

# Baptist and Reflector

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SBC meets in Atlanta

## Chapman re-elected president, BJCPA stripped of funding

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

ATLANTA — Southern Baptists returned to Atlanta for the third time in 13 years for their annual meeting, and re-elected "conservative" president Morris Chapman and beleaguered registration secretary Lee Porter.

Messengers from across the nation, including an estimated 1800 from Tennessee, also adopted an annual budget of \$140.7 million, completed a defunding of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and heard a plea from President George Bush for voluntary prayer in schools. Most of the Wednesday night segment was reserved for a three-hour "Call to Prayer for Spiritual Awakening in America."

Bush spoke to a crowd of almost 25,000 that stretched the capacity of the Georgia World Congress Center in Thursday morning's waning moments of the 134th annual meeting. The rapt audience received him with tumultuous enthusiasm.

Messengers comprised the sixth largest registration in Southern Baptist Convention history at 23,564.

Though observers estimated that thousands of "moderates" were absent, many of the votes fell along the 55-45 percentages that have prevailed for a decade.

A motion to cut all ties with the BJCPA came on Tuesday morning's opening session as the Executive Committee presented the 1991-92 budget recommendations.

Rarely do messengers amend proposed budgets — which have been worked out during the months prior to the June annual meeting by the Executive Committee.



**FATHER AND SON** — Travis Oley, pastor of First Church, Trenton, with son — also named Travis, take a break between SBC sessions.

The amendment, authored by Fred Minix, a Virginia pastor, passed by 6872 to 6101, or 52.97 to 47.03 percent. The vote ends the 55 year relationship.

The religious liberty agency, based in Washington and representing ten Baptist bodies, including Southern Baptists, has been the object of rancorous arguments for several years. Funding was reduced in the current budget — from about \$386,000 to \$50,000.

James Dunn, executive director for the BJCPA, reminded messengers that Southern Baptists, along with American Baptists and National Baptists, established the organization in 1936. "It will be a sad day if the official relationship of one of the three founding bodies of the Baptist Joint Committee were terminated," he said. "I appeal to you to maintain a relationship (with the BJCPA)."

Executive Committee Chairman Sam Pace told the messengers, "I think we are mistaken to try to change the budget here on the floor."

When Dunn answered a question on Thursday as he reported to the convention for the last time, he said that the BJCPA is receiving about nine percent of its budget from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. That group met in Atlanta last month, with about 600 "moderate" Baptists attending.

### Resolutions send messages

Fourteen resolutions were approved on such topics as human sexuality, sanctity of human life, endangerment of religious liberties, government support of obscene and offensive art, restrictions on alcohol advertisements, equitable taxation for families, parental choice in education, Operation Desert Storm, and use of government funds to encourage immoral sexual behavior. Eight of the 14 resolutions sent messages to Congress and President Bush. (See separate article on resolutions in next week's issue).

Although Southern Baptists have spoken on the abortion issue several times in recent years, this year's resolution on the sanctity of human life opposes the testing, approval, distribution, and marketing of new drugs and technologies that will make the practice of abortion more convenient and more widespread.

Messengers offered 51 motions on a wide variety of topics. Most were referred to agencies and committees — many to the Executive Committee.

Addresses by Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board; Tom Eliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.; and Joel Gregory, pastor of First Church, Dallas, provided messengers with inspiration.



**RENEWING FRIENDSHIPS** — The SBC annual meeting provided opportunities for fellowship with old friends. From left, Judy Cummings, First Church, Ripley; Robbie Adams, First Church, Jackson; and Kellea Alexander, First Church, Tupelo, Miss. Alexander's husband, Gayle, formerly was a pastor in Alamo and Obion.

### Doors can close

In his annual report, Parks told messengers that open doors around the world might close unless Southern Baptists provide resources to share the Gospel.

"Missionaries say that once an opportunity comes, there is usually a five-year window, and if that opportunity is not acted on, the opportunity passes and seldom reappears," he said.

Southern Baptists face more open doors than ever before, he said, reporting that the FMB has 3863 missionaries in 121 countries. He said work is "alive and well" in such places as Japan, Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and with the Kurdish people.

He reported one failure — final receipts of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions fell almost \$6 million, and \$853,000 below last year's total. "Unless we provide the resources, the door will slam shut, and God will march on," he said.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis worked with the SBC program committee to allow time for the Prayer of Awakening program. It replaced the time allotted for the HMB. Lewis participated during the Wednesday night session which was accomplished with messages on prayer and spiritual awakening, appropriate music, and prayer participation among messengers.

### Bush message scores

In his Thursday morning message, President Bush was applauded 26 times by listeners. Though he was briefly interrupted by several hecklers, he shared his thoughts on prayer.

He was visibly moved as he thanked Southern Baptists for their prayers during the Persian Gulf War. "To me," he said, "prayer has always been important and quite personal."

Showing emotion, he told of praying with his wife, Barbara, and his pastor. "As I felt tears on my cheeks," he said, "I looked at my pastor who was smiling. I knew then that I didn't care

how I looked. I knew it was all right to shed those tears."

### Porter re-elected

Messengers re-elected Chapman to a second one-year term as president, and chose Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga., as first vice president — both without opposition.

The "conservative" sweep hit a snag when Vander Warner Jr., pastor of Grove Avenue Church, Richmond, Va., lost a bid for second vice president to Ed Harrison Jr., pastor of Dollarway Church, a small congregation in Pine Bluff, Ark. Supporters said Harrison meets "conservative" standards in theology by preaching "the inerrant Word of God."

"Conservative" candidate David Aitchison of Nashville was re-elected as recording secretary — a post held for many years until last year by Martin Bradley, also of Nashville.

"Conservative" efforts to replace  
(See Chapman, page 5)

### From TBC churches

## CP lower than April

Cooperative Program giving through Tennessee Baptist Convention churches slipped in May in comparison to April giving, according to D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director/treasurer.

Total gifts amounted to \$2,042,589.78. That is \$245,997.47 below April of last year.

The report for the first seven months of the current budget shows that CP giving is \$840,894.29 below last year's receipts, or 5.6 percent.

Budget needs for the seven months amount to \$15,632,085. Actual gifts total \$14,159,166.08, or almost \$1.5 million less than that figure.

Giving is 9.42 percent under budget needs.

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## Editorials

# Convention had high moments — questions remain

Southern Baptists held their 134th annual meeting last week, visiting Atlanta again. Located in the heart of the so-called "Bible Belt," the Georgia capital always proves to be a genial host city.

This was the third meeting of a substantial number of Southern Baptists in Atlanta in less than a year. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship met there last August with 3000 in attendance — and again in May with 6000. The Fellowship is comprised of "moderates" who are dissatisfied with the past decade of "conservative" growth in Southern Baptist ranks.

Some 23,400 messengers participated in convention business last week. It was the sixth largest Southern Baptist Convention.

It is likely that many "moderates" did not attend. Another reason for the lower attendance (38,478 attended last year in New Orleans) was the lack of a "moderate" candidate to oppose SBC President Morris Chapman.

The convention, as most do, accomplished good things and had low moments. Certainly there was less animosity openly displayed, but there were barbs from messengers and speakers aimed at Baptists with views different from the "conservatives."

● Morris Chapman won re-election as president. The Wichita Falls, Texas, pastor, won by acclamation — in contrast to last year's bitterly fought victory over Dan Vestal.

● Messengers astounded election prophets by re-electing Lee Porter as registration secretary. Even though the margin of seventeen votes (out of 9000) was razor thin, it was clear that messengers agree with the integrity Porter has maintained in the registration and balloting processes. Gone are the days when messengers knew the outcome of elections before it was announced from the podium. There is less suspicion and less opportunity for speculation. Despite a campaign to oust Porter, he was approved to serve his fifteenth year in a thankless but important post.

● As the convention grows larger, the platform atmosphere is more ponderous and controlled. Having a paid parliamentarian (from another denomination) stifles freedom and hinders the relationship between president and messenger. We continue to urge the return to Baptist parliamentarians.

We should return to the Baptist idea of trust, and allow our officers to preside. Their leadership ability is one of the reasons they are elected. Baptist messengers are neither robots nor zombies.

● Another surprise came when Ed Harrison, small-church pastor, won over another "conser-

vative" for the second vice-presidency. Apparently Baptists still believe in the underdog, the little man, who does his work in the vineyard without fanfare.

● Baptists continue to do the strangest things. With several recommendations remaining in the Executive Committee's report on Tuesday, messengers voted to group them into one vote without discussion — then approved all of them. One of the recommendations was that the convention meet in Salt Lake City in 1998.

Convening in Utah may be a good idea, but it certainly merited discussion. Remember the flap about going to Las Vegas? Of course that proved to be a blessing because of the pre-convention witnessing harvest of souls, but Salt Lake City certainly should have been thoroughly explained. Located in the heart of Mormon territory, it will present a great challenge for us.

● The call to prayer for spiritual awakening was a high mark of the convention. The atmosphere was spiritual. Thousands prayed together and then departed hand in hand, arm in arm, heads bowed.

● Severing our long relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs was a sad moment in Southern Baptist history. We commend the Executive Committee in putting the \$50,000 in the SBC budget even though it was later eliminated. Southern Baptists will miss their BJCPA friends. They have been staunch allies in the ongoing struggle for religious liberty. Tennessee Baptists remember how BJCPA has helped this convention.

The BJCPA has proved time and again its worth. There is no agency with as much influence for religious liberty rights. The staff has constantly guarded against frivolous moves by Congress and other government branches.

The deepest cut is that Southern Baptists were one of three Baptist groups that initiated the BJCPA. Even though some Southern Baptists differ with BJCPA actions in some instances — maintaining ties would have benefited us much more than the \$50,000 budget allocation.

● Southern Baptists will miss the strong Christian leadership of Harold Bennett who announced his retirement date (October 1992) as president of the Executive Committee. Not only is he a sound thinker and leader, he has served us loyally and with great integrity. We pray with the search committee for a person of Bennett's caliber to fill this vital position. He is a giant in the tradition of Baptist leadership.

● It was interesting that messengers opposed actions of the Congress and the President in several of their resolutions, and agreed with others.

