

Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 156/NO. 26/JUNE 27, 1990

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

First Baptist team ever

Tennessee students blaze mission trail into Russia

By Connie J. Umstead, news assistant
Twelve Tennessee Baptist college students and two directors were given the opportunity to provide Russian Baptists their first glimpse of how Southern Baptist missions help Christians in other countries.

The first Baptist mission team ever to go to the Soviet Union returned June 8, after spending three weeks in Leningrad renovating a building for the Temple of the Gospel Church, a mission of Leningrad Church, which averages 2000 people a service.

It provided "our students an opportunity to have a place in Christian history," said Rodney Wilson, trip coordinator and program associate with the Tennessee Baptist Convention Student Department. "This comes in the wake of the development of glasnost and perestroika." Wilson added.

He said before leaving on the trip, team members hoped to make a positive first impression so other mission teams could follow. Even though this trip was primarily construction oriented, he said he hopes future mission teams can focus more on evangelism.

"We opened the door to the Soviet Union from the West," Wilson said.

The idea to send an American con-

struction team to Russia originated more than a year ago when Sergei Nikolaev approached government officials and asked for a building so he could begin a new church. He was refused, according to Brad Gray, a consultant in the Baptist Sunday School Board student ministry department.

Nicolaev persisted, however, pointing out that many youth were involved in drugs, alcohol, and other undesirable activities. He told the officials if they would give him a church building, he would get the youth off the streets, Gray said.

They agreed to give him the building of his choice, which was a Russian Orthodox church building constructed around 1900. It was confiscated by the Stalinist government and used as an industrial plant. About 400 church members now worship on wooden chairs and when a tenor hits a high note, plaster falls from the ceiling on the worshippers.

According to Gray, Nicolaev met with Earl Martin, director of the Institute for Missions and Evangelism at Ruschlikon Seminary in Switzerland, and Paul Thibideaux, the Foreign Mission Board fraternal representative to the Soviet Union. The meeting resulted in the idea to send four American construction teams to Leningrad to renovate the church building. The Russian Baptist Union also became involved in the project, Gray said. The FMB provided \$150,000 toward the renovation, according to a Baptist Press story recently released.

Students were chosen to be team members because they are more flexible and build relationships more quickly, Gray explained. Construction skills were considered in the selection process.

"The response was overwhelming," Gray said. There were five applications for every opening. A team from Kentucky and Alabama left June 9 to continue the work, to be followed by teams from Texas and Mississippi.

The Tennessee students nearly lost their chance to be the first Southern Baptist mission team to enter Russia because of a hold up on getting visas.

When Gray was told the visas would not be available until the week after the group was to leave, he wired a telegram to Baptist Union officials in Moscow explaining the problem, and he called James Dunn at the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Dunn then called the first secretary at the Russian Consulate in Washington, D.C.

Gray was able to pick up the visas in Washington May 18, allowing the group
(Continued on page 11)



ELBOW GREASE — Baptist university students from Tennessee participating in a church renovation project in Leningrad, USSR, found most of the work to be manual labor. They prepared the subflooring and poured a cement floor in the basement of the church. Cement had to be relayed in; each bucket weighed about 60 pounds. Pictured are, from left, team members Steve Johnson, Rusty Nix, and John Victory. — Photo by Don Rutledge

Effective October 1

Baptist Sunday School Board trustees approve end of BTN

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Emphasizing a continuing commitment of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board to video production for churches, its trustee executive committee approved unanimously a recommendation that the Baptist Telecommunication Network "cease its satellite transmission and terminate subscription agreements and production contracts, effective Oct. 1, 1990."

During the June 21 meeting, President Lloyd Elder called the decision to close down the satellite teaching and training network "one of the hardest I have had to make at the Sunday School Board." He praised the efforts of employees and thanked subscribing churches for their support.

"BTN has been a noble, valuable effort, but it was never intended to become a subsidized ministry to a small number of churches," said Elder. "It was always intended to be a self-supporting network in service to the churches."

At present, 1657 churches and other SBC entities subscribe to BTN, but a minimum of 3800-4200 subscriptions are needed for the network to break even.

Elder said the board has invested about \$14.3 million in BTN to date and would have to continue investing about \$1 million per year for the foreseeable future if current subscription trends continued.

During 15 minutes of discussion, several trustees spoke, all in favor of the recommendation.

Gene Mims, pastor of First Church, Cleveland, and chairman of the executive committee, said: "This is a

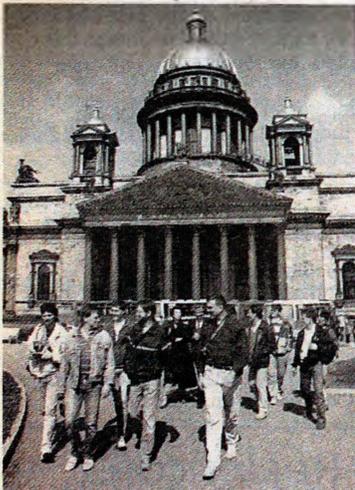
good decision. It's just two bad it had to happen. We can't make this decision without realizing 1600 churches are affected."

The recommendation approved by trustees includes a commitment to continued video production after a time of study and research "to discover, design, and deliver market-proven video communication products and services."

A video production unit will be restructured in the office of general publishing "to be a cost-recovery operation to serve the churches, the denomination, and trade markets," the recommendation stated.

Johnnie Godwin, vice president for general publishing, said research has shown churches "want video tapes, but they do not want them from a satellite transponder that has to be tended day in and day out."

The recommendation also included a pledge to conduct conversations with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission "regarding the cooperative utilization of our
(Continued on page 3)



TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS — Tennessee's identification as the volunteer state was most appropriate for ten Southern Baptist university students from Tennessee schools. They spent more than two weeks recently on a first-ever volunteer project in the Soviet Union to help in the reconstruction of a church building. When not working, the volunteers visited some of the beautiful and historic parts of the once-imperial city, like St. Isaac's Cathedral, now used as a museum.

Photos by Don Rutledge

INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ARCHIVES
Official Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

909-00410-0127
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400

Editorials**Observations of a people and a convention**

The controversy, whether political or theological, that has enveloped the Southern Baptist Convention for twelve years has become so much a part of us that there seems to be no escaping it.

Letters and opinions printed in this newsjournal and those in other state conventions are harshly real. Telephone calls reiterate the message that Southern Baptists are not together.

This paper has not emphasized controversy or divisiveness. On the contrary, we have tried to be honest, to deal with the truth, to tell the message straight. This approach, we believe, is not fanning flames of controversy, but simply informing a constituency.

Without a Baptist state paper, individual Baptists have no adequate way to know all the news. Indeed, even the paper cannot get a handle on ALL the news.

Telling the news, though it may be unpleasant, is one of the best ways to initiate healing. Those who deal only with one side of an issue will never be able to understand why kindred Baptists believe in a different view.

In case anyone is wondering, this editorial seeks to carefully and sincerely address "conservatives" and "moderates" and others.

It is not our duty to lecture anyone — nor do we have that authority. One of the best services we can offer Southern Baptists and Tennessee Baptists is to act not as a judge or referee, but as a gadfly.

Therefore, we make some observations, less than two weeks after the conclusion of a convention which firmly placed "conservatives" in command of the Southern Baptist Convention. These observations are bits and pieces, loose ends that need bringing together, even if a nameless "pile."

• We all need to be diligent about perception. Who and what we are may be misconstrued by other Baptists — unless we look at ourselves long and hard. For example, President Morris Chapman has indicated that "moderates" who did not vote for him need to move toward him. In his press conference, it

was perceived by some that "conservatives" do not intend to offer a hand of fellowship unless "moderates" are willing to change.

• Labels are unfair. "Moderates" do not want to be called that, and say they are conservative. "Conservatives" do not want to be called fundamentalists. But both groups violate those feelings.

• Political organizations must be dismantled — by everyone. Christ did not operate from a position of worldly strength, nor did He seek public favor or use political organization. God doesn't need this kind of help. Will the conflict last twenty, fifty years?

• Past sins and errors must be acknowledged, confessed, and forgiven. Loose tongues have stifled many attempts at reconciliation. By the way, reconciliation does not mean surrendering one's faith and beliefs.

• We are all so much alike. The elections were won by "conservatives," just as they have been for most of our history.

• Consistent efforts to shut out "nonconformists" have hurt the fellowship and ministry of the convention. No matter who has done it or when, it has carried us down a terrible trail of exclusiveness. The Southern Baptist Convention never has been a perfect organization. Though we believed it was God's idea, at times man has messed it up. We must get back to doing His work with all our people, all our resources.

• Mandate means "an authoritative command." Percentages of important votes during the SBC's last twelve years have ranged about 55 to 45, sometimes more, sometimes less. A mandate to the world may mean a victory by one percent. Not so among Christians who have banded together for almost a century and a half to serve the Risen Lord.

• "Conservatives" must decide what they will do with the convention. Not only are those of the 45 percent watching, the evangelical world watches. Cooperation does not mean that 45 percent of the people have no input except financially.

• "Moderates" could decide now that the

president will not have "campaign" opposition. Let him and other leaders concentrate on the greatest and most spiritual gathering Southern Baptists have ever had. We should push for a two-year once-only term for the presidency.

• All adjunct meetings should FOLLOW the SBC sessions. Two long the tail has wagged the dog. Messengers are tired and ready for home before the convention is half over. Reschedule the meetings to follow the main event.

• We should not be surprised that some churches will slow down their undesignated offerings. It may be more a result of frustration than anger. And attendance may be substantially lower in Atlanta.

• There will be a strengthening of missions and evangelism at the state level. Politics, already on the move, must not be allowed to interfere with the local churches and conventions.

• There may be even less interest in Bold Mission Thrust for several years. Southern Baptists should not let go of a grand plan for salvation, however. We can keep moving forward, though the 2000 goal may have to be changed.

• "Winners" should always be gracious winners. In Christian life, there is no place for gloating. It has always been true. The gracious winner affirms the loser, especially among Baptist brothers and sisters. And the loser too must be agreeable.

• When it's said the tent will be broadened, it should mean that other views are not automatically wrong. We address this to both "sides."

• No one really knows what most Southern Baptists are like. The best definition perhaps is that we are alike but different. Because of our firm stand on the priesthood of the believer, we cannot refuse to accept those already accepted and forgiven by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Observations are not meant to be accusatory nor judgmental. Observations, in this case, are an editor's opinions. — WFA

'God is desperately trying to get his people's attention'

By Terri Lackey

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Decadence, crime, violence, the recent onslaught of natural disasters and an ecological system that is failing are signs God has turned his back on America as a nation, a prayer leader said.

The next step is to destroy it, Avery Willis of the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training department told a conference on prayer. Other speakers included T. W. Hunt, also of the Sunday School Board; Henry Blackaby, SBC Home Mission Board; Minette Drumwright, SBC Foreign Mission Board; and Doug Beggs, SBC Brotherhood Commission. The National Prayer Conference was held at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary June 7-9.

God "removes His wall of protection when His people are disobedient," Willis said. The former missionary to Indonesia believes God took His wall of protection away from America sometime around 1963.

"The war in Vietnam should have been a clear signal that God was not protecting us anymore," Willis said. "Until then, America had been a victor in all wars."

Willis supported his beliefs with governmental statistics that he found in the book, *America: To Pray or Not Pray*, By David Barton.

For example, violent crime is up over 400 percent since 1963, child abuse is up 300 percent, federal prosecution of politicians has increased 470 percent, and the number of reported cases of AIDS is up by 6000 percent since 1982. Even scores on college entrance exams taken by high school students have declined significantly since the early '60s.

America is in the fifth of seven stages of eventual destruction by God, Willis said. In the first stage, God convicts His people of their sins. He then warns them of sins, and in the third stage, He applies remedial judgment of sins committed.

In the fourth stage, God withdraws His presence. In the fifth, He takes away His wall of protection and allows disasters to come upon His people. Next, He gives His people over to sin, failure, and depravity. Finally, He destroys His people.

Willis, Blackaby, and the other prayer leaders see prayer and cor-

porate repentance as the only way to salvage America and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Blackaby said the Bible clearly states, "If God's people don't repent, then you will be no more."

But God is desperately trying to get

the attention of His people.

"When God takes the initiative to call His people together for corporate confession, you better not have any other business. God is in the midst of one of the greatest calls to repentance I've ever known," he said.

Baptist and Reflector

Newsjournal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Established in 1835

Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor
Lonnie Wilkey, Associate Editor
Connie Davis, Assistant Editor
Connie Umstead, News Assistant

Betty Williams, Bookkeeper
Pam Gibbs, Administrative Secretary
Rita Gambill, Production Assistant
Susie Edwards, Church Pages

Baptist and Reflector is published weekly except Christmas week by the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn. 37027. Subscription prices: \$6.55 individual; clubs of ten or more, \$6.25; church budget plan, \$5.56 when sent to 50 percent or more of church homes. Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780).

