second vice president, 26 percent of registered messengers voted.

David Atchison, a Nashville layman, was elected recording secretary defeating Martin Bradley of Nashville who had held the post for 12 years.

Atchison, who received 53 percent of the vote (9206 votes) to Bradley's 47 percent (8044), was nominated by Stan

Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Church, Amarillo, Texas.

While Bradley had been elected annually without opposition in recent years, Coffey told the messengers he felt the need for wider participation among the leadership. Atchison is the son of Joe W. Atchison of Rogers, Ark., a director of missions and trustee of the SBC Christian Life Commission.

Lee Porter of Nashville, registration secretary, won another one-year term by defeating Bob Mowrey, pastor, by 71 percent (13,424) to 29 percent (5048).

Coffey, who also nominated Mowrey, said he was doing it for the same reasons. (See additional story on Mowrey's nomination.)

Porter has served as registration secretary for 12 years.

Opinions of SBC messengers vary

I was surprised at the margin of Morris Chapman's vote for the SBC presidency. I was appalled that a member of a non-cooperating church, whose messengers were not seated, was allowed to serve as chairman of the Committee on Nominations. I objected to the excessive clapping, booing, and outbursts which I did not feel were proper. The challenges to the officials normally elected by acclamation had no logical or rational basis. I feel our division has begun and will be complete in three to five years. — *Mike Young, pastor, Pleasant Grove Church, Hixson.*

I feel the SBC was one of the greatest. The presence of the Lord was in the convention. Jerry Vines did an excellent job in presiding and preaching under great pressure. All TBC churches need to pray for our new leaders. I pray we will join hands and hearts in Christian love and bring in the sheaves for Jesus. May this be so for Southern Baptists. — *C. Reid Wright, pastor, Maple Street Church, Cleveland.*

We continued our trend toward ultra-conservatism, and we continued the trend toward larger attendance. I was deeply disappointed to see huge crowds for the president's election — but a much smaller number there for the missions reports and FMB commissioning service. Is politics more important than missions? I hope we can get priorities in order soon. — *Jerry D. Oakley, pastor, Springfield*

Church, Springfield.

The blatant disregard of messengers' questions by President Vines during business sessions is confirming evidence of a closed political system at work, further dividing our ranks. In slashing funds to the BJC, the SBC has "cut off its nose to spite its face." Exclusivism is denial of our historic and cooperative effort to safeguard the freedom of church and state. The BJC will survive, but will the SBC? — *Charles W. Brown, pastor, First Church, Maryville.*

As long as our speech is peppered with inflammatory rhetoric, we lose, in the eyes of many lost people, the right to be heard. We still need a parliamentarian. — *Adney Cross, missionary, First Church, Hendersonville.*

I was pleased with the convention and Pastors' Conference. I will be glad to see the day when we can meet in a spirit of cooperation and not confrontation. I was not impressed with the city of New Orleans. I am grateful for my church's making it possible for me to attend and be involved. — *Mickey L. Basham, North Jackson Church, Jackson.*

Again the SBC has demonstrated that grassroots are rooted in the infallible Word of God and her ministries must be conservative. Actions of this convention encouraged me to know that the SBC will continue to magnify the CP for world

missions. I pray that all Southern Baptists will recognize the voting of this convention expresses the will of the majority of SBC members. Let's keep working to unite at the foot of the Cross, upon the word of God, for the glory of God, and for the sake of a lost world. — *Charles W. Sullivan, pastor, First Church, Lenoir City.*

Outstanding! I believe the convention's course will prove to be a great impetus for missions and evangelism in the years ahead. I pray that all Baptists might unite behind a common goal to reach our world with the powerful Gospel of Christ. — *H. Dean Haun, pastor, First Church, Sparta.*

The death knell of the Cooperative Program is now ringing. — *P. Joel Snider, pastor, Crieveewood Church, Nashville.*

The high experience was on Saturday before the convention when several hundred Southern Baptists participated in community witnessing and survey efforts. I teamed with Pastor Paul Tiry of First Church Waverly, and we worked with First Church, Slidell, La. Most people we called on were Catholic, but they were gracious to let us share our faith in Christ with them. I came from the convention loving God more. God answered my prayers. I hope next year we will have several thousand witnessing in Atlanta. — *Pat Still, layman, Clearview Church, Franklin.*

Carson-Newman hosts Preachers' School

Carson Newman College will host its annual Preachers' School June 25-29 on the Jefferson City campus.

The annual school is sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention through the Golden State Mission Offering and Carson-Newman College.

Housing, meals, and programs for school-age children are available. For more information, contact Don Mitchell in church relations at (615) 475-9061.

At Pastors' Conference

Speakers address truth, veracity of Scriptures

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Truth, adversity, and defense of the veracity of the Word of God drew the attention of speakers at the 1990 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference which attracted about 20,000 people to the Louisiana Superdome.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church of Cordova, told the pastors, "It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error."

"Unity is a wonderful thing, good, and pleasant. But beloved, it must be the unity of the spirit," explained Rogers, three-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention and former president of the pastors' group.

"Unity, yes — but unification at the price of peace, absolutely not," he continued. "We have some today who would jettison truth on the altar of cooperation."

"Your task is to say what the Lord says, it is not your job to make it palatable," he told the pastors. "You were not called to fill a pew, but fill a pulpit and preach the Gospel. There is no way to preach the truth and be loved by everybody. In the Bible anybody worth anything had enemies."

"It is better to ultimately succeed with truth than to temporarily win with

lie," he said. "God's Word cannot fail, God's truth cannot fail and sin cannot win. Be careful to line up with the truth. Be men of courage."

Charles Stanley, former SBC president, closed the conference with a message concerning fighting discouragement. Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, cited Moses's experience at the burning bush.

"He learned to walk in the continuing awareness that he was walking in the presence of God," Stanley said.

Stanley and the others speaking during the final session shared the stage with a ten-foot Bible which was used for a dramatic presentation of Biblical characters.

In addition, two men gave their testimonies. Ron Boswell, a member of the Foreign Mission Board staff, encouraged pastors to consider foreign missions. "There will be no pulpit committee" for overseas work, he said. "The search committee will be one person — the Holy Spirit."

In another testimony, David Lagroan, a member of First Church, Corsby, Texas, told of being saved out of an alcoholic family. He began to sing and brought the crowd to its feet to help him with "I'm Just a Sinner

Saved by Grace."

John Bisagno, pastor of First Church, Houston, urged Southern Baptist pastors to defend the veracity of the Word of God and "Hold the line when you can."

John McArthur, pastor of the Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, Calif., spoke on being a "man of God." He said that a man of God is known by what he flees from, citing greed and all that goes with it. "No man who prostitutes the Word of God for personal gain is a man of God," he said.

Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of New Hope Church, Fayetteville, Ga., said in times of disillusionment "God can work a unique purpose in our lives."

He warned the audience to "watch out for cut and dried theologies" which say that adversity is caused by un-

confessed sin. "We know it's not true."

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, spoke to the Pastors' Conference on the topic of John 3:16. "We live in a world in bondage to a personal devil," said Chapman. "And the time is running out. The whole world needs to hear the message of John 3:16."

Chapman said God's love is longer than the longest night of agony, an everlasting love. "God gave us His Son in vicarious death," he said.

In a business session, the pastors elected Richard Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Church, Tucker, Ga., as their 1990-91 president; Ruffin Snow, pastor of Eastwood Church, Tulsa, Okla., vice president; and David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Church, Lake Charles, La., secretary-treasurer. — *Jim Lowry and Tim Nicholas*

Forum participants recall past

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The theme of the Southern Baptist Convention Forum, "Recapturing the Future," became one of recalling frustrations during the six sermons that headlined the meeting June 11 in New Orleans.

Attendance stretched beyond 2000 for afternoon addresses by Randall Lolley and Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler. Lolley, pastor of First Church, Greensboro, N.C., was the target of SBC conservatives before his resignation as president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., in 1988. Crumpler, retired executive director of the denomination's Woman's Missionary Union and wife of a Cincinnati Baptist pastor, is a candidate for first vice president of the convention in behalf of SBC moderates.

David Montoya, a Gravette, Ark., pastor who broke ranks with conservatives last year, also addressed the

meeting of SBC moderates. Montoya announced his intention to challenge some 30 nominations to SBC entities.

He urged the forum audience to pray for "other misguided zealots like myself."

Lolley likened leaders of the conservative faction controlling the SBC to cowboys. "They rule from their saddles," he said. "Never expect a cowboy to do a shepherd's job. Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd.' Shepherds lead sheep and die for them if they have to."

Crumpler warned that Southern Baptists are losing their credibility because of their longstanding controversy. The effort that Southern Baptists are putting into debating the Bible should be redirected toward "hiding it in our hearts," she said, "and following its commands."

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, Miss., echoed Crumpler's sentiments. News accounts focusing on Southern Baptists before the onset of the controversy in 1979 "reflected in one way or another 'these people are fools for Christ's sake,'" Pollard said. "Now media reports declare us only to be fools who have lost our purpose and turned on each other."

Once the denomination was growing by 200,000 people a year, Pollard said. "Now we're almost losing more people than we're gaining." And, he recounted, a key convention rally in 1979 in the Houston Astro dome to boost the denomination's "Bold Mission Thrust" goal of sharing the Gospel worldwide by the year 2000 was undercut "before 24 hours had elapsed" by the start of the controversy.

Other speakers during the forum were Gene Garrison, pastor of First Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.; John Killinger, distinguished professor of religion and culture at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.; and Herbert Reynolds, president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

FMB appoints missionaries at SBC

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Southern Baptists must do the right thing while God has provided the right time, the president of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board said June 13.

"This is the right time, and we must not do wrong at the time God has called right," Keith Parks told messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Parks was the keynote speaker in the board's annual report to the convention, which featured the appointment of 34 missionaries.

To do the right thing, Southern Baptists must make greater sacrifices, Parks said. He compared Southern Baptists to the Ceausescu of Romania. The former Communist dictator and his wife were executed last Christmas day after living an opulent lifestyle while their countrymen starved.

1990 SBC third largest in history

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The 1990 Southern Baptist Convention drew the third-largest crowd and the second-largest Tuesday registration in the denomination's 145-year history.

As of 10 a.m. June 12, registration stood at 38,416. That compares to 45,519 in Dallas in 1985 and 40,987 in Atlanta in 1986.

This year's registration patterns compared closely to the 1988 convention in San Antonio, Texas, said registration secretary Lee Porter, when a total of 32,727 messengers registered.

Hourly checks of registration from the opening of registration lines Sunday until 6 p.m. Monday night appeared almost identical to the pattern established in San Antonio, Porter said. After 6 p.m. Monday, the New Orleans registration jumped ahead of San Antonio.

The increased flow of registrants continued Tuesday, giving the New Orleans convention the second-highest Tuesday registration in history. Almost 9000 messengers registered on that day.

Based upon Porter's estimates at 10 a.m. Wednesday, the largest number of messengers came from Texas (4550) followed by Georgia (3950), Louisiana (3550), North Carolina (3400), Alabama (3150), and Mississippi (3100). Tennessee was next with 2650 registered messengers.

"God has given to Southern Baptists much wealth. We will be more guilty than the Ceausescu as we shamelessly wallow in self-indulgent luxury while a lost and dying world goes into eternity with no knowledge of Jesus Christ."

In his challenge to the missionaries, Parks explained why he believes this is the right time. "Everything has been prepared for the spreading of the Gospel in a way that I submit to you has not been true since that right time when God sent Jesus," he said.

He cited changes in Eastern Europe and Asia as examples of God's timing. He cited further openness in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Sub Saharan Africa, where half of the population could be Christians by the year 2000 if current trends continue.

These opportunities mean Southern Baptists must respond beyond anything ever done before, Parks said: "Make no mistake about it. Every religion and philosophy in the world is well aware and trying to capitalize on this new openness."

The service marked the second time the mission board has held an appointment service during the convention's annual meeting. It was the third of six foreign missions appointment services scheduled for 1990.

Witnessing leads to 521 professions

NEW ORLEANS — In one day of door-to-door witnessing of the Southern Baptist Convention, Southern Baptists recorded 521 professions of faith before the annual meeting.

"I think it is tremendous," said Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. "All the people I'm talking with say it was worthwhile."

This year's event attracted 1334 volunteers compared to 2025 people who witnessed before the annual meeting in Las Vegas last year. However, the number of professions of faith exceeds the Las Vegas total by 50.

In addition, the New Orleans volunteers contacted 14,011 homes, discovered 2818 prospects and enrolled 391 people in Sunday School.

This year's totals do not include results from three associations. The directors of missions for these associations could not be reached for report.



NEW WORK AWARD — Mike Thomas, pastor of New Vision Mission in Murfreesboro, receives the American Mosaic Workers Together Award from Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis. Though only 18 months old, the mission has helped two Soviet refugee families settle in the United States. The award was presented in New Orleans June 11 during a new work banquet prior to the Southern Baptist Convention. The banquet celebrated 1306 church starts in 1989.

Chapman captures presidency in decisive vote . . .

(Continued from page 1)
doing business today as any other day of the convention."