Even so, President Bush's message was well

received. His support of prayer in private and public life is appreciated. He acknowledged a new understanding of praying with tears — even in public. In his message, he touched on many subjects held dear by Baptists — the family, prayer, Christian values in society. Though we did not receive it that way, it could have been seen as a campaign speech. But the warmth of his words seemed more personal than a speech.

● Though the Pastors' Conference is not subject to SBC guidelines, it hardly seems appropriate to have Oliver North and Jerry Falwell speaking to Southern Baptists.

This is a matter of perception. What we do as Southern Baptists may be "our own business," but how we are perceived by the world — and certainly by fellow Americans, is important.

The 134th Southern Baptist Convention was like all the rest. Recommendations and resolutions were acted upon, opinions were given, the budget was approved — but churches still act individually and no Baptist is bound by actions of another.

However, under God, we are all obligated to act as His children. We are under the leadership of Jesus Christ. We are subject to His commands and leadership. Brothers and sisters, "conservatives" and "moderates," we must offer ourselves totally to Him. — WFA

## Father's Day

Sunday, June 16, will be observed by millions of people as Father's Day.

A traditional observance, all fathers should be reminded of their place of leadership. It should be not only a day for remembering fathers, we fathers should pray for strength to be Christian fathers.

Being a father means more than giving an occasional hug and kiss, more than providing the necessities for the family.

Fathers should be encouragers, affirmers, lovers of wives and children. Fathers should always make certain that work and hobbies do not take away quality time with family.

Fathers should lead in family devotional time at home, setting the pace for church life, seizing the moment for witness to children, making God's Word a primary focus in each individual's life.

Fathers must be patient, caring, interested in those things which might seem insignificant. Being a father is a blessing from God. Extending that blessing to the family is a remarkable bonus to giver and receiver. — WFA

## Oklahoma pastor challenges messengers in convention sermon

By Connie Davis, assistant editor  
ATLANTA — "What do you do when you can't get back to God?" asked Tom Eliff as he began the convention sermon Wednesday at noon.

What does the Christian do when God is strangely silent and unlike other times when several days of extra prayer or another exercise mended the relationship, everything done to improve it fails? asked Eliff, who is pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.

Departing from his original sermon, Eliff spoke on God's approach to restoring a relationship by drawing on the analogy of God as shepherd and humans as sheep described in Psalm 23.

God has a design for our lives which will lead to prosperity — not contemporary views of prosperity but an abundant life — and production of good things, explained Eliff.

To reach these goals, humans, like sheep, need to be "restored" by the shepherd because both are complacent and careless, said Eliff.

"You took one more look, one more book, one more joke, one more critical word, one more moment of indecision, one more hour of sleep, one more unchecked desire, and now you're helpless to get back to God."

Even placing an athletic achievement over a spiritual goal will lead to a damaged relationship with God, said Eliff.

Sheep are helpless without direction. They often fall to a cast position — on their backs. The shepherd sheers it to remove the weight of its fleece and often breaks a leg to restrain it.

Eliff compared the losses of the sheep to the losses of humans undergoing restoration. A person might lose popularity, prestige, position, he said.

"There are some sheep gathering in rooms talking about other sheep that have been stripped and removed and others that have been broken. They may be one step in front of the others."

Eliff noted during a time of his greatest success, when he was "an expert on church growth and the spiritual life" and advising others across the

country, he needed restoration with God. During this period, he and his wife felt called and served as foreign missionaries in Zimbabwe. Several years after he identified his need, he was restored while serving there as a church planter/area evangelist, he shared.

"You don't come to God when you get

ready. . . . You come to Him if and when He gets good and ready for you to come back."

"It's one thing to believe that this Bible is the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God, but my brother, it's another thing to go to the Word of God and let Him restore your soul," said Eliff.

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# Bush encourages SBC messengers to protect family

ATLANTA — President George Bush urged Southern Baptists June 6 to "hold fast to the Southern Baptist ideal of free state," protect all faiths in freedom, and "hold fast to protect our most essential unit of life, the family."

Speaking to the closing session Bush praised Southern Baptists for their support of family values while advocating passage of a constitutional amendment on voluntary prayer in public schools, opposing federal funding of abortions, urging passage of crime legislation, and supporting federal vouchers for parents to choose schools and child care, including religious schools, for their children.

"In child care, in education, in crime legislation, are we doing all we can do to preserve faith and family?" Bush asked. "If not, we must do more. Only when we protect and preserve our most cherished ideals and institutions, does government by the people serve the people."

An estimated 25,000 people filled the Georgia World Congress Center almost to capacity for the President's 17-minute speech which was preceded

by a patriotic medley of music, including the theme songs of the military branches of service and the national anthem.

Bush was choked by tears as he thanked Southern Baptists for their prayers during the Persian Gulf War, "which I believe really strengthened our nation."

"To me, prayer has always been important and quite personal," said Bush, recounting how he and his wife, Barbara, prayed at Camp David about the responsibility of "sending someone else's kids to war. Now I no longer worry how I look to others. With prayer, what matters is how it seems to God."

Less than a minute into his speech, Bush was briefly interrupted by the sounds of fewer than five hecklers who were quickly ejected from the hall as messengers drowned them out with cheers.

One who was ejected said the group opposed the President's lack of a policy on AIDS.

Outside, several other protestors carried signs. Some shouted, "Racist, sex-

ist, anti-gay; Southern Baptists, go away."

Bush's speech was frequently interrupted with applause and cheers, with the loudest coming as he expressed opposition to "federal funding of abortions, except where the life of the mother is endangered."

On school prayer, Bush told the story of Monette Rethford, a fifth grader in Norman, Okla., who, he said, "liked to read her Bible under a shade tree during recess" and was frequently joined by several friends. School officials ruled the activity an unlawful assembly.

"My friends, the day a child's quiet prayer group during recess becomes an unlawful assembly, something's really wrong. In that spirit, today I again call on Congress to pass a constitutional amendment permitting voluntary prayer back into our nation's schools," said Bush.

He also advocated parental choice in child care and education, including federal vouchers to low-income parents. Before speaking to Southern Baptists, Bush visited the child care

development center operated by Atlanta's Central Presbyterian Church.

Bush said federal regulations to provide the first vouchers for child care were being issued June 6.

"Finally, low-income parents will have the chance to choose where their kids get child care — including religious settings and with religious instruction," said Bush.

He said America 2000, the president's education initiative to allow parents to choose schools for their children will "put power in parents' hands. We trust them to make the right decisions for their kids. Some argue choice will make bad schools worse. I am confident that choice will make even the bad schools better."

Just before Bush spoke, messengers adopted a resolution in support of the president's position on choice in education, along with resolutions commending Bush for his leadership in Operation Desert Storm. The previous day they passed resolutions criticizing the president for "lack of initiative" in limiting funding of so-called obscene art by the National Endowment on the Arts and registering outrage at a grant by the Centers for Disease Control for the 13th National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference.

Meanwhile, Bush urged Congressional passage of a crime bill but charged "leadership has failed to make crime a priority issue."

"We submitted our first crime bill more than two years ago and nothing has happened," said Bush. "Surely the United States Congress can pass a crime bill in what is left of the 100 days (since March 6 when Bush called for passage in 100 days)."

Bush said the United States remains "one nation under God."

"No nation better reconciles diversity of faith with unity of purpose. As new challenges confront us, we must draw on that strength and work to build a nation united in its commitment to decency and opportunity: to freedom, family, and faith," said Bush.

Before he spoke, Bush was introduced by SBC President Morris Chapman who thanked Bush for his support of Christian and family values.

"Thank you, Mr. President, for your commitment to cherished beliefs we hold in common," said Chapman. "Thank you for giving priority to your personal family and to family values and for your leadership in advocating parental choice in education and child care."

"Thank you, Mr. President, for standing up for the unborn. Thank you for setting an example of spiritual commitment by attending public worship. Thank you for unashamedly calling this nation to prayer in a time of international crisis..."

After his speech, Chapman presented Bush with a Bible published by the denomination's Nashville-based Sunday School Board.

Messengers began entering the hall when doors opened at 7 a.m. Everyone entering the hall had to pass through security, with purses and packages subject to search. Many had waited in line for two hours.

An unidentified Alabama woman messenger was detained at security for possession of a pistol for which she had a permit to carry in the state of Alabama. — Linda Lawson

## Messengers approve budget; end BJCPA funding

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor  
ATLANTA — Southern Baptist Convention messengers voted June 4 to end ties with the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs through an amendment to the 1991-92 Cooperative Program operating budget.

Messengers approved the CP allocation budget of \$140.7 million but voted to delete the \$50,000 allotted for the BJC, as proposed by the SBC Executive Committee.

The amendment, presented by Fred Minix of Alexandria, Va., was adopted with a ballot vote by a margin of 6872 to 6101.

Last year at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans, La., messengers approved a budget which reduced BJC funding from about \$400,000 to \$50,000.

The messengers' action is believed to be the first time (at least in recent years) that the budget, as presented by the Executive Committee, has been changed from the floor of the convention although several attempts have been made to do so during the past decade.

In making the amendment, Minix



**CASTING VOTES** — James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, casts his vote against deleting the Southern Baptist Convention's \$50,000 allotment to that Washington-based agency. Joining him in the vote is Elizabeth Cooper, center, widow of former SBC President Owen Cooper. — Photo by Van Payne

said the BJC does not represent Southern Baptists. "In my opinion they (BJC) better represent Norman Lear's organization, People for the American Way."

James Dunn, executive director of the BJC, was given an opportunity to respond in behalf of the religious liberty organization which represents ten Baptist groups.

Dunn noted the BJC was formed 55 years ago by Southern Baptists, Northern (now American) Baptists, and National Baptists.

"It would be a sad day if the official relationship of one of the three founding bodies of the Baptist Joint Committee were terminated," Dunn said.

Dunn noted the BJC has not changed in its "conservative" approach to religious liberty over the years. He urged messengers to "maintain a relationship, rather than eliminate it."

Messengers on both sides of the issue spoke in defense of or against the BJC. Ronnie Floyd of Springdale, Ark., chairman of the Executive Committee's business and finance subcommittee which recommended the budget, said the BJC allocation was "based on information the Executive Committee received. Whatever the convention chooses to do, it is able to do," he said.

Executive Committee Chairman Sam Pace, however, urged messengers not to amend the budget. "I think we are mistaken to try to change the budget here on the floor," Pace said, adding that the Executive Committee would be willing to be instructed on budget allocations for future years.