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

Baptist and Reflector holds membership with Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Telephone: (615) 371-2003.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ray Fowler, chairman; Paul Durham, vice chairman; Gary Anderson, Raymond Boston, Herschel Chevallier, Larry Gilmore, Don Givens, Irvin Hays, M. B. Howard, James Hutson, Moncrief Jordan, John D. Laida, Murray Mathis, Jerry Oakley, Howard Olive, James Porch, Frank Samuels, Robby Turner, and Emerson Wiles Jr.

At SBC's final session

Twelve resolutions die for lack of quorum

By Linda Lawson

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — In an unprecedented development at a Southern Baptist Convention meeting, 12 of 14 resolutions proposed by the Resolutions Committee could not be considered by messengers due to lack of a quorum Thursday morning.

Messengers adopted two resolutions Wednesday on possession of child pornography and environmental stewardship.

With an estimated 38,456 messengers registered, SBC registration secretary Lee Porter said 9614 were needed for a quorum which, according to SBC bylaws, is 25 percent of registered messengers.

Dwight Reigherd, chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, estimated that between four and five thousands messengers were present at 9 a.m. when the miscellaneous business was scheduled. At 10:45, when attendance had not increased, officers agreed a quorum would not be reached and announced no business could be done.

John Sullivan, a convention parliamentarian 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 doing business today as any other day of the convention meeting."

Mark Cortis, chairman of the ten-member Resolutions Committee and pastor of Calvary Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., said he "will explore if there is any way to get mileage out of these" 12 resolutions proposed by the committee but never considered.

"I would like to seek some way to get distribution for these resolutions as an expressor of the committee," said Cortis.

He added that he considers the committee report an expression of messenger concerns because those proposed by the committee were drafted by drawing from the record 87 submitted by messengers.

"We felt the messengers would respond favorably to our report," said

Cortis. "We gave careful, timely consideration" to the concerns of messengers."

The Executive Committee, however, cannot consider the resolutions at its September meeting in Nashville.

Chief parliamentarian Barry McCarty told Baptist Press consideration by the Executive Committee 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," said McCarty.

Of the two resolutions adopted without debate, one on possession of child pornography urges 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 resolution also asks the Christian Life Commission and other appropriate entities to call on the U.S. Congress "to amend federal child pornography statutes applying to federal land and facilities."

The second resolution adopted by messengers, on environmental stewardship, notes that while Christians are "forbidden to worship the creation," they are "called to be faithful stewards of that which is entrusted to us."

The 12 remaining resolutions included the following: calls for government action on tax relief and equity for families, standards to prevent funding of so-called obscene and offensive art through the National Endowment on the Arts, restrictions on alcohol advertising, free exercise of religion, sanctity of human life, a call for SBC agencies not to patronize businesses that contribute money to pro-abortion organizations, opposition to efforts "to gain civil rights protection status for homosexuals on the basis of sexual preference, a call for continued efforts by SBC entities to meet the needs of small churches, and a call for the SBC Annuity Board to seek ways to provide improved insurance services to employees of smaller churches.

Vestal calls for 'formal dialogue' to discuss SBC's future

By Jim Newton

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Saying he was defeated but not demoralized, Daniel Vestal appealed for "moderate" and "conservative" Southern Baptists to schedule a formal dialogue on the future of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta, lost the June 12 election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention to Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas, by a 58-42 percent margin, June 12.

Vestal told about 700 persons attending a June 13 breakfast sponsored by "Baptists Committed to the SBC" about his personal reactions to the election, possible scenarios for the future of the convention, and appeals to those who have been involved in the 12-year struggle within the convention.

"Now is not the time to despair," Vestal said. "Now is the time to fill your life with hope-filled tasks."

He urged the Executive Committee

of Baptists Committed to provide a forum, perhaps a retreat for invited participants open to the press, for formal dialogue on the future of the SBC. (The Executive Committee voted June 3 for a September Solemn Assembly of Prayer for its members.)

It was one of seven appeals Vestal issued. He issued these specific appeals:

- To Morris Chapman and the presidents of the SBC for the past 12 years who now control the denomination, asking them to "broaden the tent of involvement" in the SBC as they have suggested publicly.

- To pastors of prominent SBC churches such as John Bisagno of Houston, Joel Gregory of Fort Worth, Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla., Charles Fuller of Roanoke, Va., and others asking that they live up to their promise "of a historic new day" in the SBC.

- To the trustees of SBC agencies, urging them to affirm, trust and support denominational leaders and stop embarrassing publicly "these good and Godly men."

- To those who voted for Chapman, asking them "to accept the rest of us as brothers and sisters and stop accusing us and implying we do not believe the Bible just because we don't agree on interpretation of Scripture or support your political movement."

- To those who voted for him (Vestal), appealing for them to practice Christian charity, and focus their attention on a Sovereign God and on the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

- To all Southern Baptists, pleading for them "to let the love of Jesus Christ fill our hearts so that it overflows to other people."

Vestal, who was greeted with three standing ovations during the breakfast, confessed he did not expect the kind of outcome in the election the previous day. Vestal received only 15,753 votes (42 percent) compared to Chapman's 21,471 (58 percent).

Vestal said he could offer no reason or explanation for the wide vote margin, even though he had questioned the reason why all day and all night.

Vestal said the election was not about believing the Bible as the infalli-

ble Word of God. "The election yesterday was about the future — whether we will be a united convention that recaptures a vision for cooperative missions and evangelism.

Parks, trustees reconcile differences

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — An air-clearing address by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks ended in prayer rather than confrontation during a meeting of the board's trustees June 9 in New Orleans.

Trustee chairman William Hancock of Louisville, Ky., called staff and trustees to prayer after Parks spoke frankly about ill will he felt had arisen among some trustees following an open letter he wrote May 15 to Southern Baptists.

The letter urged Baptists to rise above their continuing controversy or risk losing opportunities to reach 3.5 billion people for Christ worldwide. It said the controversy was eroding missionary support and appointments, taking the focus off missions and creating an image of Southern Baptists as a people of controversy rather than evangelism and missions.

Trustees, both openly and behind the scenes, had questioned the conclusions and timing of Parks' letter, written about a month before the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 12-14 in New Orleans.

In his address, Parks did not change his view that the 11-year-old controversy is damaging missions.

But he sought to give trustees insights into his lifelong commitment to the Bible and missions, clear up misunderstandings, and remove animosity.

"I would plead that somehow we could resolve this 'something against me' kind of feeling," he said. "I believe it is Biblical. I believe it is necessary for the spirit of God to move among us and to bring us together."

Before trustees and staff prayed in groups all over the room for about ten minutes, Hancock urged all who held animosity toward another to reconcile it "before this day is done."

"That vision failed," Vestal said. Vestal said he and others involved in "Baptists Committed" have sought to reach out for peace, reconciliation, openness, fairness, trust, and freedom.

Asked later if Parks' address and the prayer session ended rumored trustee action on Parks' letter, Hancock said, "As far as I'm concerned, it's history. I've been praying the Lord would give us the wisdom to bring a positive response rather than reaction."

Lottie Moon gifts increase

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptists gave about \$80.2 million to the 1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, which pays nearly half the cost of running the denomination's world mission program.

When financial books closed May 31, Southern Baptists had sent \$80,197,870.78 to help finance mission work throughout the world. The amount represents a 1.79 percent increase over 1988 receipts and is the highest total yet for the annual offering, which generally is given in local churches during December.

Even so, the total missed the \$81 million goal. The increase in 1989 over 1988 also failed to keep pace with the four to five percent inflation rate in the United States and even higher inflation rates in many countries where Southern Baptists missionaries live and work.

The last time the offering total reached or exceeded its goal was in 1981. Earlier projections based on a survey of various state Baptist conventions had indicated 1989 receipts would exceed the \$81 million goal by about \$300,000.

The actual 1989 tally amounted to about 99 percent of the goal. To reach the 1990 goal of \$86 million, Southern Baptists will need to increase their giving by about 7.2 percent this year.

Baptist Sunday School . . .

(Continued from page 1)

resources, channels, and convention program assignments to serve most effectively our denomination and other markets."

Elder said about 25 full-time positions related to BTN will be deleted. He said first consideration will be given to BTN employees in filling other vacant positions at the board and that assistance will be provided for those seeking placement outside the board.

"The transition will be radical and it will be immediate, but it will be as caring and supportive as possible," Elder told BTN-related employees in a meeting June 20 prior to trustee consideration.

Elder said all BTN subscribers are being notified by registered letter of the termination of the seven-year-old network.

He said some subscription contracts require 90-day notification of termination of the network while others require 30 days. Some subscribers have three-year subscriptions in return for free satellite dishes.

Our Readers Write

Cooperative loyalty

There was strong suggestion and even printed threats from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs at the Southern Baptist Convention that reducing their funding would lead to a collapse in the Cooperative Program. This collapse would come because many churches and state conventions would designate Cooperative Program funds to the BJCPA.

What an individual church does on this matter is strictly its business. If a church wants to take money away from evangelism and missions and give it to another organization, that is its option. It will answer to God for the use of His money.

I am concerned that no attempt be made to do such an injurious thing through our state convention budget. Our churches give through the Cooperative Program to see people won to Christ in a scope not possible as individual churches. To siphon money away from our state convention (which we cannot afford to do) for an organization because "we didn't get our way" is immature, illogical, and indefensible.

Elihu said to Job's three friends, "I am young and you are old, so I held back and did not dare tell you what I think, for those who are older are said to be wiser. But it is not mere age that makes men wise. Rather, it is the spirit of a man, the breath of the Almighty which makes him intelligent. So listen to me awhile and let me express my opinion" (Job 32:6-10).

I am a young pastor, but as a member of the TBC Executive Board, I pray we will do everything possible to "keep the main thing the main things," and not divert funds away from our TBC evangelism and missions programs.

H. Dean Haun, pastor
First Church
308 N. Spring St.
Sparta 38583

The Baptist rock

Recently I read again portions of Herschel Hobb's book *The Baptist Faith and Message*, his personal commentary on the Baptist statement of faith adopted by messengers of the 1963 Southern Baptist Convention. While reading the first chapter entitled "The Rock Whence We Are Hewn" in which Hobb deals with the Baptist distinctive belief of the competency of the soul in religion, I came upon a paragraph which I feel we all need to digest.

"At times one hears the prediction that Southern Baptists are about to divide over their faith. In this writer's judgment this is most unlikely. Baptists have always agreed on basics but have had their differences on details. This is because they have a living faith rather than a creedal one. The tensions created by these differences have kept their faith vibrant. In all likelihood the only thing that would divide Southern Baptists with regard to their faith would be for one group — to the right or left of center or even in the center — to attempt to force upon others a creedal faith. So long as they hold to the competency of the soul in religion they will remain as one body in the faith. The very differences which disturb some will serve as counterbalances between extremes with the vast majority remaining in between as always."

I close with three exhortations. First, to my brothers and sisters who are often referred to as the "conservatives" or "fundamentalists." I encourage you to not infringe upon the God-given right of personal interpretation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We must be

careful not to force ourselves into unwanted creedalism.

Second, to my brothers and sisters referred to as "moderates," I encourage you not to be so strong in your call for openness and inclusiveness that you forget that we must possess some common basic beliefs in order to be Baptists.

Third, I exhort all Baptists to determine to live by those precious words found in 1 John 4:7, "Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."

Ken Bush, minister of education
Parkway Church
505 Cunniff Parkway
Goodlettsville 37072

Because of the quote which is germane to the meaning of the letter, the writer was permitted to exceed the standard of length. — Editor

GUIDELINES: Opinions of Tennessee Baptists on religion-related subjects are welcomed. Letters should be brief and concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be shortened and edited at discretion of the editor. Unsigned letters will not be read or used, but writer's name may be withheld for sufficient reason. There must be at least six weeks between publication of letters from the same writer. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone. Writers are encouraged to write in a positive, Christian manner. Short letters are preferred. Address and phone number must be included.

Confused reader

Your editorial of June 6 disturbs and confuses me. If you really desired "peace and unity," then why use phrases certain to polarize your readers? If you truly want "peace" then why not urge that the principles of the Peace Committee report be fulfilled. The report stated specific problems in specific areas. Only one of the factions have blatantly ignored, derided, and denied the stated problems. Your article does not deal with the problems within the convention, but rather results and responses of/to the problem. Peace and unity will only come when Jesus is the center of our convention. This is a Jesus born of a virgin, who died as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, who rose again the third day, and who is our eternally perfect high priest in heaven. In short, He truly is the Son of God. What if some of our denominational leaders quit playing word games. What if we recognize that our Bible is God's Word and that it is "truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter." Then we can get on with our God-given task of evangelism.

Rick Bennett, pastor
Oaklawn Church
5714 Benjestown Rd.
Memphis 38127

Amazed pastor

For over a decade, the "conservative" leadership has done an outstanding job convincing the grassroots majority of Southern Baptists of two things: (1) the presence of heretical, liberal professors in our colleges and seminaries; and (2) the restoration of power, once solidified in the hands of a few to the neglect of the majority, to all conservative, Bible-believing Southern Baptists.