Mark Cortis, chairman of the resolutions committee said he would like to "get mileage" out of the 12 resolutions proposed by the committee but not considered. Some SBC messengers had thought the Executive Committee could look into the matter at its September meeting. But parliamentarian Barry McCarty said such consideration would require a referral by the convention, a business action that could not be taken without a quorum. "All business left over falls to the ground," he said.

The New Orleans Convention drew the third largest crowd in the 145-year history of the SBC. The registration ranks behind the 45,519 in Dallas in 1985 and 40,987 in Atlanta in 1986. There were 37,727 messengers in San Antonio in 1988.

Registration estimates put Tennessee seventh with 2650 messengers.

Motions, reports

Messengers acted on 35 motions. Lamar Wadsworth of Baltimore gained widespread support when he called for the removal of Jerry Johnson, Southern Seminary trustee. The Colorado pastor wrote a 16-page article critical of Southern Seminary President Roy Honeycutt and five professors and presented it to the trustees at his first meeting. It had been released for publication.

A second motion by Wadsworth to refer action to Southern Seminary's trustees was approved by messengers. (A separate story reports on motions referred or voted on.)

Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks told messengers that Southern Baptists must do the right thing at the right time, and "this is the right time called by God." The Wednesday night report challenged the 34 missionaries for appointment as well as the messengers. "Everything has been prepared for the spreading of

the Gospel in a way that ... has not been true since that right time when God sent Jesus," he said.

BJC's Dunn

In his Thursday morning report, James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, told Messengers the BJCPA will serve Southern Baptists in church-state matters "whether they ask us to or not."

Though the convention already had voted to reduce the BJCPA budget allocation by 87 percent, he said it would continue its work "with strong support from individuals, churches, and state conventions." The SBC has provided the BJCPA with major funding through the years, but it is also supported by eight other Baptist conventions.

Messengers heard reports from 20 of their agencies which evoked responses ranging from questions to challenge and inspiration.

Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Seminary, was asked by a messenger to explain a reference he had made labeling a convention meeting satanic. Dilday said he had referred to methodology and not the meeting itself.

"The comment I made was that the methodology used in the takeover of the convention these past 12 years — the crass, secular, political methodology — does have satanic, evil qualities of which I am desperately opposed."

Charles Chaney, vice president of extension at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, urged messengers to accept a goal of starting four new churches a day.

Chaney said Southern Baptists currently are starting churches at the rate of more than three each day and are ahead of the mission board's goal of having 50,000 churches by the year 2000.

Two resolutions okayed

In contrast to other business, messengers approved without debate



NEW SBC OFFICERS — Officers elected by messengers to serve Southern Baptists during the coming year are Morris Chapman, center, president, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas; Douglas Knapp, right, first vice president, a retired missionary to Tanzania who now lives in Gainesville, Fla.; and Fred Lowery, second vice president, pastor of First Church, Bossier City, La.

resolutions urging laws against the possession of child pornography and calling Southern Baptists to environmental stewardship.

The resolution on possession of child pornography urged Southern Baptists in 28 states and the District of Columbia which do not have laws prohibiting private possession of child pornography to work for the enactment of legislation.

The environmental resolution encouraged Southern Baptist people, churches, and other groups to make an environmentally responsible ethic a part of their lifestyle and evangelistic witness.

President's address

In a major address, outgoing President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., urged messengers to remain alert to doctrinal error else the denomination "could become a mustard seed monstrosity with bureaucratic branches in-

festes with blasphemous birds."

While denominational loyalty is desirable, it must not supplant loyalty to Christ and the Bible, he said.

In the annual convention sermon, Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., called for repentance of pride and a return to prayer essential before God's spirit can bring a modern day awakening.

Wolfe claimed Southern Baptists have trusted in their pride, self sufficiency and might instead of the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Looking toward the 1991 convention on June 4-6 in Atlanta, messengers chose Thomas D. Elliff, pastor of First Church, Del City, Okla., and 1990 president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, to preach the convention sermon.

Ronnie W. Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark., was elected alternate preacher.

Misunderstanding leads to Nashville pastor's nomination

By Fletcher Allen and Lonnie Wilkey
"It certainly wasn't a big conspiracy," said Bob Mowrey, longtime pastor of Park Avenue Church, Nashville. A misunderstanding caused Mowrey to allow his name to be nominated for registration secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mowrey said a friend on the SBC Executive Committee had called him early on the morning of the election, June 13, and indicated that the incumbent

secretary would not seek re-election. "He asked me if I would be willing to allow my name to be placed in nomination," Mowrey explained, thinking there would be other nominations from the floor.

Mowrey lost the election to Lee Porter, an editor with the Nashville-based Baptist Sunday School Board, by a margin of 71-29 percent. Porter has held the post, which involves the registration process as well as

balloting, since 1977. Traditionally, convention secretaries have been re-elected without opposition.

"If I had known my friend Lee Porter was going to be nominated, I probably would not have allowed my name to be considered," Mowrey added. He said he is committed not to ever run against Porter.

He said he learned from the experience and would get the "facts" before allowing his name to be placed in a similar situation. "As long as Lee is secretary, my name will not be given for nomination," he said.

Mowrey said he thinks the incident was simply a misunderstanding and that there was no organized attempt to unseat Porter as registration secretary.

"I don't believe I was deliberately misled," Mowrey said, laughing. He added that if it had been an "organized" attempt it definitely didn't work. Mowrey lost the election by more than 8000 votes. In fact, Guy Sanders, who was to nominate him, was not present when nominations were given. Stan Coffey made the nomination.

"We ought to be Christian and keep hatred out of our hearts and make sure we have love for each other," Mowrey

said, referring to Southern Baptist Convention proceedings.

Porter noted Mowrey offered his apology the afternoon following the election. Porter verified that Mowrey said he was told Porter planned not to run again.

Porter said he believed there was a planned effort to unseat him. "I have never said I was going to retire or even implied it. I'm delighted to serve Southern Baptists in this capacity," he said.

Porter emphasized he has no hard feelings about having other nominations. "Bob Mowrey and I are friends and I feel he was misled. I appreciate his spirit and his willingness to talk with me Wednesday afternoon."

Marshall Albritton, a layman at Park Avenue and a member of the Tellers Committee, said he was shocked when he heard Mowrey's name nominated. He talked with Mowrey prior to the SBC and the Park Avenue pastor did not mention he might be nominated, Albritton confirmed.

Albritton, a first-time member of the Tellers Committee, said he enjoyed working with Porter and affirmed "the integrity of the balloting system."



CONVENTION BIRTHDAY — Pam Altom, center, celebrated her birthday June 12 at the opening session of the SBC in New Orleans. Joining her were husband Ken, pastor of First Church, Cookeville, and daughter Kelli.