At a news conference following the morning session, Dunn said he was "deeply saddened" by the SBC action. "It represents a sign of departure from Baptist heritage," Dunn said.

Dunn said the loss of the \$50,000 from the SBC represents about seven percent of the BJC's total budget. He said the staff would make adjustments when budgeting for next year. He called the current year "the best year in our history in terms of income, staff building, and impact of individual staff members on curriculum."

Dunn said that if the Southern Bap-

tist Convention requests continued representation on the BJC without providing funding, the convention would be granted one member. He noted individual Southern Baptists would continue to serve on the BJC.

No action was taken about the \$50,000 that was deleted from the BJC. An earlier amendment which would have given the money to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary was rejected by messengers.

Harold Bennett, president and treasurer of the Executive Committee, said, "In my opinion, the \$50,000 stays in the budget, and the decision about its disposition will be made by the Executive Committee."

An attempt by messenger Danny Crosby of Temple, Texas, to amend the 1991-92 operating budget to increase by 2.46 percent instead of almost ten percent as proposed was defeated in a show of hands vote. However, an estimated 30 percent of messengers voted for the amendment.

The SBC operating budget for 1991-92 is \$4,023,121 compared to \$3,646,434 for 1991.

Business and finance subcommittee chairman Ronnie Floyd urged messengers to reject the amendment. "The Executive Committee carries on the work of the convention between sessions. We need that money to carry on the work of the Lord," he said.

Executive Committee member Charles Sullivan of Lenoir City reminded messengers that "a good bit of the increase has taken place because of assignments you've given us (Executive Committee) as a convention."

The SBC operating budget includes money for convention operations, Executive Committee expenses, and convention support for the Baptist World Alliance.

The 1991-92 CP allocation budget represents an increase of 2.46 percent over the current budget. Most SBC agencies, boards, and seminaries received between 1.00 and 2.46 percent increases. The Christian Life Commission received the largest percentage gain of any agency — 6.3 percent.

— Linda Lawson contributed to this article.

As SBC officers

## Messengers re-elect Chapman by acclamation; Porter by 17 votes

By Connie Davis, assistant editor

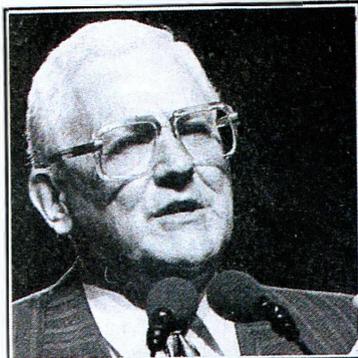
ATLANTA — "Conservatives" swept the election of all but one office of the Southern Baptist Convention but waning interest later resulted in one election vote by less than 25 percent of the messengers.

Morris Chapman, incumbent president, was re-elected by acclamation to a second term in that office on Tuesday. Also elected by acclamation later that day was Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga., as first vice president. Tuesday evening Ed Harrison Jr., pastor, Dollarway Church, Pine Bluff, Ark., defeated Vander Warner Jr., pastor of Grove Avenue Church, Richmond, Va., as second vice president.

On Wednesday Tennessean David Atchison, layman, Two Rivers Church, Nashville, was re-elected by acclamation as recording secretary.

In a change of pace Wednesday, Lee Porter of Nashville, who resigned his position at the Baptist Sunday School Board to run for his 15th consecutive term as registration secretary, was elected by 17 of a total 9059 votes cast.

Porter was demoted at last fall at the BSSB and instructed not to run for the office after making a report to a group of seminary students last year at the convention meeting. Porter was accused of making remarks to the



**VOTING INSTRUCTIONS** — Lee Porter, Southern Baptist registration secretary, gives messengers instructions before a ballot vote. During the convention, Porter was re-elected to his 15th term as registration secretary by a total of 17 votes. — Photo by Van Payne

students which were critical of "conservatives."

Porter, 61, has been an employee of the BSSB for 15 years. He is bivocational pastor of Bell Road Church, Nashville.

Porter announced in May he was taking early retirement, effective July 1, so he could run for re-election.

Lack of interest in the Tuesday evening election of second vice president resulted in an unusual ruling. The



**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS** — Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman delivers the president's address during the SBC annual meeting. He was elected without opposition to a second one-year term as president. — Photo by Mark Sandlin

number of ballots cast — 4533 — did not constitute a quorum. Twenty-five percent of registered messengers — about 5725 — were required for a quorum. But officers with advice of legal counsel ruled a quorum was present when the session began, thus the vote was valid.

Chapman was nominated by Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., and secretary of the SBC Executive Committee. He said Chap-

man "has held fast to his conviction while at the same time being loving and kind in his relationships." He noted the president had magnified the Cooperative Program as God's way to do missions as Southern Baptists. Chapman also had led the convention to God through the planned Wednesday evening confession and rededication service, reported Wolfe.

Nominating Price as first vice president was Dwight Reighard, pastor of New Hope Church, Fayetteville, Ga. He said the church Price serves ranks among the top five Southern Baptist churches in Georgia in baptisms, contributes ten percent of its offerings to the Cooperative Program, and sponsors mission churches in nine states.

Tennessean David Rogers of Bartlett nominated Ed Harrison as second vice president. Rogers said Harrison would represent "the point of view from people who never spoke on the platform of the Pastors' Conference" or an evangelism conference. He added Harrison's church gives 15 percent of undesignated offerings to missions and the nominee "preaches the inerrant Word of God and is a soul winner."

Warner was nominated by Padgett Cope of Birmingham who said Warner has been president of the SBC Pastors' Conference and had spoken to that group three times.

## Variety of speakers address 1991 Pastors' Conference

ATLANTA — America is in desperate need of revival and for Christians to be involved in politics, speakers advised at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in the Georgia World Congress Center.

The two-day conference which attracted 18,000 people, primarily pastors, preceded the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention scheduled for Tuesday through Thursday.

An address by retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North stirred the most response. People waved American flags and sang patriotic anthems before and after his address.

North, who is appealing his convictions for Iran-Contra deals, urged Christians to be involved in government.

"It is a tragedy that so many Christians have withdrawn from the political process," North said. "The First Amendment is designed to protect godly people from the government, not the government from godly

people."

As he spoke, at least five people outside the meeting hall protested his presence on the program. Jerry Gentry, member of Oakhurst Church in Decatur, Ga., said North's speech supports the merger of Christian faith and politics which he called idolatry.

Richard Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Church in Atlanta and president of the Pastors' Conference, said North is controversial to many people, "but to the vast majority of us, he's an American patriot."

Lee noted that none of the conference speakers, including North, received an honorarium for the program. North typically receives \$20,000 to \$25,000 for a speech, representatives of his speakers bureau said.

Another call for Christians to be involved in government came from author and speaker Tim LaHaye, of Washington, D.C. He said Christians will lose their freedoms unless they fight to preserve them. He stressed the need for Christian schools as an alternative to public schools, which he called the nation's "greatest source of deception."

Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Church, Dallas, Texas, also sounded a call for Christian involvement in the political process. "Christians are to be involved in the social agenda and political agenda, but they are to be done from a biblicentric frame of reference."

Five former SBC presidents — W. A. Criswell, Adrian Rogers, Jimmy Draper, Bailey Smith, and Jerry Vines — also spoke during the Pastors' Conference.

Criswell, senior pastor of First Church, Dallas, said great churches cannot be built without great pastors. A pastor, he said, provides bold and courageous leadership.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Cordova, reminded the ministers of the evils of immorality.

"We are never told to fight this sin, we are told to flee this sin," Rogers said.

Draper, pastor of First Church, Euless, Texas, stressed the role of Christian martyrs in advancing God's kingdom. He said total commitment to God has characterized martyrs from Stephen in the New Testament to Lynda Bethea, a Southern Baptist missionary who was killed in March by robbers in Kenya. Her husband, Ralph, was severely injured in the attack.

"Death did not make Lynda Bethea a martyr," he said. "It only revealed her as a martyr. A martyr has already died to self and the things of this world."

Smith, an Atlanta-based evangelist, said there are too many luke warm churches in the SBC. He noted a denominational study has shown that at least 50 percent of SBC churches have plateaued or are in decline.

Smith blamed the decline on "moderate preaching," "lethargic congregations," and "lethal compromise."

Vines, co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., urged pastors to allow God's glory to be manifest in their lives.

"It is not enough to read the Bible looking for the text for your sermon. We need to look for transfiguration that we should become less of what we are and more of Jesus Christ."

To be effective in reaching the world for Christ, Southern Baptists need to be open to change, said Ed Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston. Change is risky and costly, Young said, but beneficial changes are possible when the plan for change stems from a vision from God.

Chuck Colson, of Washington, D.C.,

said churches need to reject the cultural values they have adopted. The author and speaker who became a Christian while serving a prison sentence for his Watergate crimes, said the church has adopted society's idea of success — that bigger is better.

During an address on the doctrine of God's holiness, Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, said that doctrine has been emphasized little in churches today.

People who have encountered God's holiness know that it has "a harrowing effect, healing efficacy, and heavenly employment." Pastors today need to realize that "they get to the throne room of God through the prayer closet," he said.

Bill Stafford, a Chattanooga-based evangelist urged pastors to "rekindle the fire" they sensed at their calling.

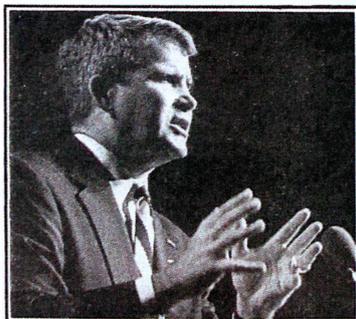
Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas challenged the pastors to share their faith as fervently as John the Baptist foretold the Messiah's coming.

Graham was elected president of the 1992 Pastors' Conference.

At the conference's final session, Jerry Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Church, Lynchburg, Va., was invited to address the audience briefly. Falwell, an independent Baptist, had not been listed on the printed program.

He said that the social problems of America had changed radically since the 1950s when he finished Bible college. At that time, drug abuse, abortion, pornography, and New Age religion had not yet made a major impact on society, he said.