What amazes me is that, with all the heated rhetoric, the leaders of this movement have employed accusations and innuendoes without bringing forth a single

heretic. The action of the recent SBC astounds me even more. The leadership of the movement claims to be against long-standing entrenched power and grave injustices done by a few.

In contrast, they claim to restore power to the long-neglected majority of grassroots Southern Baptists. However, to have as chairperson of the nominating committee and, in the initial report, to nominate persons who verifiably stand in violation of the convention's constitution and bylaws are evidences that intent of the present leadership is not to restore any power and participation to those long-neglected Southern Baptists, but instead is to entrench themselves in power.

Wake up, conservative Southern Baptists! If their accusations are true, then things have not changed. They are perpetuating the very system they proclaim to be exercising. Amazed? Maybe I should not be. The Bible, which this moderate preacher reads, documents again and again a most basic human sin — the strong propensity to become what we most strongly resist.

Charlie W. Boggan, pastor
First Church
P. O. Box 36
Newport 37821

Brink of extinction

It is more and more evident that the Southern Baptist tradition, which many once cherished and embraced, is on the brink of extinction. The fundamentalism which has brought us to this sad chapter in our pilgrimage is characterized by un-Baptist attributes, including selective interpretive inerrancy, exclusiveness, mistrust, and blatant creedalism.

On the whole, despite the ability to speak in well-worn phrases and cliches, our current leadership conveys an image which bears little, if any, resemblance to the person of Jesus depicted in the New Testament.

However, in the face of the erosion of all that has held us together for so many years, there is a small yet dynamic "haven of rest" for those who are disenfranchised, yet refuse to abandon the faith. I am speaking of the Southern Baptist Alliance.

As best as I can tell, the Alliance advocates those same principles which have traditionally characterized Southern Baptists — missions, education, inclusiveness, and freedom — all centered around that wonderfully simple confession of the early Reformed Church, "Jesus is Lord."

It is significant that, unlike some groups which have emerged within the denomination recently, the Alliance has moved well beyond rhetoric, cliches, and political strategies.

Raymond M. Whitley
5022 Old Chestnut Ridge Rd.
Signal Mountain 37377

Worship Yahweh

Do not worship the flag of the United States of America. Do not worship the Christian flag. Do not worship the Holy Bible. Do not worship the church building or the cathedral or the synagogue. Do not worship any minister, pastor, priest, or rabbi. Do not worship the unfathomable good gifts of the human mind.

Worship Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; I Am; the Almighty; Everlasting Father. Fear God and worship Him alone.

Owen Meredith Smaw
1612 Sixteenth Ave., South
Nashville 37212

Call to prayer

As a part of the efforts of the Nashville Coalition Against Pornography, the Middle Tennessee Prayer Committee has been formed to pray for the removal of pornographic materials from the middle Tennessee area. Anyone wishing to join this committee can call Mike Bafundo at 371-1485.

To help individuals to remember to pray daily for this cause, prayer bookmarkers have been printed.

For a prayer bookmark, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Middle Tennessee Prayer Committee, 8005 Church Street East, Suite 211, Brentwood 37207.

Bobbie Patray
3216 Bluewater Trace
Nashville 37217

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Weeds are a consummate problem on farmland — and in the private garden. Not only do weeds sap the nature from the earth that is needed by cultivated crops and flowers — they often are unsightly.

One way to get rid of weeds is to pull them up. Some, however, have roots so deep — that that is not a good solution. Certain grasses and dandelions seem to grow better if you break off the root at ground level.

As a boy, I learned from my father that weeds must not be allowed to grow among the crops. And, if the crops are being grown for seed sales, the product must be pure.

Weeds, like people, have strange traits and distinctive characteristics. Some grasses spread quickly with little moisture and or care. They can ruin a farmer's best land. Many weeds have beautiful flowers, or some part of the plant that can be used for home remedies.

Forty or fifty years ago, farmers would not have dared have a grassy lawn on the homeplace, and many swept the yards clean with a "brush broom."

But weeds are not considered to be weeds by some — and can even be ap-

preciated.

The national flower of Scotland is the thistle. And, I have to admit, the flower is unique and exquisite in its natural beauty. And for the Scots it has special meaning.

The tenacity of the plant to grow and thrive, shooting its blossom-topped spire straight to the sun, wins one's admiration. The bristles on the verdant leaves are for protection — and survival.

But thistles in Tennessee, especially in middle Tennessee, have come to be a nuisance. They have multiplied past the point of being a novelty, something of unusual beauty.

Unthwarted by mowers or herbicides, they can rout the healthiest crops in the farmer's livelihood.

So beauty may attract, and tenacity is admirable — but only in the right place. Like the tares of which Jesus warned — habits, words, or people who are out of control, can be harmful.



ALLEN

Tennessee messengers provide views of SBC

I was pleased to see the large number of messengers present to conduct business in the Lord's name. I hope that trend continues. I was pleased with the results of business sessions, and look forward to a wonderful, productive year across our convention in all facets of Southern Baptist life, particularly in baptisms. — *Claude Dunion, Antioch Church, Johnson City*

I thank God that Southern Baptists voted to continue a course of faithfulness to God's unchangeable and unalterable Word. — *David Brown, Mine City Church, Ducktown.*

Despite tension surrounding some of the business meetings, I feel that God blessed during this convention. I believe Morris Chapman will do an excellent job leading us in the coming year. I intend to pray for him and other leaders regularly. I believe messengers have sent a clear message that Southern Baptists believe the Bible to be the Word of God. We are theologically conservative. The most holy part of the meeting was the commissioning service for our foreign missionaries. — *Steve Gaines, pastor, West Jackson Church, Jackson.*

Someone said, "You learn most during tough times." We must be learning a lot as Southern Baptists. I hope when all fussing is over, we will have learned our lesson well. I think the lesson we have to learn has not so much to do with the "inerrancy of Scripture," as it does with "obedience to Scripture." I believe in creation, the flood, and all the miracles. The lesson I (we) must learn has to do with the Cross, blood, sacrifice, submission, forgiveness, humility, love, and those kinds of miracles that take place in the human heart when the Christ of the Bible comes into our lives. My impression of the annual meeting is like that of the past several years. We continue to tread water, and are making no progress. — *Judson Hays, First Church, Old Hickory.*

I am pleased to see the support of the convention to religious liberty. I am disappointed that we double saddled the CLC with the guardianship of ethics and religious liberty. We must not let either of these suffer. We are committed to being a part of helping our convention to give primarily to evangelism and Missions, and maintaining a free conscience in a free society. — *Frank Ingraham, First Church, Franklin.*

I was impressed with the convention. I believe the people have spoken in a decisive way. It is my prayer that those who are in the minority would seek to work as a whole so there will be no longer talk of "disenfranchisement." I was disheartened to see the crowds thin toward the meeting's close. We need to recognize the importance of every session as well as the reports waiting to be shared. I pray for a great year as we work together for the glory of our Lord. — *Dennis Lunsford, Antioch Church, Humboldt.*

The business sessions were not as heated as I thought they might have been. I believe the voting was pretty consistent with the mainstream of the rank and file of Southern Baptists — and that is the way it should be. — *D. Frank Blevins, First Church, Bluff City.*

As a young preacher fresh out of seminary it was thrilling to see the Superdome filled with people singing praises to God instead of cheering a ball team. — *Gary Allen Anderson Jr., First Church, Dunlap.*

During the 50 years I have attended the SBC it has seemed to be "the worst of times and the best of times." However, I have been thrilled with every convention. We make decisions regarding our mission work, as the majority of messengers vote their convictions, and we continue to move forward. The pageantry of the Sunday School Board and the Foreign Mission Board added much to their encouraging reports. We can follow

the Spirit's leadership. — *David Cooper, First Church, Bolivar.*

I was pleased with Morris Chapman's election as president. My prayer is for healing, but not at the expense of compromising the Word of God. There will always be criticism when you take a stand, and I am willing to stand any criticism in supporting men like Morris Chapman, Jerry Vines, Adrian Rogers, Charles Stanley, and anyone who adheres to such a love for the Holy Scriptures and the Lord Jesus. — *W. David Reeves, Williston Church, Williston.*

This convention brought about a renewed vision of unity among those who believe the Bible to be the Word of God. May God bless our convention as we work together to see that vision fulfilled. — *Wayne Rowan, Oakwood Church, Milan.*

This was the first time I had attended a national convention for Southern Baptists. I was impressed with the businesslike and mature manner the majority of the convention was handled.

The Superdome facilities seemed to be well-prepared to handle the crowd, although at meal times the lines were long. — *Druanne Hogstrom, Trinity Church, Clarksville.*

Defunding the BJCPA and reorganizing the CLC were two of the gravest errors in the entire 12-year SBC controversy. Those actions spoke against cooperation — with

other Baptist bodies and with fellow Southern Baptists. It takes two to cooperate! — *C. Kenny Cooper, Bellevue Church, Nashville.*

I am thankful of the spirit and leadership of Dr. Vines and the fairness shown during convention proceedings. I also appreciate the explanation given of Roland Lopez, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, and why his church was not at present giving to the Cooperative Program. There are many who owe him an apology. — *Bill Henard, First Church, Lawrenceburg.*

The WMU Convention was excellent, very challenging, inspiring, and well done. The SBC was controlled by a few. As a woman and layperson I felt left out. That the chairman of the nominating committee, the group that selects all our leaders, isn't a member of a cooperating Southern Baptist church, is symbolic of what's happened to our convention. — *Diane Jordan, First Church, Jefferson City.*

The music was excellent! The highlight for me was the commissioning service of the Foreign Mission Board. Praise the Lord! He still calls out people to serve Him. It was encouraging to hear the many things that are taking place across our convention. I was reminded that the SBC needs to redouble efforts to reach a lost world, and continue to pray diligently for all people. — *Shirley Dill, Lamar Heights Church, Memphis.*

New Sunday School writers chosen

Three Tennessee pastors have been chosen to write commentaries about July, August, and September Sunday School lessons for the Baptist and Reflector.

Joe R. Wren, pastor of First Church, Sevierville; H. Dean Haun, pastor of First Church, Sparta; and John Henry Pippin, pastor of First Church, Savannah, will be writers for 1990's third quarter.

Pippin will write about lessons in the Convention Ministries series.

He has been pastor of the Savannah church since 1981. Before coming to Savannah, he served as pastor of First Church, Medina, for 12 years. In addition, he served two churches in Kentucky.

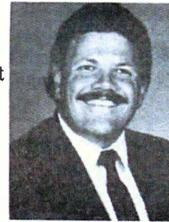
The Kentucky native has served in several leadership positions in Kentucky and Tennessee associations, including moderator of Gibson and Shiloh associations. He has also served on Tennessee Baptist Convention committees.

Pippin is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He and his wife, Sandra, have two children, Jonathan and Johnna.

Haun will be writing about the Bible Book series of Sunday School lessons.

In addition to his Sparta pastorate, Haun has served as pastor or associate



HAUN



PIPPIN



WREN

pastor of churches in Kentucky, Texas, and Florida. He is a member of the TBC Executive Board.

Ordained by Valley Grove Church, Knoxville, Haun earned degrees from Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas.

He and his wife, Pamela, have three children, Jonathan, Jordan, and Jennah.

Wren will comment on Life and Work lessons.

The South Carolina native has been pastor of the Sevierville church since 1982. He was also pastor of Broadway Church, Maryville, and churches in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Wren served on the TBC Executive Board from 1984-1989. In addition, he has held various positions with Sevier and Chilhowee associations.

He is a graduate of Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., Southern Seminary.

Wren and his wife, Kaye, have three children, Mary Elizabeth, Joseph Richard, and Catherine Clary.

Lopez misunderstanding explained on last day

A Texas Baptist pastor rose to the defense of Roland Lopez, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, on the last day of the SBC's annual meeting in New Orleans.

Lopez had been criticized because the church where he is pastor, Emmanuel Church, McAllen, Texas, gave no funds to the Cooperative Program, thus making it not eligible to seat messengers at the convention. Some messengers felt Lopez should have been asked to resign his position.

In defense of Lopez and his church, Bill Sutton, pastor of First Church, McAllen, spoke to the convention June 14, saying he feared the convention had been "insensitive" to the problems of an ethnic church.

He noted that Lopez had been

called to the church in November 1989, a month and a half after the church's Uniform Church Letter had been due.

The church filed no UCL and gave nothing to the Cooperative Program in 1989.

Sutton said Lopez had served the McAllen church for four months without salary and that the church had given an "advance gift" of \$300 to the Cooperative Program, but that it was not given in "the correct church year."

Sutton asked the convention to make a gesture to the Emmanuel congregation indicating the SBC did not view them as an "outcast."

Though no quorum was present to approve such an action, SBC President Jerry Vines said it would be done. — *Baptist Standard*

Convention sermon

'Power and might won't get job done,' Wolfe says

By Lonnie Wilkey and Bob Stanley
NEW ORLEANS — Alabama Baptist pastor Fred Wolfe reminded messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention that "power and might won't get the job done" in the SBC.

Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., and a member of the SBC Executive Committee, delivered the annual convention sermon June 13 at the Superdome in New Orleans.

Instead of "power and might" the SBC's hope lies in the moving of the Holy Spirit, Wolfe emphasized.

Wolfe used the book of Zechariah as his text. The Old Testament prophet was given the task of leading a small group of Jews to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

After 16 years the temple was still in ruins, but the prophet was awakened by an angel who showed him the task of rebuilding the temple could be accomplished — "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts."

Wolfe noted Southern Baptists today have the opposite problem that the small band of Jews had with the temple.

"We think we have the might and power to get the job done in our world," Wolfe said. But there are three "mountains" of obstacles that must be removed before Southern Baptists can reach the world for the Lord Jesus Christ, he said.

The first obstacle to remove is the "mountain of desertion," Wolfe said.

Wolfe cited statistics which show the loss of almost half the denomination's

14.5 million people to non-residency as they move away to another city, drop out, or fail to attend any church.

In addition, Wolfe continued, statistics show that only about 4.5 million attend church on any given Sunday.

Wolfe quoted Glen Smith, a consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board, as saying this is the kind of "growth that kills."

Two other mountains which must be leveled before Southern Baptists can carry out their tasks are decline and division, Wolfe cited.

Most Southern Baptist churches have either plateaued or declined in membership, he pointed out.

The Alabama Baptist pastor discounted claims that controversy is to blame for current problems and declines in the convention.

"I have one word for that, and it's baloney," Wolfe declared. "Southern Baptists were declining long before the controversy ever came on the scene," he said.

Wolfe emphasized he does not like controversy "any more than you do." He noted the convention has "settled the matter of the Bible" and challenged the messengers "to move on to reach this world for Jesus Christ."

He called for Southern Baptists to quit questioning each other's motives. "We may not agree but we don't have to say it's satanic in the eyes of God." (It was an apparent reference to a response that Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell H. Dilday was reported to have made when questioned at a news con-

ference about the methods used to gain control of the convention.)

Wolfe turned back to the book of Zechariah to offer the hope Southern Baptists have — "not by might and power, but by the Spirit of the Living God."

He said he believes that Southern Baptists can be of one accord about a perfect Bible and a perfect Savior.

"I understand diversity in methodology, but I am absolutely unmovable on some things that are precious to the heart of God. I cannot meet you anywhere but at the feet of a perfect

Savior with a perfect Bible in hand."

Wolfe recalled the Great Awakening of 1857 in which a million converts were added in the United States and another million in Great Britain.

He said this same kind of "wind of God" can blow today, with revival that could bring over 18 million people to God.

But for this to happen, Southern Baptists must return to genuine repentance for "our pride, our might" and our dependence on "our self-sufficiency," Wolfe said.

Avoid overload, Vines challenges

By Connie Davis, assistant editor
NEW ORLEANS — In his president's address to the Southern Baptist Convention June 12, Jerry Vines said denominations are prone to "organizational overload and doctrinal error" and those which don't believe in an inerrant Scripture are headed for the "garbage dump of denominations." Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., delivered his presidential address on "the glory of the church" at the opening session of the three-day meeting of the SBC in New Orleans.

"Those denominations that affirm the inspiration, inerrancy, and infallibility of Scripture have a bright future. But those that do not are destined for the garbage dump of denominations," Vines said.

Unless churches remain vigilant in protecting doctrinal integrity and local identity, he said the denomination

could become a "mustard tree monstrosity with bureaucratic branches infested with blasphemous birds."

"It is better for Southern Baptists to debate and settle the issue of Scriptural inerrancy today rather than to someday debate whether a homosexual is acceptable in the pulpit," said Vines.

The issue of the "accuracy of the holy Word of God" is settled in Southern Baptist life, said Vines.

"I love our denomination . . . but it must never supplant loyalty to Christ and His Word," Vines proclaimed, which drew applause from the crowd.

Churches should not surrender decisions concerning literature, cooperative endeavors, or financial support to "bureaucratic bullies," said Vines. Church independence is more important than interdependence with other churches, he continued.

At the same time, Vines said that congregational independence should be tempered by interdependence of like-minded churches cooperating in missions and benevolence. "We can do together what we cannot do alone," he said.

In addition to the denominational aspect of the church, Vines covered the universal, local, and eternal aspects of the church.

Vines denied that the church is a monarchy, dictated to by the pastor; an oligarchy, led by the deacons; or a democracy, guided by the members; it is a theocracy led by Christ, he said.

The fact that the local church is made up of the rich and poor, illiterate and educated, cultured and uncultured, is a mystery, pointed out Vines, who added, "I have never understood those people who criticize their own church."

When Christ returns, the eternal church will be viewed as the "gorgeous, beautiful, glorious bride of Christ," concluded Vines.

Vines completed his second one-year term as president of the 14.9-million-member denomination. — Ken Camp of the Baptist General Convention of Texas contributed to this article.

Sorah called as pastor of Memphis church

Mountain Terrace Church, Memphis, recently called Joe Sorah as pastor.

He formerly served at Southland Church, Memphis, and other churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Sorah holds degrees from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Teresa, are expecting their first child.

Put the message of Jesus first, Strack urges

By Robert O'Brien
NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The size of Southern Baptists' hearts is doing more damage than the size of their controversy, Jay Strack said at the closing session of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 14.

Applying his comments to "both sides of the aisle" in the convention controversy, Strack, an evangelist from Dallas, challenged Southern Baptists to leave New Orleans and go back home to put the message of Jesus Christ ahead of business as usual.

HMB stresses church planting

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — A top Southern Baptist Mission Board official and four of its most successful church planters challenged Southern Baptists June 12 to get serious about winning America for Christ.

Charles L. Chaney, vice-president for extension, said the board is ahead of the pace needed to meet its goal of having 50,000 churches by A.D. 2000. Last year it started new churches at the rate of three and a half churches every day, he noted.

But he urged the messengers at the home missions emphasis to come back next year and be able to say, "We're building four a day."

Chaney listed three reasons why he asked participants at the SBC session to commit themselves anew to higher levels of church-starting:

- "Because of our constant obligation to the lost."
- "Because of the current opportunity we have in this nation."
- "Because of our commitment to

"I believe and try to say when asked that the real problem in our convention is that some of us have forgotten what it is like to be lost and alone," said Strack, who based his sermon on Psalm 142, in which David laments in his time of trouble, "No one cares for my soul."

"I wonder, Southern Baptists, how many more nights we can go to bed dry-eyed when so many people cry themselves to sleep" feeling no one cares for their soul, Strack asked at the final SBC session attended by

the Great Commission."

At the close of the service, messengers willing to commit to leading their church to start new congregations were asked to check a card on the back of the program and give it to home missionaries standing by the exits.

Preceding Chaney's appeal, four other church planters from Florida, New England, Louisiana, and California told how they are helping to start new congregations.

At the beginning of the service, HMB President Larry Lewis presented its first annual plaque to the church that has baptized the most people in the past year. It went to Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz. Presenting the plaque, Lewis noted that North Phoenix has led the convention in baptisms during seven of the ten years in the 1980s: 1981, '82, '83, '87, '88 and '89. In ten years, the church has baptized more than 11,400 people.

fewer than 5000 of 38,456 registered messengers.

He said he had been asked if the controversy would keep Southern Baptists from accomplishing their goals. "I don't believe it's the size of the controversy," he said. "I don't believe it's the size of the community. I don't even believe it's the size of your church. I believe it's the size of our hearts."

Strack said many Southern Baptists have forgotten the priorities of reaching lost people in the world and that "our adversary" — Satan — "is at work," ensnaring some Southern Baptists with such things as pride, pettiness, poor priorities, pornography, and promiscuity.

"There is a devil," Strack said. "He is at work. The great evidence of Satan in our convention is the snares so many of us are so quickly falling into."

Many Southern Baptists "go to bed dry-eyed" because they have "misunderstood the major theme of the Bible, . . . misjudged the snares of our adversary, . . . misinterpreted the Great Commission" to proclaim the message of Jesus, and "misconstrued the consequences of a lost soul," Strack said.

"It's one thing to discuss the Bible," he said. "It's one thing to say this is how we feel about the Bible. But I'm going to ask you, could it be that you have really misunderstood the basic theme of the word of God?"

The basic theme, he said, is redemption of lost people through Jesus Christ. That, he continued, is what Southern Baptists should emphasize rather than controversy or business as usual.

SBC messengers consider more than 35 motions

By Kathy Palen

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Messengers to the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention dealt with more than 35 motions during the annual three-day meeting in New Orleans.

The motion receiving the most visible response from messengers called for the removal of a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustee. A large number of messengers gave a lengthy standing ovation to a motion by W. Lamar Wadsworth of Baltimore, Md., that Jerry Johnson be removed immediately as a trustee of that institution.

Johnson, pastor of Central Church, Aurora, Colo., wrote a 16-page article critical of Southern Seminary President Roy Honeycutt and five professors. Johnson has refused to resign his trustee post.

Wadsworth's original motion was ruled out of order because, according to the convention's legal counsel, it would be impossible to provide Johnson with the fundamental protections of a notice and a hearing during the SBC annual meeting.

But following that ruling, Wadsworth was given the opportunity to introduce a second motion, referring the proposed action to Southern Seminary's board of trustees. Messengers approved that second motion by a show of hands.

Messengers referred to the SBC Executive Committee three motions focusing on a controversy surrounding the chairman of the SBC Committee on Nominations.

Chairman Roland Lopez is pastor of Emmanuel Church, McAllen, Texas, which no longer is considered a "cooperating" Southern Baptist church because of its failure to make contributions to the SBC Cooperative Program. In response to questions about Lopez's service as chairman, SBC President Jerry Vines ruled Lopez could serve because his church was a "cooperating church" at the time of his election as chairman.

In slightly different ways, each of the three motions would amend the SBC constitution or bylaws to prevent a member of a non-cooperating church from serving in such an office.

Other motions referred to the Executive Committee called for:

- Requiring all SBC trustees and commissioners to be at least 30 years of age.
- Studying the terms "cooperating Baptist church" and "in friendly cooperation with" to determine the

Historical society holds Lee festival

The Tennessee Baptist Historical Society is sponsoring a Robert G. Lee Festival June 30 at the Union University library in Jackson from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

The program commemorates Lee, long-time pastor of Bellevue Church near Memphis. The program will feature a film on "Payday Someday," a tour of the Lee Collection at Union University, an address by Billy Robertson, head librarian and director of the Lee Collection at Union, and a "dutch treat" luncheon.

For additional information, contact Fred S. Rolater, president of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society at (615) 898-2639 during the day.

scope and definition of the word "cooperation" as it relates to the SBC.

- Allowing Baptist state conventions to select their members on the SBC Committee on Nominations and Committee on Committees.

- Engaging an "independent, non-religiously affiliated" accounting firm to collect and supervise the tabulation of ballot votes at future SBC annual meetings.

- Requiring all SBC messengers to be at least 18 years of age.

- Placing all future SBC elections, motions, and resolutions on ballots to be sent to participating Southern Baptist churches so elected messengers there could vote.

- Changing the convention's name to the Cooperative Baptist Convention.

- Amending SBC bylaws to provide "fellowship states" with a greater chance of having representation status on SBC committees, boards, and institutions.

- Limiting representation from Southern Baptist churches affiliated with other denominations.

- Amending the process for the signing of messengers' letters.

Messengers also referred a number of other motions to SBC agencies. Those motions dealt with:

- The possible establishment of an SBC accrediting agency. The motion, which was referred to the Southern Baptist Education Commission, calls for a study of the feasibility of establishing such an accrediting agency for Southern Baptist seminaries and

colleges.

- Instructing the Southern Baptist Annuity Board to determine the best way to "exert positive pressure" on its insurance carrier, Prudential Insurance Co., to remove itself as a corporate sponsor of Planned Parenthood. That motion — as well as one asking for a study of the possibility of subsidizing the health insurance programs of pastors of small churches — was referred to the Annuity Board.

- A request to terminate the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's policy prohibiting financial support from being given to a woman serving as pastor of a local church. The motion was referred to the HMB.

- A call for no SBC agency or institution to be used for political activity. It was referred to all convention entities.

Four motions were ruled out of order. Those motions called for prohibiting SBC presidential candidates from campaigning; requesting the SBC Executive Committee to provide an explanation of a document concerning budget allocations to support religious liberty; instructing convention officers to identify by name the "inerrant, perfect Bible"; and addressing political ethics and contributions.

The lack of a quorum on Thursday prohibited the convention from conducting business and thus from acting on a number of motions.

One of those motions, introduced by David Martin of Cary, N.C., called for the convention to sever all financial

support to the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs as soon as legally possible. Martin made the motion following convention action to add religious liberty to the program assignment of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and to cut the SBC contribution to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by 87 percent.

Other motions left pending:

- Addressed the issue of racism and proposed specific SBC actions in response to it.