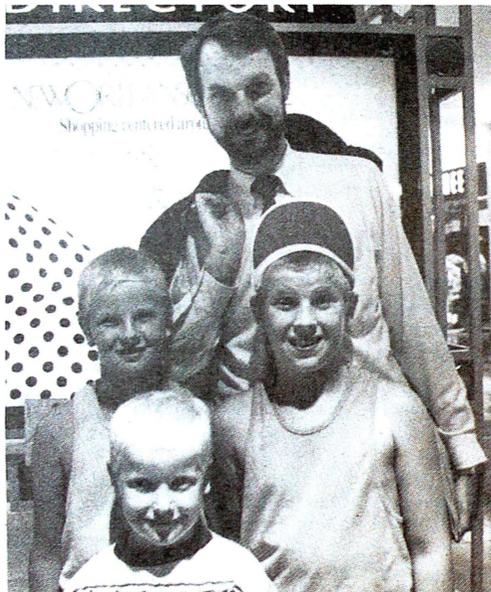


FRANK INGRAHAM, right, First Church, Franklin, and Charles and Delilah Sullivan, First Church, Lenoir City.



MESSENGERS totaling 38,478 filled about half of the Superdome.

Tennesseans — 2650 registered at the SBC, ranking the state seventh among state conventions.



DON GARNER, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and sons, second row, from left, Andrew, Aaron, and front, Adam.



FRANK AND Elizabeth Kemper, First Church, Kenton.



FROM LEFT, Larry and Linda Gilmore, College Heights Church, Gallatin; and Loretta, Archie, and Murray Mathis, Third Church, Murfreesboro.



► **DAVID AND Nancy Turner**, Woodmont Church, Nashville.



PAUL DURHAM, Radnor Church, Nashville.



VEL AND Adney Cross, First Church, Hendersonville.



FROM BELLEVUE CHURCH, Nashville, were, from left, Libby Nicholson, Charlotte Campbell, Joanna Knox, and Kenny Cooper.



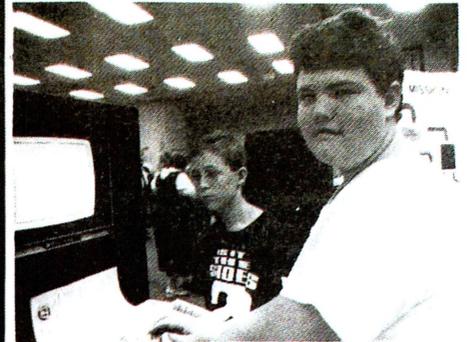
THE RAY NEWCOMBS, First Church, Millington.



FROM LEFT, Vern Powers, TBC Protection Plans Department; Ray O. Jones, Chesapeake, Va., and former pastor of First Church, Fountain City, Knoxville; and Jimmy Stroud, Third Creek Church, Knoxville.



THE BASHAMS, from left, Mike, David, Linda, and Mickey, North Jackson Church, Jackson.



COREY EVERETT, right, Bennington Church, Memphis; and cousin Doug Everett, Meridian, Miss.



► **CAROLYN** and Doug Westmoreland, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville.

New Orleans
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION • 1990



CHARLES AND Shirley Dill, Lamar Heights Church, Memphis.



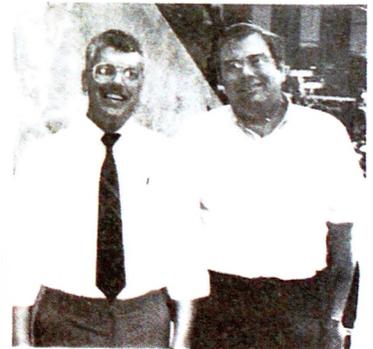
MR. AND MRS. Dean Haun and Jonathan, First Church, Sparta; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hennard, David, Virginia, and Andy, First Church, Lawrenceburg.



DAVID REEVES, left, Williston Church, Williston; and Hyran Barefoot, Union University.



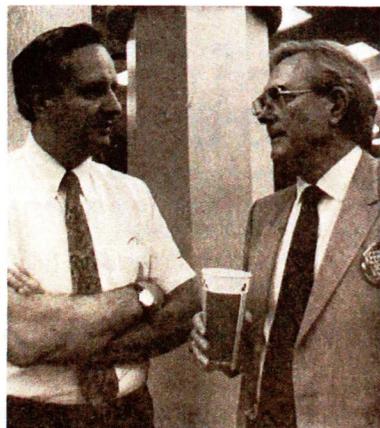
MARGARET AND David Brown, Mine City Church, town.



► **CONYER WALKER,** Sana Ridge Church; and Wayne Rowan, Oakwood Church, Milan.



AND son, from left, Roger Perkins, Peterla.; and Iro Perkins, Big Hatchee on.



DAVID DRUMEL, left, Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Memphis; and Jack Prince, West Hills Church, Knoxville.



DON GIVENS, St. Elmo Avenue Church, Chattanooga; David Pittman, Hamilton County Association; Marcia and Charles Brown, First Church, Maryville.

Missions is the heart of Southern Baptists, WMU told

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Missions is to Southern Baptists what the heart is to the human body, about 4000 members of Woman's Missionary Union were told at their annual convention June 10-11.

To illustrate the convention theme, "Hearts of One Accord," the WMU called on Joann Goatcher, a physician and former missionary to Thailand, to do its theme interpretation. Sounds of a heartbeat reverberated through the hall of the New Orleans Convention Center in time to the animated pulsations of a heart flashed on two large overhead screens.

"The heartbeat for missions must begin at home and flow out to a lost nation and world," Goatcher said. "The first place it can be blocked is right in our own hearts and our own churches. It will not go past the church door if there is unforgiveness, a closed hand, and a hardened heart."

Drawing an analogy between the flow of blood from the heart to the rest of the body with the support of missions from local churches, Goatcher asked women to consider "what happens if one church decides not to give to missions or pray for missions? What

if several churches decided not to support missions with their money or their prayers?"

In answering her questions, Goatcher said, "More of the work would be left undone, more of the lost world would never hear, and greater pain would be suffered by our Lord."

"We were once known as a people of evangelism and missions," Goatcher said. "Now we are known even internationally as a people of controversy. My beloved sisters, while the men spend their time arguing, I pray to God that we will not stand by while three and a half billion people are in need of Christ."

The women's auxiliary marked its 102nd year by welcoming its new executive director, Dellanna O'Brien, and unanimously re-electing Marjorie McCullough of Alexandria, La., to her fifth term as president. Both are former missionaries.

Pattie Dent, Clinton, Miss., was also re-elected to a fifth term as recording secretary.

Speakers during the two-day meeting mingled cautious optimism with warnings about possible trouble ahead for the missions support base which WMU represents in Southern Baptists' 37,700



AS MESSENGERS — Tennessee WMU President Carol Pharris also served as a messenger of her church, Fairview Church, Lebanon, with her husband, Don, who is pastor. churches.