If Christians stand firm and do not "flinch," the Gospel can be preached to the world and many of the nation's social problems can be overcome by the turn of the century, Falwell predicted. — Sarah Zimmerman and Pat Cole



**MAKING A POINT** — Retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North tells participants at the annual Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference that Christians need to be involved in government. — Photo by Van Payne

## Bennett to retire as Executive Committee president

ATLANTA — The retirement of Harold C. Bennett as Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee president and treasurer was accepted effective Oct. 1, 1992, and machinery set in motion to secure his successor during an Executive Committee meeting June 3 before the Southern Baptist Convention began.

Bennett, 66, who has held his present post since 1979, will continue as a consultant to the Executive Committee until Oct. 1, 1993. Joe Warwick, a layman from Knoxville, was named to the search committee.

Bennett said he proposed the retirement date to the officers of the Executive Committee June 1, and they "concurred with its appropriateness."

"It is my hope that I have been a faithful servant of the Lord," said Bennett. "I have worked diligently at being helpful, providing complete information and being fair. I know there were times when I failed but my desire was to be a good minister-leader."

In response, James Jones, a Campbellsville, Ky. pastor, praised Bennett's unique, God-given ability to work with any individual, regardless of his/her theological persuasion.

"After much prayer and acting on the leadership of the Lord, he and he alone has made this decision that it is time for he and Phyllis (Mrs. Bennett) to spend the deserved time together and do some of the things they want to do."

Julian Motley, a Durham, N.C. pastor, was named to chair a ten-member search committee to nominate Bennett's successor.

Other members of the committee are Warwick; Stan Coffey of Amarillo, Texas; Doyle Collins of Roseburg, Ore.; Ronnie Floyd of Springdale, Ark.; Gwyna Parker of Taylor, Texas; Guy Sanders of Lake Wales, Fla.; Simon Tsoi of Phoenix, Ariz.; Fred

Wolfe of Mobile, Ala.; and David Hankins, Lake Charles, La., the new chairman of the Executive Committee.

Named to chair a transition committee charged with planning a retirement celebration honoring Bennett at the 1992 SBC meeting was J. C. Mitchell, a Winter Park, Fla., pastor.

Other members of the committee are Scott Humphrey of Alexandria, Va.; Gayden Jones of Baton Rouge, La.; Wallace Jones of Bridgeton, Mo.; Kenneth Mahanes of Dayton, Ohio; Joe Reynolds of Houston; James Yates of Yazoo City, Miss.; and the three immediate past chairmen of the Executive Committee. They are Sam Pace of Lawton, Okla.; Charles Sullivan of Lenoir City; and David Maddox of Fullerton, Calif.

Bennett, only the fourth man to head the Executive Committee, was executive secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention from 1967 to 1979. Earlier, he served on the staffs of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Home Mission Board, and the Sunday School Board. He was pastor of churches in North Carolina, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

In other business the Executive Committee approved without discussion bylaw changes that create two new standing committees.

The Officers Advisory Committee will include the chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, and chairpersons of the administrative, business and finance, and program and budget subcommittees. They will be available to advise the president/treasurer and will meet at least two weeks before the September and February meetings of the Executive Committee.

A second new standing committee, the Legal Assistance Committee, will include all attorneys serving on the Executive Committee. It will advise the Officers Advisory Committee and



**ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT** — Harold C. Bennett, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee president and treasurer, announced plans to retire, effective Oct. 1, 1992, prior to the SBC meeting in Atlanta.

"review annually all legal opinions and legal expenses of the committee and shall seek to obtain the best and most reasonable representation possible" for the Executive Committee.

After extended debate at a meeting in February, the Executive Committee voted to retain current definitions for "cooperating Baptist church" and "in friendly cooperation with" the Southern Baptist Convention.

Churches "in friendly cooperation with" and "cooperating Baptist churches" will continue to be defined as "sympathetic with its (SBC) purposes and work and has during the fiscal year preceding been a bona fide contributor to the Convention's work."

An accreditation study committee established to "study the procedures and impact of the accreditation of the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries" will continue its work and report at the Sept. 16-18 meeting of the Executive Committee.

Four members who are rotating off the Executive Committee will continue

to work with the accreditation group. They are Frank Lady of Jonesboro, Ark., James Jones, Sam Pace, and Paul Pressler of Houston.

Jones said the group plans to meet with officials of the Association of Theological Schools, one of two accrediting agencies, "to let them know our heart in a positive way, to hear from them, and let them hear from us."

Three Southern Baptist seminaries — Southeastern, Southern, and Southwestern — are currently in discussions with ATS.

Proposed charter amendments for the Home and Foreign Mission boards were approved which eliminate local members of the boards of trustees, with all trustees serving as at-large members representing their Baptist state conventions.

Hankins, pastor of Trinity Church, Lake Charles, La., was elected chairman of the Executive Committee during its organizational meeting on Wednesday.

He was unopposed for the office, as was Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., who was elected vice chairman. Wolfe had been secretary for two years.

Eldridge Miller, pastor of First Church, Sallisaw, Okla., was elected recording secretary. He defeated two other candidates — Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Church, Amarillo, Texas, and Newton Brill, layman from West Plains, Mo. Brill led the first of three ballots, but was edged by Miller 32-30 in the final runoff.

Eighteen new members were introduced, including Hollie Miller, pastor of Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville (replacing Charles Sullivan of Lenoir City, who rotated off), and Paul Kaneshiro, pastor of Pukalani Church, Pukalani, the first person to represent Hawaii on the committee.

## Chapman re-elected president, BJCPA . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Porter of Nashville, a 14-year veteran, as registration secretary, failed as James W. Richards, a Baton Rouge, La., pastor, lost by 17 votes.

Porter has gained a reputation for instituting registration reforms while making messenger registration and voting easier and less time consuming. He garnered 4523 votes. "Conservatives" had called for his defeat after remarks made by him to seminary students during an impromptu meeting at last year's convention in New Orleans were published last September by the Indiana state paper.

**Meet in Salt Lake City**  
Messengers criticized the Executive Committee for seeking to increase its budget by almost ten percent while requesting only an average of 2.46 percent increase for agencies.

A motion from the floor prompted messengers to approve several Executive Committee recommendations without discussion, all at one vote, including SBC meetings in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1988, and Orlando, Fla., in 2000.

President Chapman took some "jabs" at "moderates" during his message. He indicated "moderates" were coming up short as people of the Book. He criticized a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship document which, he said, states the Bible neither claims

nor reveals inerrancy as a Christian teaching and that Bible claims must be based on the Bible, not on human interpretations of the Bible.

"When you refuse to believe the Bible to be God's perfect Word, you have stripped away God's authority. All you have left is interpretation," he said.

He implored Southern Baptists to be people of faith, the Bible, missions, evangelism, and prayer. Concerning the inerrancy of the Bible, Chapman said it is part of Southern Baptist heritage. He called it foundational and asked Southern Baptists to teach it in classrooms of educational institutions, preach it in the pulpits, and print it in denominational literature.

**Slow on accreditation issue**  
While 20 agencies detailed their accomplishments for the messengers in annual reports, the Education Commission also advised them to go slow on a proposal to set up a Southern Baptist accreditation vehicle.

Bob R. Agee of Shawnee, Okla., member of a special task force studying the accreditation of Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries, said the task force could find no evidence that regional accrediting bodies have prevented these schools from fulfilling their spiritual purpose.

Regional accrediting agencies have allowed Southern Baptist educational

institutions to be as Christian and Baptist as school leaders want them to be, despite misunderstandings created by accreditation reviews conducted at some institutions, said Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University.

The task force recommended that no accreditation body be formed that would interfere with the relationship between Southern Baptist schools and regional accrediting bodies.

Brotherhood Commission leaders used the convention as an opportunity to present their new president to the messengers.

James D. Williams, executive vice president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will take the reins of the agency Sept. 15. Agency trustees elected him June 5.

In final business, messengers chose Lewis Drummond, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., to preach the convention sermon in 1992 and designated James W. Jones, evangelism and Brotherhood director for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, as the alternate preacher.

Jack Price of Garland, Texas, was re-elected as convention music director.

The messengers will meet in 1992 on June 9-11 in Indianapolis, Ind.

## Preconvention efforts net 324 professions

ATLANTA — A total of 324 professions of faith were recorded in Atlanta as Southern Baptists participated in a variety of evangelistic ministries prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

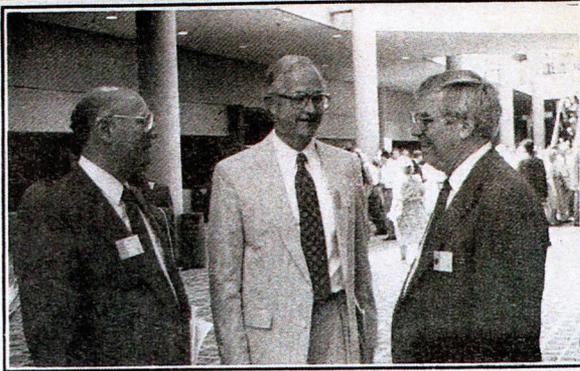
Saturday, before the annual meeting began on Tuesday, 662 volunteers went door-to-door in Atlanta neighborhoods. They shared the Gospel 842 times and visited 6720 homes. Their efforts resulted in 154 professions of faith.

Earlier in the week, 83 volunteers preached on Atlanta's downtown streets and recorded 139 professions of faith.

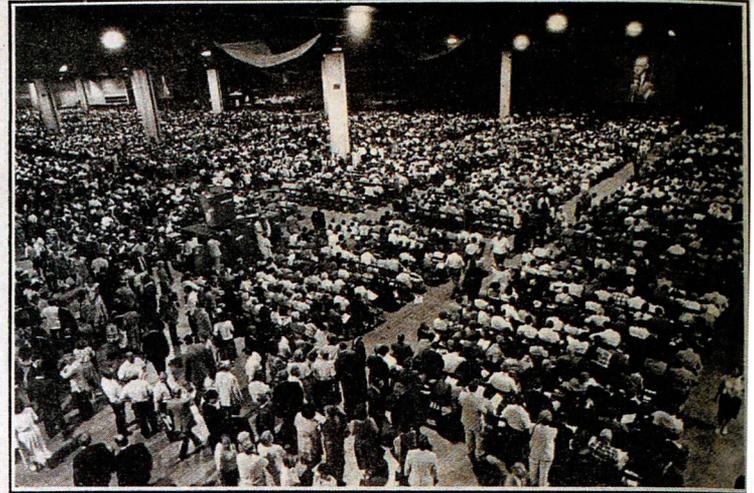
In addition, mobile disaster relief units from five states served four meals over the weekend. People witnessing to those receiving the meals reported 31 professions of faith.