- Asked for support for churches that are involved in Christian day school ministry.

- Proposed the SBC Public Affairs Committee be instructed not to endorse political candidates.

- Sought greater recognition of and participation by smaller churches during the convention's annual meetings.

- Recommended the appointment of a woman to the Committee on Order of Business and of a disabled person to the local arrangements committee for future SBC annual meetings.

- Called for the removal or covering of all advertisements for alcohol and tobacco products in meeting halls for future SBC annual meetings, as well as ground-floor seating for people over 60 years of age.

These motions could not be acted on because there were not enough messengers to vote at the final session.

The Porters: Tennessee's registration team

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

When it comes to registering large numbers of people, Lee Porter knows his business.

And well he should. Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans recently elected Porter to a 14th term as registration secretary of the SBC.

But, Porter's expertise in the area of registration and balloting is only half the story.

Porter's wife, Pat, also knows "the business." Not only has she assisted Porter during the SBC's annual meetings, she is an authority in her own right, having served as registration secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention since 1986.

And, to Porter's knowledge, that gives them the distinction of being the only couple to serve as registration secretaries for both the SBC and a Baptist state convention.

Denomination service, however,



LEE AND PAT Porter take a break at the SBC in New Orleans.

has come naturally for the Porters, both of whom have served in various roles at all levels of convention life.

Porter first became interested in the denomination through the Church Training (now Discipleship Training) program in his home church in Wellsville, Mo. That interest led Porter to be invited by his pastor to attend his first SBC annual meeting in 1946 while he was still in high school.

Since then, SBC annual meetings have become a part of Porter's life. He has not missed a meeting since 1946. What's more, Pat has missed only one convention since 1956.

Marriage and the birth of their two sons, Lee II, and Lane, didn't even stop convention attendance, the Porters laughed. Three weeks after their marriage in 1956 they attended an SBC meeting in Kansas City. And both children were early convention-goers. Lee II, now minister of music and youth at University Church, Baton Rouge, La., attended his first at the age of 16 months, while Lane, an aerospace engineer in Jupiter, Fla., made his first trek at the age of eight weeks.

Porter, a former pastor in Louisiana and Texas, and now a design editor at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, has held numerous positions including first and second vice president and parliamentarian of the SBC.

So, his election in 1977 to succeed Fred Kendall, retired TBC executive secretary, who had served as SBC registration secretary for 13 years, was not that surprising.

Porter took the election in stride, seeing it simply as another way to serve the convention.

"I have a great love for Southern Baptists," Porter said, adding that his election provided "an opportunity to serve Southern Baptists and the denomination."

Porter's primary tasks as registration secretary include making sure everyone has the proper credentials to be messengers and to "maintain the honor and integrity" of the balloting system. "We have worked hard at doing that," Porter affirmed.

Pat Porter, who works in the TBC's Church-Ministers' Information Department, enjoys the different aspects of the registration process, but she also views her role as educational.

"It is a teaching situation in that you have the opportunity to teach the constitution and the way Baptists carry out our responsibilities," she said.

She has one problem Porter does not have. While he has to have a keen knowledge of the SBC constitution, Pat has to know both the SBC and TBC constitutions.

It can get confusing at times, she admitted, because the SBC and TBC have different procedures regarding registration.

But, just like her husband, Pat enjoys the opportunity of service she has to both Southern Baptists and Tennessee Baptists.

"We love our denomination and as long as we are physically able we will serve Southern Baptists in some capacity," she said.



FROM LEFT, Charles Pratt, Haywood Association; Billy Joe Stewart, Good Hope Church, Adamsville; Herbert and Mary Lou Higdon, Madison-Chester Association; and Louise Lynch, Union University.



PAT AND TERRY Meeks, First Church, Spring City.



GREENBRIER MESSENGERS, from left, Russell, Bill, P., and Chris Palmiter, Bethel Church.



DAVID ABERNATHY, left, and Nathan Tucker, Blairland Church, Loudon.



NANCY WALKER, left, of Derwood, Md., a volunteer manning the BJCPA booth accepts thanks of J. Howard Murphy, Carson-Newman College, for assistance that enabled Murphy and other Tennessee students to work in Leningrad, U.S.S.R.



LYNN AND TERRIE Porch, First Church, Tullahoma.



MICHAEL THOMPSON, left, and the Smoky View Church, Maryville.



FROM LEFT, Vicki Butler, Carson-Newman College; Bill and Nola Powell, Watauga Association; Nellie Bolton, First Church, Lawrenceburg; and Allyson Steelman, Carson-Newman.



THE LEONARD MARKHAMS, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville; and the Gary Bakers, First Church, Sweetwater.



JOHN AND SUE ASHLEY, First Church, Martin.



HIGH SCHOOL BAPTIST Young Men Pages from Tennessee Doug Manley, left, Cleveland, and Sterling Sevens of Hendersonville work in registration.



SISTERS Christine Duncan, left, Boston, Ky., and Kathleen Sparkman, Trenton.



GAYNELLE GALYON, left, and the Sweetwater.



FROM LEFT, Mar Clifford, Central City and Omer Pai



FORMER TENNESSEE DOM Bob Mizell, left, of Olive Branch, Miss., and Tommy and Sandra Holtzclaw, Sullivan Association.



CAROLYN, left, Carrie, and Frank Blevins, First Church, Bluff City.



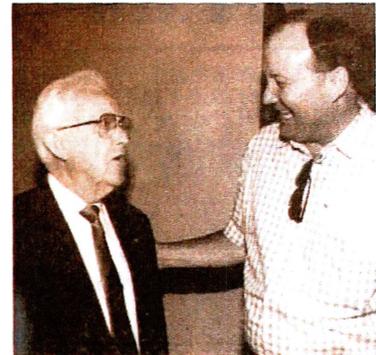
MIKE YOUNG, left, Pleasant Grove Church, Hixson, and Gary Rickman, Ridgeview Church, Chattanooga.



FROM CALVARY Church, Oak Ridge, were Steve McDonald, left, and Tim McGhee.



AT THE STEWARDSHIP Commission exhibit, Eric Hogstrom, Trinity Church, Clarksville, tries a put.



VERN POWERS, left, TBC, and Jerry Oakley, Springfield Church, Springfield.

New Orleans

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION • 1990



Register, First Church,



FROM LEFT, Gary Anderson, First Church, Dunlap; Ann and Raymond Boston, First Church, Dyersburg; James Porch, First Church, Tullahoma; and John Lee Taylor, First Church, Gainesville, Ga.



THE DIXONS, from left, John, First Church, Sweetwater; Letha, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville; and Lisa, Jennifer, and Lena, First Church, Sweetwater.



in, First Church, Knoxville; Carolyn Fountain City, Knoxville; and Bel-tennessee Valley Association.



JOHNNY AND ANNE Johnson, First Church, McEwen.



FROM INSKIP CHURCH, Knoxville, were, from left, Bill Wisar, Jerry Reeves, Donald Morris, Ed Smith, Robert C. Walters, and Mike Segers.

Messengers adopt committee reports after discussion

By **Connie Davis**, assistant editor
NEW ORLEANS — Messengers responded to the reports of Committee on Committees and Committee on Nominations with motions to replace nominees and motions concerning a chairman.

The Committee on Committee names the 68-member Committee on Nominations. Its report included 263 individuals nominated to serve on the boards of trustees of the SBC's 24 entities.

A motion and point of order made from the floor questioned the viability of the chairman of the Committee on Nominations, Roland Lopez, because the church he serves as pastor does not contribute to the Cooperative Program and thus cannot send messengers to the convention.

President Vines, after consultation

with parliamentarian Barry McCarty, responded that Robert's Rules of Order does not require membership of those serving in appointed roles. The ruling was met with some boos by messengers. Later Vines added that because the church was contributing when he was elected, Lopez fulfilled the convention's guidelines.

Lopez reported four changes to the committee's report, as released by Baptist Press in April. He replaced two nominees who were members of his church because of its status — Home Mission Board nominee Wencelago Rangel be replaced by J. Walter Carpenter of Houston and Education Commission nominee Antonio Villalobos by James Stewart of El Paso, Texas.

Also the committee added Joe Wedan of Chanute, Kan., as a member

of the Brotherhood Commission and John Bisagno of Houston as an at-large member of the Baptist World Alliance.

After Lopez moved the report be adopted, messenger David Montoya, pastor, First Church, Gravette, Ark., appealed an earlier ruling of the chair that nominees must be changed one at a time. The chair ruled against him.

Montoya, who was a member of the Committee on Nominations, presented one substitution along with Floyd Parker of South Carolina, both which failed.

The chair ruled time had expired for the order of business and the report

passed.

The Committee on Committees report also passed without changes.

Motions related to the Committees on Committees and Committee on Nominations requested:

- A broader representation of members to include the diversity of convention,

- Nominations be made by state conventions, and

- A minimum age limit of 30 for trustees, commissioners, and messengers, which was made by Jim Edwards, First Church, Hendersonville.

WMU approves record budget

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The executive board of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union approved a record \$12.5 million budget, seven new staff positions, and reorganization plans for its program division June 11.

The board of the women's auxiliary also set goals for the 1991 and 1992 missions offerings.

The board adopted a budget of \$12,582,676 for 1990-91. The new budget represents an almost ten percent increase from the current budget of \$11.4 million. The budget increase will pay primarily for new staff positions and the renovation required to provide office space for them.

Seven new staff positions were approved — photographer, financial secretary, and five professional and support personnel for editorial and field servicing work.

The board also approved a reorganization of the Missions Program System, the division charged with the responsibility for field servicing, publications and language work.

Under the reorganization, three new sections will replace the current Publi-

cations Section and Interpretation Section. The new sections are the Age-Level Involvement Section, the Church-wide Involvement Section and the Associational Relations Unit.

Staff members who work with a particular target audience, such as children or the entire church, will be more closely grouped together.

The WMU board also set mission offering goals. The 1991 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for 1991 is \$88 million. This represents a \$2 million increase over the 1990 foreign missions offering goal.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal for 1992 is \$41 million. This goal reflects no increase over the 1991 home missions offering goal.

Why Pay More for Life Insurance

Very low non-smoker monthly cost!

AGE	AMOUNT	MALE	FEMALE
35	\$100,000	\$10.30	\$ 9.30
45	\$100,000	\$13.30	\$13.80
55	\$100,000	\$25.30	\$16.30

PLEASE CALL ROY NAPIER — 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 Toll Free 1-800-274-0776 Knoxville Area 690-0776
 Kentucky Central Life, Lexington, Ky. Newlife graded premium life insurance form No. 76232. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 85 and then remain level.

TeamTalk

By **D. L. Lowrie**

Evidence seems to indicate that human beings are slow to learn. I encountered a fresh piece of evidence a few days ago.

As I drove across Nashville, the radio was on a local sports talk show. The leaders on the show were trying to stir up some interest so their phones would ring.



LOWRIE

They reminded middle Tennessee hearers that the horses and dogs are now running just across the state line to the north and to the south. They also reminded us that many Tennesseans are driving across the state line to gamble on these races. They wondered if our citizens still felt good about their vote to turn down legalized gambling in our area.

In just a few minutes the news came on. On the news there was a report of

the continuing legal problems of Pete Rose, the famous baseball player. The report included a statement that Pete's problems with the law were the result of his addiction to gambling. Evidently the sports staff of the local station failed to make a connection between the downfall of Pete Rose and legalized gambling. They need to be reminded that much of Pete's gambling took place in places that were legalized by the state.

Just a day or two later I picked up a local newspaper to read the downfall of an outstanding man in the field of communications.

This man's kingdom had come falling down because of his addiction to gambling. A very creative man has become totally dependent on his friends financially.

I can only speak as one Tennessean but as I listened to these reports I felt good about the decisions that Tennessee has made in our local options.

KNOW A STUDENT MOVING TO NASHVILLE?

Then let First Baptist downtown know! We want to send future Belmont, Vanderbilt, TSU, David Lipscomb, Vol State and Trevecca students information about Nashville and our church!

If you know a student who is planning to attend college in the Nashville area this fall, please share their name and address with us on the provided form.

Mail to: College Ministry
 First Baptist Church, downtown
 108 7th Ave. South
 Nashville, TN 37203



Name: _____
 Current Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 College/University: _____

What Do You Know About . . .



Dr. Herschel Hobbs

- The Baptist Faith and Message?
- Pastoral Counseling?
- Planning Sermons to Meet People's Needs?

Join fellow pastors and their wives from throughout West Tennessee for five days of inspirational seminars and preaching at the West Tennessee Summer Preachers School.

Speakers will include Dr. Herschel Hobbs from Oklahoma City; Dr. T.T. Crabtree from Springfield, Mo.; Rev. W.B. Oakley from Dyer; and Dr. R.T. Blackstock from Jacksonville, Fla.

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.