Several urged Southern Baptists to work harder to make unity a reality in the strife-torn Southern Baptist Convention.

Monte Clendenning, conference coordinator for the World Missions/Evangelism Center at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, said she sees danger signs that

could hinder the denomination's effort to share the Gospel with all the world:

- Eighty-eight percent of Southern Baptists' 14.9 million church members are not enrolled in ongoing missions educational organizations.

- Southern Baptists have not reached their missions offering goals for "many, many years" now. In 1988, she said, 87 percent of the total missions giving in the SBC came from 71 percent of the churches with WMU organizations.

As WMU enters its second century, Clendenning said, "We must assess anew our role in missions education in our churches."

Clendenning urged "going back to the basics" in missions education, but being flexible enough to look closely at our methods and being willing to alter them if by change we can better involve our people for world evangelization."

Earlier, executive director O'Brien emphasized the importance of "keeping missions education alive in the hearts of our children. The hope of our convention is in the commitment of its young people," she said.

Keith Parks closed the WMU meeting by telling participants Baptists must quit "deceiving themselves" by allowing their culture to interpret Christianity, rather than allowing their Christianity to guide culture. Parks is president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"We have assumed some things about Christianity," Parks said. "We have assumed that Christianity is a comfortable lifestyle."

Parks said that if Baptists will correct the cultural misconceptions and focus on the reasons for missions "we will have hearts of one accord." — *Scott Collins and Bob Stanley*

Chapman addresses press after election

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Whether the inerrancy issue is settled in the Southern Baptist Convention depends upon the response of the 42 percent of messengers who voted against Morris Chapman, the newly elected president said last week.

Chapman held a news conference in the Louisiana Superdome hours after his election as president of the 14.9-million member denomination.

Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, defeated Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church, Atlanta, in balloting on the opening day of the denomination's annual meeting.

In nominating Chapman, Houston pastor John Bisagno said Chapman's election would settle the inerrancy issue "once and forever."

However, after the election Chapman said that decision rests with the 42 percent of messengers who voted against him. He noted that outgoing SBC president Jerry Vines said last year the inerrancy issue had been settled.

"The large majority of Southern Baptists believe the issue is settled," Chapman said. "Whether or not the issue is settled in its most practical form is largely up to those who have been voting otherwise, who have insisted that we are not a group who have believed in the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible."

He underscored that the split isn't as great as the 60-40 vote indicated. At least 90 percent of the Southern Baptists adhere to inerrancy, he maintained.

Asked whether the other ten percent should leave the convention, Chapman said he couldn't say. "I wouldn't presume to speak for those who hold different theological beliefs. The choice would have to be made by those persons."

In a prepared opening statement to the news conference, Chapman said he wanted to "enhance the cooperative spirit among Southern Baptists while

standing steadfastly for Biblical truth."

Looking back at the past 12 years, Chapman said Southern Baptists "have been sending signals to leaders of our agencies and institutions that as to doctrinal integrity we need to come home to the faith of our fathers."

"Southern Baptists are a people of the book. We must perpetuate that belief through the institutional life of our beloved convention," he said.

Chapman said during the next year he wants to meet with the presidents of every SBC agency and institution.

In meeting with those presidents, Chapman said he would emphasize his desire to "keep theological parameters in place and remove any political parameters."

He affirmed the 1987 Peace Committee report. His wife, Jodi, who was seated beside him at the news conference, served on the Peace Committee.

"The Peace Committee has done a great thing for all Southern Baptists for at least two reasons: they've helped describe what we meant all along by infallibility and inerrancy and asked us to go beyond perceived political parameters."

He declared he wants to "be a part of opening communication between trustees and administration." He affirmed trustees as the appropriate people to deal with questions raised about particular agencies and institutions.

Chapman said he does not favor "a wholesale housecleaning of any kind" in those institutions.

Asked about his appointments to the committee on committees, Chapman said, "My commitment in the appointive process is to appoint those persons who believe in the perpetuation of allegiance to the perfect Word of God and those who believe within the parameters of the Peace Committee report."

Asked about the future of Baptist

Press, the denomination's news service, Chapman said that in most instances the press has been "fair and honest."

"I do believe that Baptist Press and the Baptist state papers can be of great help to us in returning our convention to harmony and peace without compromise on the infallibility and inerrancy of the Word of God." — *Ken Camp and Mark Wingfield*

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Mrs. Bennie Crabtree will lead a seminar for pastors wives and Tim Wheat, Baptist Student Union director, will provide activities for children of conference attendees.

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TenneScene

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Churches ...

Members of Orchi Church, Memphis, will host a Fifth Friday Night Singing June 29 with The Singing Evangelists and The SoñRise Trio.

Linda Lou Coolidge, a music evangelist from California and sister of Rita Coolidge, will be in concert July 15, 7 p.m., at Lincoya Hills Church, Nashville.

Members of Mt. Pisgah Church, Bradford, celebrated homecoming June 3.

Several G.A.s at Charleston Church, Stanton, were recently recognized for individual achievement in mission adventure. Those recognized were DeAnn Anderson, Nicole Thomas, Laura Lee Moore, Brandi Mize, Jessica Easley, Jennifer Gurley, and Marilyn Byrd.

Several churches in Salem Associa-

tion recently held homecoming celebrations. They are Calvary Church, Smithville; Elizabeth Chapel Church, Smithville; and Sycamore Church, Woodbury. In addition, members of New Hope Church, Alexandria, will celebrate homecoming June 24.

Members of Dale Ridge Church, Dowelltown, recently voted to change the name of the church to Memorial Church. Ground was broken recently for a new building, which is expected to be completed later this year.

The congregation of Central Point Church, Paris, celebrated homecoming June 17.

A homecoming celebration was held June 3 at Russwood Church, Springville.

An old-fashioned weekend will be held June 23-24 at New Hope Church, Hermitage, with Old Timer's Day Saturday and homecoming Sunday.

People ...

Don Viar, Greg Leimer, and Brian Brown, members of First Church, Cookeville, recently achieved the Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank in Boy Scouts.

Leadership ...

Third Church, Nashville, called Ted Verville as pastor, effective May 27.

Scott Pastore will join the staff of Park Avenue Church, Nashville, July 15, as minister of music. His wife, Leslie will serve as pianist.

Keith Habermas, minister of education at Westwood Church, Cleveland, recently accepted the position of minister to median adults at Prestonwood Church, Dallas, which averages more than 4000 in Sunday School.

Members of Second Church, Sevierville, recently named Robert Cody Pastor Emeritus. He served as pastor of the church for 28 years before he retired last year. During the same service, the church installed Chris Francis as pastor. Francis teaches Bible and science classes at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour.