The preconvention witnessing efforts were coordinated by the evangelism department of the Home Mission Board. Expanding the project to include events other than the door-to-door survey was the vision of Morris Chapman, SBC president and pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas.

# Attendin



**EARL McCOSH**, Cherokee Hills Church pastor, Morristown left; **David George**, Immanuel Church pastor, Nashville, middle; and TBC Executive Director **D. L. Lowrie**



**MORE THAN 23,000** messengers registered for the 1991 annual SBC meeting held in the Georgia World Congress Center.

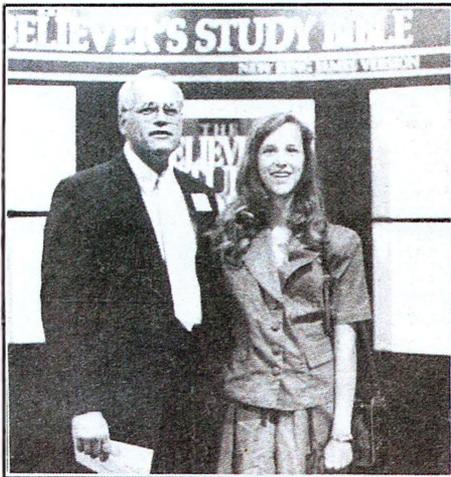
**TENNESSEE PASTORS**, from left, **Ray Newcomb**, First Church, Millington; **Paul Woodford**, First Church, Lewisburg; and **Mark Duggin**, Parkview Church, Lewisburg



**PASTOR KEN AND JOY Clayton**, Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory



**JOHN LAIDA**, info of the Credentials screening points



**WOODLAWN CHURCH, BRISTOL**, messengers **Steve Playe**, pastor, and his daughter, **Stephanie**



**MESSENGERS FROM Kirby Woods Church**, Memphis, **Pam Maseley**, left, and **Becky Pearson**



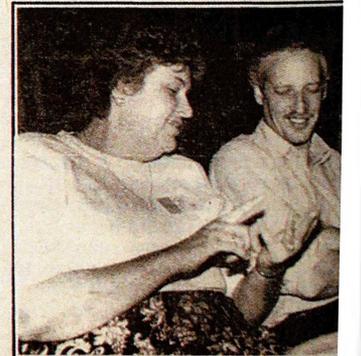
**DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS Bill George**, left, Beulah Church, and **Archie and Loretta Mathis**, Third Church, Murfreesboro



**EDWARD CLICK**, right, pastor, and his daughter, **Betsy**, messengers from First Church, Riceville

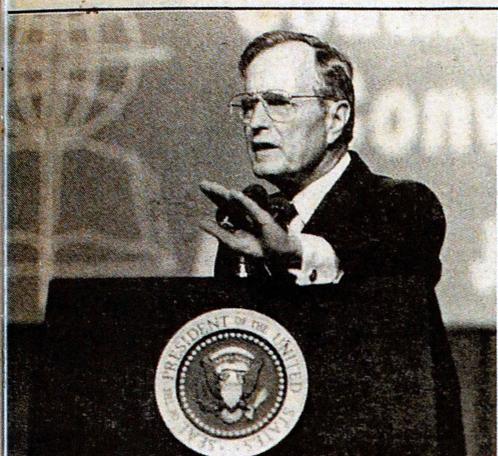


**FROM LEFT**, **Obie Campbell**, pastor, New Providence Church, Loudon; **Bennie Creel**, director of missions, Sweetwater Association; and **Keith Pierce**, pastor, Glenlock Church, Sweetwater



**STAFF MEMBERS Freeda Davis**, left, Church, Donelson, and **Marion Arbuckle**, Westwood Church, Murfreesboro

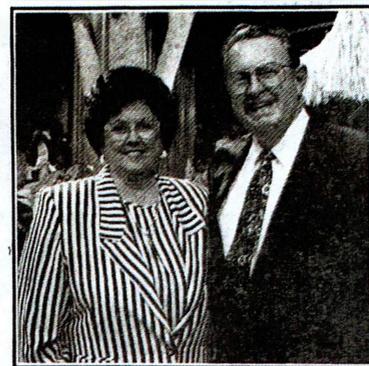
# the SBC



**PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH** addresses SBC messengers during final session.



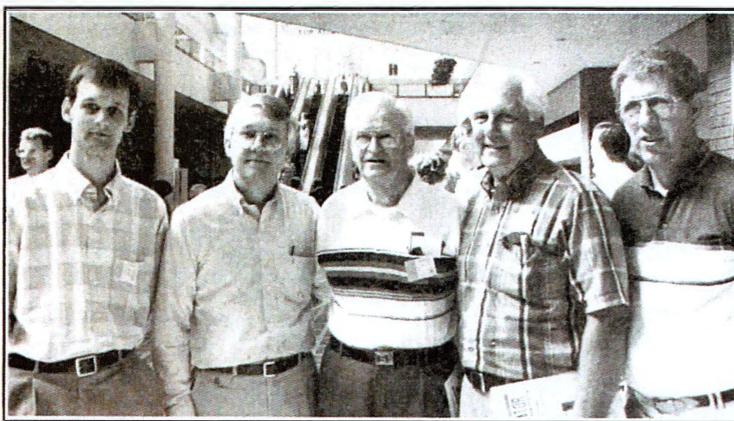
**THE KIMS**, from left, Hanna, Yang Ja, and Sei-Hun from Korean Church, Nashville



**DELILAH AND Charles Sullivan**, Lenoir City. Pastor of First Church, he was given a plaque for serving two terms on SBC Executive Committee and chairman for two years.



or for Brentwood Church and member ee, helped check messengers through President Bush's address.



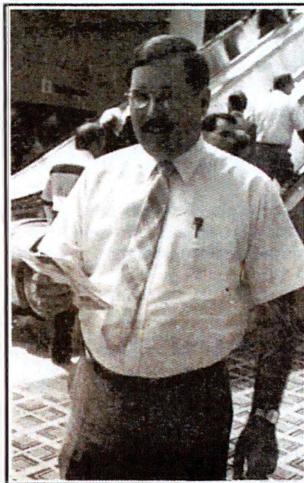
**FROM INSKIP Church**, Knoxville, from left, Robbie Bean, Don Morris, pastor, Ed Smith, Jim Cole, and Bill Wiser



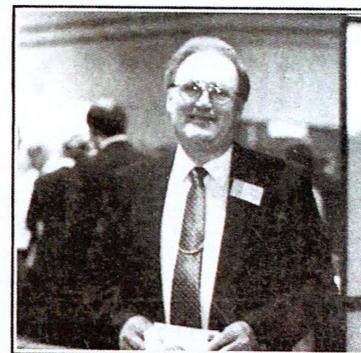
**Jesus**

**There's Power In His Name**

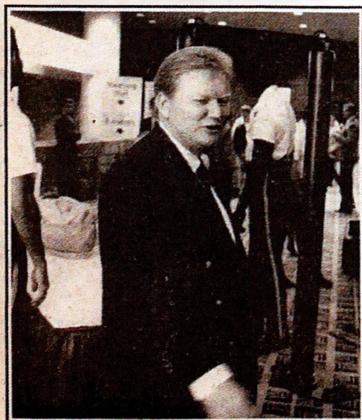
"Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."  
Matthew 1:21



**DAVID PITTMAN**, Hamilton County Association, Chattanooga



**JACK GREGORY**, pastor of Southwestern Church, Johnson City



**RICK WHITE**, First Church, Franklin, pastor and Credentials Committee member, assisted messengers at screening points prior to President Bush's address.



**MEMBERS OF Oak Street Church**, Maryville, from left, Tony Jenkins, Ernest Condee, pastor, Claude Ramsey, and Joe White



**MESSENGERS CLASSIE and Charles Christopher**, members of Westel Church, Crossville

# WMU elects new officers; approves record budget

ATLANTA — More than 3500 members of the Woman's Missionary Union elected a new president and recording secretary, approved a record budget, and heard challenges for Southern Baptists to be true to their call to missions during the two-day 103rd annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention auxiliary.

Meeting in the ballroom of the Georgia World Congress Center June 2-3, members tapped Carolyn Miller of Huntsville, Ala., as president and Martha Wannerberg of DeFuniak Springs, Fla., as recording secretary.

Miller succeeds Marjorie McCullough of Alexandria, La., while Wannerberg replaces Hattie Dent of Holly Springs, Miss.

In her annual report to the WMU, Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien charged WMU members to pray as you have never prayed before for the heart of the SBC — beg for His forgiveness, for His guidance, and for His wisdom."

She said the missions education organization must risk calling the denomination "back to the unity of the missions challenge."

The Executive Board reported a \$13,413,380 budget for 1991-92, a 6.6 percent increase from the current \$12.5-million budget.

Addressing the theme "Called To Missions," Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks of Richmond, told the crowd that the call to missions "is a call to give ourselves, our substance, and our prayers."

But Southern Baptists reflect a difficult task of fulfilling that calling when Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts drop \$835,000 from the previous year, as they did this year he said.

Maurice Graham, missionary to Kuwait, told the attendees he owes his life to Southern Baptists. He was among a group of hostages in the Persian Gulf country who took refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City following the country's invasion by Iraq in early September.

"There were many days when I did



MILLER



WANNERBERG

not know if we would be safe for another 24 hours, but I knew Southern Baptists were praying for Laurie and our family," he said. "At the age of 16 when I made a commitment to missions, I was not fully aware of all it would mean, but I knew I must be faithful to that call."

In calling the denomination to missions, Graham challenged Southern Baptists to renew their call to sacrifice.

"Our theology in today's churches does not understand suffering as a part of a commitment to missions," he said. "Some of our churches may have to suffer a building program not being completed just now so that others may hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Being faithful to the call may require some WMU leaders going to their pastor and saying, 'We need to make missions the No. 1 priority in our church.'"