- * Free Registration
- * Four Nights Lodging and 13 Meals, \$18 per individual or \$25 per couple
- * Preachers School Golf Tournament, July 9, 10. Entrance Fee \$22

West Tennessee Summer Preachers School

July 9 — 13



U·N·I·O·N
 UNIVERSITY
 Jackson, Tennessee 38305-9901
 (901) 668-1818

Tennessee students blaze mission trail into . . .

(Continued from page 1)
to leave on schedule May 20.

"This is a prime opportunity for Southern Baptists," Gray said. "The Russian Baptist Union is watching this project to see if they want to use Southern Baptists in volunteer projects. It is the beginning of a strong relationship of Southern Baptists and Russian Baptists."

Rusty Nix, a team member from the East Tennessee State University Baptist Student Union, Johnson City, agreed. "We felt we had to do our best," he said. "As the first group to go over, we would set a precedence and later teams would be compared to us."

Wilson believes the students made a good impression. He said one of the reasons Nikolaev specifically requested students was so they could be models to young people in Russia by "exhibiting a Christian work ethic and life style."

"Despite the language barrier, that came about. They saw that Americans

work hard and that they live positive lifestyles," Wilson said.

The mission team did indeed do "tough work" during the three-week stay, Wilson said, focusing mainly on the basement of the church, which was floored with large rocks. They broke up the rocks, hauled them out, and hauled in concrete by a bucket brigade.

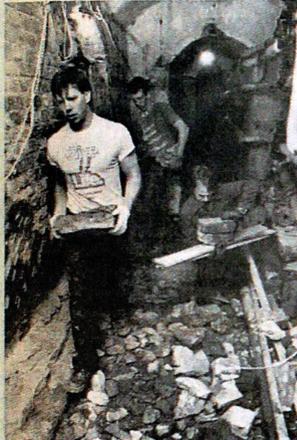
Members of the church helped too. "Once the people saw American students were not one-dimensional, not just academicians, it inspired the lay people and they came and helped," Wilson said. "It was gratifying to us that we motivated them."

One of the difficulties they faced, besides trying to sleep during Russia's "white nights," was the language difference. Wilson said they relied a great deal on gestures and charades.

This problem was emphasized during the bucket brigade when the Americans were shouting at each other to send more buckets and concrete. Even though they were only teasing each



TOURING LENINGRAD — Checking out the scene of Nevski Prospekt with his fellow volunteer team members was Mike Turner. While they kept busy enough not to get too homesick, the team members quickly figured out where to get cold Cokes and American food in Leningrad. "I paid \$11 for two Cokes, a footlong hotdog and French onion soup," Turner said after visiting one of the restaurants.



GETTING READY — Steve Johnson and other team members had to get rid of debris and lay a rock foundation before pouring new floors in the basement of the church.



SYMBOL OF FRIENDSHIP — Jeff Ramsey, right, a former US Army sergeant, checked out the Soviet Army uniform given to him by his Leningrad host, Andrei Smirnov, left. Ramsey and Smirnov discovered their army service was similar in years, rank, and experience.

other, the Soviets heard the loud voices and didn't understand. When it was explained that this was a team-building, motivational thing Americans do, "they would finally just grin and shake their heads," Wilson said.

One of the highlights of the trip was the banquet church members gave the team on their last night. Wilson said each American was given a print of a scene in Leningrad, and they were served Pepsi, both of which were expensive gifts coming from financially strapped people.

"They offered to us their spirit of giving and steadfast faith. After all they've been through in that country, their faith is so strong," Wilson said. "I've never met a more giving people. They gave when they couldn't really afford to give. They taught me alot about sacrificial giving."

Wilson was asked to play the piano and the Americans sang "Jesus Loves Me." Then they began singing the

Alleluia chorus and the Russians stood up and sang with them.

"That was the only song we sang together in the same language. We've heard all our lives about what goes on in the Soviet Union, but I've got to believe it's not that way anymore," Wilson said.

Members of the team were Nix of Johnson City; Wilson of Nashville; Jeff Ramsey of Johnson City, ETSU; Jeremy Wilcox of Nashville, Vanderbilt University, Nashville; Jay Victory of Mt. Pleasant, Columbia State Community College, Columbia; Mike Turner of Knoxville, Steve Johnson of Knoxville, and Matthew Evans of Knoxville, all from University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Howard Murphy of Dandridge, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; Allan Lovelace of Morristown, Tennessee Technical University, Cookeville; Richard Williams of Germantown, Memphis State University, Memphis; and Bob Hall of Knoxville, University of Tennessee. Knoxville, BSU director.

Parliamentarian participates in celebration

Taking part in a victory celebration of Southern Baptist Convention "conservatives" was not on his agenda, the Southern Baptist Convention's paid parliamentarian said.

Responding to questions from Marv Knox, editor of Kentucky Baptists' Western Recorder, Barry McCarty said appearances were deceptive when he climbed onto a chair and called the celebration to order on the evening of June 13.

In a story written for Baptist Press, Knox quoted McCarty as saying to a noisy crowd in the Cafe du Monde, New Orleans, "Order, order. I call this group to order. After all, I am the parliamentarian."

McCarty, who was hired in 1986 to help keep parliamentary order during Southern Baptist Convention proceedings, said his participation in the event was merely coincidental.

"I am under 24-hour-a-day call to the SBC president," he said. The Church of Christ minister and president of Cincinnati Bible College said he accompanies the president "wherever he goes."

McCarty said he was just passing by, waiting for an order of donuts when a

man whom he didn't know asked him to get the attention of the crowd. "He said he had a presentation to make."

The presentation was the gift of framed certificates of appreciation to Houston judge Paul Pressler and Dallas educator Paige Patterson, who met years ago in the New Orleans cafe and planned the strategy to control the Southern Baptist Convention. During the New Orleans meeting, their "conservative" forces won the SBC presidency for the 12th straight year.

"I was not an invited guest," McCarty said. "I was with the president (Jerry Vines) who was an invited guest. I had no official part in what was going on. The president gets parliamentary questions and has to do business, so I travel with him throughout the day."

Other Southern Baptists who witnessed the event expressed deep concern that the convention's paid parliamentarian would participate in what appeared to be a partisan political function.

At least two have sent letters of concern to Baptist state paper editors and one has called on McCarty to publicly apologize to Southern Baptists.

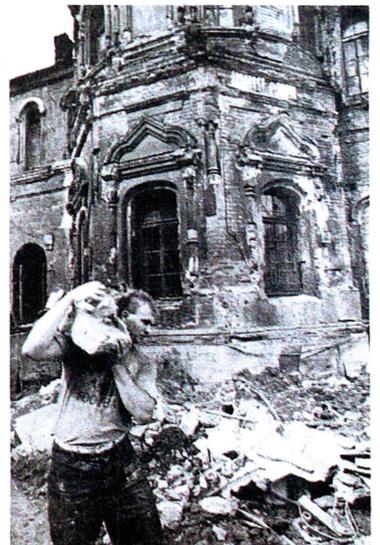
Michael L. Catlett, pastor of Sullivan's Island Church in South Carolina, asked for the apology and wrote that "Your impartiality has now been called in question. You have demonstrated where your affections lie. I believe you have disqualified yourself from service to our convention because of your obvious identification with one of its factions."

Jay Robison, another messenger who witnessed the event, confronted McCarty and Pressler later in the cafe, and told them, the celebration "was inappropriate."

The messenger from Penile Church, Valley Station, Ky., said, "The jubilant gloating by the participants was embarrassing, especially in front of non-Christians."

He was also frustrated the following day. "I attempted five times to bring this compromise of the convention's integrity to the chair's attention," he wrote. "Twice I was interrupted, and my microphone was silenced. Three times my microphone was not recognized."

According to witnesses in the Cafe du Monde, the group sang "Victory in Jesus." — **Marv Knox and Wm. Fletcher Allen**



RESTORING CHURCH — American student volunteers, like Allan Lovelace, were assigned tasks such as pouring cement, loading and unloading supplies, and hauling chunks of rock. Working alongside the students were Russian church members and several paid workmen.

(FMB) Photos by Dan Rutledge

Executive Committee report

Messengers discuss roles of CLC, BJCPA

NEW ORLEANS — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention defeated a motion June 12 to strike a recommendation of the Executive Committee to transfer the SBC's religious liberty program to the Christian Life Commission.

The vote was 14,789 to 12,629 and cleared the way for messengers to vote on the recommendation during the Executive Committee's afternoon report, where it was approved.

Messenger **Frank Ingraham** of Franklin asked messengers to strike the committee's recommendation, commend the CLC for its work, and encourage CLC trustees in their "presentation of SBC insights on morality and social ethics to our government in Washington, D.C."

Historically, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a nine-denomination First Amendment/religious liberty organization in Washington, has handled Southern Baptist concerns on religious liberty. The Christian Life Commission is the SBC's moral concerns agency.

The BJCPA, to which the SBC relates through an 18-member Public Affairs Committee, has been the center of controversy in recent years on such issues as school prayer. It has survived five attempts in the last six years either to defund it or to alter the method by which its funding is provided.

The vote on Ingraham's motion followed extensive discussion from the

floor about the wisdom of linking the SBC's social concerns and religious liberty programs.

Ingraham said the Executive Committee's approach would "unsaddle a joint voice in Washington and double-saddle the CLC" with an extra burden beyond its current heavy program assignment in moral concerns.

In a news conference James Dunn, executive director of the BJC, said he expected interested Southern Baptist individuals, churches, and state conventions to more than cover the loss of funding with direct gifts.

In a related action, messengers approved an Executive Committee recommendation to delete the PAC's program statement.

That action does not end the PAC, which will continue to function under a set of guidelines drawn up by the Executive Committee. The committee recommended deletion of the program statement because only SBC agencies have program statements.

CLC's new program

In the afternoon session, messengers approved the Executive Committee recommendation on a show of hands.

But another show of hands was not decisive on a motion to amend the SBC's 1990-91 Cooperative Program allocation budget, which contained a 40 percent increase in funds for the CLC and an 87 percent decrease for the

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Messengers voted by paper ballot on an amendment by Ingraham after SBC President Jerry Vines ruled the show of hands was not clearcut.

The amendment lost by a vote of 17,915 to 13,608.

Ingraham's amendment called for the BJCPA, the CLC, and the SBC Public Affairs Committee to receive only 1.89 percent increases in line with increases for other SBC entities in the \$137.3 million Cooperative Program budget proposal.

The CP budget includes an increase in the CLC budget from \$897,508 to \$1,262,836, a decrease for the BJCPA from \$391,796 to \$50,000, and an increase of 5.47 percent for PAC, from \$23,704 to \$25,000.

The action to add religious liberty to the CLC program statement leaves three entities — the CLC, BJCPA, and PAC — with religious liberty functions related to Southern Baptists.

Executive Committee member **Charles Sullivan** of Lenoir City defended the committee's recommendation. He said it was not something that originated as a substitute but was in the original budget recommendation.

Sullivan said it would be illogical to give a program assignment to the CLC and then not provide funds for the new assignment.

Belmont sponsors ministers' conference

The Middle Tennessee Summer Ministers' Conference will be held at Belmont College, Nashville, July 9-11.

Chuck Kelley will present the conference messages. Kelley is associate professor of evangelism, Roland Q. Leavell chair of evangelism, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. Marty Bell, assistant professor at Belmont College School of Biblical Studies and Ministry, will lead the daily Bible study in Acts.

John Laida, who retired from the pastorate of First Church, Clarksville, is also speaking. Women's conference leader is Katharine Bryan, executive director, Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

Reservations for the conference can be made by contacting Belmont's Office of Religious Affairs at 385-6435.

A&O CHURCH FURNITURE
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

— SOLID OAK PEWS —
PEW UPHOLSTERY REFINISHING
BAPTISTRIES STEEPLES
EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE
LIGHTING
1-(800)-523-9058
NC 1-(800)-222-7895

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

*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

PEW UPHOLSTERING
REVERSIBLE CUSHIONS
PEW REFINISHING
STAINED GLASS
LIGHTING
CARPET • PEWS

We have upholstered pews in over 1500 churches totaling over 600,000 lineal ft. We can reupholster and repair any pews on site for less cost than the original manufacturer.

Church Interiors Inc.
Leading the Nation in Church Renovations
P.O. Box 5346 • High Point, NC 27262
Call Toll Free: 1-800-BUY-PEWS
(1-800-289-7397)

Leadership Training for Church WMU Leaders

AUGUST 6, 7, 9, 11

Registration Fee \$5 per person
Meal \$5 per person

Deadline for meal reservations — July 23
Registration for conferences only accepted up to meeting date.

Schedule for Aug. 6, 7, 9	Schedule for Aug. 11
4:30 Registration	8:30 Registration
5:00 Dinner/misionary speaker	9:30 General Session
6:00 Conference I	10:30 Conference I
7:00 Conference II	11:30 Conference II
8:00 Conference III	12:30 Lunch
	1:25 Conference III

Conference choices will include ideas for Churchwide missions activities, Focus on WMU, Using each magazine as the basis for study, Issues youth face, Involving Girls in ACTION, So you have a few Missions Friends and many, many more.