Charles Gray recently joined the staff of Byerly's Chapel Church, Mascot, as pastor.

Ed Mayfield who retired as pastor of Midway Church, Sewanee, in 1987, recently reached a landmark in his Christian experience. June marked Mayfield's 30th year for perfect Sunday School attendance.



MAYFIELD

Mayfield, who served as pastor of churches in Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, and Tennessee, said he left a hospital bed three times to attend Sunday School, only to return to the hospital immediately.

Allen Farris has been called as pastor of New Friendship Church, Cleveland.

Ridgeview Church, Chattanooga, called Jeff Burgess as summer youth minister.

Missions ...

A mission team led by Gary Marshall, pastor of Calvary Church, Mooresburg, will travel to Napoleon, Mich., to repair the Faith Chapel Church building, July 29-Aug. 4. Grainger Association Director of Missions David Tydings will also go to teach a study on creation to pastors.

Raymond Longie, pastor of First Church, Sisseton, S.D., has requested mission teams for the fall of 1990 and the spring 1991 to conduct revivals. Facilities are available at the church. For more information, call him at (605) 698-3375.

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Closing words of encouragement

By W. Elzie Danley, pastor; Malesus Church, Jackson

Encouragement to be patient (5:7-11)

James had just made it clear that God's judgment was certain to come upon the unrighteous. Therefore, he told his readers, they should remain faithful, disregard their present troubles, and wait patiently upon the Lord's return. Since the early Christians had expected Christ to have already returned, many had begun to waiver in their faith. James used the analogy of the farmer (husbandman) who waits patiently between planting time and harvest time. The farmer in Palestine knew that the early rains in October and November must be succeeded by the latter rains in April and May before harvest would come. Christians too must wait patiently on the Lord's return, which will occur in due season.

Beginning in verse nine, James took a slightly different approach in his encouragement for patience. He cautioned the Christians to avoid a bitter and complaining attitude during their times of discouragements. When they directed such grumblings, or grudges, toward others, they would be held accountable for such improper behavior.



DANLEY

James then reminded these Christians of the Jewish prophets and possibly some first century saints who did not grumble during their persecutions. Instead they remained faithful and persevered in their faith.

Call to be truthful (5:12)

James' reference to swearing was not to profanity or taking an oath such as in current legal practices. It is likely a condemnation of the first century practice of accompanying a statement with an oath such as "Heaven strike me dead if this is not true." It may also be a condemnation of a Jewish practice. For the Jews, only an oath taken on certain items (eg. the gold on the altar) would hold them responsible for their words. James made it clear that the Christian is to be held accountable for his words or commitments even though no oath was taken.

Concern for needs of others (5:13-20)

James wanted his readers to realize that whatever their physical or emotional state, prayer is the appropriate response. He indicated that anyone who was afflicted (suffering) should pray; anyone who was merry (happy or cheerful) should also pray by singing a prayer of praise to the Lord.

James continued to emphasize the need and importance of prayer. When a Christian was ill he was to call the elders (leaders or pastors) of the

church to pray for (over) them. These leaders were instructed to anoint the ill with oil as well as pray for them. Oil was used for its medicinal qualities in the first century. It was also used because of its symbolic qualities of blessings that had been a part of Jewish ritual. Thus, it was probably a symbolic religious rite. As such it may also have been used to thwart some of the Gentile customs and superstitions that could have crept into Christian practice.

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

June 24 Lesson

Basic Passage: James 5:7-20

Focal Passages: James 5:7, 9-20

The primary emphasis is upon the power of prayer. A prayer of faith can be so powerful as to bring healing to those who are ill. If there happens to be sin in that person's life the power of prayer can also have the effect of bringing him to the point of true repentance and reconciliation with God.

Christians were charged (v. 16) to share their faults, even their sins, with one another so that they could pray for one another and find healing for the soul. James summarized his view on prayer succinctly when he said, "the effectual fervent (earnest) prayer of a

righteous man availeth (accomplishes) much."

James reminded his readers, who were primarily Jewish, that their beloved prophet, Elijah, was mortal like them, yet his prayers of faith had great power. The point was that Christians too can have effective prayers when they are made with faith and come from a righteous person.

The concluding verses (19 and 20) take a slightly different emphasis. Christians were admonished to help a wayward brother or sister turn back to the way of truth. In doing so he would be instrumental in saving the sinful Christians from the destructive powers (death) of sin. It should be noted that the word "death" here does not denote physical death nor does it refer to the loss of salvation. Rather, it refers to the destructive nature upon the personality, circumstances of life, and peace found in serving God. Finally, he reminded them that in helping a wayward brother return to the truth, they would be assisting him as his multitude of sins are forgiven (covered).

Summary

James would have us to wait the coming of the Lord with patience. We are urged to be concerned about the physical and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters. He made it clear that prayer is powerful and should be an integral part of our efforts to wait patiently and to assist our brothers and sisters in their physical and spiritual needs.

Wisdom cries aloud

By Liz Thompson, layperson; First Church, Blountville

Wisdom cries aloud in the street, "The beginning of knowledge that really counts in life is to fear the Lord." Would that each generation would receive wisdom that we might perpetuate quality living in our communities. Unfortunately, youth are convinced they are born with knowledge and have a tendency to ignore the wisdom of those who have traveled life's highway before them. In most cultures, elders rule the community, but in America, the youth rule. We have not preserved our society. Solomon's son, Rehoboam made a tragic mistake by rejecting the elders who served his father (1 Kings 12:1-15, 19).



THOMPSON

When I was a teenager, my father said, "Some people learn from the mistakes of others and some insist on learning everything by experience. Which would you prefer?" Being of a cautious nature and because I thought my Dad knew everything, I tried to follow his advice. This is the admonition of Proverbs. However, on occasion, I ran into the same attitude of all youth. "But, Dad, things are different now - that won't work today." Basic life principles and God's wisdom are eternally right and always work. We can build a successful life on them.

Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings designed to give Godly counsel, to teach moral and spiritual values drawn from the experience of Godly men. Each culture has it's wise men

and human wisdom can be taught to children if a society respects its older generation. Still there are some areas of life that require that each individual learn by experience as we mature.

There is another dimension to wisdom that is vital to us, and only available to Christians. Anyone can order his life either by worldly wisdom or by God's Word, but only the Christian can hear God speak to the issue, acquiring God's point of view.