"When we have that commitment we will be true to our calling to share Christ with those who are waiting to hear," he said.

Outgoing President McCullough urged members not to dwell on the success of the past at the expense of failing to claim the treasure of their future.

After spotlighting the gains of the five years of her presidency, she changed the tone to warn against becoming too satisfied with the proud past.

She then drew parallels between the organization's strength and that of Gulliver and the danger encountered when, exhausted from his shipwreck, he took a prolonged rest.

She then drew parallels between the organization's strength and that of Gulliver and the danger encountered when, exhausted from his shipwreck, he took a prolonged rest.

The board adopted a budget of \$13,413,380 for 1991-92. The new budget reflects a 6.6 percent increase over the current budget of \$12.5 million.

The board of the women's auxiliary also set national goals for the 1992 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and the 1993 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

The 1992 Lottie Moon offering goal is \$88 million. They also voted to reduce the 1991 Lottie Moon offering goal from the \$88 million to \$84 million due to concerns about a shortfall in 1990 foreign missions giving.

The executive board learned gifts to the 1990 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering totaled \$79.3 million, which fell almost \$6 million short of the goal. The 1990 gifts also were less than the amount given to the offering in 1989, making 1990 the first year in 53 years that the gifts fell below the previous year's offering.

"If we do not meet the goal this

"While he went astray, shipwrecked, and then with relief, slept, the tiny midget people with tiny cords bound him to the ground," she said.

"Ladies, we all have minds of giants. We cannot be found sleeping away opportunities of today because we have had a peaceful and glorious past.

"Are we neglecting the challenges of today? Are we realizing the imperatives of the times in which we live? We could awaken soon to find ourselves prisoners of our own littleness, our little vision, little ideas, little hope."

## Miller to continue WMU focus

By Connie J. Umstead, news assistant

Newly-elected Woman's Missionary Union President Carolyn Miller plans to continue the missions support focus followed by the auxiliary since its beginning 104 years ago.

Miller, elected June 3 to a one-year term, said during a news conference at the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, that missions and missionaries "have been and will be our mandate. We will not deny a person or church or agency the privilege of giving to missions," even if the gift comes outside official denominational channels.

Miller was questioned about the tension in the Southern Baptist Convention between "moderates" and "conservatives," and the WMU's position on accepting missions support from "moderate" Southern Baptists and groups outside the Cooperative Program.

"We will not take sides in this controversy," Miller stressed. She explained that WMU supports the Cooperative Program and denominational missions agencies, but will not prevent others from giving to missions as they choose.

When asked whether WMU would support missionaries appointed by "moderate" groups, such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Miller said she could not answer, since no such groups were appointing mis-

Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis thanked WMU members for their partnership in home missions.

"Without faith in Jesus Christ, there is no hope," Lewis said. He noted that the Home Mission Board is trying to bring that hope through the board's four emphases in evangelism, ministry, starting new churches, and helping existing churches to grow.

Lewis thanked the members for their prayers and support of missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. — Joe Westbury and Scott Collins

sionaries. If that happens, she said, the WMU executive board would consider the question of financial support.

Miller, 53, of Huntsville, Ala., shared her dream of involving more youth and young working women in missions education in local churches.

She reported that 85 percent of women will be working outside the home by the year 2000. While it is commonly believed that working women may have too many commitments already, Miller believes these women have "pockets of time" in which they can learn about missions.

"If we don't reach these working women, we will have lost a great deal of our women ... We've got to make them really want to study missions," Miller said.

Referring to the 1991-1992 WMU theme, "Called and Accountable," she said WMU must make sure church members understand missions.

"We must be accountable for going back to churches and getting them to give to the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board."

She added that missions education and missions giving are "two sides of the same coin."

"When a need is known, then people give," she explained, and that the WMU's goal to enroll more members is not for the sake of larger numbers, but for the result in participation and giving.

## WMU executive board reduces 1991 Lottie Moon offering goal

ATLANTA — The executive board of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union announced June 1 the redesign of its adult member magazine, approved a record budget, and voted to produce jointly with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission a quarterly kit for youth workers to use in coed youth groups.

They also reduced or set goals for the 1991-93 missions offerings and approved the first phase of implementation of a national marketing campaign for the organization.

The redesign of Royal Service, the magazine for Baptist Women members, will be effective with the October 1993 issue. Beginning with that issue, there will be a member edition and a leader edition.

Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director, also announced a price increase for all WMU magazines effective with October 1992 issues. The last magazine subscription price increase was in January 1990. Printing and mailing costs have risen dramatically since then, O'Brien said.

WMU's budget is based almost en-

tirely on the revenue earned from its magazine subscriptions and product sales.

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"If we do not meet the goal this

year, it will be the tenth anniversary of not meeting our goal, and that is an anniversary we don't want to celebrate," O'Brien said.

O'Brien said the Annie Armstrong offering does not seem to be suffering as much as the foreign missions offering. She announced the 1993 Annie Armstrong national goal will be \$41 million. The goal has been set at \$41 million since 1990. Southern Baptists have yet to reach it.

The executive board also voted to join the Brotherhood Commission to produce a quarterly kit by 1992 for use by youth ministers in leading coed youth groups in learning about missions.

WMU officials stressed the resources are to help reach youth who are not involved in age-level missions organizations offered by Brotherhood and WMU. — Susan Todd Doyle



**FAMILY FUN** — Browsing in the exhibit area were Pastor Otis Hinton of Temple Church, Paris; daughter, Hope; and wife, Carolyn.

# TenneScene

...Starting at Bumpus Mills, down to Hurricane Mills, and on to Cypress Inn...

## Ordinations ...

Mount Olive Church, Somerville, ordained James E. Weeks, J. B. Henly, and James Treadway as deacons.

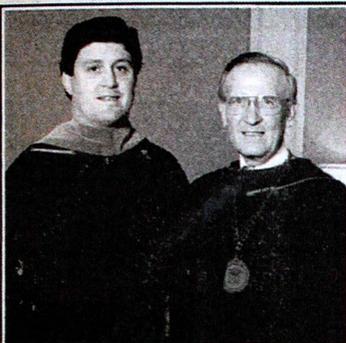
## Revivals ...

Harmony Church, Whiteville, will have revival June 16-19. T. R. Coulter will be evangelist, and Ronnie Cottingham will lead music.

Butler's Chapel Church, Ramer, will hold a brush arbor meeting June 20-23. Randy Isbell will lead the services.

## Churches ...

Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain, recently established a ministerial scholarship in appreciation of former pastor Moncrief Jordan and



**TENNESSEAN RECEIVES DEGREE** — Tennessee John Steven Gaines of Jackson left, received a doctoral degree during spring commencement May 10 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Pictured with Gaines is Southwestern President Russell H. Dilday.

## Korean church constituted in Nashville

The Korean mission of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville, was constituted as The Han Vit (translated as First Light, Jesus Christ) Baptist with Yang C. Kim, as its first full-time pastor, on May 26.

The constitution and ordination service included a deacon ordination, led by Pastor Kim, for the first deacons of the newly-formed church: Bong Kyu Lim, Byung Sik Son, and Chang Vok Hong.

Beginning in 1989 as an extended Bible class of the international department Sunday School at Brook Hollow, the group has grown from 24 people to more than 125 in about two years. During this time they shared the facilities



**CHURCH CONSTITUTED** — The Korean mission of Brook Hollow Church recently was constituted as Han Vit Baptist Church. From left, Sei-Hun Kim and Carl Duck, Nashville Association; Terry Sharp, Tennessee Baptist Convention; Pastor Yang C. Kim; and David Smith, Brook Hollow Church.

his wife, Diane, for 17 years of faithful service to the church. Jordan is now pastor of First Church, Jefferson City.

United Community Church, Chattanooga, was constituted May 19. The church was a mission of Second Church, Chattanooga, for two years. United Community Church is the first black church to be constituted into Hamilton County Association. Byron McClure is pastor.

Construction recently began on a new building for Trinity Church, Memphis. The 45,000 square foot building will house a fan-shaped worship center, education and office space, a fellowship hall, a kitchen, a library, and a choir room. The building is expected to be complete in nine months.

A mission team from Midway Church, Bolivar, will travel to Haiti June 17-25 for a crusade, Vacation Bible School, and construction work.

A mission team from Crieveewood Church, Nashville, will be in Jefferson City June 16-21 to work with Appalachian Outreach, a mission project of the Baptist Student Union at Carson-Newman College. Team members will do construction repair and renovation work on poverty-level housing.

## Leadership ...

First Church, Bethel Springs, called Richard Christian as minister of music.

Noel Edwards will retire from the pastorate of Ramer Church, Ramer, in June.

Nickey McCreary has been called as minister of youth to First Church, Mt. Juliet. He formerly served as minister of students at Bartlett Church, Bartlett.

Manley Church, Morristown, has called four students to work in church ministries during the summer. Kristy Cobb, a junior at Furman University, Greenville, S.C., and Jason Shannon, who will be a freshman at Furman in September, will be youth interns. Morris Horner, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will work with single adults, Camp-Care-A-Lot, and recreation. Southwestern Seminary student Jane Emmert will be the director of Camp-Care-A-Lot.

Members of Trinity Church, Lebanon, held a reception recently for Allen Buhler in honor of his 50 years of service in the pastoral ministry. Robert Agee, Wilson County Association director of missions; Bobby Jewell, mayor of Lebanon; Don Simpson, county executive; Joe Bell, Tennessee representative; Bob Rochelle, Tennessee senator; and Bill Bates, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, made presentations to the Buhlers during the reception.

## Belmont hosts celebration for youth

NASHVILLE — Ken Smith, youth evangelist of Margate, Fla., will share his insight and humor June 21 with those who gather for the fifth annual Christian Youth Celebration at Belmont College.

Smith will be the featured speaker with music provided



SMITH

## Tennessee couple appointed by HMB

ATLANTA — Bill and Annette Howse were appointed to mission service in Nashville by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in May.



HOWSES

Howse is a native of Fort Worth, Texas, and a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. He has worked as a caseworker, counselor, and director of alcohol and drug abuse. He will serve as national missionary for senior adult ministries, working with Baptist centers and associations developing senior adult programs.