To register, send money, name of contact person, church name, and number being registered to:

Tennessee WMU
Box 728
Brentwood, Tenn. 37024

National
SOUL-WINNING CONFERENCE
September 20-22, 1990
Roswell Street Baptist Church
Atlanta, Ga.

HMB
HOME MISSION BOARD, SBC

For further information contact:
The Personal Evangelism Department
Home Mission Board
1350 Spring St., NW
Atlanta, GA 30367-5601
(404) 898-7180

TenneScene

... North to south from Clairfield to Maryville with a detour through Paulette ...

Associations ...

A special service was held June 4 to break ground for a new 2600 square foot building for Sevier County Association. Offices have been located in the basement of the association home for 30 years. The home will be sold to pay part of the \$199,500 construction costs, with churches in the association providing the difference.

Churches ...

Members of Pine Grove Church, Duck River, will celebrate homecoming July 1. Dan Parker will be speaker.

Homecoming was celebrated June 3 at Deerfield Church, Lawrenceburg.

Members of First Church, Bluff City, will celebrate homecoming July 1 with dinner and a review of church history.

Rob Bryant, who is a paraplegic as a result of a fall from an oil rig, will pass through Nashville June 29-30 on his 3360 mile cross-country trip in a special row-cycle. He will give his testimony June 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Charlotte Road Church, Nashville.

Natauga's Powell announces retirement

William J. Powell, director of missions in Natauga Association, based in Elizabethton, will retire, effective July 1.

Powell was pastor of First Church, Monterey, before joining the association staff in 1977. Powell also has been pastor of churches in Kimball, Morristown, Flag Pond, Jonesboro, and Greeneville.

A native of Marion County, Powell is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

He and his wife, Nola, have four children and five grandchildren. The Powells plan to reside in Elizabethton.



POWELL

Leadership ...

Fairview Church, Oak Ridge, recently called Wayne Provence as interim pastor.

Bob Finch recently accepted the call of First Church, Lake City, to serve as minister of music/youth.

David Wood, a student at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, joined the staff of First Church, Oliver Springs, as interim minister of youth.

South Clinton Church, Clinton, called Billy Edmonds Jr. as minister of music.

C. S. Knapp, will retire as pastor of Westview Church, Chattanooga, Aug. 1. The church voted to designate Knapp as pastor emeritus. He graduated from Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary; and Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla. A reception honoring Knapp will be held July 29 at the church.

Sharon Church, Knoxville, called Richard Jennings as interim music director.

Brian Denker began serving First Church, Camden, June 7 as summer youth minister.

Ordinations ...

Glenn E. Smith was ordained to the ministry June 3 at St. Clair Church, Spring City. He was called as pastor of Lakeview Church, Harriman. He is a graduate of Bethany Bible College, Dothan, Ala., and is presently working toward a master's degree.

Tim Frank, a native of middle Tennessee, was ordained June 24 by Crestwood Church, Frankfort, Ky. He is a former youth and music director of New Middleton Church, Gordonsville, and grew up in First Church, Carthage.

First Church, Pikeville, recently ordained Kenneth Webster to the ministry.

Jones Chapel Church, Sevierville, ordained Larry West and Larry Ward as deacons June 3.

Ronald L. Adcox was ordained to the ministry June 10 at South Seminole Church, East Ridge. He is pastor at Mt. Shiloh Church, Faber, Va.

Revivals ...

First Church, Inglewood, recently held revival with evangelist Henry Linginfelter leading services. There were ten professions of faith, two additions to the church by letter, and numerous rededications.

Whorton Springs Church, Smithville, reported ten professions and one addition to the church by baptism during revival May 27-June 3. Pastor James G. Williams led the services and Jimmy Davis led music.

Cumberland Plateau Association reported the following number of decisions made during simultaneous revivals held at churches in the association. Unless indicated, churches are in Crossville. Bethlehem Church, 20; Calvary Church, 32; Emmanuel Church, 2; First Church, 3; Friendship Church, Rockwood, 11; Memorial Church, 32; Mountain View Church, 3; Oak Hill Church, 20; Fredonia Church, 13; Homestead Church, 2; Lantana Road Church, 22; Plateau Church, 13; Clear Creek Church, 18; and Pine Edon Church, 7.

Missions ...

A mission team from Woodland Park Church, Chattanooga, will be in Eleuthera, Bahamas, June 27-July 7 doing manual work projects, children's ministries, and personal evangelism.

A team of twelve people from Crieveewood Church, Nashville, recently went to Philadelphia, Pa., to do renovation work at Trinity Church.

Three people from First Church, Kingston, will serve in summer missions this year. Jennifer Stanfield will be a BSU summer missionary at the Baptist Children's Home in Memphis. Michelle Tyl will work through the student summer missions program of the Home Mission Board at Lihue Church in Hawaii, and Jennifer Davis will



PERFECT ATTENDANCE — Fred Smith, chairman of the deacons at First Church, Red Boiling Springs, presented Olive Jenkins a plaque May 27 for 50 years of perfect Sunday School attendance. In addition, the church received a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Convention Historical Society, presented by Bledsoe Association Director of Missions J. C. Lewis, for 50 years of service to the community.

serve at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming through the Innovator program at the HMB.

Zack Zbinden, minister of evangelism-outreach at Highland Heights Church, Memphis, and his wife, Karen, left for Kenya June 12 for a six-week volunteer mission crusade. Approximately 600 people will be involved in street witnessing and evangelistic meetings in and near Mombasa, Kenya.

A mission team from Manley Church, Morristown, recently traveled to Canaan, W.V., to help a mission church with construction. Another team from the church will go to Michigan in August to help with construction of a church, while a youth mission team leads Backyard Bible Clubs in the same area.

Barney Evans, pastor of Mouth of Richland Church, Blaine, recently led revival at Maranatha Church, Adrian, Mich. His daughter, Shanda, provided special music for the services. Evans plans to take a mission team back this summer to help the congregation get established with a pastor and property for a building.



FAMILY LIFE CENTER BEGINNING — Members of Oak Grove Church, Benton, held a groundbreaking service June 3 to mark the beginning of a new family life center, which will house recreational facilities, classrooms, office space, and a kitchen. Members have been contributing to the project since May, 1989, and funds for the first phase of the project, approximately \$60,000, have already been given. From left are Marvin Rogers, Gus Qualls, James Brown, Pastor Douglas Boucher and Polk County Association Director of Missions W. L. Shipman.



MILE OF PENNIES FOR TBCH — Jerry Blasingame, center, Middle Tennessee regional director, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, receives \$1155 for the TBCH Mother's Day Offering from Charles King, right, Discipleship Training director, First Church, Mt. Pleasant, while Pastor Daniel Carlen looks on. The gift is proceeds from a Mile of Pennies Campaign with a goal of \$840 sponsored by the church's Discipleship Training program. Last year the church gave \$134 to the offering.



Our children are blessed by your gifts

You have truly "Showered Blessings" on the children and staff of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes by your gifts to the Mother's Day Offering. We are just past the half-way mark in the time allotted for the 1990 offering, and to date, \$742,653 has been given toward our statewide goal of \$950,000.

Since we have not heard from many of our churches, we feel confident that with their help, we will meet our goal.

We have been ministering to little three-month-old Ian who has just had open heart surgery. Through our Mother's Aid program, Ian and his mother have been able to be close to Vanderbilt Hospital in case of rejection problems. Your gifts make possible ministries like this to needy children and their families.

Several of our churches have been very creative in receiving the offering. At least three churches collected a "mile of pennies" for the children. Others collected aluminum cans and turned in the proceeds from recycling. One church had a walkathon, and another held a talent program. Our books on the offering will close on July 31. We want to be sure every church's offering is included in the goal.

Our boys and girls are enjoying the summer months with a lot of fun-filled activities. Included in these are wonderful, spiritual opportunities to grow in the Lord. Bible study groups, day camps, Vacation Bible School, and planned times of inspiration help to deepen their spiritual lives.

Our summer BSU workers are a real blessing to our staff and children. We appreciate their unselfish service and dedication to our important mission with children.

Donald T. Stow
TBCH Executive Director

\$950,000

\$742,653

We are almost at our goal for the Mother's Day Offering. Has your church helped yet?

Summer mission work makes a difference

The Woodmont Baptist Church van had barely pulled to a complete stop before a dozen teenagers tumbled out, with arms full of games, stories, craft baskets and sack lunches. There was a lot of laughter to be heard among the conversations, but still, each youth was serious about the morning ahead.

They had come to teach a Backyard Bible Class at the Franklin campus of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

"Some of my friends just goof off during the summer, but I wanted to do more," said Vanessa Gaither, 14. "I want to get to know these kids better, and to teach them about Jesus.

"And besides," she added with a knowing smile, "this is teaching me a lot about patience."

The youth at Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville are among many church groups who have summer mission projects at the Children's Homes. The work of these volunteers is invaluable in the lives of TBCH children. From Memphis to Chattanooga to Kingsport, church groups are taking the time to become personally involved in this special ministry.

"The number one thing I want these kids to feel is the unconditional love of Christ through our teenagers, who are here as positive Christian role models," said Scott Wiley, minister of youth at Woodmont.

"As for our youth, I hope this will encourage them to use their gifts for ministry. One of the best ways to develop a sensitivity to Christ is to be available to Him to use."

Throughout the week-long daycamp, the Woodmont youth led the TBCH children in Bible study, songs and crafts. Outdoor picnics with sack lunches were held each day, and special events included watching a videotape together and eating lunch at McDonald's.

Was the camp a success? One houseparent smiled her response as she watched the children from her cottage run to get in place for opening assembly. "This has been all they talked about, from the time the camp is over each day until they get to go again. People have no idea how much something like this means to them."



Top photo: Youth from Woodmont Baptist Church help third and fourth graders lead a song in Backyard Bible Camp. Above: This young TBCH resident beams with pride about his job of carrying the Christian flag for the morning assembly.



Centennial
1891-1991

Tennessee
Baptist
Children's
Homes

Chattanooga • Franklin • Memphis • Johnson City • Greeneville • Burrville
Kingsport • Millington

Central Office
P. O. Box 728 • 5001 Maryland Way • Brentwood, TN 37027
1-800-624-8591

A ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

(Advertisement)

Ruth's devotion to Naomi

By H. Dean Haun, pastor; First Church, Sparta

The events of the book of Ruth take place during the period of the Judges (1375-1050 B.C.) It was a time much like our day when people lived to please themselves, not God (Judges 17:6). Yet there were still those who followed God and sought to please Him.

This book tells of two such people, Naomi and Ruth. Together they form a beautiful picture of love, loyalty, and devotion. Five key words help us summarize this first chapter.



HAUN

1. **Destitution** — (vv. 1-5) Naomi's family was destitute because of a famine that had swept the land of Judah. Her husband, Elimelech, decided to leave "Bethlehem"

(house of bread) and "sojourn" (stay for a short while) in the enemy land of Moab. The Moabites were bitter enemies of the Jews because they refused passage to the children of Israel on their exodus from Egypt (Deuteronomy 23:3, 4). Instead of a short stay, verse 2 tells us they "continued there."

The destitution grew worse. Elimelech died, leaving Naomi with her two sons, Mahlon ("sickly") and Chilion ("pining"). They married Moabite women against direct orders from the Lord (Deuteronomy 7:3). These two sons also died leaving her in a pagan land with only her Moabite daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth.

Her destitution was no longer a lack of food. She had lost her immediate family.

2. **Desperation** — (v. 6) Like the prodigal son who said, "I will arise

and go to my father ... for he has bread enough and to spare" (Luke 16:17, 18), so did Naomi in her desperation as a destitute widow decide to return to her homeland.

BIBLE BOOK July 1 Lesson

Basic Passage: Ruth 1:1-22
Focal Passages: Ruth 1:1-22

3. **Decision** — (vv. 7-13) Naomi made the decision along with her daughters-in-law to return to Bethlehem. Unselfishly, Naomi encouraged the girls to stay in Moab and remarry. There was almost nothing worse than to be a widow in ancient times, especially when there was no family around to provide for her needs. Naomi was in effect saying, "There's no need for all three of us to face life with insecurity and poverty. Besides I am too old to start a new family and you don't have time to wait on my offspring to be your husbands. Go home! Get a husband! Find happiness!"

4. **Devotion** — (vv. 14-18) Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth refused to leave. This was Ruth's "profession of faith." She not only gave allegiance to Naomi, but to Naomi's God. It was through this simple act of devotion that Ruth eventually became a great grandmother of King David and a direct ancestor of Jesus. Isaiah reminded, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (Isaiah 64:4).

5. **Discouragement** — (vv. 19-22) Their return home moved the city, for great changes had taken place in Naomi. She left Israel married and secure. She came home widowed and poor. She changed her name to reflect the bitter pills she had swallowed. Disappointment must never make us bitter, but better. We must keep our focus on Him and not our trials. Yet, no matter how discouraging the circumstances, Ruth never lost her devotion to Naomi.