True wisdom and understanding is the ability to see life from God's perspective. This refers to "rhema," which is God personally speaking to you. "Get wisdom, get understanding.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

June 24 Lesson

Basic Passage: Proverbs 1

Focal Passage: Proverbs 1:1-9, 20-23

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom and with all thy getting, get understanding." (Proverbs 4:5 and 7). Our ways are not His ways, therefore we must, "... not lean on our own understanding. In all our ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct our paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Psalm 103:7 caught my attention. It seems that the Psalmist made a distinction between God's ways and

His acts. "God made known His ways unto Moses, His acts to the children of Israel." It seems to me that to know God's ways is a more intimate knowledge than to observe His acts or works, and Psalms 95:8-9 seems to verify this. "Don't harden your hearts ... Your fathers tempted Me, proved Me, and saw My works (acts). For 40 years I was grieved with them ... It is a people who do err in their heart and they have not known My ways. They will not enter My rest."

Psalm 81:13 records God's lament. "Oh that My people had harkened unto Me, and had walked in My ways." In Psalm 77:19 we discover that God's ways is in the sea, indicating the impossibility for man outside of Christ discovering His ways. Then in verse 13, "Thy way is in the sanctuary" of Thy presence. Verses 11-13 again relate the difference between observing His works and knowing His ways.

The Bible has recorded for us God's works to remember for meditation and encouragement. Our God is faithful

and omnipotent, but we only discover His ways by being yoked up with Jesus, who is the Way and knows the way. This is a walk that flows out of personal confrontation and fellowship with the Lord in the Sanctuary of your heart.

We the redeemed today are the instruments through whom God reveals His acts (works) to the world, just as those in Biblical days encourage us and witness to God's faithfulness and omnipotence. But only God can reveal the wisdom of His ways to another individual.

Who will hear our cry in the streets of our nation - those who have ears to hear, whose hearts have been made ready to receive wisdom, His rhema. They will become people of understanding, observing the works of God among His redeemed and knowing His ways by their own walk with Him, a delight to God's heart.

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A covenant of the heart

By Kenny Cooper, pastor; Bellevue Church, Nashville

This last lesson in our series on Jeremiah comes from another section of what has come to be called "The Book of Consolation" (chapters 30 and 31) and dates from 622-609 B.C. Many have suggested that in the focal passage the high point of Jeremiah's theology is reached. The days in which Jeremiah lived were the bleakest and most hopeless of Judah's history. It is in the midst of such circumstances that God's Word came to him with such profound implications for his people.



COOPER

There is within these verses a recurring introductory formula which focused on the future:

"Behold, the days are coming" (vv. 27, 31, 38). God was not finished with His people even though they were faced with an exile of long duration. All of history belongs to God and "the days are coming" when He will do great things.

Reversal of the old (vv. 27-30) Jeremiah's call to the prophetic task included watching over the destruction which was to come to Judah:

"See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant" (1:10, RSV).

The evidence of such a prophetic word was increasing with every advance of Babylon and every defeat of Judah.

Even as the predicted destruction was in progress, the word of God came through Jeremiah announcing a reversal of the "plucking up" and "breaking down." The days were coming when God would build and plant. Furthermore, this promise went out to both Israel and Judah. He would re-establish them together as He sowed them with the seed of men and beast.

There is another reversal in this section which is significant. Whereas blame heretofore had been placed on the sins of the fathers, in the coming days each person would be responsible for his or her own sins. The old saying

used as an excuse will no longer be acceptable:

"the fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge" (v. 29, RSV).

Ezekiel dealt with this same saying in chapter 18. The corporate morality of previous generations would not be at issue, present individual morality would. Such a reversal in conditions would require a new kind of relationship with God.

Establishment of the new (vv. 31-34)

These verses have been called by James Leo Green "The Gospel before the Gospel" (Broadman Bible Commentary, 6:152). They are the closest thing to New Testament faith which we find in the Old Testament. The author of the letter to the Hebrews quoted them in full in Hebrews 8:8-12, and in part in Hebrews 10:16-17. From these words eventually came the distinction between the Old Testament and the New Testament. (Testamentum is Latin for covenant.)

As in the reversal of the old, the establishment of the new would be equally shared by Israel and Judah. The covenant which God had made with them following the Exodus had been broken irreparably. The image of a husband whose wife had left him for others suggests the seriousness of their breach. The guilt was equally shared by Judah and Israel.

The means of establishing a new covenant were new as well. The

former covenant had been written in stone, as represented by the tablets Moses received on Mt. Sinai. It was communicated through the channel of speaking and listening. The words of the covenant were to enter their ears and find a way to their hearts. The new covenant, however, would bypass the process of communication. God would write not on stone, but on their very hearts. Earlier Jeremiah had

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES June 24 Lesson

Basic Passage: Jeremiah 31:27-40
Focal Passages: Jeremiah 31:27-34

charged: "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; with a point of diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart" (17:1 RSV). God's new covenant would heal the engraved sin and replace it with His law.

One other important aspect of this new covenant is the way the people would "know the Lord." The word know is the nearest thing in the Old Testament to an expression of New Testament faith. Jeremiah used the vocabulary of his day to speak of a new condition of relationship between God and people. Just as the coming days would be represented by individual morality and responsibility, they also would be marked by personal relationship with God, a possibility for everyone — from the least to the greatest. In response to their knowing God in this intimate way, He would forgive and forget their sin. It is no wonder that at the institution of the Lord's supper we hear from Jesus' lips, "this . . . is the new covenant" (cf. Luke 22:20). Through Him God's Word comes to be written on our hearts.

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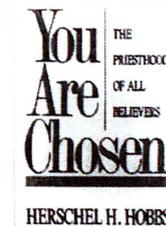
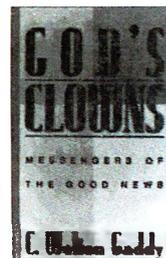
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SBC pre-convention meeting reports

Musicians focus on worship, witness

NEW ORLEANS — Southern Baptist musicians focused their attention on the theme of "The Mission ... Worship and Witness" at a two-day conference preceding the 133rd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

A preview of the new Baptist Hymnal and numerous concerts highlighted the sessions at First Church, New Orleans.

The new hymnal will be released in March 1991, said Wesley Forbis, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department.

"This hymnal was not produced for the church music department, but instead for the people in the churches," he said, adding that the hymnal committee reviewed more than 4000 hymns

submitted to come up with the 625 pieces of music in the new hymnal.

Forbis also announced that for every new hymnal purchased, one copy will be given to a mission church.

Participants sang from a "sampler" of hymns from the new hymnal, the first singing by a volunteer group.

During the organization's business session musicians presented the W. Hines Sims Award to Jane Manton Marshall of Dallas, Texas.

Church musicians also honored Carl Perry, emeritus minister of music at West Hills Church, Knoxville, and Tom Westmoreland, retired director of the music department for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Mark Edwards, minister of music at First Church, Nashville, is president of the organization.