A native of Jewett, Texas, Mrs. Howse is a graduate of Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Texas. She is a former social worker and substitute teacher. Mrs. Howse has served as a Woman's Missionary Union director and as a member of a church personnel committee and missions committee. While in Nashville, she will work in family and church service.

The Howses live in Brentwood and are members of First Church, Nashville. They have two children.

by 3-D at a program beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Massey Auditorium. An ice cream extravaganza will follow at 8:30 p.m. The evening's festivities are open to everyone free of charge.

About 400 youth attended the Christian Youth Celebration last year. The Celebration precedes the Baptist Youth Rally at Opryland on Saturday, June 22. For ticket information about Saturday at Opryland, call (615) 889-7070.

For more information about the Christian Youth Celebration at Belmont call (615) 385-6785.

## TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

The basic unit in Baptist life will always be the local congregation. We tend to forget this. All of the publicity that surrounds the large denominational meeting overshadows the place of the local congregation.

Unless your local church is involved in some terrible scandal, it will never make the national news, and may go unnoticed by the local media. Yet the decision you make in your monthly business meeting may have more eternal impact than decisions made by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Your church may vote to license a young person to the Gospel ministry, or even to ordain a young man. The impact of this decision can be felt for years. Your church may vote to sponsor the beginning of a new congregation, and the impact of this decision can last until our Lord returns. In 1891 Dumplin Church in Jefferson County

voted to sponsor a new work in the Piedmont community. This decision resulted in Piedmont Church. I helped them celebrate their centennial a few days ago. What a blessing to share in this wonderful celebration. Paul Brewer from the faculty of Carson-Newman College is serving as their interim pastor.

Piedmont Church is one of the leading missions churches in our state. They presently give 33 percent of undesignated gifts to world missions through the Cooperative Program. This is not surprising. The first time they met as a church in 1891 they received a mission offering.

It all started when Dumplin Church felt a burden for a nearby neighborhood. The Southern Baptist Convention and the Tennessee Baptist Convention can vote, but nothing much happens until a local church votes.

Your local church is still the basic unit. The world may not realize it, but the Lord does. And those of us who work for you in the Tennessee Baptist Convention know it. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.



LOWRIE

# SBC president meets with media following re-election

ATLANTA — Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman said Tuesday he will consider the denomination's "moderates" as Southern Baptists as long as they are members of cooperating SBC churches.

In a news conference following his unopposed election to a second term, Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, said the main issue that has divided "conservatives" and "moderates" has been leadership not membership or fellowship.

For the 12th straight year, the 15-million member evangelical denomination elected a "conservative" president. Convention "moderates" this year did not field a presidential candidate.

Asked if the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a newly formed "moderate" group, is a denomination,

Chapman said the group's legal incorporation indicates "a step in that direction." However, he added, many "moderates" are uncertain about their future plans.

Chapman would not express an opinion on whether the SBC should change the financial requirements necessary to be considered an SBC church. "That is not an issue before Southern Baptists," he said. "The (SBC) Executive Committee has made its report."

The Executive Committee decided not to recommend changing the financial requirements. Messengers approved the recommendation Tuesday.

Some "moderate" churches involved in the CBF have begun to channel their denominational support around the Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified giving program. Some churches

have chosen not to fund SBC entities they perceive as dominated by "conservatives." In response, some "conservatives" have suggested that the SBC tighten the financial requirements for membership in the SBC.

Chapman refused to state his position on the decision by messengers to defund completely the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. "I have an opinion, and I voted it by ballot today," he said.

Messengers voted to discontinue all financial support to the BJC, a religious liberty watchdog organization supported by several Baptist bodies in the United States. The SBC Executive Committee had recommended a \$50,000 allocation for the Washington-based agency.

Chapman said he did not know in advance that messengers would attempt to defund the BJCPA. However, he said, had he considered the possibility that messengers might try to defund the agency the outcome would not have surprised him. In recent years, SBC "conservatives" have charged that the BJCPA does not represent them well in Washington.

Asked about the fairness of his committee appointments this year, Chapman said his appointments represented a "strong effort to involve people who had not served before." — Pat Cole

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# David's return to power

By David Brown, pastor; Mine City Church, Ducktown

The events surrounding David's return to power demonstrate why David was called "a man after God's own heart." God's people are to look for opportunities to restore broken relationships while maintaining their own integrity.

Absalom was dead, but he had not driven out David by himself. A larger number of people had supported Absalom's revolt. The people of Israel were in a quandary. They had supported Absalom, but he had lost. "The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines. Why speak ye not of bringing the king back?" While Israel was leading a movement to restore David to the throne, David felt Judah should be the leader in restoring him.

David communicated his feelings to his trusted friends, Zadok and Abiathar, the two high priests who were still in Jerusalem. They told the elders, the elders spread the word to

the people, and "as one man" they sent word to Mahanaim, asking the king to return. So David started back "and Judah came to Gilgal to meet the king and bring the king over the Jordan," (ch. 19:15).

When some of the men of Israel saw the tribe of Judah was acting to return David to kingship, they hastened to join them at Gilgal. People from several of the tribes participated in the crossing. The group included individuals from both sides of the revolt. David showed kindness and generosity to them all. Shimei, who openly had opposed and cursed David; Ziba who had provided donkeys and food for David's family and followers when they fled from Jerusalem; Mephibosheth, who had been conspicuously absent; and Barzillai, who generously supplied provisions to David's followers when they arrived in Mahanaim are all mentioned as examples of how David shared his victory and joy with everyone. Such a

display of kindness won David respect and favor.

In the midst of suffering for his sin and experiencing the heartache of losing Absalom, perhaps David's heart was softened and changed because he realized how he had treated his own son. All fathers this Father's Day could resolve that kindness and tenderness will be shown first of all in their homes.

**BIBLE BOOK**  
**June 16 Lesson**  
 Basic Passage: II Samuel 19:11-20:26

Verses 41-43 reveal that the men of Israel resented Judah's hasty action in bringing David back without consulting or notifying them. Feelings ran high. The people of the northern tribes were suspicious of David's motives. David realized he was wrong to try to manipulate his return, but it was too late to correct his mistake. A worthless opportunist named Sheba capitalized on the fears and suspicion of the northern tribes. He convinced them they had no part in David's kingship at all. He blew his trumpet and called on all

Israelites to return home and forget David, but "the men of Judah came unto their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem," (ch. 20:2). Judah remained with David, escorted him back to Jerusalem, and installed him on the throne.

Sheba's rebellion (ch. 19:40-20:26) was aimed at breaking up the nation. The kingdom could not stand another revolt. An expedition had to be led to punish Sheba and show that David would not allow his nation to be dismantled by anyone.

Joab had killed Absalom, in direct defiance of David's order. The king decided now was the time to appoint a new commander of his armies in Joab's place. Amasa was chosen, but Joab was not a man to be put down easily. On the first meeting of Amasa in the field, Joab craftily slew him. Then Joab succeeded in persuading David's men to follow him. Joab trapped Sheba in the ancient city of Abel. By threatening to destroy the city, Joab secured the promise that the citizenry would execute Sheba and cast his head over the wall.

Once again God protected His chosen servant, David, and secured his rule.

# Opposition to rebuilding

By Omer Painter, director of missions; Tennessee Valley Association

It is amazing how quickly fervent enthusiasm for God's work can wane and falter. No sooner had the returned exiles begun their good work of rebuilding the house of the Lord than difficulties began to arise. They found, as we find, that the work of God does not always proceed smoothly from beginning to end. At the outset, we may be inclined to think it will proceed smoothly, but obstacles and discouragements from without and within spring up and beset us.

Opposition encountered (4:1-24)  
 At first their neighbors, the Samaritans, a mixed people composed in part of the northern ten tribes of Israel and Assyrians deported from their own country, made an offer to join in and help with the rebuilding of the temple. They professed to serve the same God as the Jews, but in reality their religion was a pathetic compromise between Biblical religion and

gross superstition. Prudently the leaders of the Jews declined their request. Then the Samaritans decided if they could not infiltrate, they would intimidate. Their systematic opposition and harassment continued during the rest of the reign of kind King Cyrus, "even until the reign of Darius king of Persia" (ch. 4:5).

**CONVENTION UNIFORM**  
**June 16 Lesson**  
 Basic Passage: Ezra 4-6

After years of struggling to build in the face of dogged opposition, probably the Jews' persistence and dedication had worn thin. Having become very discouraged, they must have been almost completely dispirited by the death of their benefactor, King Cyrus. The words of verse 24 are some of the saddest ever written: "Then ceased the work of the house of God...."

God's work revived (5:1-6:13)  
 After an interval of about 16 years, the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah persuaded the leaders of the Jews, Zerubbabel and Jeshua, to make a fresh start to rebuild the temple. This revived effort at building soon attracted the concern of two Persian officials. Sometimes the world is puzzled by, misunderstands, and even feels threatened by our service for God.

About 18 years had passed since Cyrus had authorized the building of the temple, and major changes had taken place in the Persian government. No wonder the officials under King Darius were unfamiliar with the decree. They demanded the names of those engaged in the work, but the builders, now trusting the watch-care of God, refused to be intimidated and went right on with the work. So the Persian officials sent a letter to Darius reporting the activity of the Jews. Shortly there came a strong decree from Darius that all hindering of the rebuilding of the temple cease and desist, with an order to draw on the

Persian treasury for the needed money and to assist in the restoring of the temple services.

Success celebrated (6:14-22)  
 Within four years after the work was revived, the temple was completed, "and the children of Israel, the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept (celebrated) the dedication of this house of God with joy" (ch. 6:16). After the grand celebration of dedication of the restored temple, the Jews resumed the traditional schedule of celebrations, beginning very timely and happily with the Passover, which was the ancient celebration of God's delivering His people from captivity.

Our Lord never promised His people would not have problems, trouble, or even outright opposition and persecution. In fact Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). He also promised those who faithfully carry on His work, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

# Live as God's children

By Nathan Holloway, pastor; Wrigley Church, Lyles

As my two boys are growing up I'm sometimes amazed at the way they mimic their father right down to the mannerisms I may have never noticed I had. When Paul exhorted the Ephesian Christians to be "followers of God" (v. 1) and listed a few of God's attributes we should seek to mimic (ch. 4:32).