Get wisdom at all cost

By John Henry Pippin, pastor; First Church, Savannah

Few things in life are so valuable that people should seek them regardless of cost. The inspired writer of Proverbs, however, said wisdom is so valuable it should be sought at all cost. Its value is in its practical guidance for daily living.

It should be noted that in Proverbs, God and a close relationship with Him is essential to a good life. The author did not try to argue this point; he simply assumed it. For him, it was so obvious, it was the basis upon which all of life could be built. Without Him nothing else was significant. It was that simple and it still is. But even with Him, one still needs wisdom for practical living.



PIPPIN

Call to listen (4:1-2)
Fun, fame, and finances all clamor

for a young person's attention. But first he should hear the instructions of his father. The word "father" can refer to his parent or teacher who is assuming the role of parent. Often children are destitute of parental instruction and need a wise man to "exhort and charge, as a father doth his children" (1 Thessalonians 2:11). The wise man called on the young to listen to "good doctrine" which, though it might be distasteful, humbles the soul before God and consecrates the will to God. Thus the young should listen to it and not let it go.

Teaching remembered (4:3-9)
Solomon claimed the attention of the youth because of his own Godly education by his father. He was a tender, well-loved child who was carefully taught. Solomon remembered David had wanted him to be acquainted with whatever might serve to prepare him for his future station in life. The king's example of taking a personal interest in the religious instruction of his son

should shame multitudes of parents today who either neglect this responsibility altogether, or commit it entirely to others outside the family.

CONVENTION UNIFORM July 1 Lesson

Basic Passage: Proverbs 4
Focal Passages: Proverbs 4:1-13

Careful instruction and proper discipline are evidence of true affection for children. An untaught and undisciplined child will be a living shame to his parents. Many would not be delinquents now if they had received loving and effective instruction and discipline at home. Fortunate is the child who has been trained by loving parents to be respectful, thoughtful, obedient, and industrious. Youth is the time to learn respect for authority, obedience to the law, and regard for wise counsel. Parents and teachers must use these early years to plant seeds of wisdom, for upon them Godly homes and healthy societies are built.

Solomon remembered this wise and loving instruction. Can your children remember it?

The value of wisdom (4:10-12)
One who receives and follows the way of wisdom will have a happy life favored by God. (See 1 Timothy 4:8; 1 Peter 3:10-12.) Verse 12 gives two areas of living where wisdom is valued: monotony and crisis. Wisdom allows one to walk the routine path without becoming disgusted and to enter the arena of crisis without becoming overwhelmed. Walking in the wisdom of God makes the routine exciting and the crisis a time of stability. Truly the wise man can run and not be weary, walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31).

The charge (4:13)

The wise man will take hold of wisdom and not let go as Jacob did the angel of God (Genesis 32:26-29). He will treasure it above every earthly blessing for it will be his life (Proverbs 3:18; Ecclesiastes 7:12). While others "turn back and walk no more" in the way, his heart will turn to its only spring of happiness — "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life" (John 6:67-69). Do you want eternal life, abundant life? Then get wisdom. It is a bargain regardless of the cost!

Treat all persons justly

By Joe R. Wren, pastor; First Church, Sevierville

True or false: The church is the place where everyone is important, loved, accepted, and treated justly. All visitors to your Sunday School class are welcomed and treated in the same manner. An unbiased standard is used to determine the "good" prospects for your class.

The first lesson in this nine-lesson unit deals with proper acceptance and equitable treatment of all people. This lesson is very timely as we near the celebration of our independence and words of the Declaration of Independence are called to our minds: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."



WREN

Precept about Christian conduct (2:1)
Christians are to treat people justly. In this letter to Jewish Christians outside of Palestine, James, Jesus' half brother and "a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" (chapter 1:1), opposed injustices, partiality, and prejudice. In chapter 2:1, snobbery is considered incompatible with genuine Christian faith. The phrase "respect of persons" comes from a Greek word meaning to accept a person regardless of one's face, appearance, dress, skin color, or other external factors. James denounced judging and treating people unjustly.

The sin of partiality is common today. In fact, it has become so common that it happens without any pain or guilt to our consciences. To look down on a person or kowtow to anyone is to violate this command. We need to realize that all exterior distinctions disappear in the radiance of God's glory.

Picture of Christian conduct (2:2-7)
This text gives a picture of prejudice

and snobbery in the church. Favoritism was shown to the wealthy. The poor man received little attention and unfair treatment.

LIFE AND WORK July 1 Lesson

Basic Passage: James 2:1-13
Focal Passages: James 2:1-13

To treat the poor unjustly is contrary to God's choice (v. 5). The spiritual potential of the poor is enormous because God chose them to be spiritually rich. Jesus remarked, "Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the Kingdom of God." When Christians dishonor people because of exterior distinctions, they align themselves with the oppressors (vv. 6-7).

Christians should follow the example of Jesus. He never showed favoritism or treated anyone unjustly. Nicodemus did not impress Jesus any more than did the woman at the well.

When Bill Pinson was pastor of the First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, he commented, "God began to bless our church when we began to reach out to people who had nothing to offer in return."

Priority of Christian conduct (2:8-13)

Unjust treatment of any person is in violation of the royal law found in Leviticus 19:18 and sanctioned by Jesus as one of the two chief commandments. When we treat people unjustly, we are violating the Word of God and are as guilty as one who commits adultery or murder (vv. 8-11). Guilt is not based on a particular violation of the Word of God, but on any violation. Just one violation makes us imperfect and guilty.

Therefore, Christians must carry out the royal law. Such love avoids condemning words, guards against wrong actions, and manifests mercy (vv. 12-13). Christians must be leaders in the great effort to tear down walls of separation, partitions of discrimination, and all barriers which prohibit equitable treatment of all people.

True or false: The church is a place where everyone is important, loved, accepted, and treated justly.

Missionfest
TENNESSEE
A FOREIGN MISSIONS EXPERIENCE

OCTOBER 12-13, 1990
EUDORA BAPTIST CHURCH,
MEMPHIS
Friday evening
through Saturday evening

Seminaries hold luncheon meetings at SBC

NEW ORLEANS — The six Southern Baptist-supported seminaries held luncheon meetings June 13 for alumni and friends.

Reports from five of the six seminaries follow. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., did not make available a report of its meeting to the SBC press room staff.

New Orleans Seminary

President Landrum P. Leavell II shared with more than 2200 alumni and friends his concerns for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Four distinguished alumni, including two from Tennessee, were honored and new national alumni officers were elected.



ROGERS

Adrian Rogers, received the distinguished alumni award for Southern Baptist Convention leadership. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Cordova, is the first alumnus to be elected president of the convention. He received his bachelor of divinity degree from New Orleans in 1958.

Arthur L. Walker Jr., received a similar award. He has served as executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Education Commission for 12 years. Walker, who received



WALKER

his doctor of theology degree in 1956, has been recognized as an outstanding leader in Christian education on national and state levels.

Also honored were Mississippi pastor James R. Futral of Jackson and Alfonso Olmedo, retired pastor and former president of the Argentine Baptist Convention.

Midwestern Seminary

President Milton Ferguson stressed the importance of "walking in the truth" in an address to 260 alumni and friends June 13 during a luncheon at the Clarion Hotel.

"Midwestern Seminary is indeed a place to walk in the truth," Ferguson said, noting that at the seminary, "we seek the truth and are committed to the truth."

During the luncheon, the seminary's national alumni association presented awards to two graduates as alumni of the year — Vernon W. Armitage, Liberty, Mo., and John W. Dowdy Jr., Jefferson City, Mo. — and selected Paul M. Lambert, former dean of students as an "honorary" alumnus.

Donald R. Kammerdiener, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, was named president-elect of the alumni association.

During the meeting David Johnson of Walnut Ridge, Ark., began his duties as the 1990-91 alumni president.

Golden Gate Seminary

The luncheon for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary alumni and friends June 13 included the announcement of the sale of an apartment complex owned by the seminary and a report from President William O.

Crews.

The Marin Garden Apartments, owned by the seminary since 1982, was sold for \$2.65 million. "This will help with eliminating a portion of our debt," Crews said, adding that the money realized from the sale will be placed in endowment for student housing assistance.

Don Taylor of Alameda, Calif., received the seminary's meritorious service award while J. David George of Arlington, Texas, was named alumnus of the year.

Frank Zamora of Farmington, N.M., was elected president-elect of the alumni group.

Southern Seminary

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt told the school's alumni June 13 that despite uncertain times in the denomination he will devote "every ounce of my energy to keeping the dream alive at Southern Seminary."

In an address before a record-setting crowd of 1865 at the school's alumni and friends banquet, Honeycutt stressed he plans to "live with hope no matter how hopeless times may seem."

Despite the denominational controversy, Honeycutt said he can maintain hope because "Biblical hope means to wait on God."

Prior to Honeycutt's address, outgoing national alumni association president Floyd Roebuck of Georgia read a statement of affirmation and support for Southern's faculty, staff, and students.

Four persons were given distin-

'Just do it,' evangelists challenged

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — After hearing four sermons about the work of evangelists, the message was summed up in three words: "Just do it."

Gilyard received a standing ovation as he challenged 1000 people attending the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists meeting June 13 in New Orleans.

"It's time to stop talking about it, preaching about it, singing about it and complaining that people in your church just won't visit," said the pastor of Victory Church, Plano, Texas. "If in the average church we would put as much effort into reaching the lost as we do a good choir special, we'd turn our world upside down."

After the conference, participants were given Bibles and tracts to share with people in New Orleans as they rode taxis, shopped, and ate. Jay Strack, outgoing conference president said, "People expect more than fussing and fighting when Baptists come to town."

Plans for evangelists to witness in the French Quarter after the program were thwarted by lack of transportation to the area known for its night life and impromptu entertainers.

Earlier in the afternoon, salesman Zig Ziglar of Dallas urged evangelists to keep their message simple. The author and motivational speaker said he always communicates on the seventh-grade level.

Thankfulness is the prerequisite, said Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

"Teach your people to love Jesus. The only way to teach your people to love Jesus is to teach your people to be

gruished alumni awards — Marjorie McCullough, Alexandria, La.; John P. Newport, Fort Worth, Texas; James L. Pleitz, Dallas; and Grover F. Tyner Jr., Stone Mountain, Ga.

Emmanuel McCall of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's black church extension division was elected president-elect of the organization.

Southwestern Seminary

People remain at the heart of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, the school's president told about 1250 alumni and friends June 13 at the national alumni luncheon.

Seminary President Russell Dilday, who underwent triple-bypass surgery two months ago, said he has gained a better understanding of the heart's importance to the body.

He said the operation also had helped him understand why so much importance has been placed on the heart. "The inspired writers of Scripture centered on the heart as the center of the soul and spirit," Dilday said, adding the seminary's future is bright "because the heart of Southwestern is its people."

Six graduates were honored as distinguished alumni — Clint Ashley, Cochrane, Alberta; Charles Fuller, Roanoke, Va.; Marvin Griffin, Austin, Texas; Essie Mae Maston, Fort Worth, Texas; Paul Powell, Dallas; and Scott Tatum, Fort Worth.

Elected as officers for 1991 were Cecil Sims, Portland, Ore., president; Charles Wade, Arlington, Texas; and Jay Chance, Fort Worth, Texas, secretary.

thankful." Lindsay said.

Joel Gregory echoed the need to know Jesus. The pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, Texas, said pastors must be "determined to not know anything other than Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

Next year's officers for the conference include Bailey Smith, Atlanta evangelist, president; Hale, vice president; Ron Pledger, Commerce, Ga., secretary-treasurer; Ronny Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark., pastor-advisor; and Perry Neal from Montgomery, Ala., parliamentarian.



TENNESSEANS HONORED — Thurman B. Prewett, left in photo to left, receives SBREA Distinguished Leadership Award from Merle Basden, Ft. Worth, Texas, executive director, SBREA, and Annie Ward Byrd, photo on right, speaks after receiving the award in New Orleans. Prewett served Shelby County Association for 30 years and Byrd worked at the BSSB for 32 years. Tennesseans Donald Trotter of the BSSB and Norman Godfrey of the Brotherhood Commission received posthumous awards. — Photos by Connie Davis



Demand quality, religious educators told

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Religious Education Association focused on preparing for the future and building relationships during its 35th annual meeting June 10-11 in New Orleans.

The 1990s will require Southern Baptist religious educators to become infected with "an epidemic of quality," said Bill Taylor, associate pastor/minister of education at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas. Religious educators will have to be "unmerciful" in demanding church ministries function with a high degree of quality, he said.

Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Church, pointed out staff members have a unique calling which they bring to their positions. Ministers serve best in an environment of mutual respect for the role of each staff member, he said, noting ministers should "take the calling you have and use it to the best of your ability and don't compete" with other staff members.

Gary Hauk, manager of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family enrichment section, said ministers must be able to differentiate between their God-given vision of ministry and the expectations of other people.



BLIND SINGER — Charles Couey leads congregational singing during worship time at the Southern Baptist Convention Conference of the Blind's organizational meeting June 10. Couey is a layman at Park Avenue Church, Nashville.