MUSIC OFFICERS — Newly-elected officers and executive council members of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference are, front row, from left, Thomasene Owensby, Atlanta, Ga.; Betty Bedsole, Louisville, Ky.; Paul Richardson, Louisville, Ky.; Dot Pray, Jackson, Miss.; and Gary Ingle, Bolivar, Mo.; back row, from left, Gara Stark, Mineral Springs, Texas; Clark Measels, publications editor, Jefferson City; Wendell Boertje, east local church division, Knoxville; Louis Ball, secretary-treasurer, Jefferson City; Mark Edwards, president, Nashville, and; Bob Hatfield, president-elect, Birmingham, Ala.

Compassion, not demand, reaches people

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — More unchurched people will be reached by the compassion of cooperating churches than by demanding a strict loyalty to the Bible, an associational director of missions told his peers in their two-day annual meeting.

Russell Bennett of Louisville, Ky., made that statement in his president's address to the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions in Metairie, La., preceding the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I don't think people go to hell because of brothels and gambling dens," said Bennett, director of missions for Long Run Association. "They go to hell because Christians don't love."

"People seldom enter the kingdom of God because of some eloquent speaker, but because some loving soul has cared for them. We do not need high pressure preaching to increase guilt so that people are immersed again and again. Rather we need churches that extend love to outsiders."

Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., echoed that theme by encouraging directors of missions not to become so caught up in doing good that they forget to do the greatest good.

Jerry Clower, a star of the Grand Ole Opry and Southern Baptist layman, used humor to address issues

in the denomination's 11-year-old internal fight.

"Watch my lips: I do not worship the Bible," Clower declared. "I had a personal experience with Jesus Christ when I was 13 years of age. I am in love with and worship Jesus."

"Let's not take our focus off Jesus. Folks are going to die and go to hell while we decide who believes the Bible."

In business sessions, the directors of missions approved the reports of a stewardship committee, presented by Everett Anthony, director of missions for Chicago Metro Association. Anthony noted associations have faced a "growing shortfall" of money available for missions. "We felt we were not securing the kinds of resources that were needed," he said. The recommendation affirms the role of the association in missions and requests agencies and state conventions to "recognize the Baptist association as a full partner in missions and assist in developing creative financial strategies."

Bennett was re-elected to a second one-year term as president.

Other officers elected are Glenn Hickey, Little Rock, Ark.; first vice president; Larry Martin, Boston, second vice president; Lawrence Clegg, Ponchatoula, La., secretary; Phil Hall, Albia, Iowa, treasurer; and Grayson Glass, La Marque, Texas, newsletter editor.

Women in Ministry plans merger

NEW ORLEANS — Members of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry approved constitutional revisions that will allow their organization to merge with the Louisville-based Center for Women in Ministry (CWIM).

Approval of the revisions — as well as worship experiences and workshops around the theme "Welcoming the Stranger ... Sojourners in the Fellowship of God" — took place during SBWIM's eighth annual meeting June 9 and 10 at New Orleans' Hotel Intercontinental.

As SBWIM has changed and grown through the years, it has seen a need for more structure, said Betty McGary, outgoing president. But, she added, having that structure poses a danger.

"We in the Southern Baptist Convention have seen the very worst in what can happen when you have too much structure," said McGary, minister to adults at South Main Church, Houston. "Institutions are only as good as the people who hold them, and they are best when held lightly."

In addition to providing for the SBWIM-CWIM merger, the changes were designed to provide for more membership involvement on the steering committee; more continuity of leadership; increased visibility and influence of the organization; and greater clarity or consistency of language, explained Edgar Tanner, a steering committee member from Sugar Land, Texas.

Major revisions included changing the name of the "steering committee" to "executive board" and revising the responsibilities of some of the officers.

Another change calls for the inclusion of five ex-officio members on the executive board. Those members are to be the executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; the chair of the Southern Bap-

Pray for enemies, Hinson exhorts

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Seminarian Glenn Hinson confided to the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America Monday that he is angry but determined to love his enemies. Hinson, professor of history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said he is angry about a number of events, including the "misrepresentation and abuse of my colleagues," the "control imposed on the Sunday School Board," the "blocking of the appointment of an outstanding couple to the mission field because the woman is ordained" and the appointment of trustees who "literally hate the institution they are appointed to serve."

To deal with the anger, Hinson said, Christians must acknowledge it and then admit they are powerless and helpless in dealing with "what is probably our most powerful emotion — anger." Rather than seeking revenge, Hinson said to "unload on God who can handle it."

The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America is a network of Baptists committed to justice and peace. The group's board of directors includes representatives from 11 Baptist conventions. Ken Sehested of Memphis, Tenn., is its executive director.

tist Alliance's Women in the Church Committee; the pastor of Louisville's Crescent Hill Church or other church/agency that may house the Center for Women in Ministry; the president of Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention; and the president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Ministers' wives hear Dobson

NEW ORLEANS — Ministers' wives were encouraged Tuesday, June 12, to "inherit the blessing."

Addressing the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives luncheon, Shirley Dobson told the 1027 women, "Many of you think the burden you're carrying is too heavy but what you are doing has eternal significance."

"While you're out doing the Lord's work, don't neglect your own families," said the wife of James Dobson, family psychologist. She added mothers should fervently and consistently pray for their children, arrange quality time to spend with them, and create family traditions that give "a sense of identity and uniqueness to a family."

"Whether we like it or not, we are the thermostats of our homes. We determine the temperature," continued Dobson, a member of the board of directors for Focus on the Family, a non-profit radio program providing counseling and advice for Christian families. "The woman's responsibility in the home is to provide a sense of warmth, beauty, and relaxation."

In other action, 1990 SBMW President Lynda Estep passed the gavel to Carole Hughes, wife of John E. Hughes, pastor of First Church, Independence, Mo. Other 1991 officers are Margaret Carter, wife of Charles Q. Carter, pastor of First Church, Jonesboro, Ga., vice president; Margaret Murchison, wife of Roger Murchison, minister at First Church, Augusta, Ga., secretary-treasurer; and June Baggett, wife of Hudson D. Baggett, editor of The Alabama Baptist, Birmingham, corresponding secretary.

Campus ministers honor Fred Witty

NEW ORLEANS — The diversity of membership of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers is what makes it unique among Southern Baptist organizations, said outgoing president Raye Nell Dyer.

"Whether we call ourselves campus ministers or BSU directors, church staff persons, or friends of student ministry; whether we serve in the east or the west or the north or the south; whether we are employed nationally or on the state level; whether we are male or female; we are all in this together," she said.

Dyer, a campus minister and hospital chaplain in Galveston, Texas, closed the organization's annual two-day meeting by affirming the role of ASBCM as a "community of faith" on campus. The meeting attracted more than 100 people.

During the meeting Fred Witty, campus minister at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City since 1956, was honored for 34 years of service.