The word "follower" comes from the Greek word "mimetes" (pronounced mim-ay-tace'), which means imitator. It is the word from which we get our word "mimic." In other words, because of our new life in Christ, we are to mimic or imitate God as children imitate their parents. And not only should our new life-style cause us to walk in love, but it should also cause us to live in purity (vv. 3-6).

The sins listed here (vv. 3-4) are a perversion of the "walk in love." It is important to note Paul was not saying that a Christian who commits one of these sins would be lost or denied

heaven. Remembering the context of the old and new life we can understand that Paul was reminding his readers that these were the types of things that were indicative of their old life-style before they received God's salvation. Of course those who practice these things have no "inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God!" These are things that a lost person practices and gives themselves over to "work," (ch. 4:19). And it is because these sins (and others) were part of our old lives when we were "sometimes darkness," that we should separate ourselves from them and those that live in them (vv. 7-14).

Now that the light has come in and illuminated our life, we should allow Him to shine through us "proving what is acceptable to the Lord." Our lives and words should be used to "reprove" or correct that which is darkness in our world. But lest we be tempted to pride, let us remember something. It is

not the light of us, or education, or moral improvement that is needed. It is only the light of God that will expose sin and shine deep enough into the darkest darkness of a person's life to bring about conviction. It is in His light that the true nature of evil becomes clear.

**LIFE AND WORK**  
**June 16 Lesson**  
 Basic Passage: Ephesians 5:1-20

Lastly, Paul exhorted his readers to live in wisdom (vv. 15-20). Christians must take extra precautions (walk circumspectly) to guard themselves from the temptations in their daily lives. One great temptation that many Christians face today that was obviously a concern in Paul's day, is the use of time in a way that does not help us live according to God's plan or "will." In the context of eternity, our existence here on earth is shorter than a brief instant. Let us use that brief instant to be about God's will.

When we as children of God live our

lives in such a way as to reflect His character, we will find ourselves "giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

## Story clarified

Two points of clarification are needed concerning the story in the May 22 Baptist and Reflector, "Abortion issue study committee continues work."

Half of the committee was appointed by Howard Olive, president of the TBC Executive Board in November 1989. The other members were appointed by Murray Mathis, TBC president.

The committee does not report to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. It reports to the Executive Board in September - and the board reports to the convention.

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Compiled from Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**Missionaries commissioned in Atlanta**

ATLANTA — Forty-one missionaries from 20 states and two foreign countries were commissioned by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board May 26. The commissioning service, held at Flat Creek Church, Fayetteville, Ga., was the climax of a week long missionary orientation. A procession of flags representing the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Canada, and the United Nations opened the ceremony, symbolizing territories where the Home Mission Board has active ministries.

The culmination of the service was a charge to missionaries delivered by Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis. Speaking from John, Lewis said Christ went where people lived, not waiting for them to come to him. "We have to get out of the Sunday morning go-to-meeting complex," he said.

With the help of the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, the Home Mission Board currently supports more than 4500 missionaries across the United States.

**Furman, S.C. convention committees resolve trustee elections**

COLUMBIA, SC — The Furman/South Carolina Baptist Convention Relations Committee and the executive committee of Furman University trustees reached a tentative agreement on a process for electing Furman trustees. The accord came after a six hour negotiating session May 28 in Columbia. Two previous negotiating sessions had produced partial results.

"This tentative agreement will be presented to the full Furman trustee board in a special called meeting," said Minor H. Mickel, chairwoman, Furman trustees. Mickel said a meeting will be called as soon as possible.

Robert D. Shrum, pastor, Oakland Church, Rock Hill, and chairman of SCBC relations committee, said "If the Furman trustees approve the recommendation of its executive committee it will be presented to the annual session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention in November." The South Carolina Baptist Convention will meet Nov. 12-13 in Greenville.

Mickel and Shrum said details of the agreement will be released in a joint news conference after action is taken by the Furman trustees. "We feel the agreement reached today is a good and fair solution and is in the best interest of Furman University and South Carolina Baptist Convention," said Mickel.

**Bennett retires from Southern post; McSwain named**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — G. Willis Bennett will retire July 31 as provost of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary after 32 years on the faculty of the Louisville school.

Bennett, provost since 1987, joined the seminary faculty in 1959 as associate professor of Christian ethics. In 1969, he helped establish the seminary's department of church and community and became the school's first professor in that discipline. The North Carolina native held the William Walker Brookes chair of church and community from 1969-90.

Bennett will be succeeded as provost on Aug. 1 by Larry L. McSwain, dean of the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

McSwain, 50, has taught church and community at Southern Seminary since 1970. The Pond Creek, Okla., native has been dean since 1988 and was the seminary's director of master of divinity studies from 1980-83. As provost, he will be the seminary's chief academic officer.

Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt said he appointed McSwain because of his "outstanding leadership qualities and his proven effectiveness as a teacher and administrator." McSwain's responsibilities as theology school dean will be assumed temporarily by Walter C. Jackson, professor of ministry and director of supervised ministry experience at the seminary. Jackson, who will be acting dean for the 1991-92 academic year, joined the faculty in 1982. Honeycutt said a permanent dean for the school will be named no later than next spring.

**RTVC employee receives Emmy nomination**

FORT WORTH, Texas — An Emmy Award nomination has been received by Radio and Television Commission producer and director Bernie Hargis for his work on the commission's documentary "Winds of Freedom." Hargis received a letter from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences that he has been nominated for the honor in the 1991 Daytime Emmy Awards competition. The nomination is for "Outstanding Achievement in Directing — Special Class." Hargis will attend the awards presentation in Los Angeles June 22.

The Radio-TV Commission produced "Winds of Freedom," hosted by David Hartman, formerly of Good Morning America for the ABC Television Network. The documentary explores the role individual Christians and some churches played in moves toward democracy in countries where new freedoms offer opportunities for individual Christian growth and innovative ways of spreading the Gospel. "Winds of Freedom" was videotaped on location in Russia, Romania, Hungary, and East Berlin.

**Baptist volunteers to distribute Bibles in Soviet Union**

RICHMOND (BP) — Not long ago, Southern Baptist volunteers would have been jailed for it. Late this summer they'll do it openly — distributing New Testaments in the Soviet Union.

Fifty Southern Baptist volunteers are being enlisted for a Soviet Union-wide Bible distribution effort by a number of Christian groups based in the United States, Europe, and the U.S.S.R.

Four million copies of the New Testament will be distributed this year during the campaign, known as the "Moscow Project."

Besides Bible distribution, volunteers also will have opportunities for preaching, leadership training, children's work, music, and other ministries.

Initially aimed at the Moscow area, the project grew to encompass regions

in the Soviet Union identified as sorely in need of Bible distribution. Southern Baptists and other groups will distribute the New Testaments in different ways, times, and regions throughout the country.

From Sept. 2-10, the volunteers will work with Baptist churches in Frunze, capital of the Soviet republic of Kirgizia with 630,000 people, and Yalta, a city on the Black Sea with 100,000 people. Some of the volunteers also may assist at an evangelical publishers' booth at the Moscow International Book Fair sponsored every other year by the Soviet government.

Almost 30 of the needed volunteers already have been enlisted by the Baptist Young Women's arm of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. Others interested in volunteer-

ing for Bible distribution efforts in the Soviet Union in September or at other times may contact the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23235 or (804) 353-0151.

Donations for Bibles for the Moscow Project may be sent to the board or designated through local Baptist churches. Each dollar will be matched by the International Bible Society. The Bible society and the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association are two of the Moscow Project's key sponsors.

Funds to purchase more than 34,000 Russian-language New Testaments already have been donated by Baptist Bookstore customers.

Southern Baptist involvement in the project is part of the long-range vision of a Worldwide Bible Distribution Task Force of representatives of five Southern Baptist agencies — the Sunday School Board, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood Commission.

The task force, formed in 1988, is exploring ways to advance the use of Bible distribution in Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust emphasis on sharing the Gospel worldwide by the year 2000.

Johnnie Godwin, vice president of general publishing of the Sunday School Board, was the catalyst for the task force's formation. Five years ago while driving to work, he was mulling over Southern Baptists' "Good News America" campaign, for which the Sunday School Board had provided Scriptures for the mass evangelism ef-

fort led by the Home Mission Board.

"The excitement hit me: Why not 'Good News World' instead of Good News America? Provide a Scripture for every home."

Godwin wasn't daunted by the enormity of the challenge, reasoning, "We may not be 100 percent successful but if we're only 75 percent successful, that might be success in God's eyes, as against not trying to do it."

Besides fostering Southern Baptist involvement in the Moscow Project, the Worldwide Bible Distribution Task Force envisions pilot projects by the Foreign Mission Board with volunteers in several other countries before designing and implementing a worldwide Scripture distribution plan.

The Home Mission Board and state Baptist conventions will conduct Stateside pilot projects, and the Sunday School Board will plan for and publish needed Scriptures. Prayer support and volunteer enlistment will come from the Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission.

While the task force gives new focus to Bible distribution, the Foreign Mission Board has long been involved in such efforts. In 1990, for example, the board allocated more than \$400,000 for 31 Bible-related projects in such countries as the Soviet Union, Germany, Cuba, El Salvador, Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Jordan, and Indonesia.

Most of these funds have come from Southern Baptists as gifts for general Bible distribution or specific projects. But Foreign Mission Board personnel continually yearn for added funds.

**Richard Land protests CDC grant**

The Centers for Disease Control has contributed \$25,000 to a national conference on homosexual health that includes workshops on lesbian erotic dance and sexual fantasies of homosexual therapists as well as a "safer sex party" for lesbians.

The grant from the CDC, which is an agency in the Department of Health and Human Services, is for the 13th National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and Ninth National AIDS Forum scheduled July 24-28 in New Orleans.

Letters protesting the grant were sent from Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, to John Sununu, White House chief of staff, and William

Roper, director of the CDC. Land requested Sununu direct Roper to cancel the grant. He also asked Sununu to advise President Bush to contemplate issuing guidelines to administration staff members preventing such decisions.

"It is an outrage that any taxpayer's money is being used to underwrite any part of this conference," Land said in his letter to Sununu. "Governor, what do I tell perplexed and confused Southern Baptists when they ask me about the CDC incident and the National Endowment for the Arts as they relate to the Bush Administration's commitment to traditional family values? Such episodes can and do seriously undermine a great deal of goodwill in a very short time."